Briefing: UCAS End of Cycle data 2024

UCAS has published a series of [data resources and reports](https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-data-resources-2024) as part of the 2024 End of Cycle release.

Headlines for the whole higher education sector

* 752,210 applicants in total and 564,940 accepted applicants (all ages, all domiciles) in the 2024 cycle.
* 75.1% of UCAS applicants in the 2024 cycle were accepted onto UK undergraduate programmes. This is comparable to the 2023 acceptance rate (73.7%).
* Overall, there has been a 2.9% increase in the number of UK 18-year-olds accepted to university or college since last year, with 279,550 accepted in 2024, compared to 271,735 in 2023. This figure also exceeds the numbers seen during the pandemic, reflecting the growing 18-year-old population.
* The data also shows a record numbers of UK 18-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds have secured a place at university or college this year.
* There has been a slight decrease (2.3%) in the number of accepted international students this year compared to 2023. Chinese students continue to represent the highest proportion of international students, but this year has also seen growth in accepted applicants from Turkey, Kuwait and Nepal.
* A growth in the number of UK-domiciled mature students (aged 21+) has been seen since last year, rising to 109,780 in 2024 from 106,195 in 2023.
* The number of UK 18-year-old accepted applicants to ‘subjects allied to medicine’ which includes nursing, midwifery, pharmacy and the allied health professions has reached a record high, totalling 26,625. This includes a 9% growth in midwifery students, 15% growth in children’s nursing students, and 10% growth in mental health nursing students since 2021 during the pandemic.
* UCAS has observed an increase in the number of students using Clearing, with a notable increase among those who voluntarily decline their original place and use Clearing to explore and find a new course or university.

# Headlines for nursing courses

**Key statistics for 2024 UCAS cycle:**

* This year, 46,915 students **applied** for nursing higher education courses in the UK. This represents a 3.5% decrease since 2023. The nursing higher education sector has seen reduced numbers of applicants following the surge seen during the pandemic years (2020-21), with a UK-wide decrease of 16.3%. However, numbers of applicants are still 5.8% above pre-pandemic levels.
* From these applicants, 26,500 students were **accepted** into undergraduate nursing courses across the UK, a 0.6% increase from 2023. The proportion of applicants who were accepted this year was also higher than last year at 56.5%, compared to 54.1% in 2023.
* There were 14,940 acceptances into undergraduate nursing courses at **lower tariff providers**, 8,775 at **medium tariff providers**, and 2,780 at **higher tariff providers**.
* There were 23,090 **female** acceptances and 3,285 **male** acceptances, representing slight increases compared to the previous year.
* The number of **international domiciled** accepted applicants increased slightly to 1,005, from 895 in 2023. In 2024, 850 of these were non-EU domiciled which has increased from 650 in 2023.
* There was a mix of increases and decreases depending on **age groups**. All age groups under 24-years saw increases in accepted applicants from 2023 to 2024, with the largest increase among 19-year-olds, increasing by 2.2%. All age groups over 24 years saw a decrease in accepted applicants from 2023 to 2024. The biggest reduction was seen in the 25-29 age group, which dropped by 9.2%.

Headlines for midwifery courses

**Key statistics for 2024 UCAS cycle:**

* This year, 9,190 students **applied** for midwifery higher education courses in the UK which represents a 9.3% decrease from 2023.
* From these applicants, 4,015 students were **accepted** into undergraduate nursing courses across the UK, a 0.1% decrease from 2023. This means 43.7% were accepted onto midwifery courses, which has increased from 39.7% in 2023.
* There were 2,115 acceptances into undergraduate midwifery courses at **lower tariff providers**, 1,365 acceptances at **medium tariff providers** and 530 at **higher tariff providers**.
* The number of placed **female** and placed **male** applicants has remained very similar to last year’s figures.
* There continues to be small numbers of **international domiciled** accepted applicants (25).
* There was a mix of small increases and decreases depending on **age groups.** There were small increases in accepted applicants for those aged 18 years and 19 years. The biggest decrease was seen in those aged 30-34 years from 485 in 2023 to 400 in 2024.

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