



UCAS

2013 Application Cycle: End of Cycle Report

UCAS Analysis and Research
December 2013

Section 1 Key findings and analytical overview of the 2013 cycle

Section 2 Reference tables

Section 3 Glossary

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Foreword

UCAS, the UK's centralised admissions service for HE, has witnessed a highly active cycle with record numbers of offers made and applicants placed. Our 2013 End of Cycle Report analyses the entire applications cycle and provides the most detailed understanding to date of admissions to higher education.

As the higher education sector continues to diversify and adapt, we have again expanded the scope of our analysis to look in more detail at aspects such as offer-making and qualifications, as well as improving our analysis of entry rates to include ethnicity and free school meals.

The report describes the complete cycle and also illustrates outcomes in terms of acceptances for higher education, entry rates and differences by region, background and sex.

As last year, we have made all of the graphs in the report available as data files on our website so that others can use these results in their own analysis.

We continue to welcome your feedback on this report, which helps us to improve the quality and relevance of our work.

Please email communications@ucas.ac.uk to give us your views, suggestions and queries.



Mary Curnock Cook
Chief Executive

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Foreword

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Section 1

Key findings and analytical overview of the 2013 cycle

Key findings

More people placed in higher education through UCAS in 2013 than in any other cycle

UCAS placed 495,600 people into higher education in the 2013 cycle, an increase of 30,700 (6.6 per cent) and the highest number recorded. This increase comes almost equally from an increase in applicants (3.6 per cent to 677,400) and the largest increase in over a decade in the proportion of these applicants accepted (73.2 per cent acceptance rate in 2013, an increase of 2 percentage points).

Acceptances have increased from all UK countries and all UK age groups: UK 18 year old acceptances (219,300, up 3.4 per cent) are higher than any other cycle, as are acceptances from England (367,900, up 7.3 per cent) and Northern Ireland (14,600, up 9.6 per cent). Acceptances have also increased from the EU (24,500, up 5.5 per cent) and from countries outside the EU (37,500, up 5.8 per cent).

There have been increases in acceptances to institutions in every country of the UK and to all types of institutions split by the grades of their students. UK and EU acceptances expected to start in the 2013-14 academic year increased by 9.3 per cent (boosted by the 10,700 extra deferred acceptances from last cycle) but remain below the 2011-12 academic year.

Young people across the UK more likely to enter higher education

Across the UK 18 year olds became more likely to enter higher education in 2013. In England the proportion of the 18 year old population entering higher education (the entry rate) increased by 1.6 percentage points to 30.3 per cent, the highest entry rate ever. Within England entry rates in 2013 were highest in London (35.9 per cent) and lowest in the North East and South West (both 26.8 per cent).

In Northern Ireland the 18 year old entry rate increased by 2.5 percentage points to 36.2 per cent, also a new high, through a large increase in the entry rate to institutions in Northern Ireland. Entry rates in Scotland (24.2 per cent) and Wales (26.6 per cent) increased to equal previous highest values.

40 per cent of young people in England go on to enter higher education by age 19

The proportion of English young people who enter higher education by age 19 has increased to a new high of 40 per cent, as the entry rate of English 19 year olds increases by 18 per cent to a new high in 2013. This first cohort of English young people to experience higher tuition fees at both ages 18 (2012) and 19 (2013) is 1.5 percentage points, 4 per cent, more likely to enter higher education than the last cohort before higher tuition fees.

Young entry rates by age 19 increased across Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales in 2013, reaching new highs in Wales and Northern Ireland and equalling the previous high in Scotland.

Record number of offers made by institutions

Institutions increased the number of offers they made to applicants by 9 per cent to 1.7 million in 2013, the highest level ever recorded. For the second year there was an increase in the concentration of these offers, with 22 per cent more offers being made to applicants who received offers from each of their five choices.

Offer rates increase for all age groups in 2013 but differences between age groups increase

74 per cent of applications from UK and EU 18 year olds received offers in 2013. This is the highest offer rate for five years, and these are 10 per cent more likely to get an offer than in 2011. Offer rates have also increased to applications from 19 year olds, taking them back to the highest levels recorded five years ago.

Applications from applicants aged 20 and over were also more likely to receive offers in 2013 but remain substantially below levels typical five years ago. Offer rates to older applicants are lower than for younger

applicants and the difference between 18 year olds and 25 and over year olds is - at 40 percentage points - the largest seen in the period.

Young applicants from England and Wales are more likely than ever to get offers

Applications from 18 year olds in England and Wales became more likely than ever to receive offers in 2013. Institutions in England and Wales increased their offer rates to record levels to applications from across the UK, with the largest increases in offer-making to applications from those holding lower grades.

In Scotland large differences in offer-making rates between applicants from Scotland and England have disappeared following a large increase in offer-making to English applicants in 2012.

Over half of applicants had four or more offers to choose between in 2013

Most UK and EU applicants make five choices. In 2013 over half of these applicants had four or more offers to choose between. The proportion of applicants with offers from all five of their choices increased to 31 per cent, the highest level recorded. Applicants were 20 per cent more likely to get five offers in 2013 compared to 2012.

Almost all 18 year old A level applicants get offers in 2013, highest share ever get five offers

Offer rates to 18 year old English applicants increased to record highs across a range of predicted A level grade profiles. Those predicted A level grades of BBB and BBC were 6 per cent more likely to get offers to their applications in 2013, those predicted ABB were 3 per cent more likely, and those predicted AAB and AAA were 2 per cent more likely. Applicants with these predicted grades were very likely to get at least one offer in 2013, ranging from 97 per cent of those predicted BBC to 99 per cent of those predicted AAA. Many, ranging between 40 and 60 per cent across these grades, got offers from all five choices in 2013. For these applicants the chance of getting a full set of five offers increased by between 10 and 20 per cent, setting new highs for each grade profile.

More applicants accepted to the course they set as their firm choice institution in 2013

More applicants were placed in higher education through the offer they selected as their firm choice in 2013, increasing by 22,000 (6.4 per cent) to 363,300 - the highest ever total.

Fewer were accepted through the Clearing route for unplaced applicants in 2013 (a fall of 1,100 to 42,300) and the average A level grades of those using this route increased for the second consecutive year. Acceptances through applying directly to Clearing as a first choice increased by over 20 per cent to a new high of 14,800.

'Higher tariff' institutions increased acceptances by 10 per cent to highest ever total

Acceptances to 2013-14 for higher tariff institutions (those with higher historic average levels of attainments for their acceptances) increased by 10,000 (10 per cent). This is twice as large as any previous annual increase recorded, and takes their recruitment to the highest total ever. Higher tariff institutions were more likely to make offers in 2013 with a 4 per cent increase to young applicants who were holding ABB+ qualifications by the end of the cycle and a 9 per cent increase to those with lower attainment levels.

Most institutions increased acceptances in 2013-14 but many remain below 2011-12 totals

80 per cent of institutions (excluding very small or changed institutions) increased their acceptances into the 2013-14 academic year.

Last year most institutions (84 per cent) experienced a decrease in acceptances into the 2012-13 academic year. Most (80 per cent) of these institutions which decreased in size last year have gone on to increase acceptances into 2013-14, but on average acceptances remain below 2011-12 totals.

Those institutions who increased acceptances last year into 2012-13 (16 per cent) have generally (80 per cent) gone on to have further increases this year into 2013-14. Overall 39 per cent of institutions have increased acceptances over the two year period between 2011-12 and 2013-14.

BTECs continued to increase in 2013, mainly at lower and medium tariff institutions

The proportion of the 18 year old population in England who entered higher education and held BTEC qualifications increased to 5.8 per cent in 2013, the highest level recorded and almost twice the level in 2008. A levels remain the most widely held qualification, with 25.5 per cent of English 18 year olds entering higher education and holding A levels in 2013.

The acceptance rate for 18 year olds holding BTECs increased to 81 per cent in 2013, the highest recorded level. The acceptance rate for A level holders increased to 86 per cent in 2013 but remains below levels five year ago. BTECs are more widely held by acceptances to lower tariff institutions (49 BTEC holders to every 100 A level holders) than at higher tariff institutions (3 BTEC holders for every 100 A level holders).

Acceptance rates increased for both higher and lower grade applicants, but by more for lower

Changes to student number controls set by Government for most courses at English institutions introduced a distinction in 2013 between acceptances with higher grades (ABB+, typically from A level or BTEC qualifications) who were exempt from controls and acceptances with lower grades (not ABB+) who were subject to controls. The acceptance rate of 18 year old English applicants increased by much more for non-ABB+ applicants (3.1 percentage points) than for ABB+ applicants (0.4 percentage points). Amongst those applicants with A levels, the acceptance rate for applicants with BBB (just outside the ABB+ group) increased by 2.1 percentage points, more than for the ABB grade profile that was newly added to the exempt category in 2013.

Proportion of acceptances with higher grades decreases at English higher tariff institutions

The proportion of 18 year old UK acceptances holding qualifications in the higher grade ABB+ group fell by 1 per cent at institutions in England and by 8 per cent at institutions in Wales. In England, the proportion of ABB+ acceptances amongst English 18 year old acceptances increased at lower tariff institutions (to 18 per cent), fell slightly at medium tariff institutions (to 29 per cent) and decreased for the second year at higher tariff institutions (to 83 per cent). The number of English 18 year old acceptances to higher tariff institutions who had qualifications outside of the higher grade ABB+ set increased in 2013 and, at 17 per cent, is 70 per cent higher than two years ago.

At English lower tariff institutions the majority of 18 year old English ABB+ acceptances hold BTECs (75 per cent in 2013). At higher tariff institutions the majority of these ABB+ acceptances hold A levels (98 per cent in 2013).

The average A level attainment of 18 year old acceptances reduced in 2013 at all types of institution in England. Achievement of A level grades compared to predicted grades continued to decline in 2013. Of English 18 year olds predicted ABB grades at A level in 2013, 24 per cent went on to achieve ABB+ grades: a quarter lower than the 33 per cent in 2010.

Entry rates for disadvantaged increase, reducing differences by background to record lows

Entry rates for disadvantaged young people in England increased by 1.4 percentage points in 2013 to reach 16.9 per cent, the highest level recorded. Entry rates for disadvantaged young people in Northern Ireland increase to a new high, and in Scotland and Wales remain at their highest values. Disadvantaged 18 year olds in England were 70 per cent more likely to enter higher education in 2013 than in 2004.

The increase in entry rates from disadvantaged areas has been reducing the differences between advantaged and disadvantaged young people across the UK in recent years, and these differences reached new lows in 2013, with advantaged young people in England being 2.8 times more likely to enter higher

education compared to 4.4 times in 2004. In Northern Ireland the ratio has fallen from 4.8 to 3.0, in Scotland from 6.5 to 4.0 and in Wales from 4.4 to 3.1.

In England, the entry rate for those who received free school meals when at school increased in 2013 to a new high, these pupils were 50 per cent more likely to enter higher education in 2013 than in 2006. State school pupils who do not receive free school meals were 2.2 times more likely to enter in 2013 than those who do, a reduction from 2.9 times in 2006, equal to the low recorded in 2012.

Disadvantaged become 10 per cent more likely to enter higher tariff institutions

Entry rates to higher tariff institutions by background are more polarised than for other types of institutions. The entry rate of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to these institutions remains much lower than for young people in advantaged areas, but increased by around 10 per cent proportionally taking the entry rate to the highest levels recorded in each country.

This is the second year of substantial proportional increases in entry rates for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In England 18 year olds from disadvantaged areas were 26 per cent more likely to enter a higher tariff institution in 2013 than in 2011, and those who received free school meals were 39 per cent more likely to enter these institutions over this period.

Entry rates vary across ethnic groups from state schools but all increase in 2013

The entry rate for English 18 year olds from state schools increased for all ethnic groups in 2013. Entry rates ranged from 50 per cent for pupils in the Chinese ethnic group, to 25 per cent for pupils in the White ethnic group. Pupils recorded in the Black ethnic group had the largest increase in entry rates in 2013, becoming 11 per cent more likely to enter than in 2012 and around 70 per cent more likely to enter than in 2006.

Within in each ethnic group, entry rates for former free school meal pupils are lower than other pupils, with the relative differences by free school meal status for pupils in the White group larger than for pupils in the Asian, Black and Mixed groups.

There is a wide range in entry rates to higher tariff institutions when ethnic groups are combined by free school meal status - from 1.2 per cent entering higher tariff institutions for White pupils who received free school meals, to 10.1 per cent for Mixed pupils who did not receive free school meals. Entry rates to higher tariff institutions increased for each of these ethnic groups in 2013, for both free school meal and other pupils, with the largest proportional increases in 2013 for pupils in the Black group.

Women a third more likely to enter than men, 45 per cent more likely in disadvantaged areas

Entry rates increased for both 18 year old men and women in the UK in 2013 to 25.8 per cent for men and 34.0 per cent for women, making women 32 per cent more likely to enter higher education than men. The entry rates of women to higher, medium and lower tariff institutions are all higher than for men. There are larger differences by background for young men than for young women: advantaged men in 2013 were 3.1 times more likely to enter higher education than disadvantaged men compared to 2.5 times for women. These differences between advantaged and disadvantaged entry rates have been decreasing for both men and women and reach new lows in 2013.

Differences between men and women remain large when 19 year olds are included: 43.9 per cent of young women enter higher education by age 19. This is a higher rate than the 38.8 per cent of men who apply by that age, and 9 percentage points higher than the 34.5 per cent of men who enter by that age.

Introduction

The 2013 UCAS application cycle received its first applications in September 2012 and continued until all the data on all application outcomes was finalised in November 2013. The large majority of applications for, and entrants to, full-time undergraduate higher education in the UK are serviced by UCAS. The analysis of the UCAS application cycle gives a correspondingly comprehensive picture of demand for higher education from applicants, how institutions respond to this demand, and the resulting patterns of outcomes in terms of who starts higher education, where that is provided, and the nature of the course undertaken.

Initial demand for higher education, in terms of whether people apply for entry to higher education and the nature of the courses they apply to, can be assessed after the application deadlines early in the cycle. For the 2013 cycle this analysis was reported in UCAS' report 'Demand for full-time undergraduate higher education'. These results are not materially altered by the additional applications received since the application deadlines and the analysis of initial demand is not repeated in this report. Instead, this End of Cycle report completes the analysis of the 2013 application cycle with an overview of the outcomes, in particular the numbers and nature of those accepted into higher education, and those aspects of the application process, especially the acceptance rate and the qualifications held, that link the pattern of initial demand to these outcomes.

The interpretation of these outcomes can be more complex than for the analysis of initial demand. Applications can be regarded as a largely unconstrained and independent measure of demand for higher education from applicants. Statistics relating to cycle outcomes, such as the proportion of applicants accepted (the 'acceptance rate') and the numbers of acceptances, or the proportion they form of the population, are a product of both what applicants want and what institutions want, together with any parameters relating to the number or type of acceptances that may be set by Governments. Therefore it is often more difficult to attribute the changes measured in this report to a single factor, for example distinguishing between changes in applicant or institutional behaviour.

There are four main statistical perspectives in this End of Cycle report, each addressing different sets of questions about outcomes. The first is the statistics for people who have applied ('applicants') and for those placed in higher education ('acceptances') that describe the overall activities and progress of the 2013 application cycle itself. The second is offer-making where institutions choose which applications to make offers to and applicants select between offers they may have. These are measured through offer rates and the numbers holding firm offers at different points.

The third perspective covers the outcomes of the cycle in terms of people being accepted to enter higher education, with the key statistic being the proportion of the population that has been placed in higher education (the 'entry rate'). Finally, for higher education providers the most important statistics relate to the numbers recruited into a particular academic year. Since the UCAS process can accommodate both 'immediate' acceptances (for example those acceptances from the 2013 cycle starting in the 2013-14 academic year); and 'deferred' acceptances (for example those from the 2013 cycle starting in the 2014-15 academic year), some of the key statistics for recruitment are reported on the basis of the academic 'entry year' rather than the UCAS 'cycle' when the acceptance took place.

In recent years there has been a number of significant changes to higher education across the UK; including changes to tuition fees, student support arrangements and Government's controls on recruitment. These changes have affected different groups of applicants and institutions in different ways and to different degrees. The analysis groups used in this report reflect this where possible. The interpretation of the effect of these changes is often much clearer for 18 year olds than for other age groups because of their large size, relative uniformity and - uniquely - because they have not been able to apply to higher education in previous cycles to any material extent. Therefore the analysis uses this subset extensively, including where it can be used as a reliable indicator for changes for all applicants. Where possible, additional measures that can give a fuller assessment across a wider age range are also included.

How to read this report

This report is divided into two sections. The first provides an analysis of selected aspects of the 2013 cycle. The second is a series of reference tables.

The first section begins with an overview of the key applicant, acceptance and acceptance rate statistics, covering different applicant domiciles, age groups, institution countries and acceptance routes. Trends in the entry rates of the young population are reported. The trajectory of applicant and offer numbers through the cycle is described, together with an analysis of the pattern of offer-making in 2013. Application-level offer rates, and the proportion of applicants receiving some or many offers, are reported.

Outcomes that relate to changes to higher education that are specific to the different countries of the UK are investigated country by country.

Qualifications, including predicted qualifications, are central in understanding entry to higher education and recent trends in these are set out for the large and more uniform group of English 18 year old applicants. Specific attention is given to outcomes for applicants holding qualifications that fall into different student number control categories, including changes to those categories in the second year of qualifications-related student number controls for many courses in England.

Changes in the outcomes for people from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds are analysed through entry rates by area-based and individual-based measures of background. A similar analysis is reported by sex and ethnic group, together with the relationship between these and background.

How the national trends translate to outcomes for different groups of institutions are assessed by looking at patterns of variation in institution level recruitment in recent cycles, including the qualifications held by accepted applicants.

The reference table section provides the core figures behind the cycle and includes comparable figures for seven cycles (2007 to 2013) where this is possible.

A glossary of key terms concludes this report.

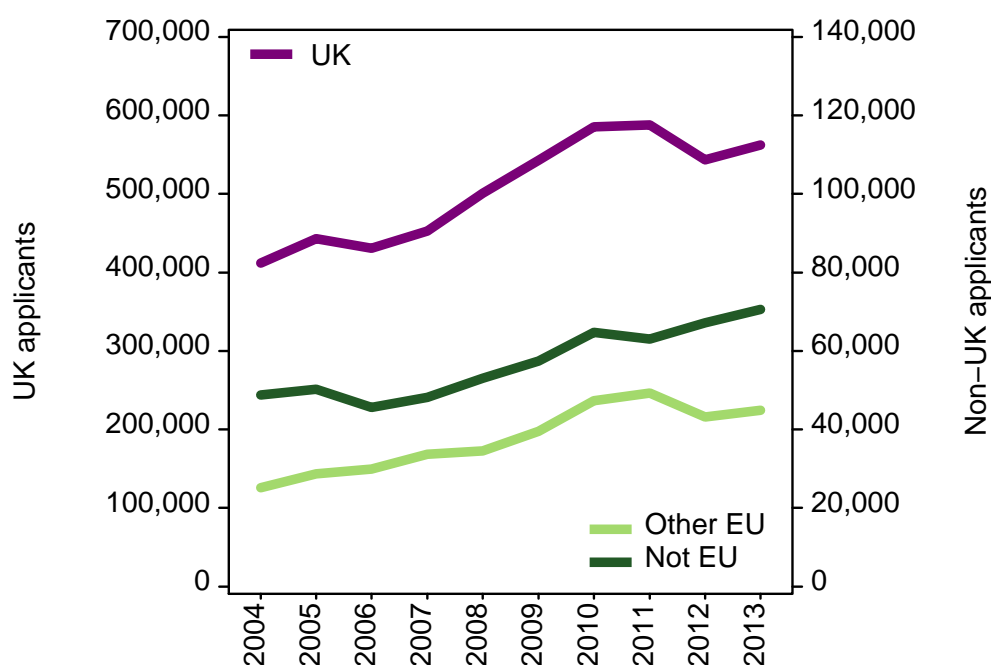
Applicants

More applicants from all domiciles in 2013

There were 677,400 applicants to the 2013 cycle, 23,700 more than in the 2012 cycle, an increase of 3.6 per cent. This increase in applicants does not match the size of the fall in 2012, resulting in a total below that of the 2010 and 2011 cycles but higher than any other cycle.

The large majority of applicants are domiciled in the UK (562,000, 83 per cent of all applicants, in the 2013 cycle). There was an increase of 18,600 (+3.4 per cent) UK domiciled applicants in the 2013 cycle. Applicants from the EU increased in 2013 by 1,700 (+3.9 per cent) to 44,800. Applicants from countries outside of the EU increased in 2013 by 3,400 (+5.1 per cent) to 70,600, continuing the increase seen in the 2012 cycle.

Figure 1 Applicants by domicile



Acceptances

There were 495,600 applicants accepted to start higher education from the 2013 cycle, 30,700 (+6.6 per cent) more than in the 2012 cycle, and the highest number of acceptances recorded in any cycle.

UK domiciled acceptances increased to a record number in the 2013 cycle

Most acceptances are from the UK, typically between 87 to 89 per cent of the total. In 2013, there were 433,600 acceptances from the UK, up 27,400 (+6.7 per cent), more than reversing the fall in 2012 and resulting in the highest number of acceptances of UK domiciled applicants from any cycle.

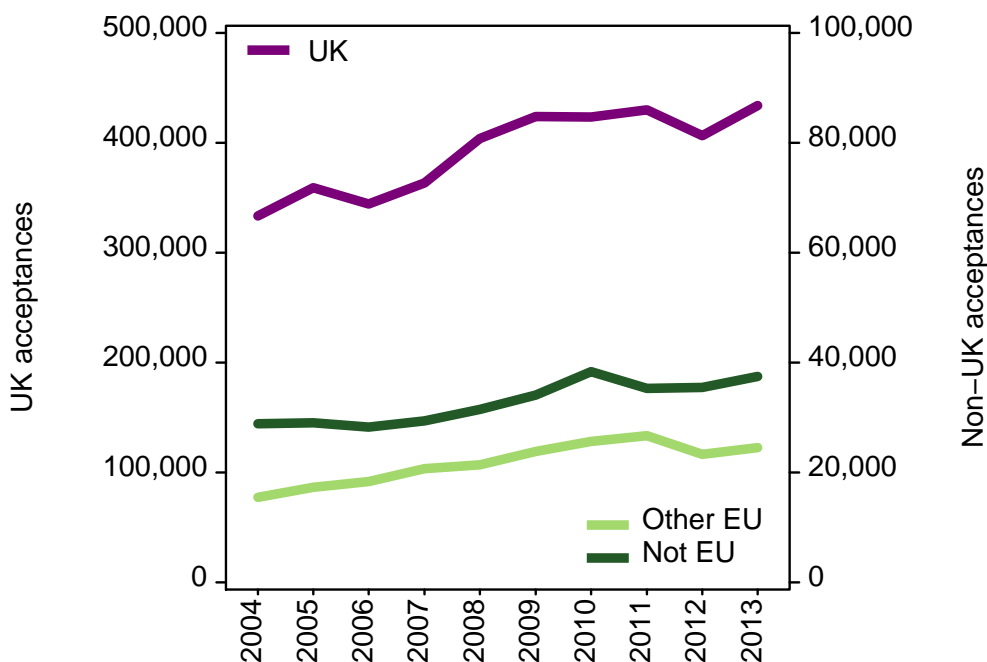
Acceptances from other countries in the EU increased in 2013

EU domiciled acceptances form around 4 to 5 per cent of acceptances and increased each cycle from 15,500 in 2004 to 26,700 in 2011. In 2012, the number of EU domiciled acceptances fell by 3,500 (-13.0 per cent) to 23,200, the lowest total since the 2008 cycle. Acceptances from the EU increased in 2013 to 24,500, 1,300 (+5.5 per cent) more than 2012, but not as many as in the 2010 and 2011 cycles.

Acceptances from outside the EU increased to close to previous high

Around 7 to 8 per cent of acceptances are from applicants outside the EU. Their numbers increased between 2007 and 2010 before falling by 3,000 (-7.9 per cent) in 2011. In 2012, there was a small increase (+200, +0.5 per cent) to 35,400 acceptances from outside the EU. In 2013 there has been greater increase (+2,000, +5.8 per cent) to 37,500, close to the high of 38,300 in 2010.

Figure 2 Acceptances by domicile group



Large increase in acceptances from all UK domiciled age groups, with 18 year old acceptances at a record level

Figure 3 shows acceptances for selected age groups for applicants domiciled in the UK.

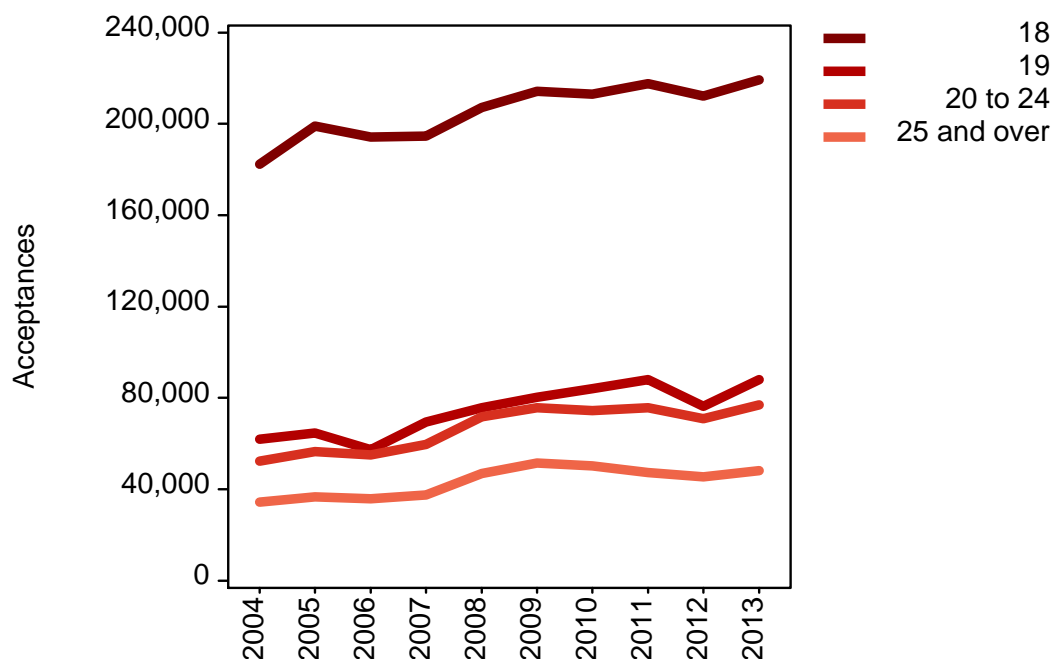
Over half of UK domiciled acceptances are from 18 year old applicants. In 2013, there were 219,300 acceptances from UK 18 year olds, +7,200 (+3.4 per cent) reversing the fall in 2012 and leading to the most acceptances ever recorded.

Acceptances from 19 year old applicants are usually around 19 to 20 per cent of all UK domiciled acceptances. More than any other aged applicant, 19 year old applications and acceptances are more dependent on the application rate and acceptance rate observed in the previous cycle. In 2012, there was a sharp decrease in acceptances of UK 19 year olds, but a similar size increase in 2013 resulted in total acceptances of 88,000, very close to the high in 2011.

20-24 year old acceptances are around 17 to 18 per cent of all UK domiciled acceptances. In 2013, there were 76,900 20-24 year old acceptances, 5,900 (+8.3 per cent) more than in 2012 and the highest recorded for this age group.

Around 11 to 12 per cent of all UK domiciled acceptances are from applicants aged 25 or more. The number of acceptances from this age group has decreased in each of the 2010, 2011 and 2012 cycles, following increases in the 2008 and 2009 cycles. In 2013, there were 48,200 acceptances aged 25 and over, 2,700 (5.8 per cent) more than in 2012, the most seen in any cycle except 2009 and 2010.

Figure 3 UK acceptances by age group



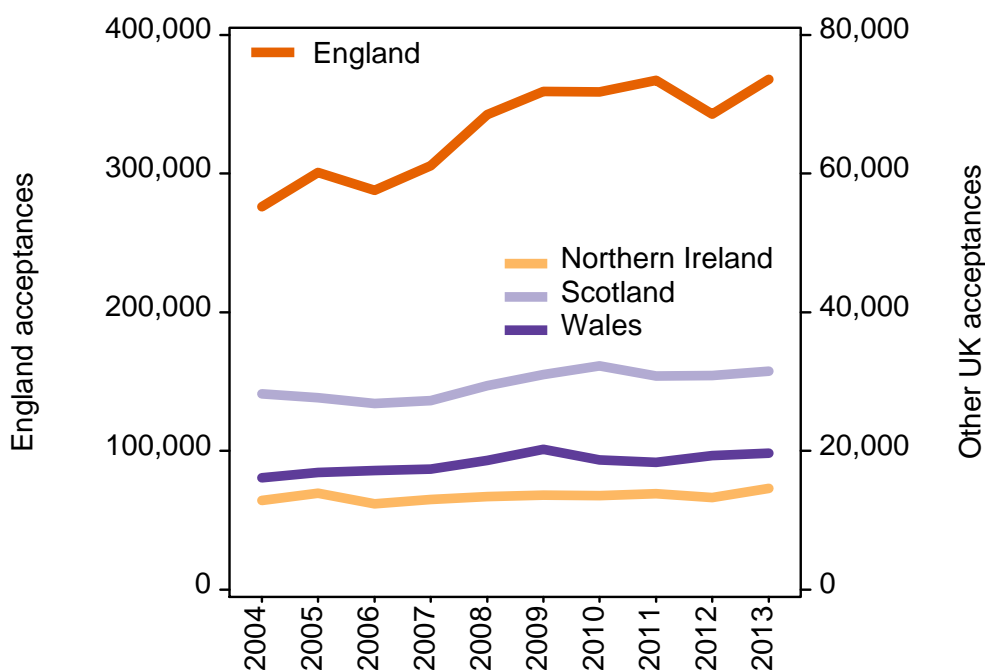
Most acceptances ever recorded from England and Northern Ireland, near highs for Scotland and Wales

Figure 4 shows acceptances by country of domicile within the UK, acceptances from England are shown against their own (left hand side) axis as numbers for this group are higher than those from other countries.

Acceptances from England increased from 276,000 to 367,100 between the 2004 and 2011 cycles, accounting for almost all the increase in UK domiciled acceptances over that period. English domiciled acceptances in the 2012 cycle decreased by 24,400 (-6.6 per cent) to 342,800, a similar level to the 2008 cycle. In 2013, there were 367,900 England domiciled acceptances, 25,100 (+7.3 per cent) more than 2012. This has completely reversed the fall in 2012 and results in the highest number of England domiciled acceptances.

Acceptances from Northern Ireland increased by 1,300 (+9.6 per cent) to 14,600, the highest recorded. Acceptances from Wales were 19,700 in the 2013 cycle, an increase of 400 (+1.8 per cent) and the second highest (to the 2009 cycle) level recorded. Acceptances from Scotland were 31,500, an increase of 600 (+1.9 per cent) and the most seen in any cycle except 2010.

Figure 4 Acceptances by UK country of domicile



Acceptances through firm choice and direct to Clearing highest recorded

There are a number of different acceptance routes in the admissions cycle. Figure 5 shows the number of acceptances by acceptance route using a logarithmic scale so that the proportional changes can be seen clearly across the large differences in the numbers accepted through the different routes.

Most acceptances, over 70 per cent, are from the applicant selecting an offer as their firm choice and then satisfying any conditions attached to that offer. In 2013, firm choice continued to be the most likely route of acceptance and the numbers accepted by this route increased by 22,000 (+6.4 per cent) to 363,300, the highest number of acceptances recorded through this route to date.

Acceptances through an insurance choice (for applicants who do not satisfy their firm offer) fell substantially in 2012, and although acceptances through this route increased in 2013 by 2,800 (+9.5 per cent) to 32,800 this is still considerably lower than the 2010 and 2011 cycles.

Applicants who do not receive any offers from their five main scheme choices are eligible to make choices through the Extra process. Acceptances through Extra choices increased in each cycle between 2006 and 2011, and then fell substantially in 2012. In 2013, the number of acceptances through this route remained around the same as 2012 at 7,800.

There are two routes for Clearing; an applicant may have been unsuccessful in the main scheme and then found a place in the Clearing process, or an applicant may have applied directly to the Clearing process. Acceptances through the Clearing process for those that were unsuccessful in the main scheme fell in 2013 to 42,300 (-1,100, -2.6 per cent). This will be in part due to the increased numbers of applicants placed through the routes of firm and insurance choices. The number of applicants accepted by applying directly to the Clearing process continued to rise. In 2013, acceptances direct to Clearing increased by 2,500 (+20.5 per cent) to 14,800, the highest number of acceptances recorded through this route to date.

The Adjustment route (where applicants can 'adjust' to a place at another institution if they meet and exceed the conditions of their offer) was used by 1,200 acceptances, 100 fewer than the number in the previous cycle and still a very small share of acceptances.

UK 18 year olds: record numbers of firm accepts, fewer enter through Clearing and Adjustment

The profile of acceptance routes varies across age and domicile groups. Figure 6 shows the trends in the number of UK 18 year olds entering by acceptance route. Acceptances through the firm choice route dominate (170,300, 78 per cent of all acceptances) and increased in 2013 (+ 6,400, +3.9 per cent). The number accepted through Clearing after applying in the main scheme fell (-900, -4.2 per cent) for the second successive year. Applying and being accepted direct to Clearing is a less frequently used route for this group of applicants, but has increased for the third consecutive cycle to a record level of 1,500. There were increased acceptances through the insurance choice (+1,200, +6.0 per cent) although not enough to offset the substantial fall in 2012. Adjustment use fell in 2013 by 140 to 800 UK 18 year olds placed through this route.

Figure 5 Acceptances by acceptance route (logarithmic scale)

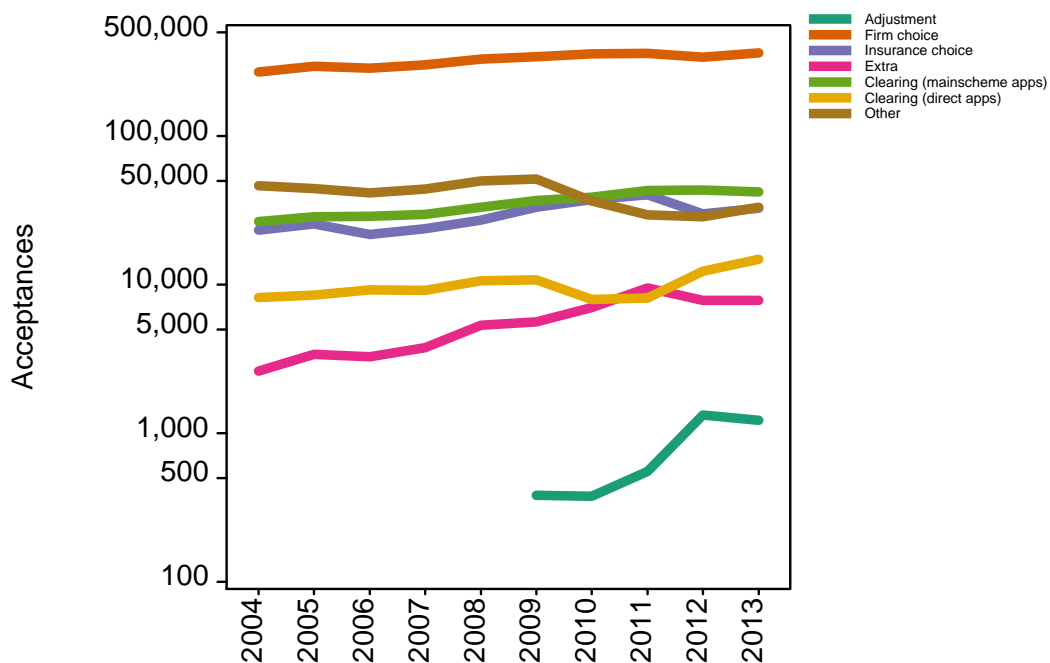
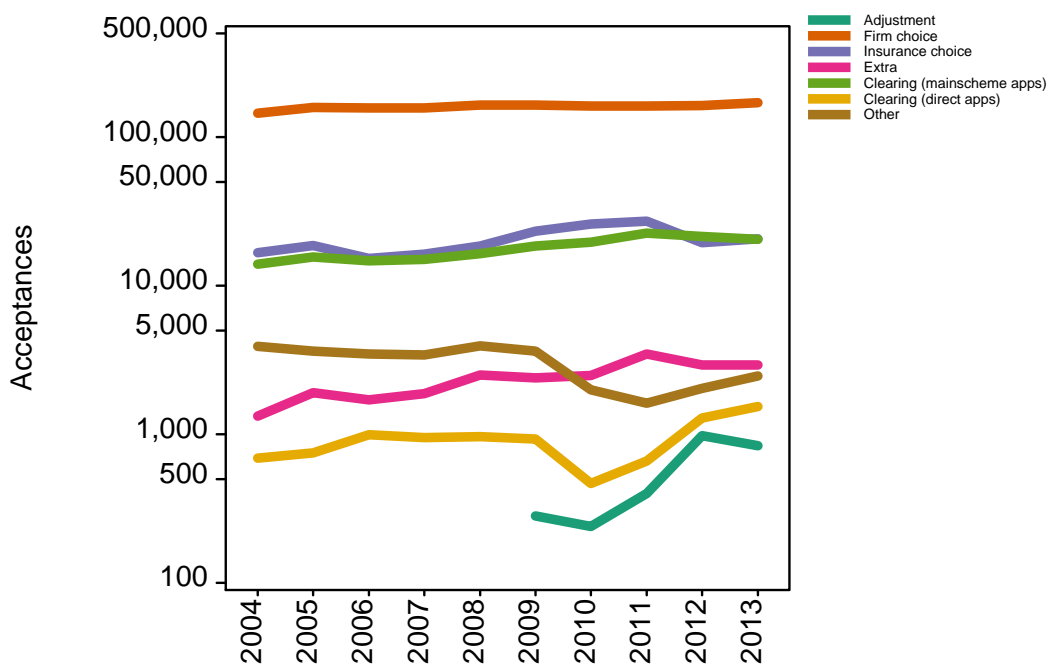


Figure 6 UK domiciled 18 year old acceptances by acceptance route (logarithmic scale)



Average A level attainment varies by acceptance route

Around 50 per cent of all accepted applicants through UCAS are holding three or more A levels, making them the most frequently held qualification. This makes A level attainment particularly suited to assessing the relative strength of applicants on a common basis by different acceptance routes. However, qualifications held vary by country of domicile, age group of applicants and type of institution meaning that the A level patterns will better reflect trends amongst younger applicants outside of Scotland.

Figure 7 shows, for accepted applicants holding three or more A levels, the number of A level grades from their highest graded three A levels. These numeric A level grades are calculated by assigning a value of 5 grades to an A, 4 grades to a B and so on, so that the difference in value between adjacent A level grades is 1 (A* grades are taken as A grades for the purpose of the time series).

There is a clear rank order in the average A level attainment level of the different routes for entry. The average attainment level for acceptances ranges from around 9 to 10 A level grades (that is, CCC to BCC) for accepted applicants through either of the Clearing routes; just over 10 grades (BCC) for the insurance route with Extra being consistently slightly higher; Firm route accepts are higher again at between 11 and 12 grades (BBC to BBB); and for those accepted through Adjustment, on average 12 to 13 grades (BBB to ABB), the highest average attainment of all routes.

In 2013 the average attainment of A level acceptances increased through for the Extra route (0.2 grades), main scheme Clearing route (0.1 grades), and the Insurance route. Between the 2011 and 2013 cycles the largest change in average attainment has been for the main scheme Clearing route where average attainment has increased by a third of a grade from 9.5 to 9.9, the highest level recorded in the period.

Figure 8 shows the difference in average number of A level grades between each route and the Firm choice route (which is substantially the largest route by number of acceptances). In 2013, the average A level attainment of applicants accepted through Adjustment remained at around 1.5 grades above firm choice, the same as 2012.

Applicants that apply and are accepted directly into Clearing have remained throughout the period around 2 A level grades lower in their average A level attainment than firm choice acceptances.

The relative attainment of applicants accepted through Extra fell between 2008 and 2012 from just over half a grade below Firm to 1.3 grades below Firm. In 2013, the average A level grades of these accepted applicants increased slightly back to just over 1 grade below Firm.

Insurance choice accepted applicants are 1.3 A level grades lower than Firm, and Clearing applicants that applied in the main scheme are 1.9 grades lower than Firm in 2013.

Figure 7 Average A level grades (best three A levels, applicants with three or more A levels) by acceptance route

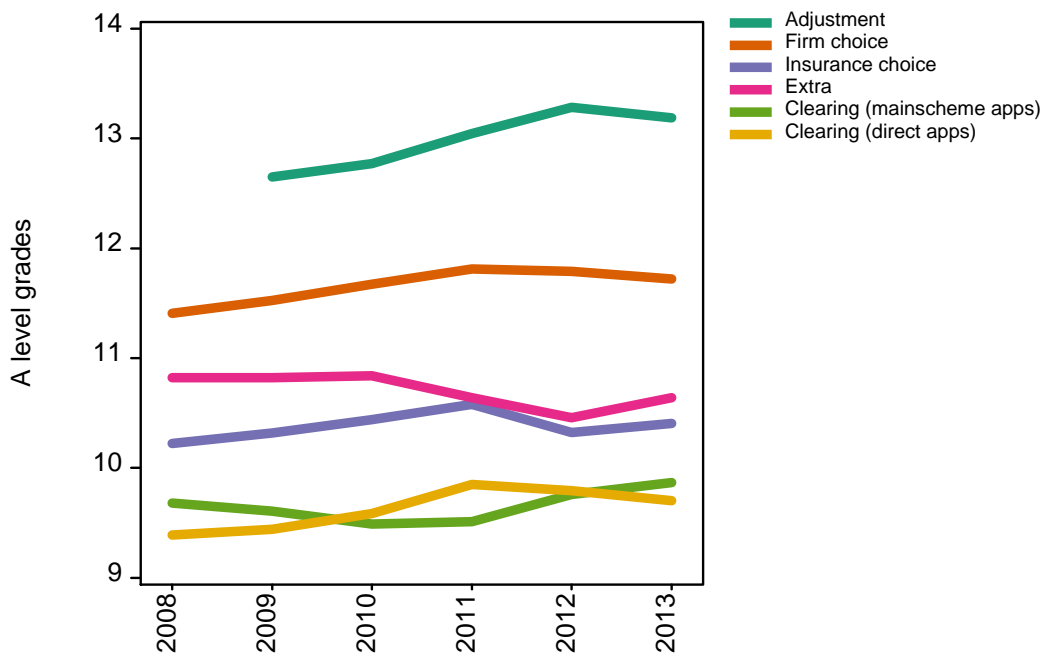
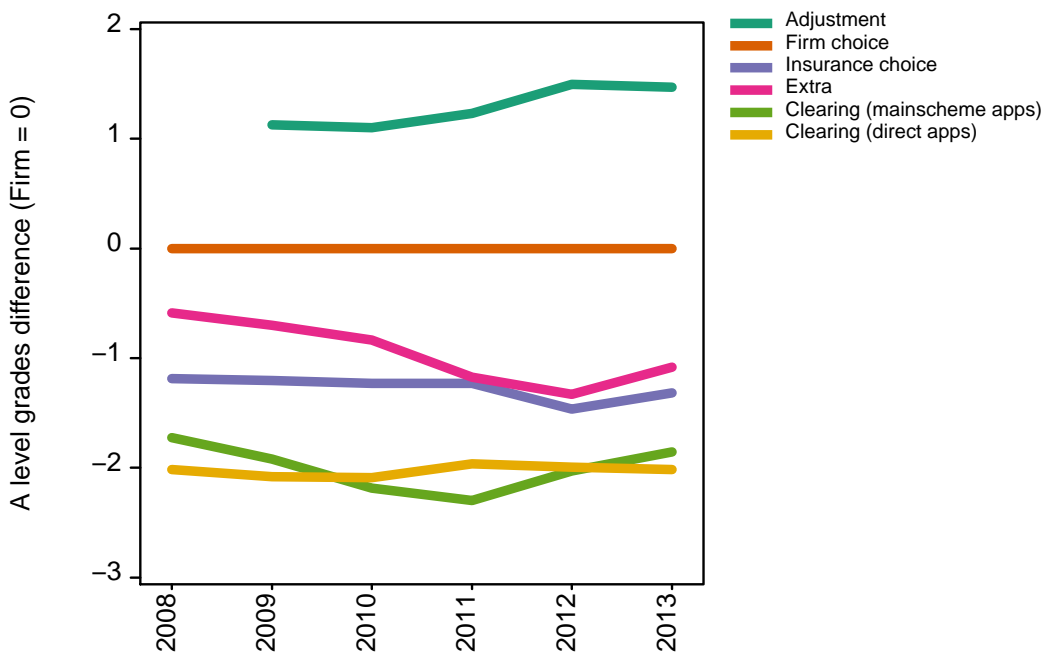


Figure 8 Difference in average A level grades (best three A levels, applicants with three or more A levels) to firm choice by acceptance route

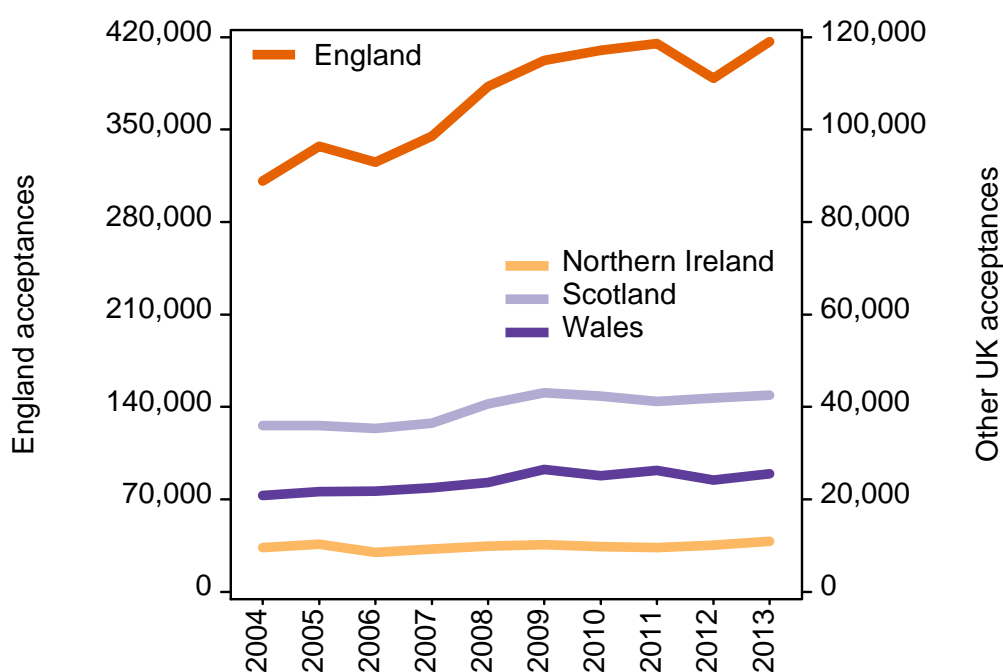


Acceptances to institutions in England and Northern Ireland at record level

Figure 9 shows the number of acceptances by country of institution; since acceptances to English institutions are much larger than to any other country they are shown on a separate axis (left hand side). Most of the increase in acceptances over the period has been to English institutions. Between the 2004 cycle and the 2011 cycle the number of acceptances to English institutions increased by a third to 415,100. Following a fall in the 2012 cycle, acceptances at English institutions have increased again in the 2013 cycle to a record high of 416,600 (+27,800, +7.1 per cent).

Institutions in Northern Ireland had 11,000 (+900, 9.2 per cent) acceptances in 2013, the highest number recorded following two years of increases. Acceptances at institutions in Wales have increased to 25,500 (+1,400, +5.7 per cent), which does not quite offset the decrease in the 2012 cycle, but returns to a level only bettered in two earlier cycles (2009 and 2011). Acceptances at institutions in Scotland (42,600; +600, +1.5 per cent) increased in 2013 and are only 500 fewer than the high recorded in 2009.

Figure 9 Acceptances by country of institution



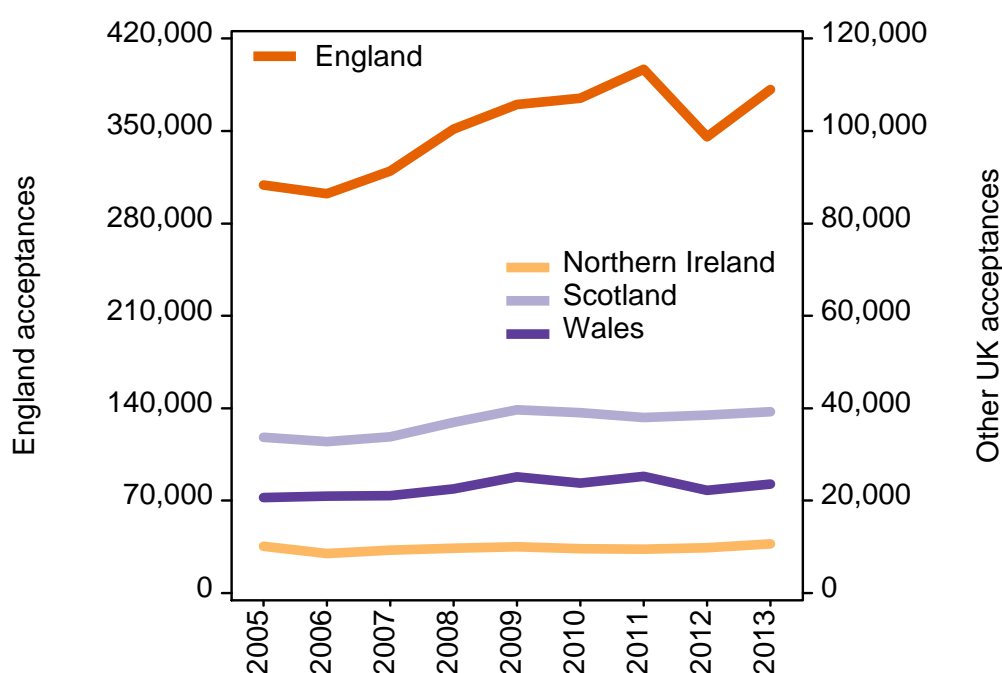
Increases in UK and EU recruitment to 2013-14 at institutions across the UK

UK and EU acceptances by the academic year of entry, as opposed to the acceptances by UCAS cycle, are important to the funding and number control arrangements for institutions. Figure 10 shows the number of UK and EU domiciled acceptances for academic year of entry by country of institution (with, for example 2013-14 being shown as 2013). There was a large reduction in deferred acceptances in the 2011 cycle, together with a return to more typical levels of deferred acceptances in the 2012 and 2013 cycles. These changes act to deepen the fall in acceptances into the 2012-13 academic year compared to the equivalent cycle comparison.

The effects of the changing patterns of deferment are especially evident for institutions in England and Wales where the 2011-12 academic year total is higher than the 2011 cycle total; and the 2012-13 academic year total is lower than the 2012 cycle total. Compared to 2011-12, acceptances into the 2012-13 academic year fell by 51,100 (-12.9 per cent) in England and 3,000 (-11.8 per cent) in Wales. The falls in acceptances into the 2012-13 academic year have been partially reversed in the 2013-14 academic year with acceptances to England increased by 35,600 (+10.3 per cent) to 381,300 and acceptances to Wales increased by 1,300 (+5.7 per cent) to 23,600.

Institutions in Northern Ireland have more acceptances (10,700) to start in the 2013-14 academic year compared to any earlier academic year. In Scotland in 2013-14 there are more acceptances (39,300) in any academic year except 2009-10.

Figure 10 UK and EU domiciled acceptances for academic year of entry (2013-14 shown as 2013) by country of institution



Acceptances to 2013-14 increase by 9 to 10 per cent at all types of institutions, reaching a new high at higher tariff institutions

Institutions across the UK can be grouped based on the average levels of attainment (summarised through UCAS Tariff points) of a common group of accepted applicants. Figure 11 shows the number of UK and EU domiciled acceptances by academic year of entry (rather than cycle) for these institution tariff groups.

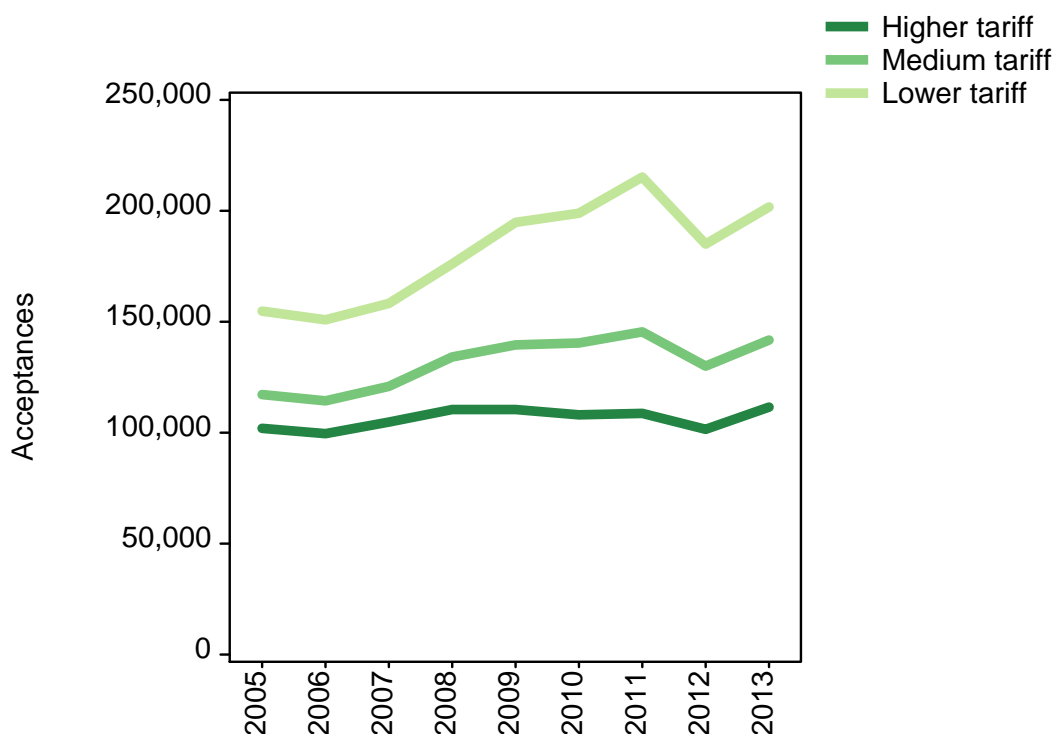
Over the period between the 2005-06 academic year and 2011-12 acceptances to higher tariff group institutions varied less between years than acceptances to medium and lower tariff institutions. In particular, between 2007-08 and 2011-12 acceptances to lower tariff institutions increased by around 5 to 10 per cent proportionally each year. Acceptances into 2012-13 fell in all three tariff institution groups, and by more in the lower tariff group than the medium or higher tariff groups.

Acceptances into higher tariff institutions for the 2013-14 academic year increased by 10,000 (+9.9 per cent) - almost twice the size of any previous increase in the period - to a record high of 111,500.

At medium tariff institutions acceptances increased by 11,700 (+9.0 per cent) to their second-highest total (2011-12 was higher).

At lower tariff institutions acceptances increased by 16,800 (+9.1 per cent), the highest total except 2011-12.

Figure 11 UK and EU domiciled acceptances for academic year of entry (2013-14 shown as 2013) by institution tariff group



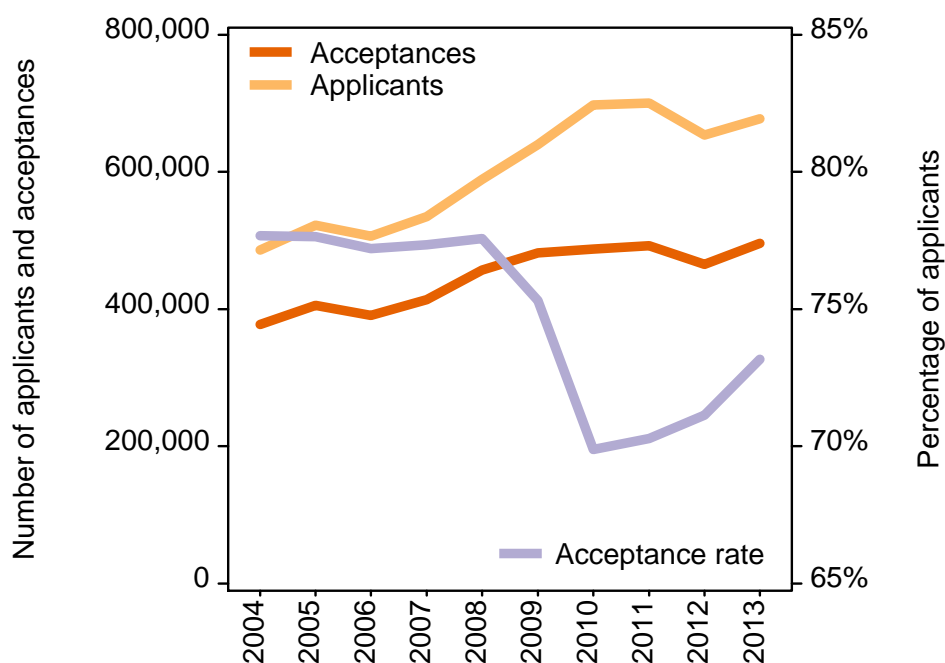
Acceptance rates

The proportion of applicants who have a place at the end of the cycle is termed the acceptance rate. At the UK level it reflects the relationship between total applicants and total acceptances, and since the number of acceptances is often subject to number control or physical constraints, it can be broadly interpreted as the 'difficulty' of gaining admission to higher education in a particular year. However, becoming accepted requires both an institution to provide an offer to the applicant, and the applicant to accept and meet the conditions of the institution's offer. So changes in the acceptance rate can also reflect differences in applicant choices, or preference to enter higher education, especially so for courses where physical or number control capacity limits have not been met.

Large increase in acceptance rate in 2013, but remain below levels typical five years ago

The acceptance rate for all applicants in 2013 is 73.2 per cent, an increase of +2.0 percentage points since 2012 and the greatest increase across this period. The acceptance rate has still not returned to the level seen between the 2004 and 2008 cycles of between 77 and 78 per cent. The increase in the acceptance rate, coupled with an increase in applicants to near record levels, results in the highest number of acceptances seen in a cycle.

Figure 12 Applicants, acceptances and the acceptance rate

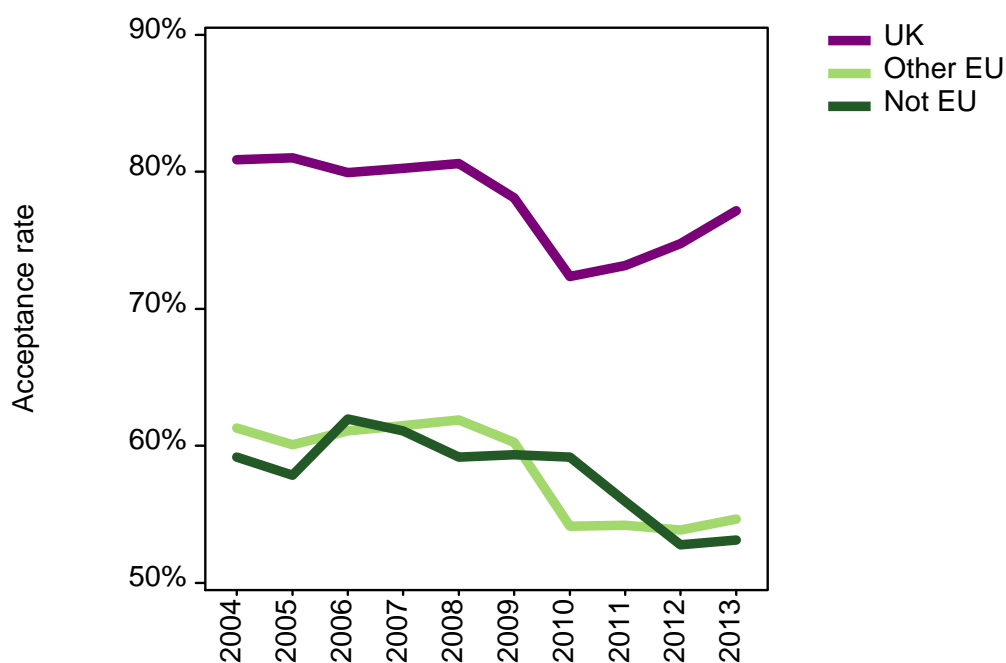


Acceptance rates increased for applicants from the UK in 2013

A higher proportion of UK domiciled applicants are accepted than applicants from outside the UK. The acceptance rate for UK domiciled applicants increased from 74.8 per cent in the 2012 cycle to 77.2 per cent in the 2013 cycle so that UK domiciled applicants in 2013 were 3 per cent more likely to be accepted than in the previous cycle. Acceptance rates for this group remain below the 80 to 81 per cent values typical between 2004 and 2008.

The acceptance rate for applicants from outside the EU remained at around 53 per cent in 2013, after a fall between 2010 and 2012. This means that non-EU applicants were over 10 per cent less likely to be placed than was typical across the 2004 to 2010 cycles. The acceptance rate for EU applicants in 2013 was 54.7 per cent, similar to recent cycles but below the approximately 60 per cent level that was typical several cycles ago.

Figure 13 Acceptance rates by applicant domicile group

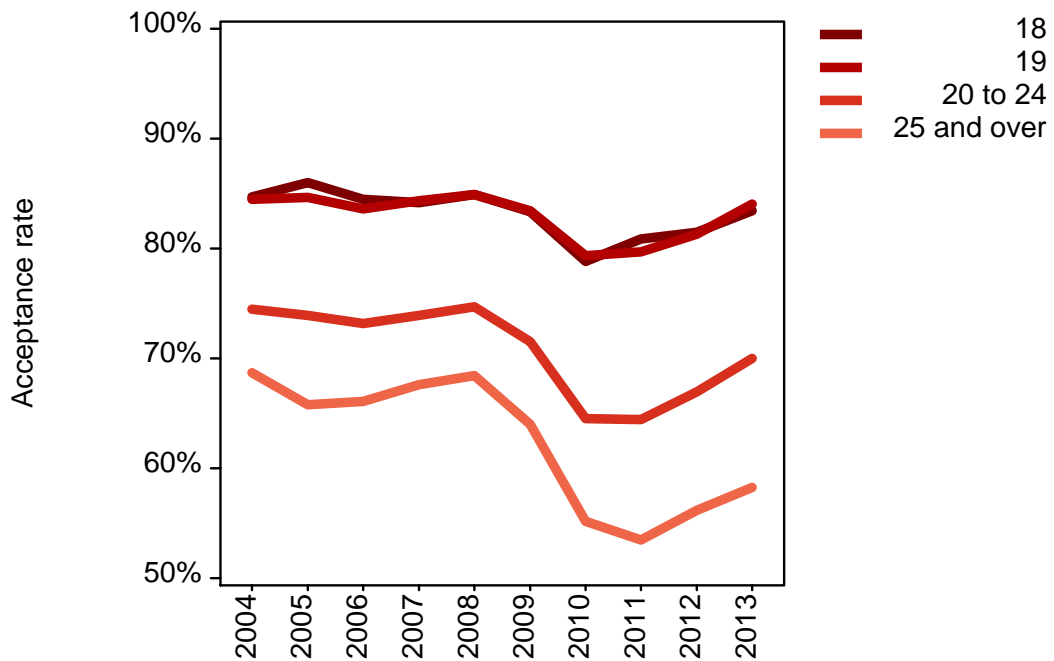


Acceptance rates increase for all age groups in 2013, for young applicants close to previous highs

In each cycle the acceptance rate for UK 18 year olds is a very similar level to the acceptance rate for 19 year olds. In 2013, the acceptance rate is 83.4 per cent for 18 year olds and 84.0 per cent for 19 year olds, close to the acceptance rate typical before 2010 (83 to 86 per cent).

The acceptance rates for older age groups are consistently lower; in 2013, 70 per cent for 20 to 24 year olds and 58.2 per cent for 25 and over. The acceptance rates for these older age groups have increased in the 2012 and 2013 cycles by around 4 to 5 per cent proportionally, but are still lower than the rates that were typical between 2004 and 2008.

Figure 14 Acceptance rates for UK domiciled applicants by age group

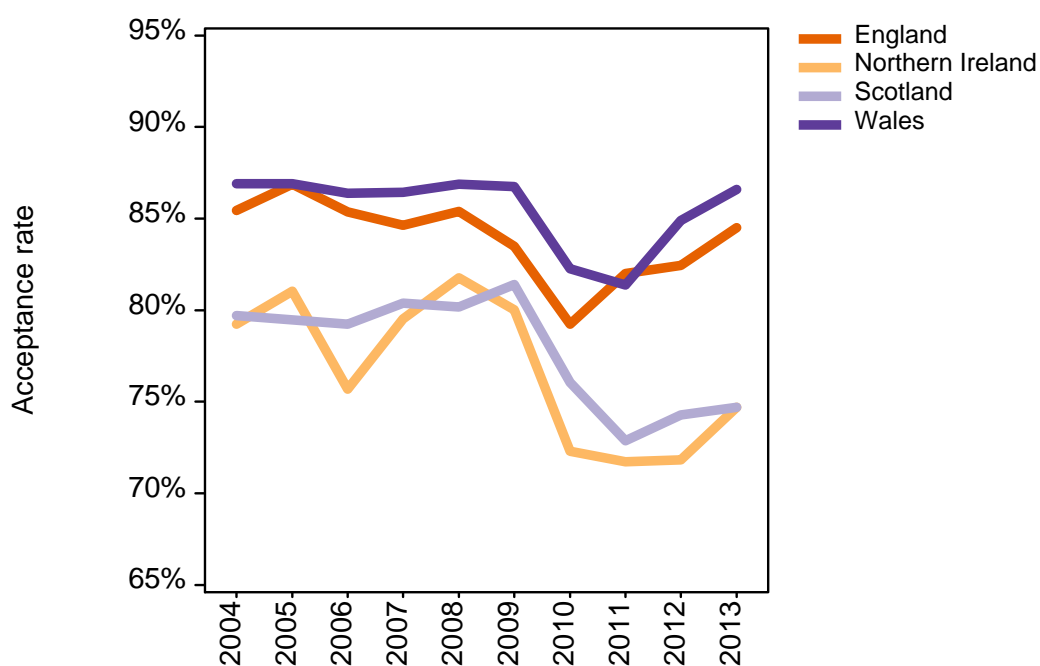


Acceptance rates for 18 year olds higher in England and Wales

Acceptance rates vary by age and country of domicile and the typical age composition of applicants also varies by country. Figure 15 shows the trend in acceptance rates for 18 year old applicants (the largest single applicant age group in each country) by UK country of domicile. Acceptance rates are higher for applicants from England and Wales compared to Scotland and Northern Ireland in all cycles and particularly since 2011.

The acceptance rates for English, Northern Ireland and Welsh domiciled applicants increased in the 2013 cycle by 2.1, 2.9 and 1.7 percentage points respectively. In 2013, acceptance rates for 18 year old applicants from Scotland were similar to those in 2012, and remain below values typical before 2010.

Figure 15 Acceptance rates for 18 year olds by UK country of domicile



Entry rates for 18 and 19 year olds from the UK

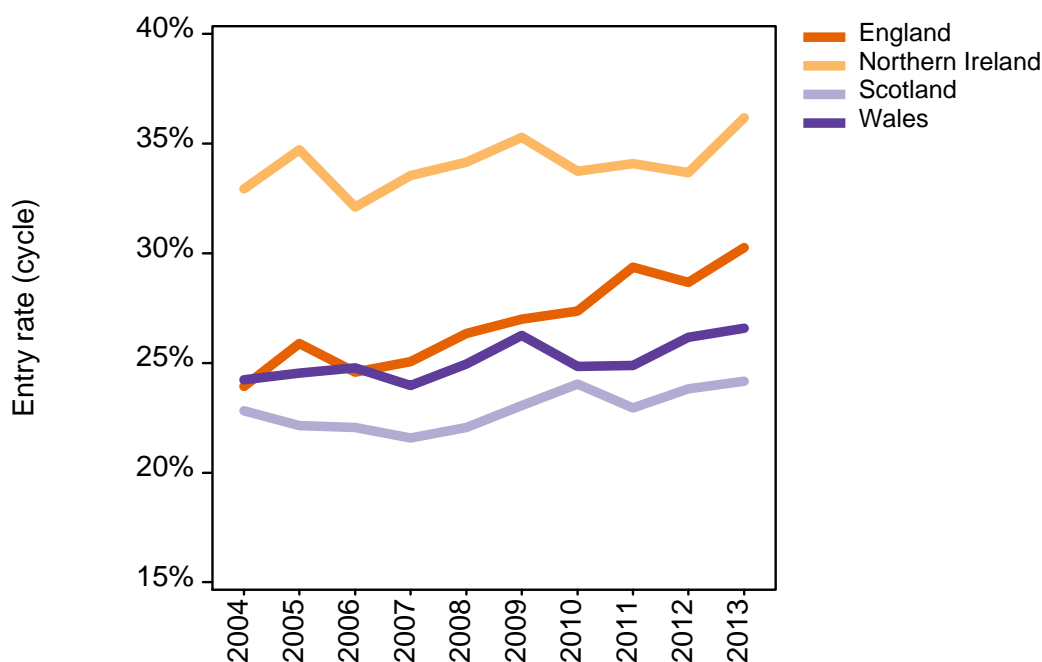
18 year olds across the UK more likely to enter higher education in 2013 than any previous year

Figure 16 shows the proportion of the 18 year old population accepted into higher education through UCAS by country of domicile. These entry rates refer to the cycle within which the applicant is accepted and include both acceptances for immediate entry to higher education and those that are deferred until the next academic year. The entry rates use population estimates based on data from ONS and HEFCE.

Entry rates for English 18 year olds increased between 2006 and 2011 and then fell in the 2012 cycle by 0.7 percentage points. In 2013, the entry rate for English 18 year olds increased by 1.6 percentage points to 30.3 per cent, the highest level recorded.

The entry rate for 18 year olds in Northern Ireland increased in the 2013 cycle by 2.5 percentage points, representing a proportional 7.5 per cent increase in the entry rate, taking it to a new high of 36.2 per cent. Entry rates for 18 year olds in Scotland are lower than for other countries on this measure, since not all higher education provision in colleges is recruited through UCAS. The entry rates for 18 year olds in Scotland and Wales increased slightly in 2013 to 24.2 per cent in Scotland and to 26.6 per cent in Wales, remaining at the highest rates seen across the period.

Figure 16 Proportion of 18 year olds accepted for entry by cycle and country of domicile



19 year old entry rates increase by 18 per cent in England, new highs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

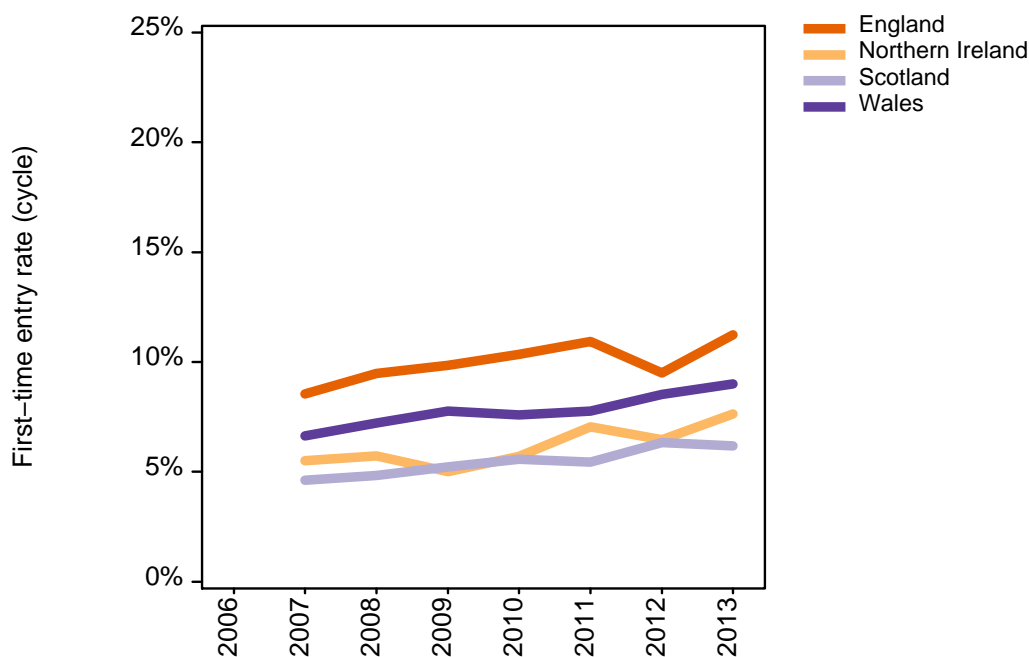
The first-time entry rate of 19 year olds is the proportion of the 19 year old population that are accepted for entry to higher education for the first time. It excludes the small number of accepted applicants that were accepted to start higher education at age 18, but who then applied and were accepted again at age 19. It does not include acceptances at age 18 who intend to start their courses age 19 - deferred acceptances - since these are already included in the 18 year old cycle based entry rate.

This entry rate has generally increased for all four countries of the UK between 2006 and 2011. In 2012, the rate fell for 19 year olds from England and Northern Ireland, while continuing to increase from 19 year olds from Scotland and Wales.

In 2013, the first-time entry rate for 19 year olds from England increased by 1.7 percentage points (a proportional increase of 18 per cent) to 11.2 per cent, more than reversing the fall in the entry rate in 2012 and the highest level recorded for this group. For 19 year olds in Northern Ireland also, the fall seen in 2012 was more than reversed with an increase of 1.2 percentage points (18 per cent proportionally) and the rate in 2013 is a new high of 7.6 per cent.

For 19 year olds in Wales the rate increased for the third successive cycle in 2013 (by 0.5 percentage points, 9 per cent proportionally) to the highest record level of 9.0 per cent. A small fall (0.2 percentage points) in the first-time entry rate for 19 year olds from Scotland left the rate in 2013 at a similar level to 2012.

Figure 17 Proportion of 19 year olds accepted for entry for the first time by country of domicile



Cohort entry rates for young people reach highs across the UK

When looking at entry rates for single age groups, changes in entry year can make the interpretation of whether young people are becoming more or less likely to enter higher education difficult. One measure that is less influenced by changes in age of entry is a cohort-based entry rate that combines entry to higher education at ages 18 and 19. It has the advantage that it is unaffected by changes in the choice to apply and be accepted for entry at ages 18 or 19. It has the disadvantage that it cannot yet report on a complete rate for the cohort that was aged 18 in 2013, since they are yet to have the opportunity to apply at age 19.

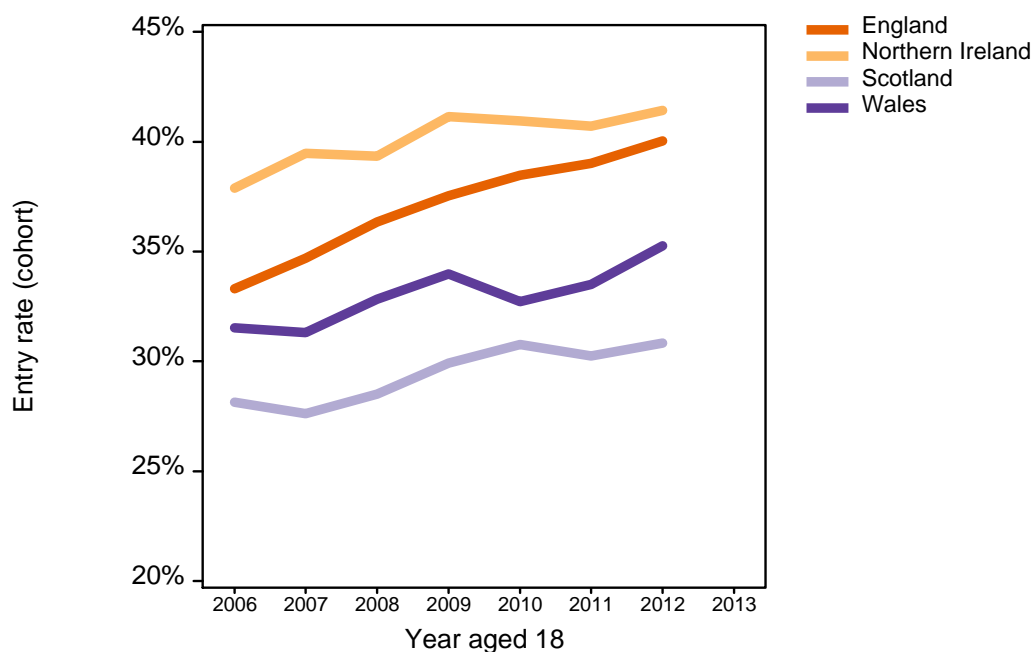
Figure 18 shows the proportion of a young cohort, referenced by the year it would be aged 18, that is accepted for entry aged either 18 or 19.

The entry rate for the 2012 cohort from Wales increased by 1.8 percentage points to 35.3 per cent - a new high. The 2012 cohort entry rate for Scotland (lower than on comparable student record measures since not all higher education in Scotland uses UCAS) increases by 0.6 points to 30.8 per cent (matching the high seen for the 2009 cohort) and that for Northern Ireland increases by 0.7 percentage points to 41.4 per cent, a new high.

Young cohort entry rates in England reach new high of 40 per cent, 1.5 percentage points higher than two years ago

The proportion of English young people accepted for entry to higher education has increased by between 0.9 to 1.7 percentage points a year to reach 38.5 per cent for the cohort aged 18 in 2010. This was the last cohort where entry at both age 18 and age 19 was under the old tuition fee arrangements. The rate for the cohort aged 18 in 2011 (where 19 year olds would have been subject to higher fees) was 39.0 per cent, an increase of 0.5 percentage points from the previous cohort, lower than the annual increases of 0.9 to 1.7 percentage points seen across the 2007 to 2010 cohorts. The cohort aged 18 in 2012 was the first cohort where both entry at ages 18 and 19 would have been subject to higher fees. The entry rate for this cohort increased by 1.0 percentage point to a new high of 40.0 per cent. This is 1.5 percentage points increase since the 2010 cohort, the last cohort entirely under lower fees, representing a 4 per cent proportional increase in young people entering higher education.

Figure 18 Young entry rate (cohort) by country



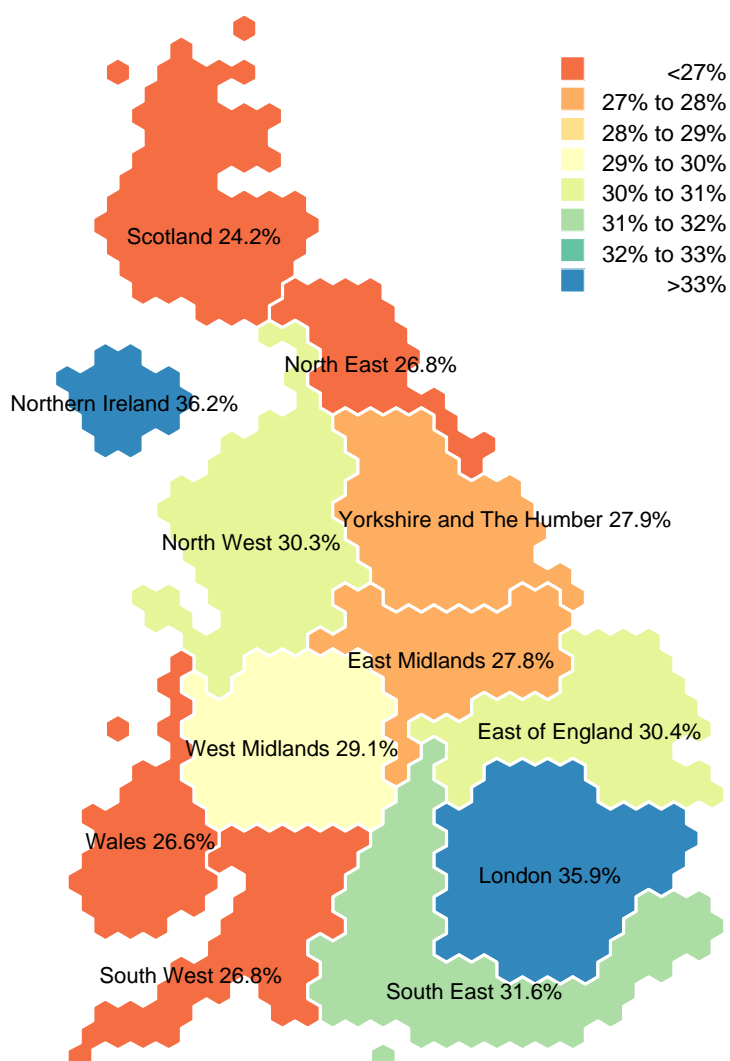
Entry rates by region

The geographical patterns of English regional entry rates, together with entry rates for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales can be shown on maps. The maps used (see Thomas, B. and Dorling, D., 2007, *Identity in Britain: A cradle-to-grave atlas*, Bristol: Policy Press) are designed so that the size of each area approximates the size of its population and their arrangement approximates the geographical locations of the areas.

Entry rates highest in Northern Ireland and London in 2013

Figure 19 maps the 2013 entry rates for 18 year olds. Amongst these units of English regions and other UK countries, Northern Ireland (36.2 per cent) and London (35.9 per cent) have the highest entry rates amongst their 18 year old populations in 2013. Scotland (24.2 per cent, not all higher education in Scotland recorded), Wales (26.6 per cent), the North East (26.8 per cent) and the South West (26.8 per cent) have the lowest entry rates in 2013.

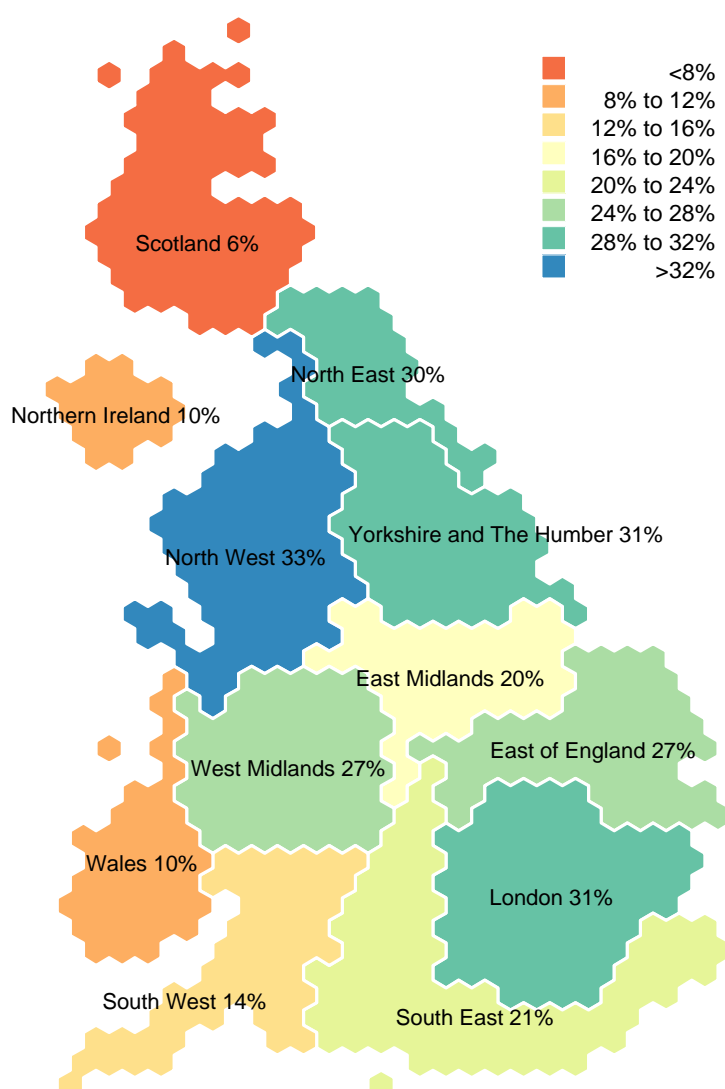
Figure 19 Entry rates in 2013 for UK 18 year olds by region and country



Regions in the northern half of England and London show largest increases in 18 year old entry rates between 2004 and 2013

The geographical patterns of proportional changes in entry rates between 2004 and 2013 are shown in Figure 20. There are two areas of high proportional increases, the northern half of England (North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber) and London, where 18 year olds have become between 30 to 33 per cent more likely to enter higher education between 2004 and 2013. Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the South West of England have seen the lowest proportional increases over this period (5 to 14 per cent).

Figure 20 Change in entry rates between 2004 and 2013 for UK 18 year olds by region and country



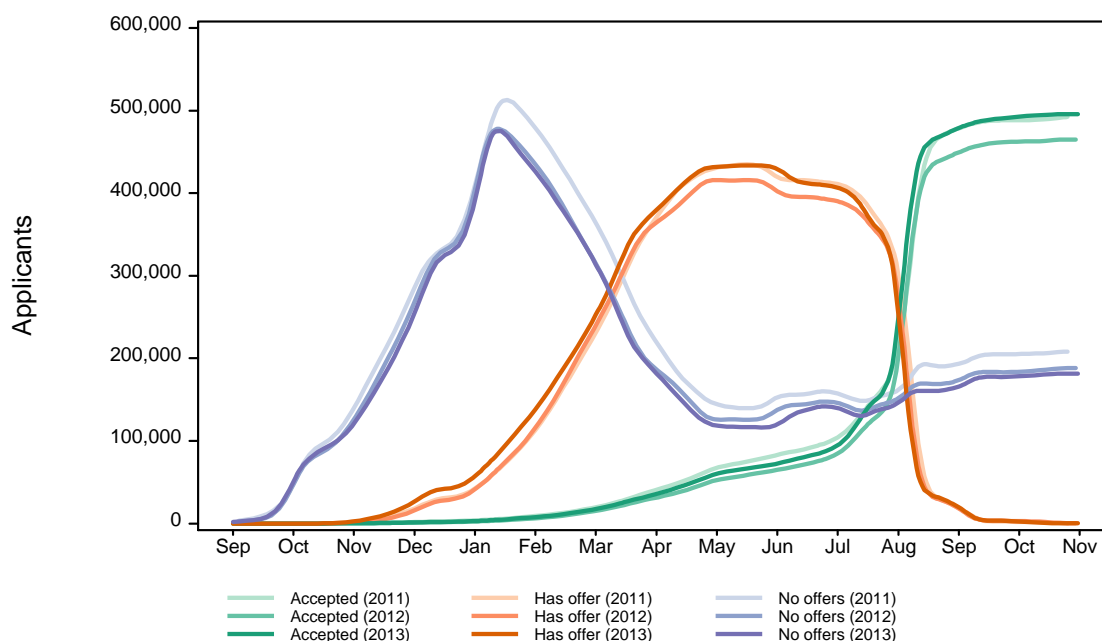
Applicant and institutional cycle trajectories

More acceptances and fewer applicants without offers in 2013

Figure 21 shows the progress of the 2013 cycle through the number of applicants in each of three mutually exclusive states: those holding no offers, those holding offers which have not yet been resolved, and those who have been accepted into higher education. The increasingly lighter lines represent the same statistics for the 2012 and 2011 cycles. These trajectory graphs use a small degree of smoothing to remove day of the week and other effects, to aid interpretation.

Applicants entered the cycle in 2013 at a similar rate as in the 2011 and 2012 cycles. The number of applicants with no offers peaked at around 480,000 in mid-January, matching 2012, but fewer than in 2011. At this same point in the cycle there were 20,000 more applicants already holding an offer in 2013 compared to 2012 (12,000 more than in 2011). This pattern of a greater number of applicants holding offers compared with 2012 continued through the next phase of the cycle, and by mid-May there were 430,000 applicants holding an offer (18,000 more than 2012, around the same level as 2011). In early July there were 11 per cent more applicants accepted compared to 2012, but fewer than in 2011 (-12 per cent). An active period following publication of qualification results and the Confirmation and Clearing period strengthened the number of acceptances and by early September there were 7 per cent more applicants accepted compared to 2012 and around the same number as 2011. By the end of the 2013 cycle there were more accepted applicants and fewer applicants with no offers than either of the two previous cycles.

Figure 21 Applicants by applicant status through the 2013, 2012 and 2011 application cycles

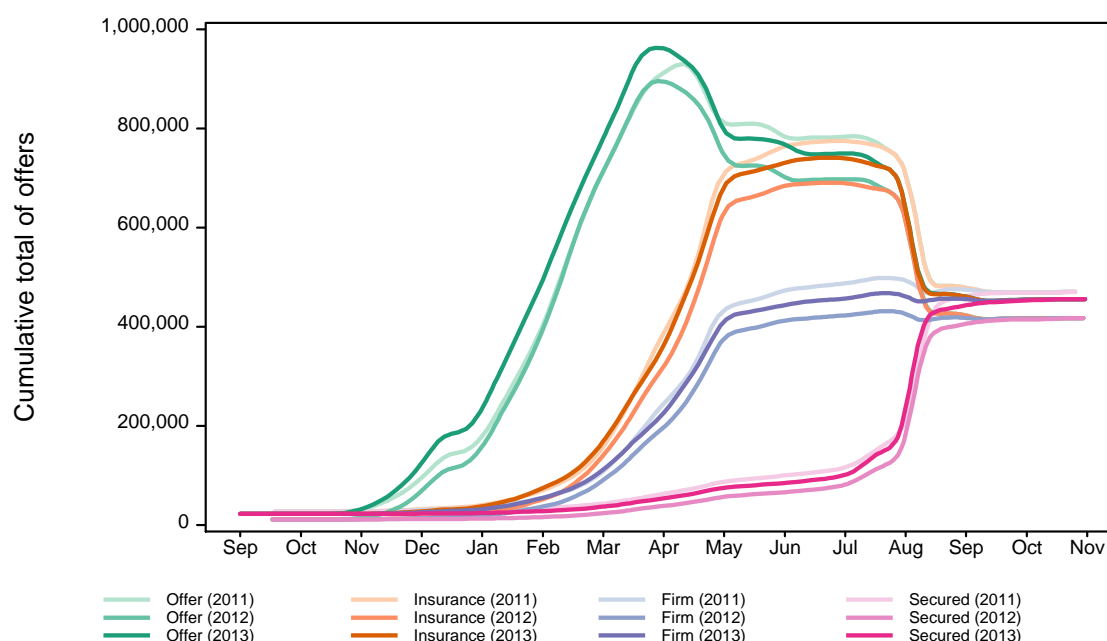


In 2013 institutions make more offers, get more firm replies and accept more applicants

Figure 22 shows the progress of the cycle from the institutional perspective, showing the total number of offers they have made split by categories relating to their potential for resulting in recruitment to the 2013-14 academic year. The graph shows the total numbers, on a cumulative basis, of offers made to UK and EU applicants where these had the potential to translate into an acceptance for the 2013-14 academic year without further action by the institution. These categories of offer range from those where there is no doubt over entry (secured), through those holding a conditional firm offer for entry, those holding a conditional insurance offer, to those where an offer has been made but no reply from the applicant has been received.

The number of secured acceptances into the 2013-14 academic year started 10,700 higher than the previous cycle, at 22,300. This is due to nearly twice the number of deferred acceptances from the 2012 cycle compared to the 2011 cycle. Substantially more offers were made in 2013 compared to the two previous years, leading to the cumulative number of potential acceptances reaching a peak in early April of 966,000. Once replies from applicants were received, this record number of offers did not translate into record numbers of offers held as conditional firm or conditional insurance. By early July, the cumulative number of secured places or conditional firm offers was 8 per cent higher than the previous year, but 6 per cent lower than 2011-12, and similar proportional differences were evident for conditional insurance offers. At the end of the 2013 cycle there were 38,500 more UK and EU accepted applicants for the 2013-14 academic year compared to the previous academic year, but 14,700 fewer than in 2011-12.

Figure 22 Cumulative status of offers to UK and EU domiciled applicants for entry into 2013-14 academic year (compared to entry into 2012-13 and 2011-12)



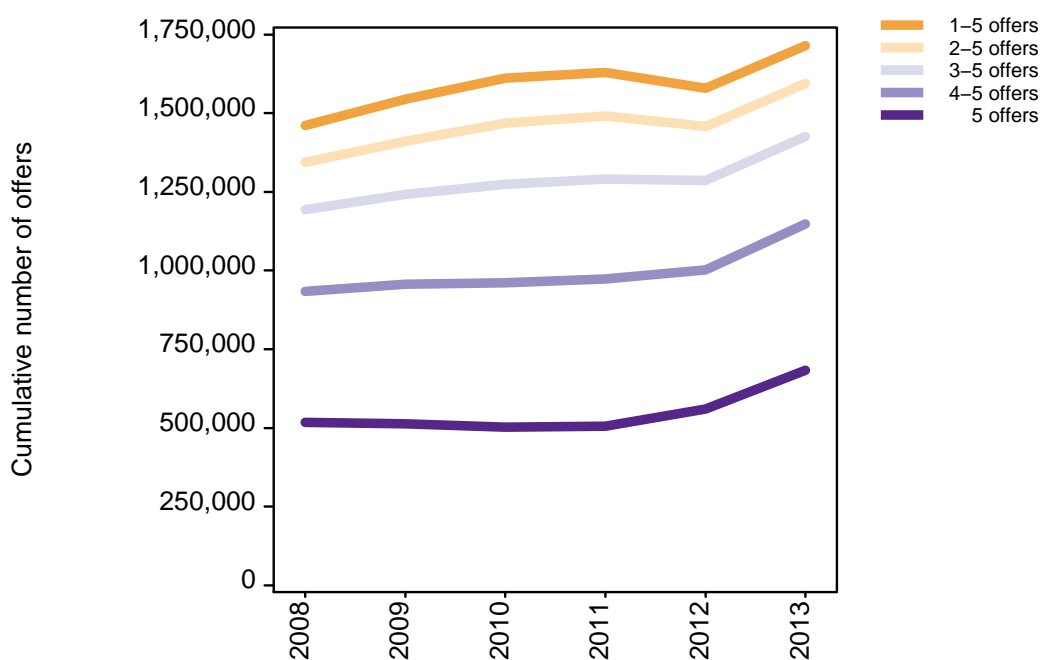
Offer-making to UK and EU applicants in 2013

The number and types of applicants that institutions make offers to is important to recruitment. This section examines the pattern of offer-making by institutions to applicants.

Offers made in 2013 increase by 9 per cent to 1.7 million, highest recorded total

The number of offers made to all main scheme applicants is shown in Figure 23. The offers made are shown split by the number of offers received by the applicant (cumulative totals). The total number of offers made increased in 2013 by 136,000 (9 per cent) to 1.7 million, the highest number of offers made recorded. There has been a large increase (123,000, 22 per cent) in the number of offers made to applicants who receive offers for all five of their choices. This continues a pattern seen in 2012 of the offers made being more concentrated.

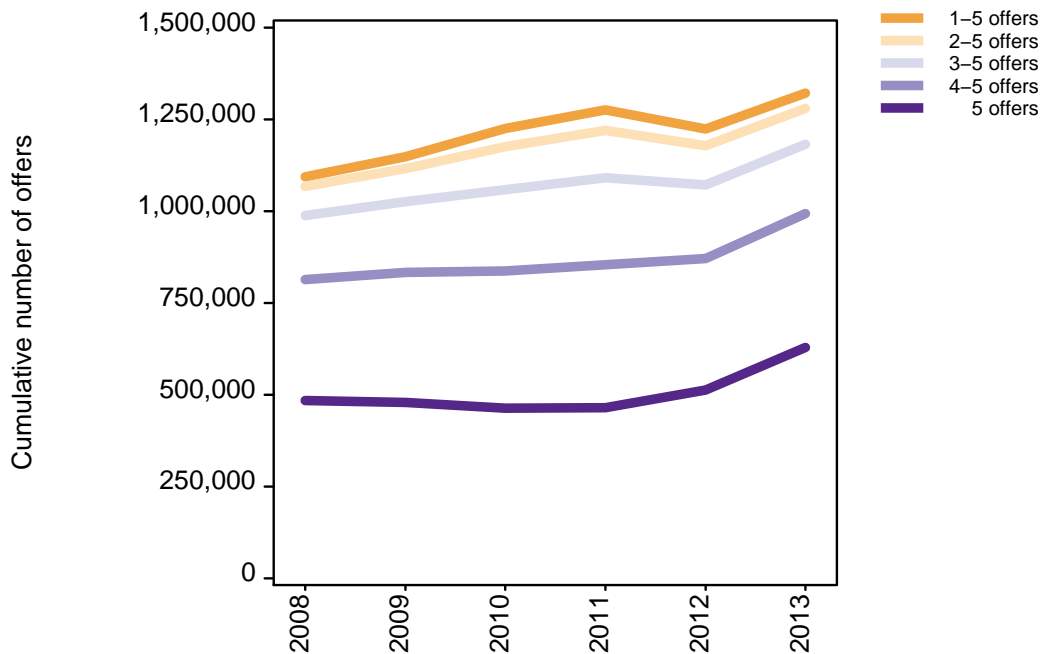
Figure 23 Total number of offers made to all main scheme applicants by number of offers received (cumulative distribution)



Offers made to UK and EU applicants who make a full set of choices increase by 8 per cent to 1.3 million, the highest level recorded

UK and EU domiciled main scheme applicants who make five choices represent the large majority of applications and form a more uniform group to assess patterns in the distribution of offers made. There was an increase in total offers made to this group of 8 per cent (97,000) to 1.3 million offers, the highest level recorded. Most offers made to this group were received by applicants who received four or five offers in total. The number of offers made to UK and EU five-choice applicants who received the maximum five offers increased by 23 per cent (116,000) to 629,000.

Figure 24 Total number of offers made to UK and EU applicants who made five choices by number of offers received (cumulative categories)



The number of applicants who received offers increased in 2013 but remain below 2011

The total number of UK and EU main scheme applicants that made five choices increased by 2 per cent in 2013, though remain below 2011 cycle levels. The number of these applicants receiving at least one offer increased by 3 per cent (12,000) to 370,000, but remains lower than in 2011. The increase in applicants holding offers is much less than the increase in offers made to this group (8 per cent) because of the increasing concentration of offers on those applicants who receive many offers.

The number of applicants receiving offers to all five of their applications increased by 23 per cent (23,000) to 126,000, the highest recorded total and 35 per cent higher than in 2011. The number of applicants receiving no offers to all five of their applications decreased by 10 per cent (4000) to 35,000 - 23 per cent below the peak in 2011 (of 45,000) and similar to the level in 2010.

Over half of applicants receive four or more offers, almost a third have five offers to choose from as the proportion with five offers increases by 20 per cent in 2013

Around nine out of ten UK and EU applicants that made five choices received at least one offer and over half of these applicants received four or five offers. High offer rates seen at the start of the period (2008 cycle) reduced to reach minimum levels in 2011. However, since 2011 a greater share of applicants have received offers, with further increases in 2013.

The proportion of UK and EU applicants that made five choices, receiving at least one offer increased by 1 percentage point to 91.4 per cent in 2013 but remains below levels in the 2008 and 2009 cycles. The proportion of applicants receiving four or five offers increased by 5 percentage points to 53 per cent. The proportion of applicants having the maximum five offers to choose between increased to 31 per cent in 2013, the highest level in the period. UK and EU applicants are 20 per cent more likely to have five offers than in 2012, and 45 per cent more likely than in 2011.

Figure 25 UK and EU main scheme applicants who made five choices by number of offers received (cumulative categories)

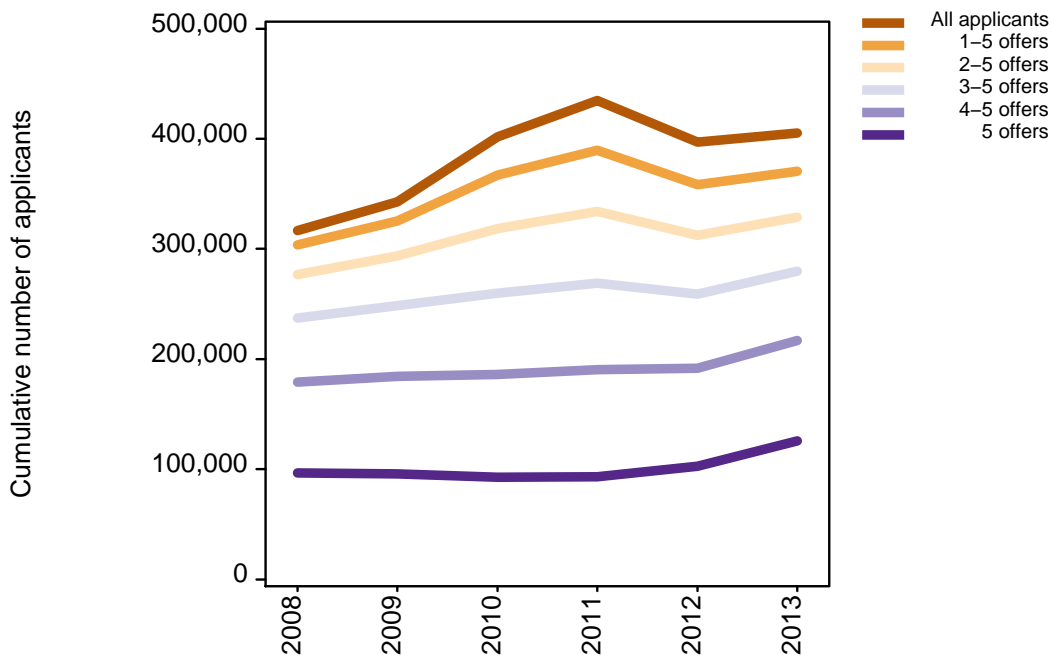
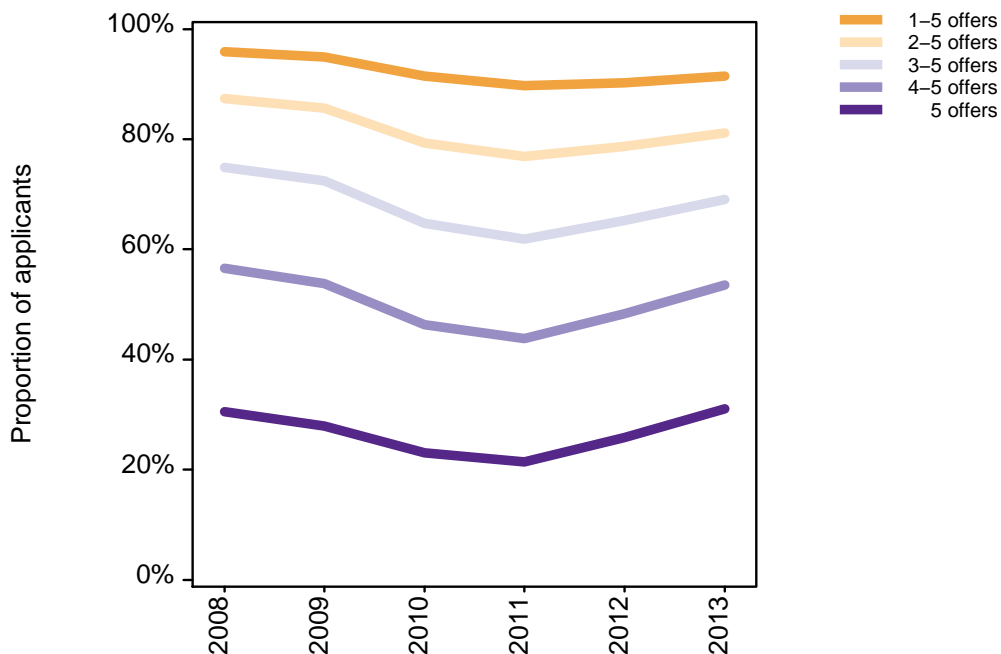


Figure 26 Proportion of UK and EU main scheme applicants who made five choices by number of offers received (cumulative categories)



Offer rates to young applicants increase in 2013 to match previous highs

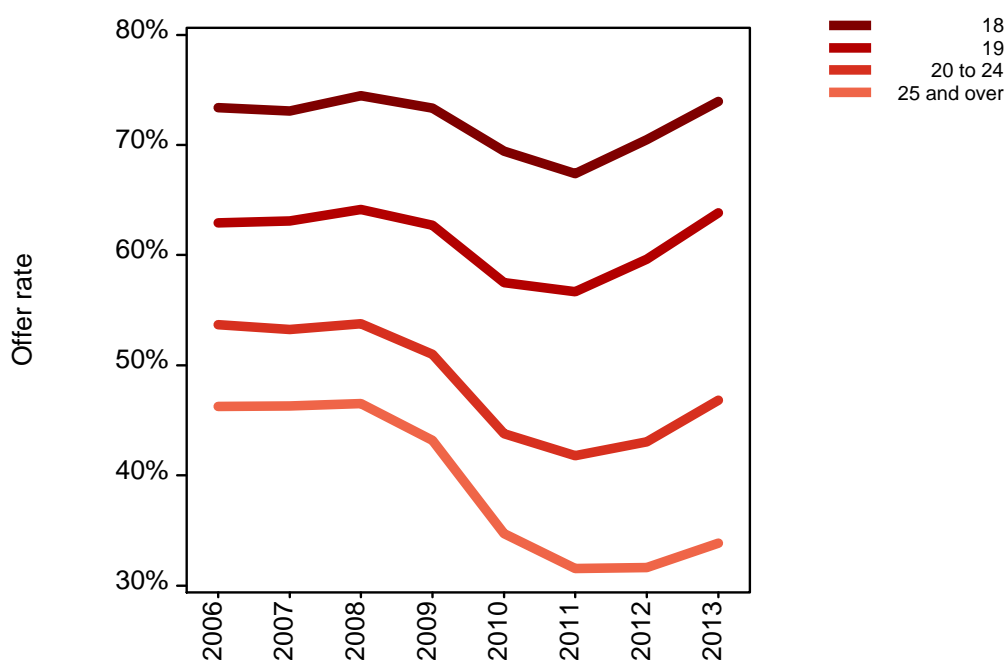
Applications from younger UK and EU applicants are more likely to receive offers than applicants in other age groups. Applications from 18 year old applicants consistently have the highest chance of receiving an offer and this increased in 2013 to reach 74 per cent, equalling the highest total recorded in this period in 2008 and 7 percentage points higher than in 2011. Applications from 19 year olds are less likely to receive an offer but show a similar pattern with an increase in 2013 to 64 per cent, the same as the highest level recorded in this period in 2008.

Offer rates to older applicants increase in 2013 but remain lower than previously

Applications from applicants in older age groups are less likely to receive offers. In 2013 around half of applications from 20-24 year old applicants received offers and around a third of those from applicants aged 25 and over (less than half the offer rate to applications from 18 year olds).

Offer rates to applications from these older age groups fell sharply between 2008 and 2011. Offer rates have increased since 2011, and increased further in 2013, but not by enough to offset the earlier falls. In 2013, 47 per cent of applications from 20-24 year old applicants received offers and 34 per cent of those from applicants aged 25 and over. Offer rates to the older age groups remain substantially below previous levels, in contrast to younger age groups. The offer rate gap between applications from younger and older applicants - 40 percentage points - is now at its widest in the period measured.

Figure 27 Offer rate (application level) for UK and EU main scheme applicants by age group, excluding under 18s



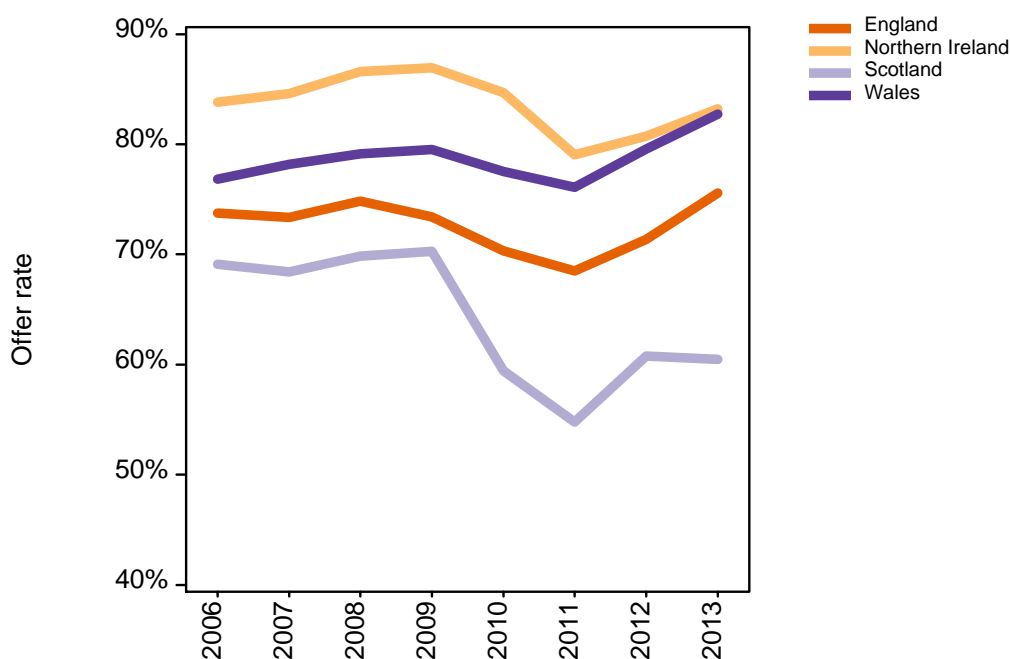
Offer-making by institutions

Offer-making rates to applications will depend on the choices made by applicants (in terms of the courses applied to) as well as the decisions made by institutions. However, since the pattern of choices made by applicants in terms of, for example tuition fees, has been shown to be generally similar over this period, changes in trends in offer-making can be interpreted primarily as changes in institutional offer-making decisions, in particular their demand for applicants of different types. Given the strong association of the offer rate with age, this analysis concentrates on offers made to 18 year old UK domiciled applicants to better identify changes in institutional behaviour.

English and Welsh institutions more likely than ever to make offers to UK 18 year olds

The proportion of applications from 18 year old UK domiciled applicants who receive offers varies by the country of the institution. In 2013, applications from these applicants to institutions in Northern Ireland and Wales were most likely to receive an offer (83 per cent of applications), followed by England (76 per cent) and Scotland (60 per cent). Between 2009 to 2011 applications became less likely to receive offers from institutions across the UK. Across the 2012 and 2013 cycles, English and Welsh institutions have increased the proportion of applications to which they make offers by, proportionally, around 4 per cent in each cycle. As a result, offer rates to applications from institutions in England and Wales were at the highest levels recorded within the period.

Figure 28 Offer rate (application level) to 18 year old UK main scheme applicants by country of institution

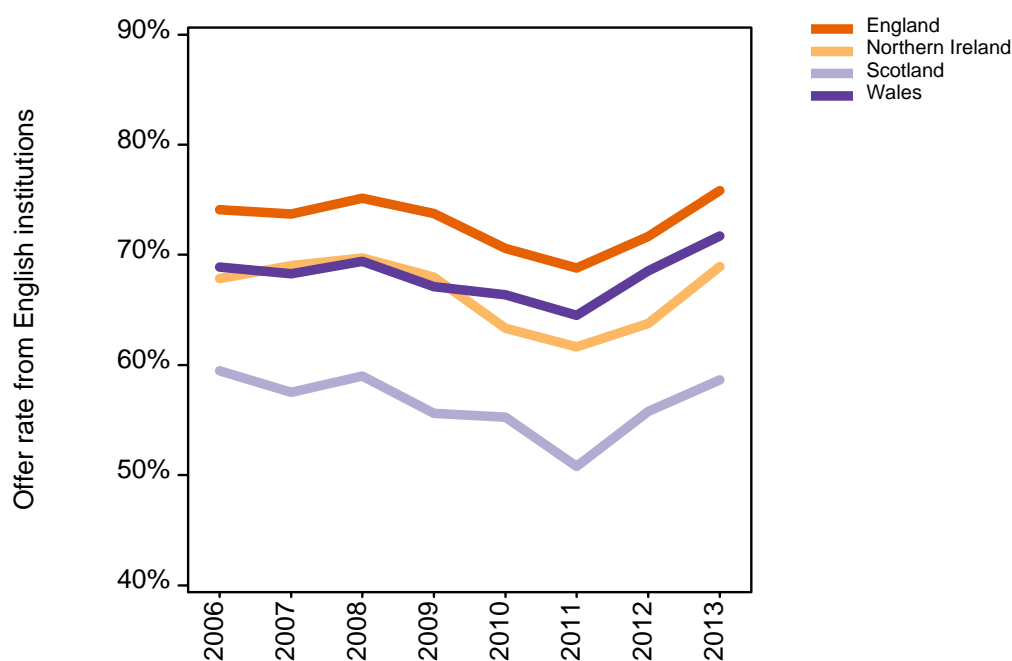


English institutions increase offer rates to 18 year olds from across the UK to new highs

The offer rate from English institutions in 2013 to applications varies by the country of the 18 year old applicant ranging from 59 per cent for applicants from Scotland, around 70 per cent for applicants from Northern Ireland and Wales, to 76 per cent to applicants from England. This range of around 15 percentage points is common across the period and the trends in offer rates are generally undifferentiated by country of domicile.

Offer rates from English institutions to applicants from all UK countries increased by 3 to 5 percentage points in 2013. This followed similar rises in the 2012 cycle so that applications from all countries are now over 10 per cent (proportionally) more likely to receive an offer than in 2011. For 18 year old applicants domiciled in England and Wales, the chances of receiving an offer from an application to an English institution are now higher than previously recorded in this period. For applicants from Northern Ireland offer rates are close to the previous high level in 2008 and for applicants from Scotland offer rates are similar to their peak for this period in 2006.

Figure 29 Offer rate (application level) from English institutions to 18 year old UK main scheme applicants by country of domicile

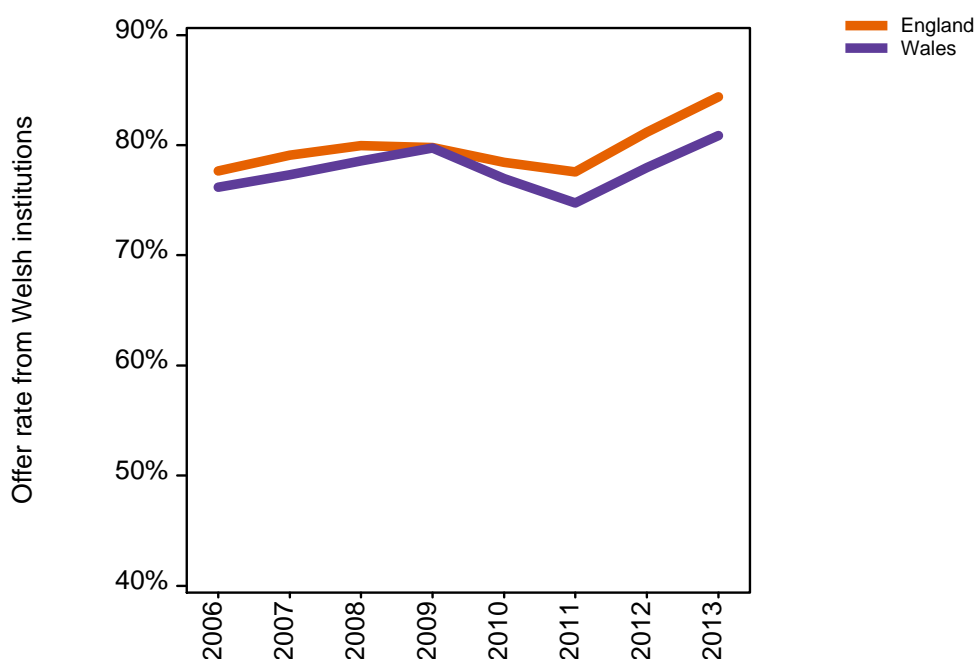


Institutions in Wales increase offer-making to both Welsh and English applications

The large majority of UK applications to Welsh institutions come from Wales and England. The offer rate by Welsh institutions in 2013 to applications from 18 year olds is similar for applications from Wales (81 per cent) and from England (84 per cent). The trends in offer rates have also been similar to applicants from both countries over the period, with offer rates to English applicants being slightly higher throughout.

Offer rates from Welsh institutions to 18 year old applicants from England and Wales increased by 3 percentage points in 2013, with the offer rates to applications from both countries at their highest values for the period. This follows similar increases in 2012, meaning applications from English applicants are 9 per cent more likely, and those from Welsh applicants are 8 per cent more likely, to receive an offer than in 2011.

Figure 30 Offer rate (application level) from Welsh institutions to 18 year old UK main scheme applicants from England and Wales



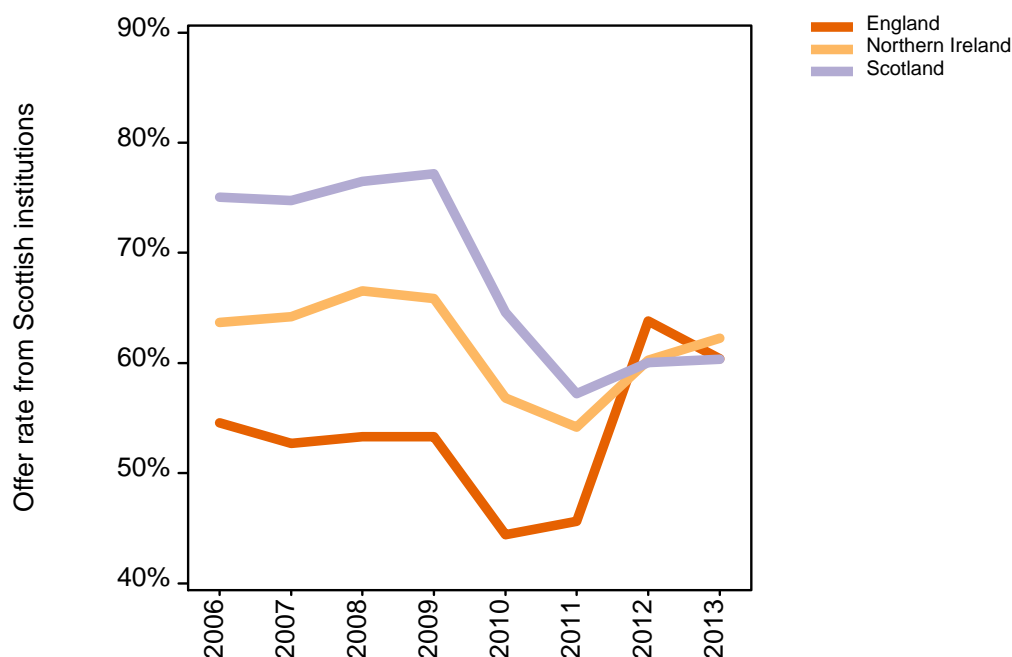
Offer rates by Scottish institutions now the same to Scottish and English applicants

Across the 2006 to 2009 cycles, Scottish institutions made offers to around three quarters of applications from 18 year olds from Scotland and around a half of applications from 18 year olds from England. By 2011 offer-making rates to applications from both countries had decreased; to 57 per cent for Scottish applicants and 46 per cent for English applicants.

In 2012 the proportion of Scottish 18 year old applications receiving an offer increased by 3 percentage points (5 per cent proportionally) to 60 per cent. The proportion of English applications receiving an offer increased by 18 percentage points (40 per cent proportionally) to 64 per cent, higher than for applications from Scotland.

In 2013 the offer rate to applications from Scottish applicants remained unchanged at 60 per cent. The offer rate to applications from English applicants fell by 3 percentage points (5 per cent proportionally) to 60 per cent. This is the first time in the period that offer rates from Scottish institutions to applications from 18 year olds from Scotland and England have been the same.

Figure 31 Offer rate (application level) from Scottish institutions to 18 year old UK main scheme applicants from England, Northern Ireland and Scotland



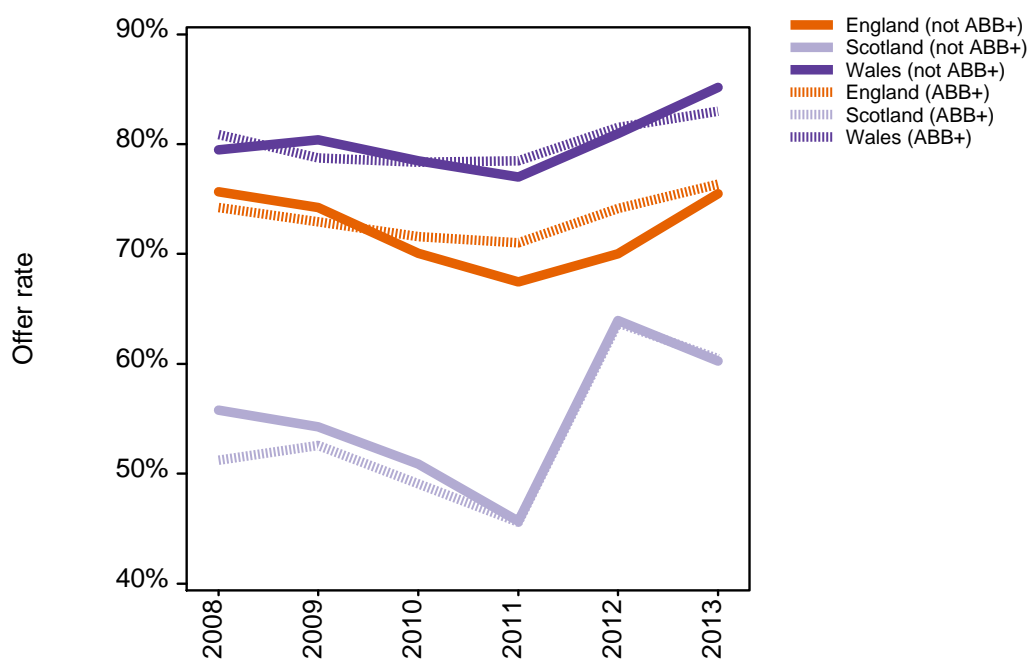
Offer rates from English institutions to 18 year old applicants without ABB+ increase by more than to those with ABB+

Changes to the student number control system in 2012, and again in 2013, for most courses at English institutions, meant that applicants with certain qualification levels would be exempt from number controls, whereas others would not. Figure 32 shows the offer rate to 18 year old English applicants who go on to achieve the (2013) exempt qualification level and those who do not. Achieved qualifications are used in this analysis so that the widest range of qualifications can be considered.

The offer rate from institutions in England, Scotland and Wales to applications from 18 year olds from England is, for each country of institution, similar in level and trend. The offer rate from English institutions to ABB+ applicants increased in 2013 by 3 per cent (proportionally) to 76 per cent, the offer rate to non-ABB+ applicants increased by almost three times as much (8 per cent proportionally) to 76 per cent.

There was a similar pattern from institutions in Wales where the offer rate to ABB+ English applicants increased by 2 per cent (proportionally) to 83 per cent whereas the offer rate to non-ABB+ applicants increased by 5 per cent (proportionally) to 85 per cent. Levels and trends of offer rates from Scottish institutions to these applicants are undifferentiated by qualification status.

Figure 32 Offer rate (application level) to 18 year old English domiciled main scheme applicants by achieved qualification status and country of institution

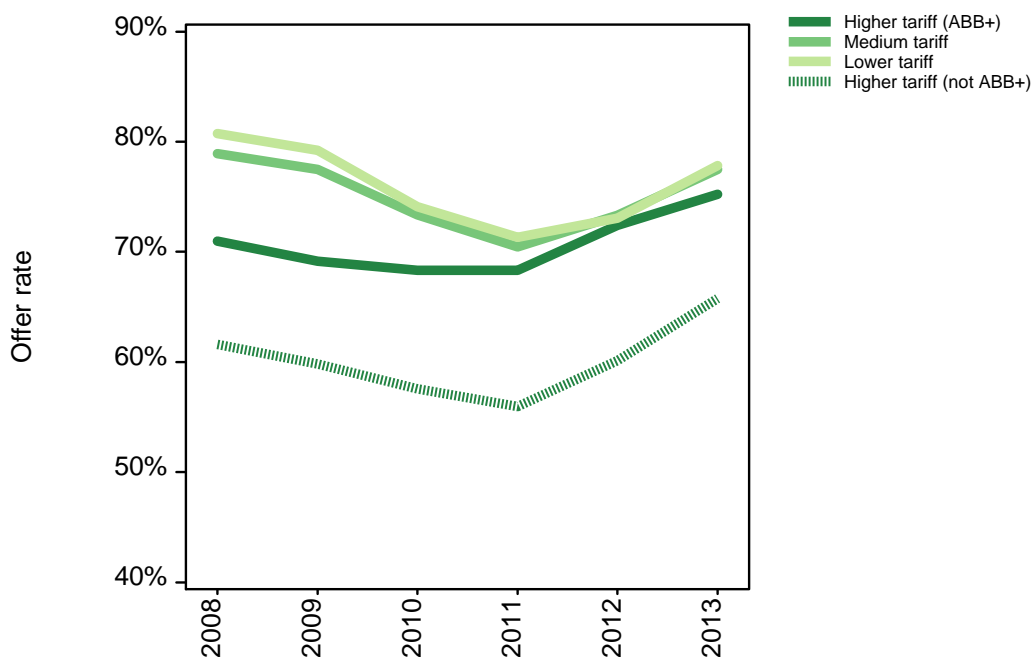


Higher tariff English institutions increase offer rates to both ABB+ and non-ABB+ English 18 year olds in 2013 to highest recorded levels

Offer rates from medium and lower tariff institutions to applications from English 18 year olds are similar to each other. In 2013 the offer rate from lower tariff institutions to applications from English 18 year olds increased by 7 per cent (proportionally) to 78 per cent. The offer rate from medium tariff institutions increased by 6 per cent (proportionally) to 77 per cent.

The offer rate from higher tariff institutions to applications from English 18 year olds who go on to achieve ABB+ is 75 per cent, a 4 per cent increase (proportionally) over 2012 and the highest recorded value in this period. The offer rate from higher tariff institutions to applications from applicants who do not achieve ABB+ is lower than for those who do but has been increasing more rapidly since 2011, narrowing the difference. In 2013, the offer rate from higher tariff institutions to non-ABB+ applications increased by 9 per cent proportionally to 66 per cent, also the highest recorded value. This increase follows a similar rise in 2012 and applications from non-ABB+ applicants are now 17 per cent more likely to receive an offer than in 2011.

Figure 33 Offer rate (application level) from English institutions to 18 year old English domiciled main scheme applicants by institution group



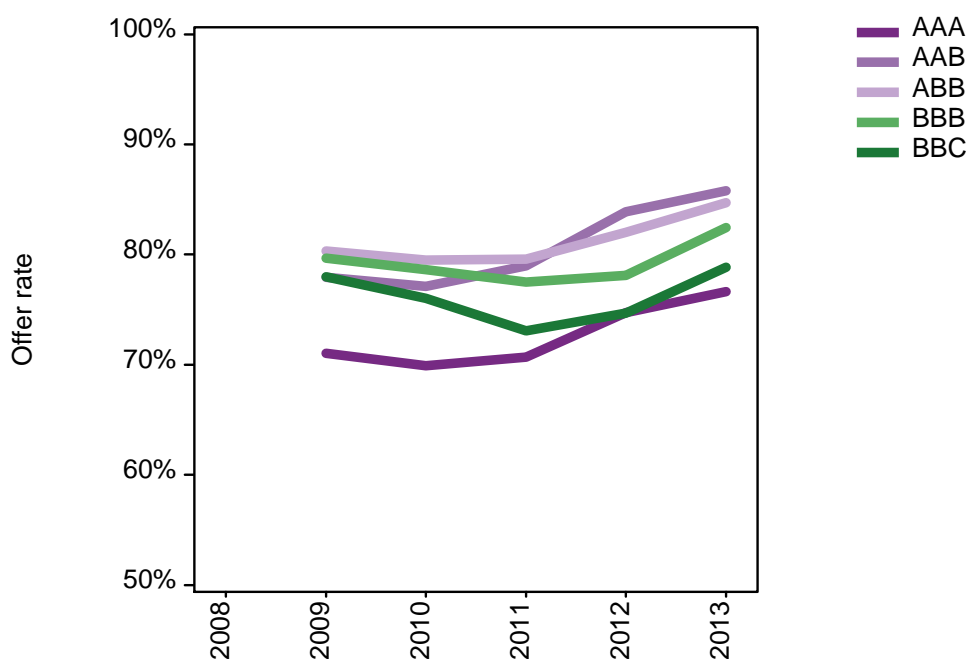
Offer rates increase to applicants who are predicted A levels from BBC to AAA

For 18 year old applicants who apply with A level results pending it is possible to investigate offer rates by the profile of three highest predicted A level grades. This reflects the information available to the institution at the time the offer is made. Figure 34 shows the offer rates to applications from English 18 year old applicants across five selected predicted grade profiles (A* grades are treated as A grades for the purpose of the time series).

The rank order of the level of offer-making to applicants holding each of these profiles is complex, reflecting both institutional decisions and the applicant choice of course. For example, the offer rate to applications from applicants predicted AAA is lower than for those predicted BBB.

There is a relatively narrow range of offer rates across these grade profiles ranging (in 2013) from 77 per cent to AAA to 86 per cent for AAB. The offer rates to applications from all grade profiles increased in both 2012 and 2013 cycles. In the 2012 cycle applications from those predicted AAA and AAB increased by 6 per cent proportionally, at least twice the increase for other grade profiles. In 2013 the increase in the offer rate for these profiles was around 2 per cent with larger proportional increases for ABB (3 per cent) BBB (6 per cent) and BBC (6 per cent).

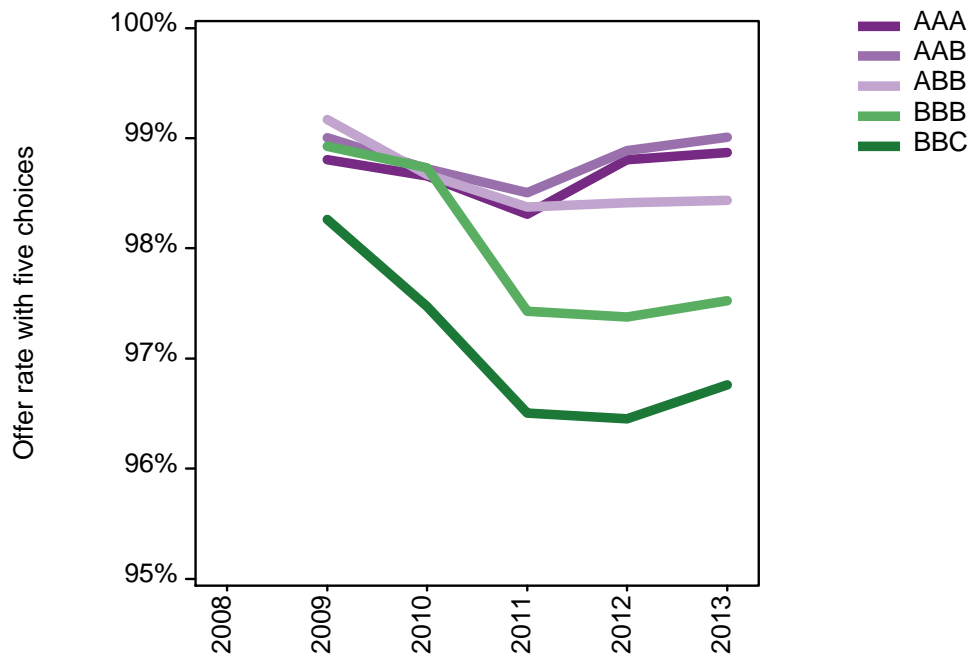
Figure 34 Offer rate (application level) to 18 year old English domiciled main scheme applicants by selected predicted grade profile of applicant



97-99 per cent of young applicants get an offer over a wide range of predicted grades

Most 18 year old English applicants with three predicted grades at A level will make five applications. The proportion of these applicants who receive offers is very high across common grade profiles ranging from 97 per cent of those predicted BBC to 99 per cent of those predicted AAA. There was a slight increase in the proportion of applicants receiving at least one offer in the 2013 cycle.

Figure 35 Proportion of 18 year old English domiciled main scheme applicants that receive at least one offer (from five choices) by predicted grade profile of applicant



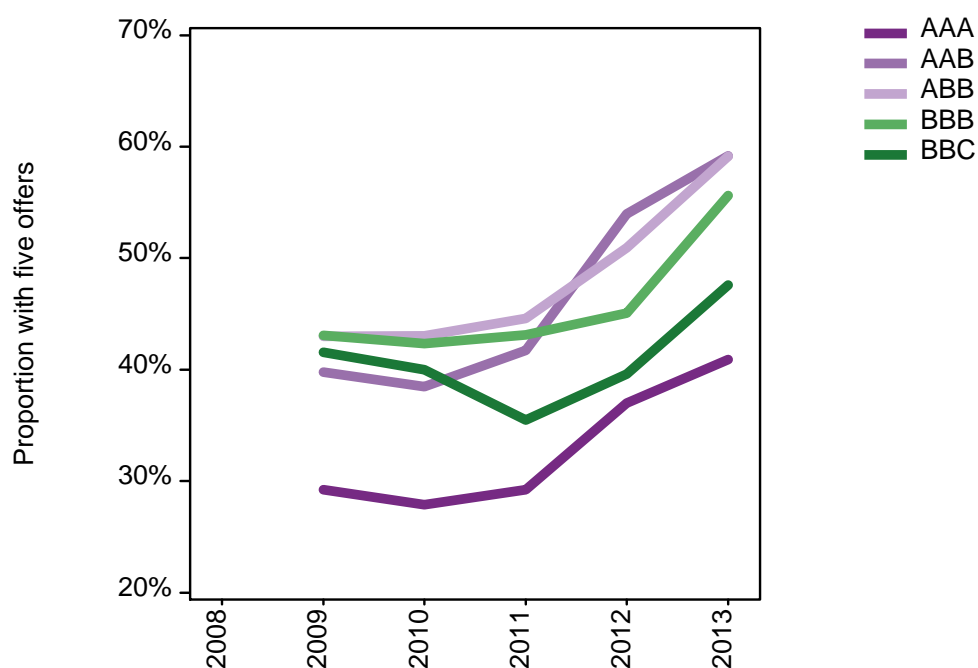
The proportion of applicants getting five offers increases in 2013 by 10-20 per cent across a wide range of predicted grade profiles

Many 18 year old applicants who apply with three predicted A level grades will get offers from all five of their applications. In 2013, the proportion getting five offers ranged from 41 per cent of those predicted AAA to 59 per cent of those predicted ABB. The probability of receiving five offers increased for all grade profiles in 2013 to reach the highest levels recorded in each case.

For those predicted AAA and ABB, the probability of getting five offers increased (proportionally) by around 30 per cent in 2012 and a further 10 per cent in 2013. For those predicted ABB, the proportion receiving five offers increased by 14 per cent in 2012 and 16 per cent in 2013. Those predicted BBB and BBC had smaller proportional increases in 2012 (4 per cent and 12 per cent respectively) but the largest increases in 2013, 23 per cent for BBB and 20 per cent for BBC.

Between the 2011 and 2013 cycles, the proportion of these applicants getting five offers has increased by around a third or more.

Figure 36 Proportion of 18 year old English domiciled main scheme applicants that receive offers to each of five choices by predicted grade profile of applicant



England in 2013

Application, entry and deferred rates for English 18 year olds return to earlier trends

Applications and acceptances give information on different aspects of admissions to higher education and reporting them as numbers or rates, or by UCAS cycle or academic year of entry, answers different questions about demand and outcomes. In recent cycles some of the key links between demand and outcomes, such as the acceptance and deferred entry rate, have changed for English 18 year old applicants.

Figure 37 shows the trends for English 18 year olds in the application rate, entry rate by cycle, entry rate by academic year of entry and deferred rate. These rates are important measures of the behaviour and experience of outcomes for young people. Each rate is calculated as the proportion of the 18 year old population in England.

In 2013, the application rate of English 18 year olds increases by 1 percentage point to 35.8 per cent. This increase is similar to the typical increases seen between 2006 and 2011, but the application rate remains 2 percentage points below where it would be if there had been a similarly typical increase of 1 percentage point in 2012 as well.

The cycle entry rate for English 18 year olds, the proportion of English 18 year olds who are accepted for entry to higher education in each cycle, is broadly similar to the application rate but has some important differences. It is less than the application rate, since not all applicants are accepted. The acceptance rate governs the relationship between the application and cycle entry rate and this fell sharply for English 18 year olds in the 2009 and 2010 cycles causing the cycle entry rate to increase more slowly than the application rate. In 2011 this trend reversed and the acceptance rate increased substantially, leading to a corresponding above-trend increase in the entry rate. Further increases to the acceptance rate in 2012 and 2013 have continued to decrease the percentage point difference between the application rate and entry rate. Consequently, in 2013, the cycle entry rate for English 18 year olds is 30.3 per cent, the highest level recorded.

The academic year entry rate is calculated as the number of acceptances into that academic year divided by the population of that age group in the academic year; this gives a statistic with similar trend properties to higher education participation rates calculated from enrolment based student records.

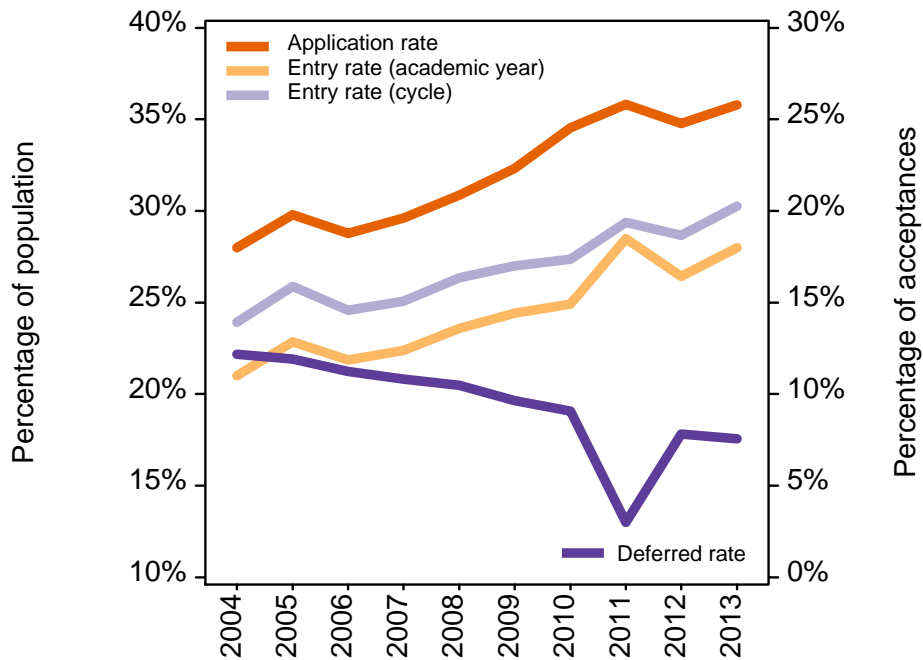
The cycle-based and academic year-based entry rates are not the same since not all acceptances in a UCAS cycle are for starting higher education in the immediately following academic year. The proportion of acceptances in a cycle from English 18 year olds that are for deferred entry into the next academic year (where they would be aged 19) is shown as the deferred rate. Since there are very few acceptances from 17 year old applicants that are for deferred entry when they are aged 18, the difference between the two entry rates for 18 year olds is accounted for (almost) entirely by the proportion of English 18 year old acceptances that are for entry at age 19.

The proportion of 18 year old acceptances who intend to enter higher education when aged 19 fell steadily from 12.2 per cent in the 2004 cycle to 9.1 per cent in the 2010 cycle. In the 2011 cycle, the proportion of deferred acceptances fell by two thirds to 3.0 per cent and then returned to 7.8 per cent in 2012, lower than the deferred rates seen prior to 2011 but consistent with the decreasing trend over the period. In 2013, this trend continued with a deferred rate of 7.6 per cent.

These changes in the deferred rate alter the relationship between the cycle and academic year entry rates. This was particularly evident in the 2011 cycle. With almost all the acceptances in 2011 being for immediate entry, the academic year entry rate increased dramatically - particularly compared to the increase in the cycle entry rate. English 18 year olds in 2011 were 7 per cent more likely to be accepted for entry to higher education than the previous cohort, but 14 per cent more likely to be starting higher education aged 18 in 2011-12 than the previous year. In 2013, with the decrease in the deferred rate at

only 0.2 percentage points, the academic entry rate and cycle entry rate both increased by around 6 per cent proportionally.

Figure 37 English 18 year olds – application rates, entry rates by cycle and entry year and the proportion of acceptances that are for deferred entry



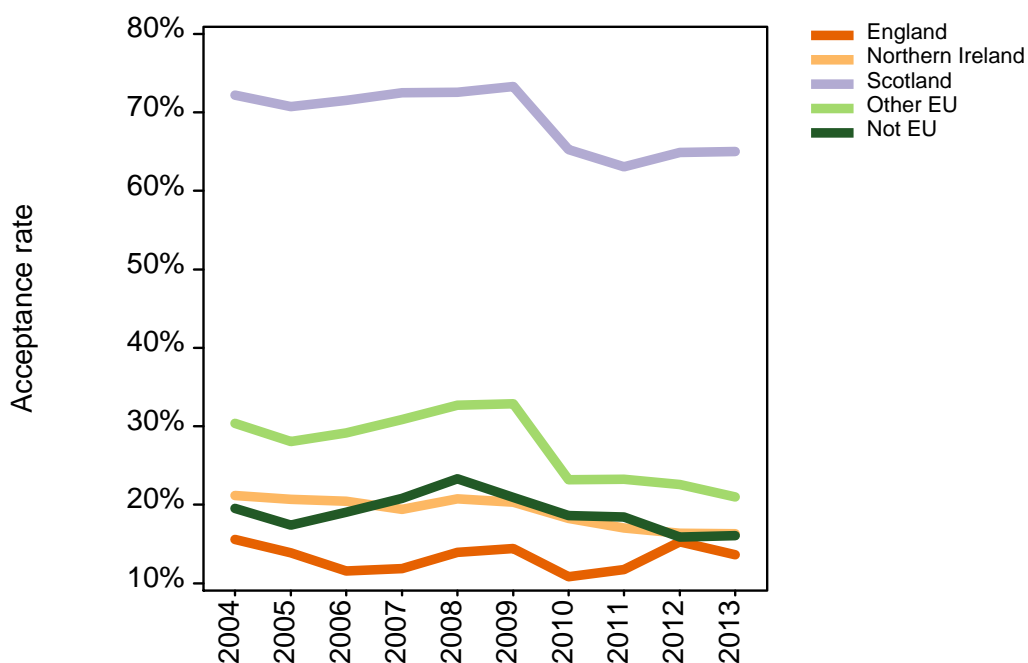
Scotland in 2013

Figure 38 shows, by country of domicile the proportion of applications who applied to a Scottish institution who were subsequently placed at a Scottish institution. This acceptance rate (conditional on applying to at least one institution in Scotland) has always been higher for Scottish applicants than for applicants from other countries and reflects a combination of factors, such as the number of applications made per applicant to Scottish institutions, the proportion of applications that receive an offer (see Figure 39) and the probability of the offer converting into an acceptance. Between 2004 and 2009 the rate for Scottish applicants was steady at around 71 to 73 per cent. In 2010 it fell sharply by 8 percentage points (11 per cent proportionally) to 65.3 per cent and has remained around this level in subsequent cycles. In 2013, 65.0 per cent of all Scottish applicants who applied to a Scottish institution were accepted to a Scottish institution.

The acceptance rate for applicants from the EU also fell sharply in 2010 by 9.7 percentage points (30 per cent proportionally) to 23.2 per cent. In the 2013 cycle 21.0 per cent of EU applicants who applied to a Scottish institution were accepted to a Scottish institution. This is a decrease of 1.6 percentage points (-7.1 per cent proportionally) since 2012. This is the lowest acceptance rate for these applicants across the period.

The acceptance rate for applicants from England to Scottish institutions fell in 2013 to 13.7 per cent, a decrease of 1.6 percentage points (-10.6 per cent proportionally). Acceptance rates for applicants from Northern Ireland and from outside of the EU have remained broadly similar to 2012. Only a very small number of applicants from Wales apply to Scottish institutions.

Figure 38 Proportion of applicants who applied to a Scottish institution who are accepted to a Scottish institution by selected domicile group (Wales not shown)

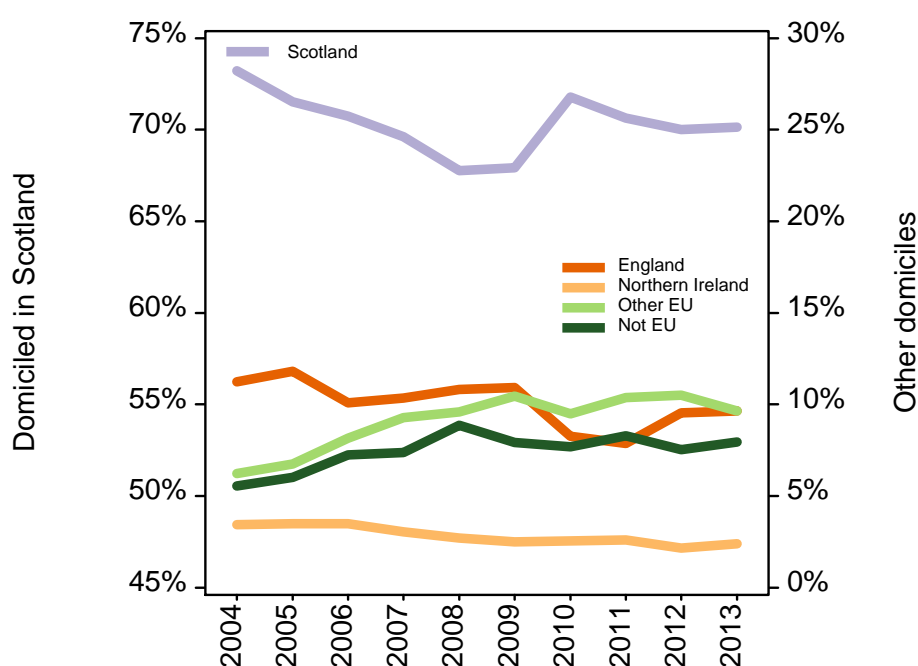


Seven out of ten acceptances to Scottish institutions are Scottish domiciled applicants. This proportion decreased from 73 to 68 per cent between the 2004 and 2009 cycles, before increasing sharply to 72 per cent in the 2010 cycle (at the same time that the conditional acceptance rate decreased sharply, indicating a sharp increase in the number of applicants). For the next two cycles the proportion decreased at around 1 percentage point in each cycle. In 2013, the proportion of Scottish domiciled acceptances to Scottish institutions has remained broadly similar to 2012 at 70.1 per cent.

The proportion of acceptances in 2013 from England was 9.6 per cent, unchanged from 2012, despite a fall in the conditional acceptance rate (indicating a rise in the number of applicants).

The proportion of acceptances to Scottish institutions from the EU generally rose between 2004 and 2012. In 2013 it fell by 0.8 percentage points to 9.6 per cent, the same proportion as applicants from England.

Figure 39 Acceptances to Scottish institutions by selected domicile of applicant (Wales not shown)

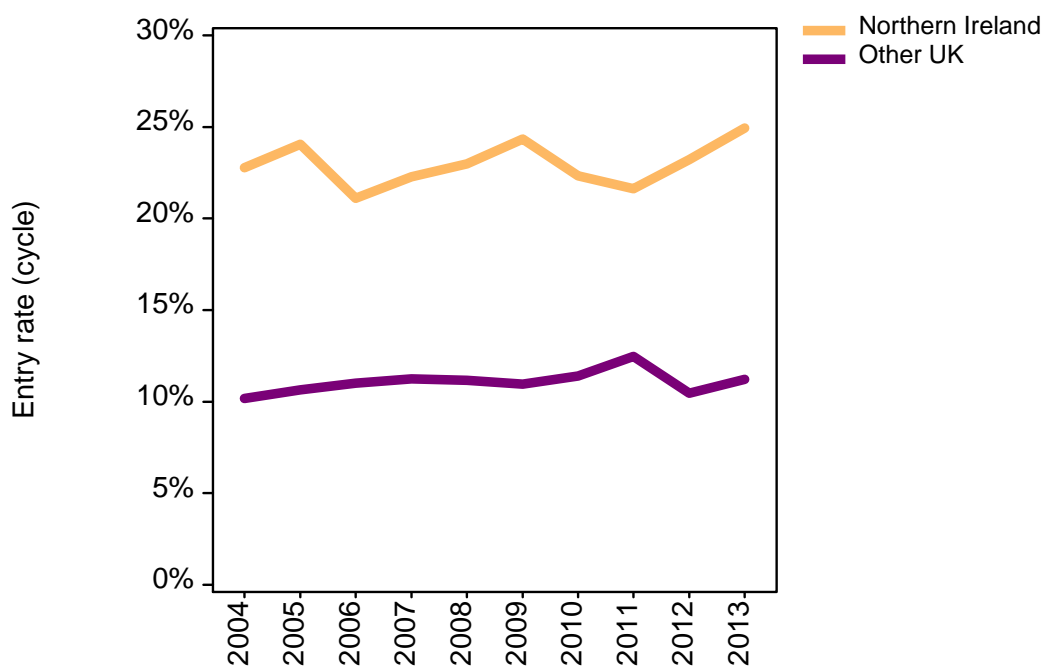


Northern Ireland in 2013

In Northern Ireland, entry rates of 18 year olds increased to Northern Ireland institutions

The entry rates of 18 year olds in Northern Ireland to institutions in Northern Ireland increased from 23.2 per cent in 2012 to 25.0 per cent in 2013, a 7.5 per cent proportional increase building on the similar size increase in 2012. This is the largest increase in the period and leaves the entry rate at a new high. The entry rate to institutions outside of Northern Ireland increased from 10.5 per cent to 11.2 per cent. This is a 7.3 per cent proportional increase compared to the entry rate in 2012, although not enough to reverse the fall in 2012, and returns the entry rate to a level typical for cycles between 2006 and 2010.

Figure 40 Entry rates (cycle) for 18 year olds in Northern Ireland



Wales in 2013

Country to country flows are a substantial component of patterns of application and acceptance in Wales. For institutions in Wales around 40 per cent of acceptances are domiciled in England, and just under 40 per cent of Welsh domiciled applicants are accepted to institutions in England.

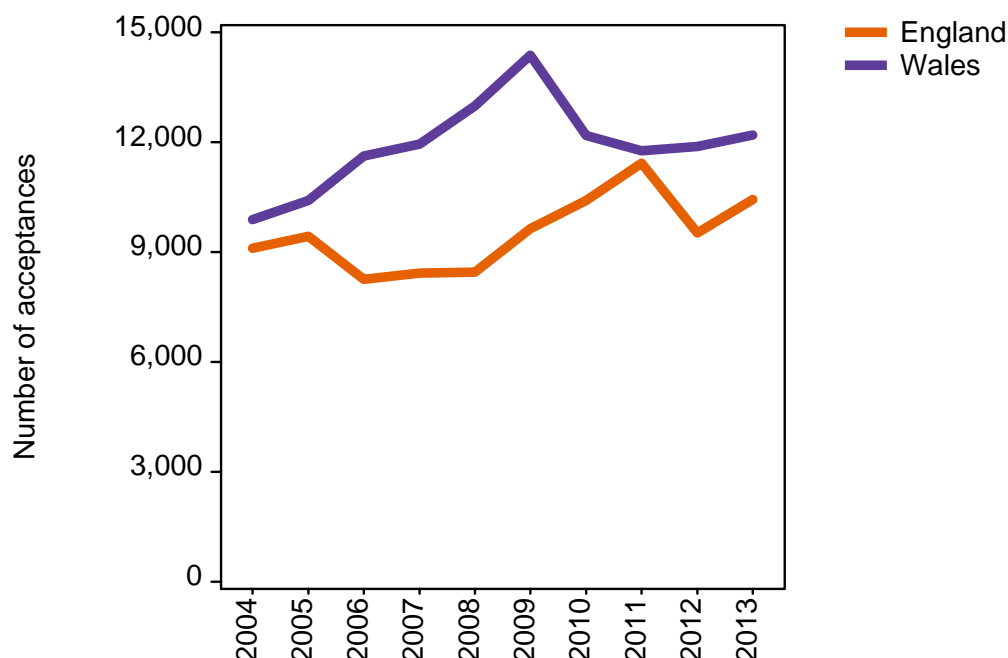
In 2013, the entry rate of Welsh 18 year olds stayed broadly similar to 2012, as did the number of acceptances from Wales overall, but the number of acceptances to Welsh institutions increased by 5.7 per cent. These different outcomes can be accounted for by the nature and changes in flows in and out of Wales.

Acceptances at Welsh institutions return to similar levels as earlier cycles driven by an increase in English acceptances

Acceptances to institutions in Wales are predominantly from Wales and England (89 per cent in recent cycles) with roughly equal contributions from both those countries. Figure 41 shows the number of acceptances to Welsh institutions from Wales and from England. Acceptances from Wales increased from 9,900 in 2004 to 14,400 in 2009. Since the 2010 cycle, acceptances from Wales have been around 12,000; in 2013, 12,200 acceptances were from Wales, a slight increase (300, 2.7 per cent) from 2012.

Acceptances to Welsh institutions from England were around 9,000 between 2004 and 2008, before increasing each cycle to reach 11,400 in 2011. In the 2012 cycle, the number of English acceptances decreased by 1,900 (17 per cent) to 9,500. This change was the predominant factor in the 2,100 fall in acceptances to Welsh institutions in 2012. In 2013, the number of English acceptances to Welsh institutions increased by 900 (+9.5 per cent) to 10,400.

Figure 41 Acceptances to Welsh institutions by selected domicile of applicant



Entry rates of 18 year olds in Wales in 2013 stay broadly the same as 2012

The application rates of 18 year olds in Wales either to institutions in Wales or to institutions in England stayed at around the same level in 2013 as in 2012. The 2012 cycle was the first since 2004 where a greater proportion of 18 year olds in Wales applied to an institution in England than to institutions in Wales. This pattern has continued in 2013, but the difference is small (around 4 per cent proportionally more likely to apply to England) and has not changed.

In 2013, the acceptance rate of 18 year old Welsh applicants (who applied to a Welsh institution) to Welsh institutions was around 62 per cent, much higher than the acceptance rate to English institutions for Welsh applicants who applied to an English institution (around 48 per cent). This differential in acceptance rates means that the 18 year old Welsh entry rate to Welsh institutions is higher than that to English institutions, despite the application rates being similar in 2013.

The entry rate to English institutions remained at around the same level as 2012, at 11.8 per cent. The entry rate to Welsh institutions also stayed at around the same level as it has been since 2010, at approximately 15 per cent. Entry rates to institutions in Scotland and Northern Ireland are very small (less than 0.2 per cent) and highly variable from cycle to cycle.

Figure 42 Welsh 18 year old application rates and entry rates by country of institution

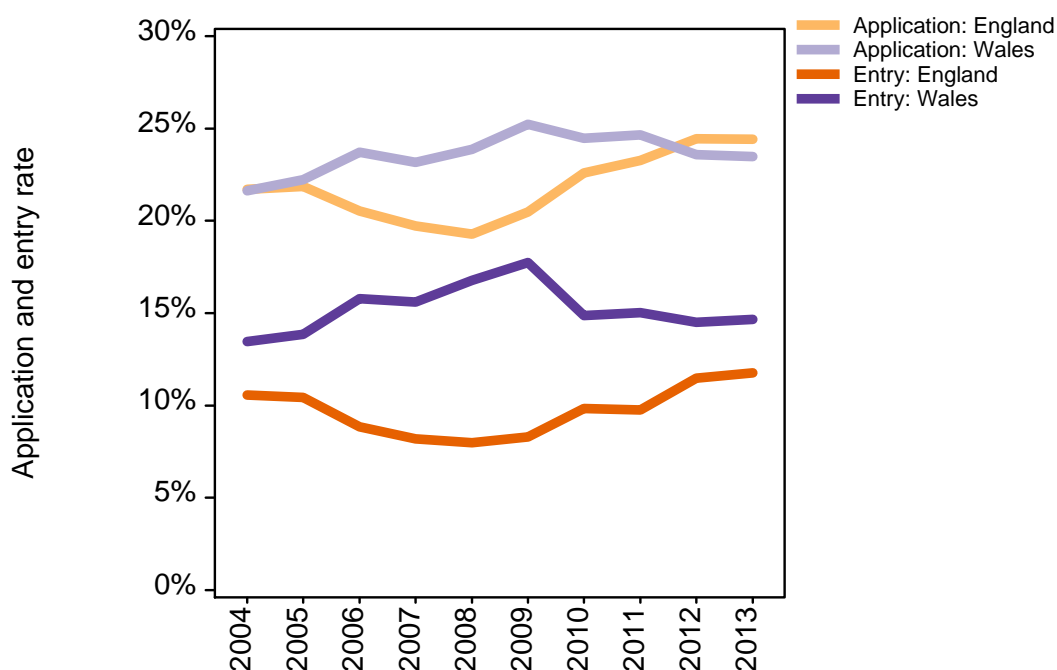
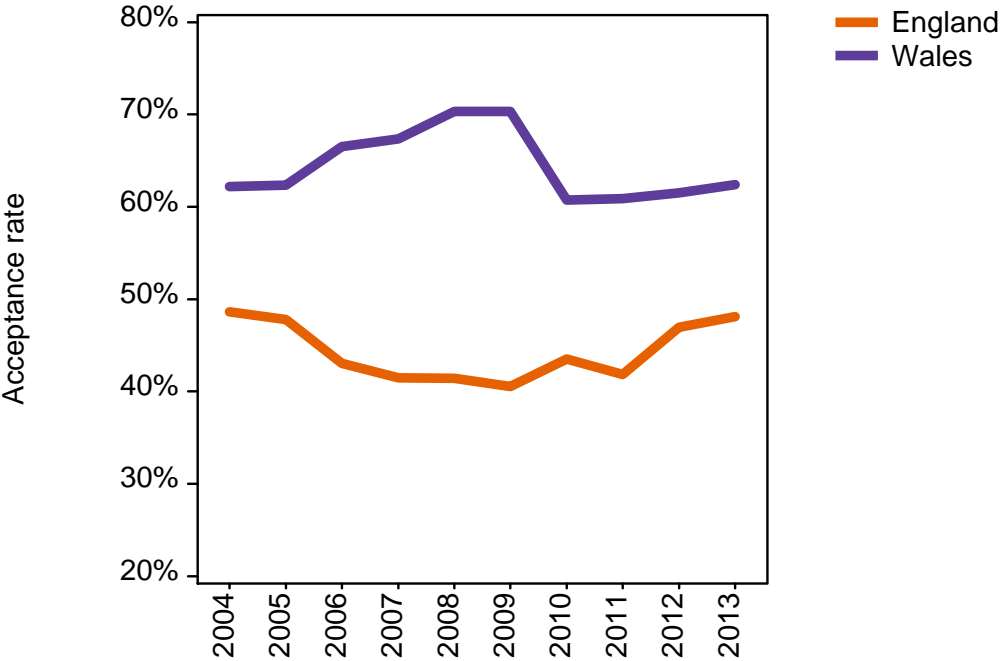


Figure 43 Welsh 18 year old acceptance rates by country of institution



Qualifications held by applicants

Entry to higher education is often determined by the type and strength of the qualifications held by an applicant. This analysis includes both qualifications that applicants list as achieved when they apply and those that are awarded during the application cycle itself. The qualifications that applicants hold when they apply or enter higher education can vary, depending on which country they are from and by their age. English 18 year old applicants are the largest single group of applicants by country and age, therefore this section describes the type and strength of qualifications held by this group and how they have changed in the 2013 cycle.

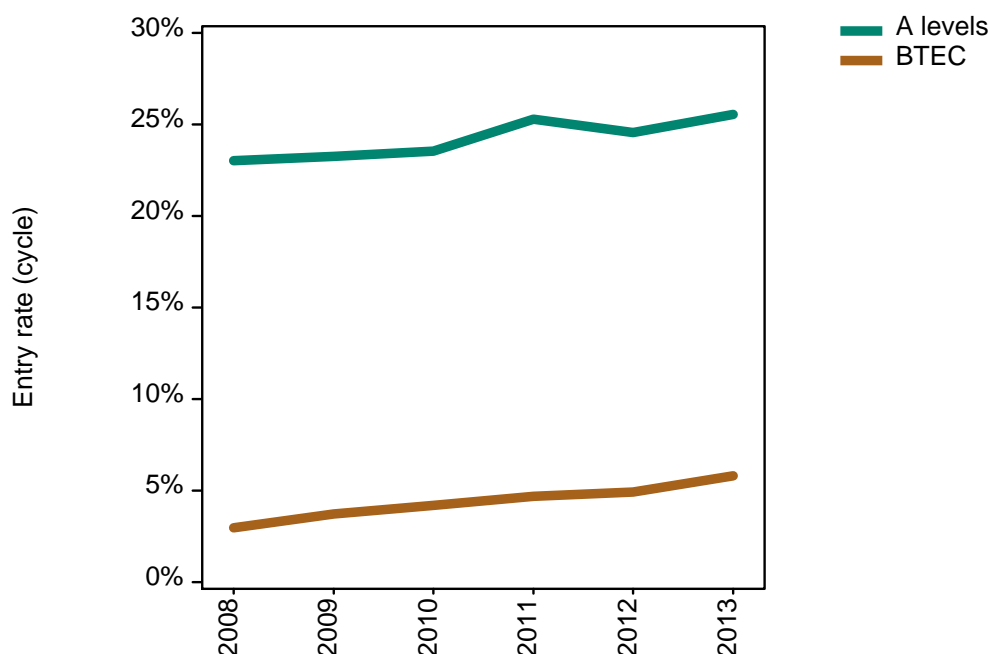
25.5 per cent of the 18 year old population in England entered holding at least one A level in 2013, the highest proportion recorded

Figure 44 reports the proportion of the English 18 year old population that are accepted to enter higher education (entry rate) split by the type of qualification held by accepted applicants. A levels are the most widely held qualification for this group – 25.5 per cent of English 18 year old population were accepted for entry in 2013 holding at least one A level. This is one percentage point higher than for 2012, and the greatest proportion of the population in any cycle.

5.8 per cent of the 18 year old population entered holding BTECs, almost twice the rate in 2008

The next mostly widely held qualification for this group is BTECs – 5.8 per cent of English 18 year olds were accepted for entry in 2013 holding BTECs. This continues an increase that has seen this entry rate rise by 2.8 percentage points (almost doubling) since the 2008 cycle. About half of this increase has been for applicants who hold BTECs together with A levels.

Figure 44 English 18 year old entry rate by type of qualification held

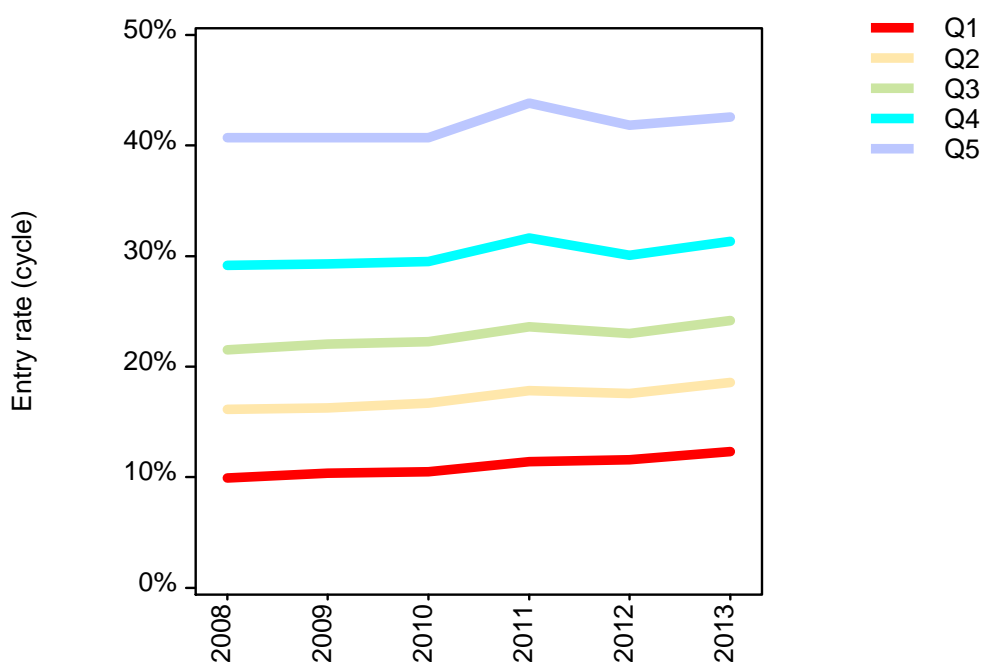


Entry rate for those holding A levels increases for all backgrounds in 2013 but remains highly differentiated by background,

Figure 45 shows the proportion of the English 18 year old population in each POLAR2 area who are accepted to higher education and hold at least one A level. There is a differentiation in these entry rates across the groups, with the young people in more advantaged areas being substantially more likely to enter higher education and hold A levels than those living in more disadvantaged areas.

Of 18 year olds living in those areas with the lowest levels of higher education participation (Q1), 12.3 per cent held A levels and were accepted to higher education in 2013. This is an increase of 0.7 percentage points from 2012, continuing a trend of annual increases that has seen this rate increase (proportionally) by 24 per cent since 2008. The entry rate holding A levels for 18 year olds from other types of areas also increased in 2013, but this followed a fall in these areas in 2012. The entry rate from the two most advantaged areas (Q4 and Q5) has not yet returned to the level seen in 2011, but in other areas the entry rate is at the highest level seen across the period.

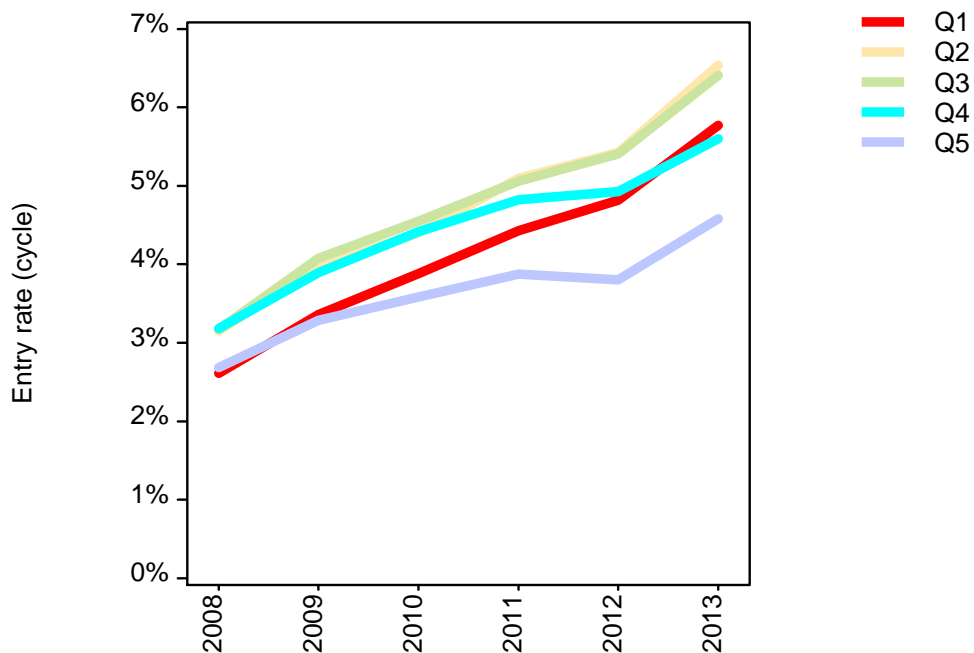
Figure 45 English 18 year old entry rates by POLAR2 group (accepted applicants holding A levels)



Entry rate for those holding BTECs little different by background, increases to new highs for all groups in 2013, to around double 2008 levels

The entry rate holding BTECs for the English 18 year old population is lower than the entry rate for holding A levels, but has increased substantially for all groups over the past six cycles, and shows relatively little differentiation by background. Around 6 per cent of the 18 year old population in each background group were accepted for entry in 2013 holding BTECs, with the exception of the most advantaged areas, where 4.6 per cent of the population were accepted and held BTECs. These entry rates for applicants holding BTECs have increased over the period and are around twice what they were in the 2008 cycle. In 2013 the entry rates holding BTECs increase for all backgrounds by around 1 percentage point to their highest recorded values.

Figure 46 English 18 year old entry rates by POLAR2 group (accepted applicants holding BTECs)

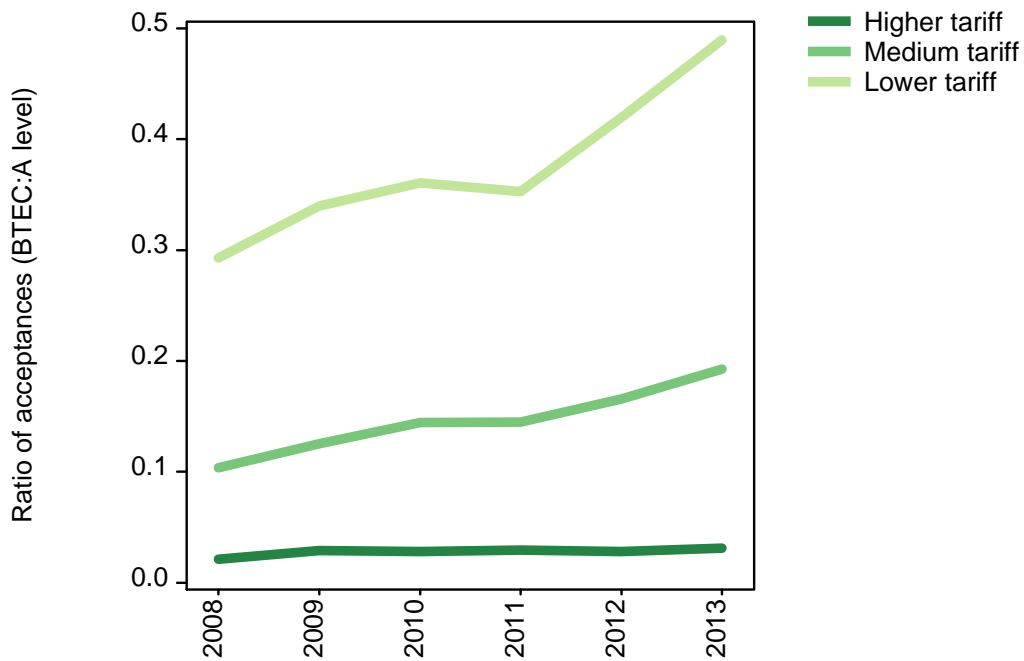


Increasing proportion of acceptances to lower and medium tariff institutions holding BTECs

Figure 47 shows the ratio of acceptances holding BTECs to acceptances holding A levels in each of the three institution tariff groups. In all institutions there are more A level acceptances than BTEC acceptances, but this varies between institutions and across time.

In higher tariff institutions, for every 100 acceptances holding A levels there are around three acceptances that hold BTECs. This ratio has been relatively constant since 2009. In medium tariff institutions the ratio of acceptances holding BTECs to acceptances holding A levels is much higher and has been increasing year-on-year to reach a new high in 2013 of 19 BTEC acceptances for every 100 A level acceptances. Lower tariff institutions accept the greatest proportion of applicants holding BTECs relative to A levels, increasing from 35 BTEC acceptances per 100 A level acceptances in 2011 to 49 in 2013.

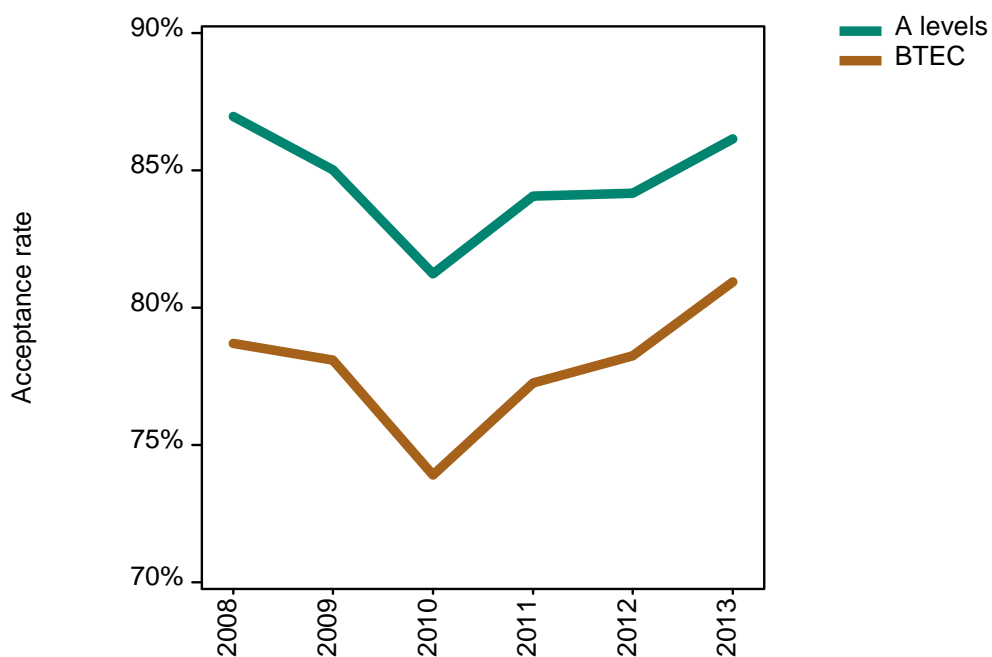
Figure 47 English 18 year old ratio of acceptances holding BTECs to acceptances holding A levels



Acceptance rates increased for both A level and BTEC holders in 2013, for those holding BTECs to the highest recorded value

Figure 48 shows the acceptance rate for English 18 year olds by the type of qualification held by applicants at the end of the cycle. The acceptance rate for those who hold A levels is higher than the acceptance rate for those holding BTECs - in recent cycles around 6 to 7 percentage points higher. In each cycle since 2010, the increase in acceptance rate for those holding BTECs has been larger than the increase in acceptance rate for those holding A levels, so that the difference in acceptance rates has reduced to only 5 percentage points in 2013. For those holding BTECs the acceptance rate in 2013 is 81 per cent, the highest in the period. For those holding A levels the acceptance rate is 86 per cent, 1 percentage point lower than in 2008.

Figure 48 Acceptance rates for English 18 year olds by type of qualification held



Acceptance and attainment rates by qualification profile for English applicants

One of the changes to higher education in 2012 was the introduction of qualification-related criteria for student number controls at English institutions. Specifically, for most courses at HEFCE-funded institutions, entrants into the 2012-13 academic year whose qualifications were listed in a set of 'high grade combinations' were exempt from number control limits. For example, entrants holding A level qualifications with grades of AAB or higher (denoted AAB+) were exempt from number control limits.

For entrants into the 2013-14 academic year, the list of qualifications and grade combinations that were exempt from number control limits was widened. As shorthand, the high grade qualification combinations that were exempt from the number control arrangements for 2013-14 are referred to as ABB+ in this report, reflecting that boundary for exemption amongst A level qualifications was changed from AAB to ABB. The ABB+ grouping is used to look at trends over this period.

Acceptance rates for ABB+ English 18 year olds increased in 2013, new high for BTECs

The acceptance rate for English 18 year olds holding ABB+ has varied between 88 per cent and 91 per cent over the past six cycles. In the 2013 cycle it increased by 0.4 percentage points to 89.9 per cent, higher than all cycles except 2011.

The acceptance rate for applicants holding ABB+ from A levels has varied between 90 per cent and 92 per cent over this period and has remained around 8 to 9 percentage points higher than the acceptance rate of those holding ABB+ from BTECs (which has ranged from 81 per cent to 84 per cent over the period).

The acceptance rate for both those holding ABB+ from A levels and those holding BTECs increased in 2013. For A level holders the increase was 0.5 percentage points to 91.5 per cent and for those holding BTECs 1.3 percentage points to 83.7 per cent. This is the highest acceptance rate recorded for those holding ABB+ from BTECs. The acceptance rate for those holding ABB+ from A levels is the second highest (after 2011) recorded in the period.

Acceptance rates for non-ABB+ English 18 year olds increase by seven times more than for ABB+ in 2013 but remain below previous highs and ABB+

In 2008, the acceptance rate for English 18 year olds not holding ABB+ was 83 per cent, this fell to a low of 74 per cent in 2010. The acceptance rate then increased in the 2011, 2012 and 2013 cycles to reach 81.1 per cent in 2013, though this remains below the level seen in 2008. In 2013 the acceptance rate for non-ABB+ increased by over 3 percentage points, an increase over 7 times larger than for the ABB+ group.

Overall, the acceptance rates for English 18 year olds not holding ABB+ are always lower than for those holding ABB+, but since they have shown more variation than the ABB+ group over the past five cycles the gap in the acceptance rates between the two groups has ranged from 6 percentage points in 2008 to 14 percentage points in 2010 and 2011 (equating to the ABB+ applicants being between 7 per cent and 19 per cent more likely to be accepted than non-ABB+ applicants).

Within those not holding ABB+, the acceptance rate for those with A levels is higher than those with BTECs. This differential has been decreasing over the period from 8 percentage points in 2008 to 4 percentage points in 2013. In 2013 the increase in the acceptance rate for non-ABB+ applicants was 2.9 percentage points for those holding A levels and 3.5 percentage points for those holding BTECs.

The acceptance rate for those not holding ABB+, but holding A levels, is similar in 2013 to those holding ABB+ from BTEC qualifications.

Figure 49 Acceptance rates for English 18 year olds by level of qualification held

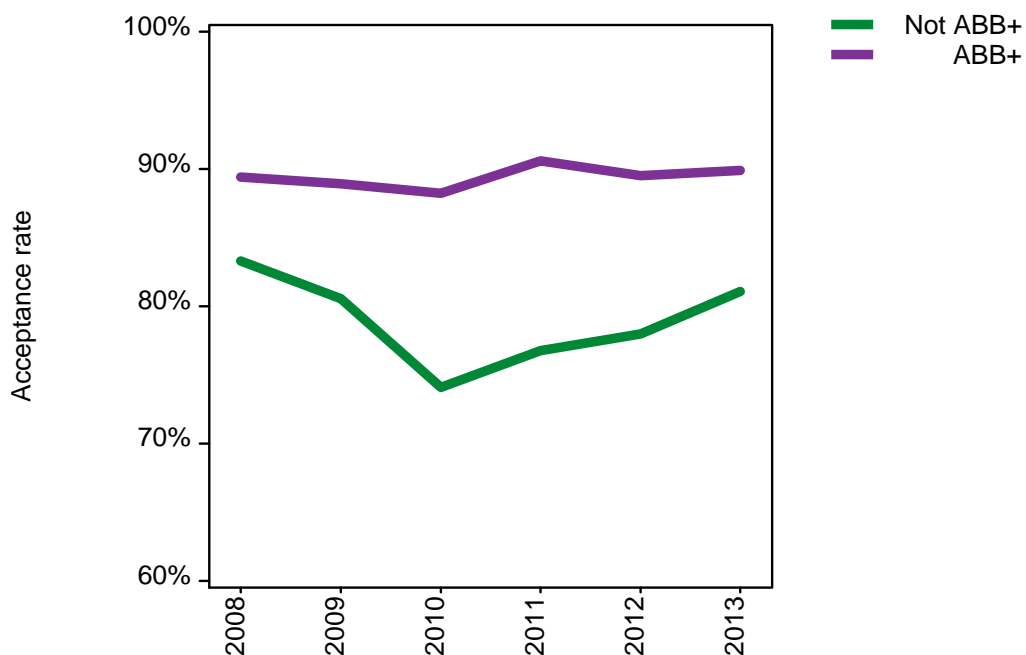
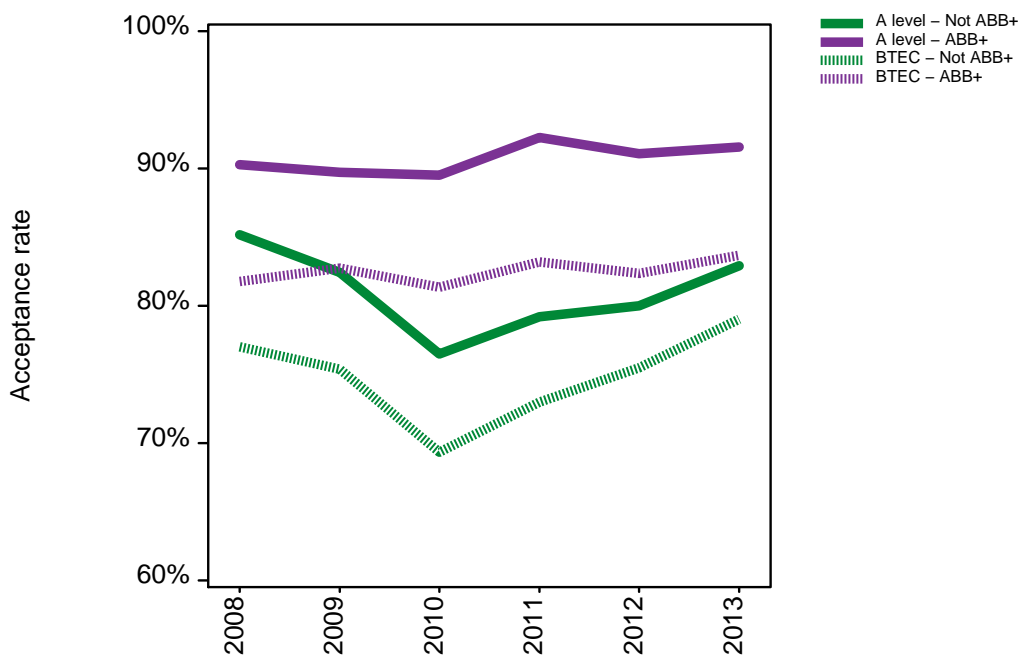


Figure 50 Acceptance rates for English 18 year olds by level and type of qualification held



Acceptance rate of BBB applicants increases by more than ABB applicants in 2013

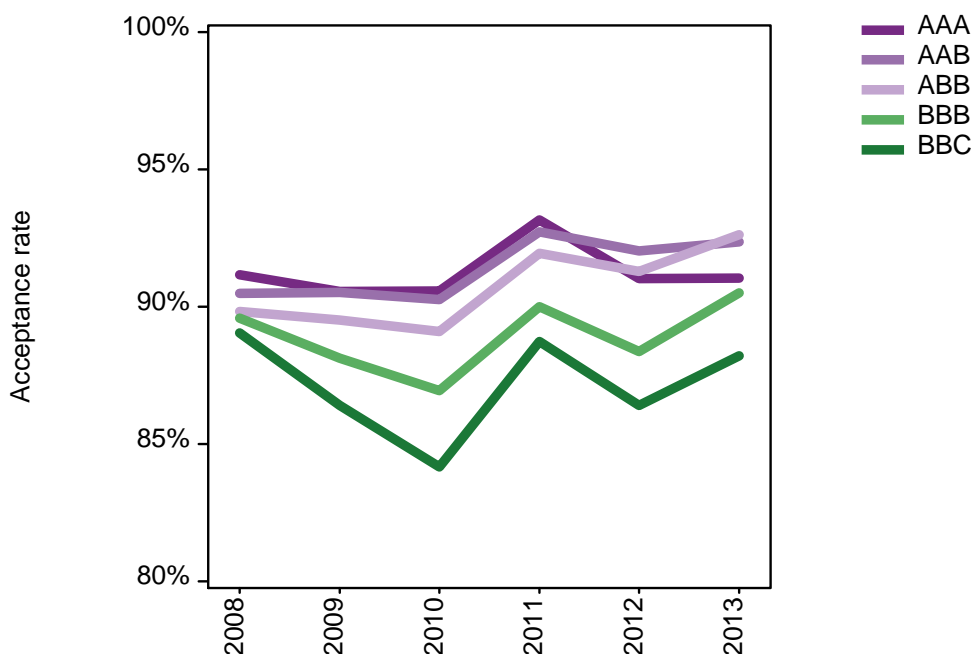
Grouping English 18 year old applicants by their attainment over their best three A levels results in grade profile groups that cover relatively narrow bands of attainment and can be mapped against the AAB+ and ABB+ group boundaries exactly as they change through time. For this analysis A* grades are treated as A grades for forming these grade profiles - but the results are similar if they are excluded.

Figure 51 shows the acceptance rates for applicants whose highest three achieved A level grades are AAA, AAB, ABB, BBB or BBC. These acceptance rates are high, around 90 per cent, and within each cycle fall within a relatively narrow 2 to 6 percentage point range. In the 2013 cycle the acceptance rates stayed the same as 2012 for AAA applicants and increased for the other four grade profiles.

In 2012, the grade boundary between applicants who were exempt from student number controls and those whose numbers were controlled was between those achieving AAB and those achieving ABB from their highest three A level grades. The acceptance rate for each of these grade profiles decreased slightly in 2012, and by almost exactly the same amount (AAB, -0.7 percentage points, ABB, -0.6 percentage points). That is, there is no indication of a differential trend in acceptance rates across the number control boundary.

For recruitment from the 2013 cycle, the grade boundary between the two categories of recruitment is between ABB and BBB. The acceptance rates for applicants achieving either ABB or BBB increased in 2013; ABB by 1.3 percentage points and BBB by 2.1 percentage points. The acceptance rate for the grade profile that remains in the controlled recruitment numbers increased by more than the acceptance rate for the grade profile newly added to the exempt group.

Figure 51 Acceptance rates for English 18 year olds by the highest three grades achieved at A level



Attainment of ABB+ relative to predicted grades continued to reduce in 2013

Figure 52 shows the proportion of English 18 year old applicants whose A level attainment at the end of the cycle placed them within the ABB+ group, by the highest three A level grades that they were predicted when they applied. That is, the proportion of applicants in each predicted A level grade profile that goes on to meet the ABB+ definition through A levels.

A level attainment recorded at the end of the cycle is more likely to be lower than was predicted than higher. This is reflected in the proportions of those predicted each grade profile who go on to be awarded ABB+ grades. The predicted grade profiles AAA, AAB and ABB would, if achieved, be within the ABB+ list. Around 90 per cent of those predicted AAA, 60 per cent of those predicted AAB and 30 per cent of those predicted ABB go on to attain grades in the ABB+ set.

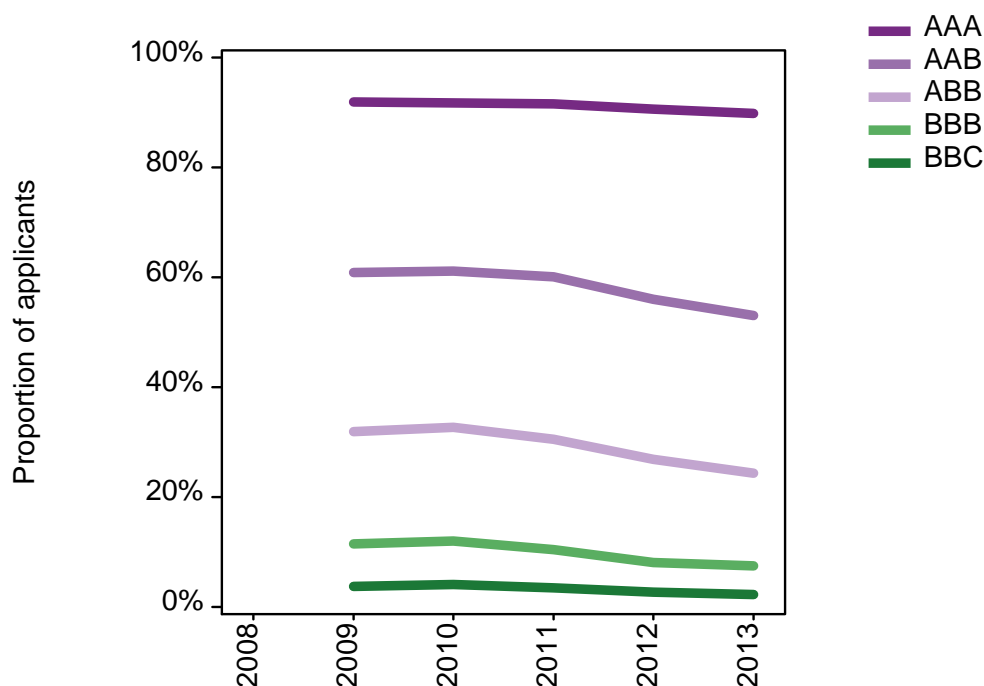
The proportion achieving ABB+ attainment profiles from those predicted BBB or BBC (which, if achieved, would not be within the ABB+ group) has been around 10 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, reflecting that attainment of higher than the predicted grades is relatively rare.

The proportion attaining ABB+ has decreased in every cycle since 2010, for each predicted grade profile, particularly in 2012 (decreases of up to 4 percentage points) and 2013 (decreases of up to 3 percentage points).

For English 18 year olds predicted ABB, the proportion attaining ABB+ fell from 32.7 per cent in 2010, 30.5 per cent (2011), 26.9 per cent (2012) to 24.4 per cent in 2013. This is a total decrease over the period of 8.3 percentage points meaning that those predicted ABB in 2013 are around 25 per cent less likely to achieve it than those predicted ABB in 2010.

For those predicted AAB, the proportion attaining ABB+ fell from 61.1 per cent in 2010 to 53.0 per cent in 2013, a reduction of 8.1 percentage points (13 per cent proportionally).

Figure 52 Proportion of English 18 year old applicants whose attainment is in the ABB+ grade list by profile of highest three predicted grades at A level



Entry rates by background

Entry rates for disadvantaged 18 year olds continue to increase to new highs in England and Northern Ireland, remain steady in Scotland and Wales

Figure 53 shows the proportion of the 18 year old population living in the most disadvantaged areas that are accepted for entry, by country of domicile. The entry rates for Scotland are low on this measure since not all higher education providers in Scotland use UCAS. In all countries, the entry rate for 18 year olds from the most disadvantaged areas has been increasing over the period. In 2013, the entry rate in England and Northern Ireland increases, with entry rates in Scotland and Wales remaining steady: England +1.4 percentage points, Northern Ireland +0.9 percentage points, Scotland +0.2 percentage points and Wales unchanged.

These changes equate to disadvantaged 18 year olds becoming 9 per cent more likely to enter higher education from England, and 6 per cent more likely to be accepted from Northern Ireland. These increases are a continuation of the trend across the period. 18 year olds from these disadvantaged areas are around 40 per cent (Wales), 50 per cent (Northern Ireland and Scotland) and 70 per cent (England) more likely to be accepted for entry in 2013 than they were in 2004.

Compared with entry rates in 2011, the year before the introduction of higher tuition fees in England, 18 year olds in disadvantaged areas in England are 12 per cent more likely to enter in 2013.

Entry rates for advantaged 18 year olds at similar levels to recent cycles

Figure 54 shows the entry rate of 18 year olds from the most advantaged areas, by country. The entry rates for Scotland are low on this measure since not all higher education providers in Scotland use UCAS. These entry rates are three to four times higher than for the most disadvantaged group, but have not shown the same degree of change over the period. The entry rates in 2013 were at similar levels to those seen across the period, and less than 10 per cent different (proportionally) from where they were in 2004.

Between the 2012 and 2013 cycles, the entry rate for the 18 year olds living in advantaged areas increased in England (1.2 percentage points, 2.7 per cent proportionally) and Northern Ireland (1.3 percentage points, +2.7 per cent proportionally) and decreased slightly in Scotland (-0.3 percentage points, -0.8 per cent proportionally) and slightly in Wales (-0.2 percentage points, -0.5 per cent proportionally).

Figure 53 18 year old entry rates for disadvantaged areas (POLAR2 Q1) by country of domicile

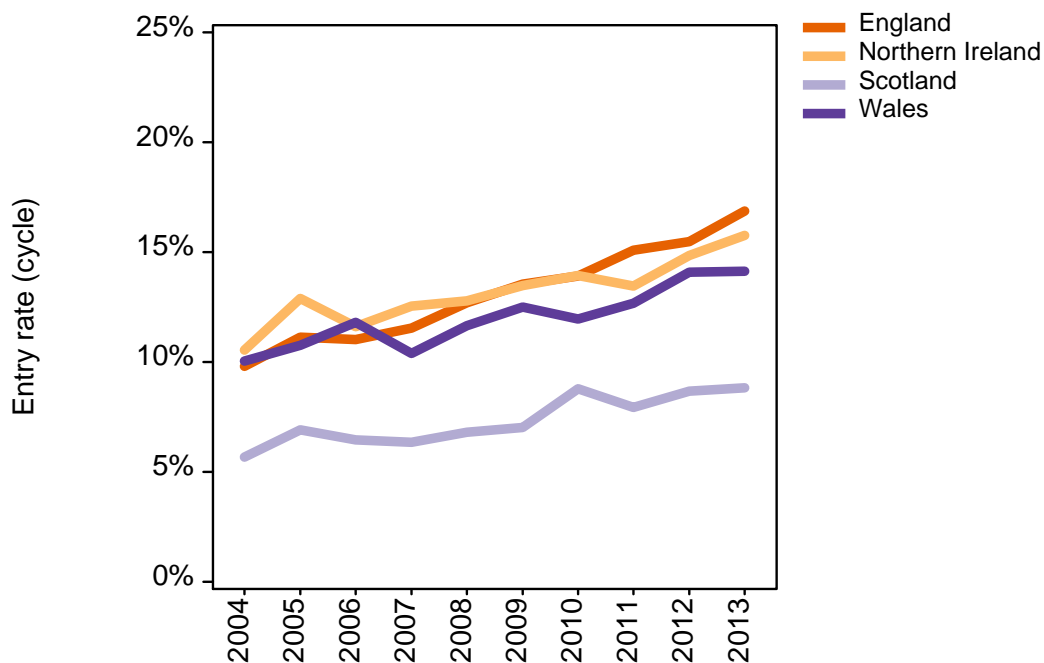
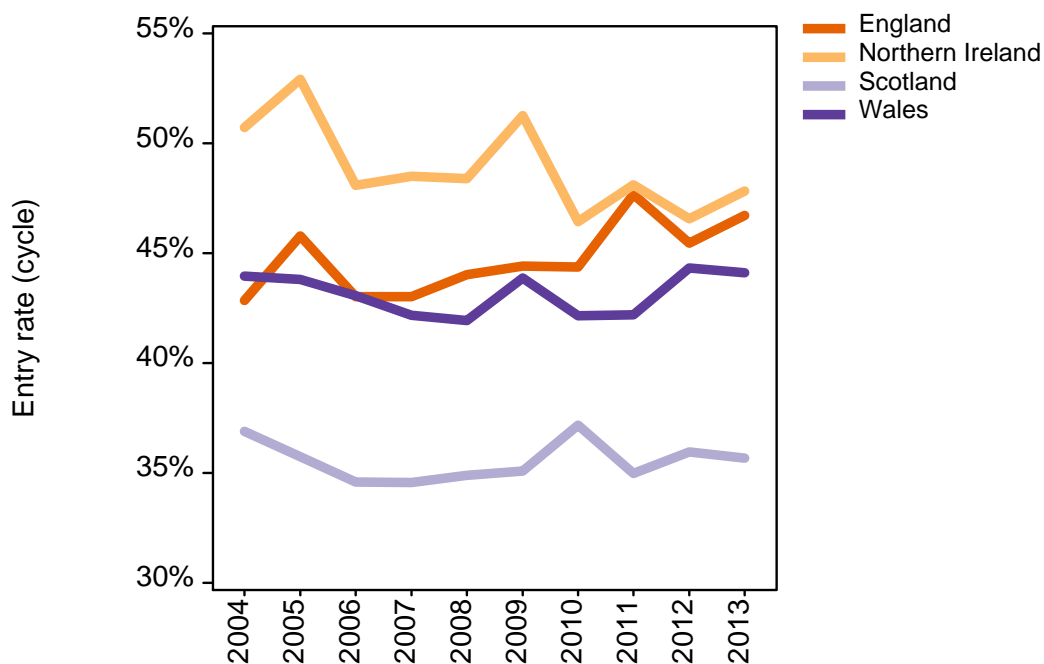


Figure 54 18 year old entry rates for advantaged areas (POLAR2 Q5) by country of domicile



Entry differences by background reducing in each country of the UK

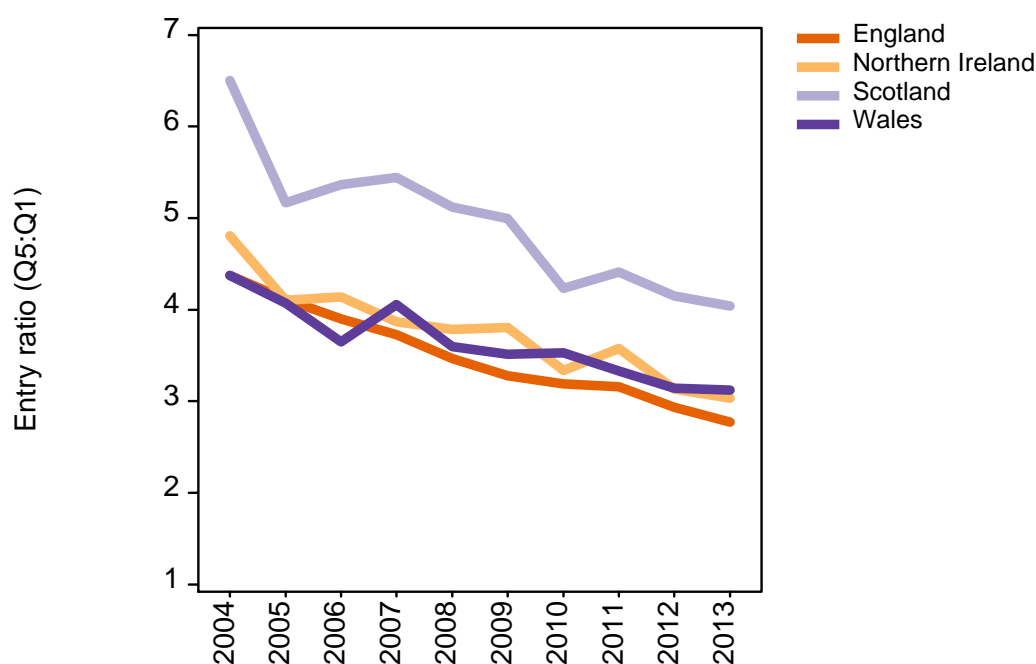
Figure 55 shows, for each country of the UK, relative differences in entry rates of 18 year olds, by background. It shows the entry rate ratio, quantifying how much more likely those in the most advantaged areas are to enter higher education than those in the most disadvantaged areas. That is, the entry rate from the most advantaged areas divided by the entry rate for the most disadvantaged areas. An entry rate ratio of 1 indicates equal chances of entering higher education for the two groups; entry rate ratios greater than 1 indicate that 18 year olds from the most advantaged backgrounds are that times more likely to enter than those from the most disadvantaged areas.

In all four countries, 18 year olds living in the most advantaged areas are much more likely to enter higher education than 18 year olds in the most disadvantaged areas. This relative difference has decreased between 2004 and 2013.

In 2013, differences between the advantaged and disadvantaged decreased in all four countries, with the entry rate ratios reaching new lows: England (2.8), Northern Ireland (3.0), Scotland (4.0) and Wales (3.1). In 2004 the entry rate ratios were: England (4.4), Northern Ireland (4.8), Scotland (6.5) and Wales (4.4).

In each cycle, the entry rate ratio is greater for applicants domiciled in Scotland, though this difference has reduced over the period. This may reflect not all higher education admissions in Scotland being recorded through UCAS.

Figure 55 18 year old entry rate ratios: most advantaged areas (POLAR2 Q5) relative to most disadvantaged areas by country of domicile



Entry rates for 18 year olds from all backgrounds increase in 2013 to levels consistent with the 2006 to 2010 trend

Figure 56 shows the entry rates for English 18 year olds by area-based background. There is a progression from lower to higher entry rates across the disadvantaged to advantaged groups that is maintained throughout the period. The entry rates for all groups have increased across the period, and there is also a progression in the rate of increase: the highest increases are seen for the most disadvantaged areas, reducing with each group to reach the lowest for the most advantaged areas. This is the case whether the change is considered proportionally or in percentage points.

In the 2013 cycle, entry rates increased from 2012 in each of the groups, with the increases showing a progression from a small increase for the more advantaged groups (3 per cent proportionally) to the largest increase for the most disadvantaged group (9 per cent proportionally).

The 2013 entry rate is above that seen in all previous cycles for all groups but the most advantaged areas. For all groups, the 2013 entry rate is close to what would be expected from historic trends. That is, it is within a small margin of an extrapolation of the rate of increase that was typical between the 2006 and 2010 cycles. This can be seen in Figure 57, where the cycle entry rates are shown against a logarithmic axis (so that the proportional changes are clearer), together with an extrapolation of the trend between the 2006 and 2010 cycles.

Figure 56 18 year olds in England, entry rates (cycle-based) by POLAR2 groups

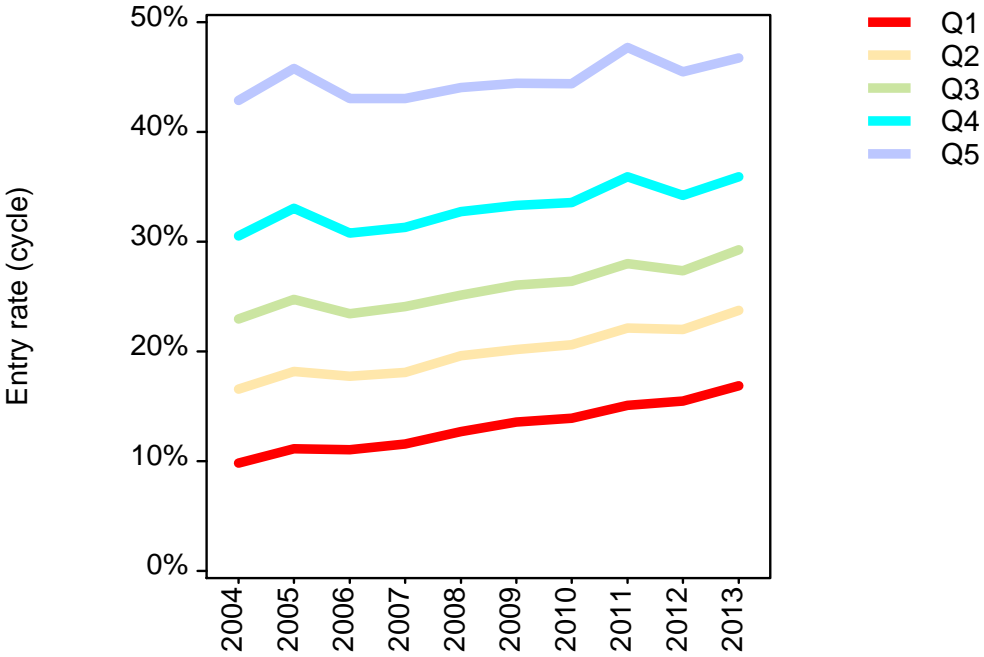
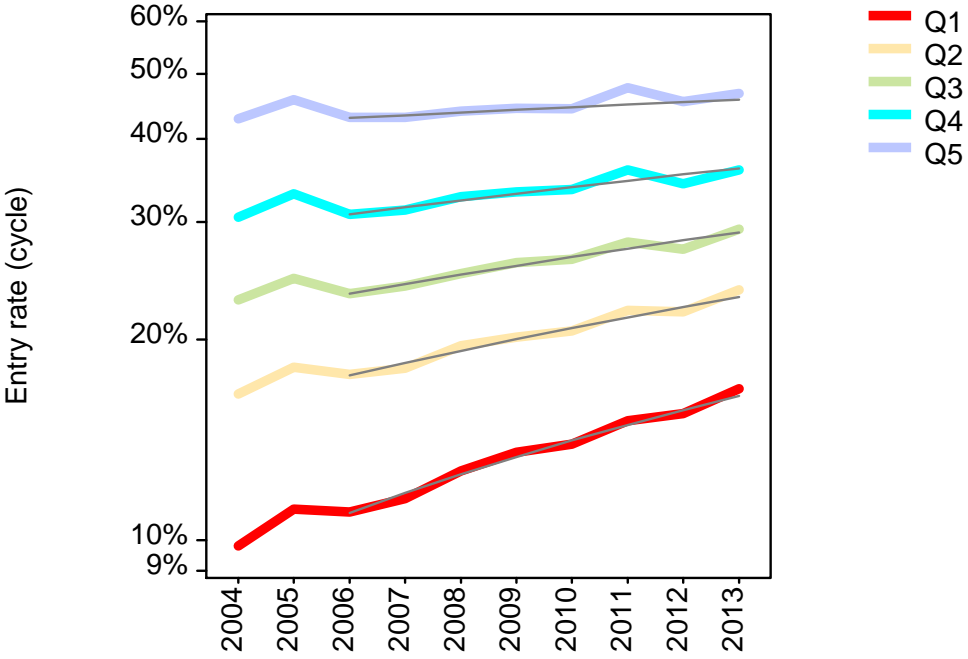


Figure 57 18 year olds in England, entry rates (cycle-based) by POLAR2 groups (logarithmic scale) with extrapolation of 2006 to 2010 trend



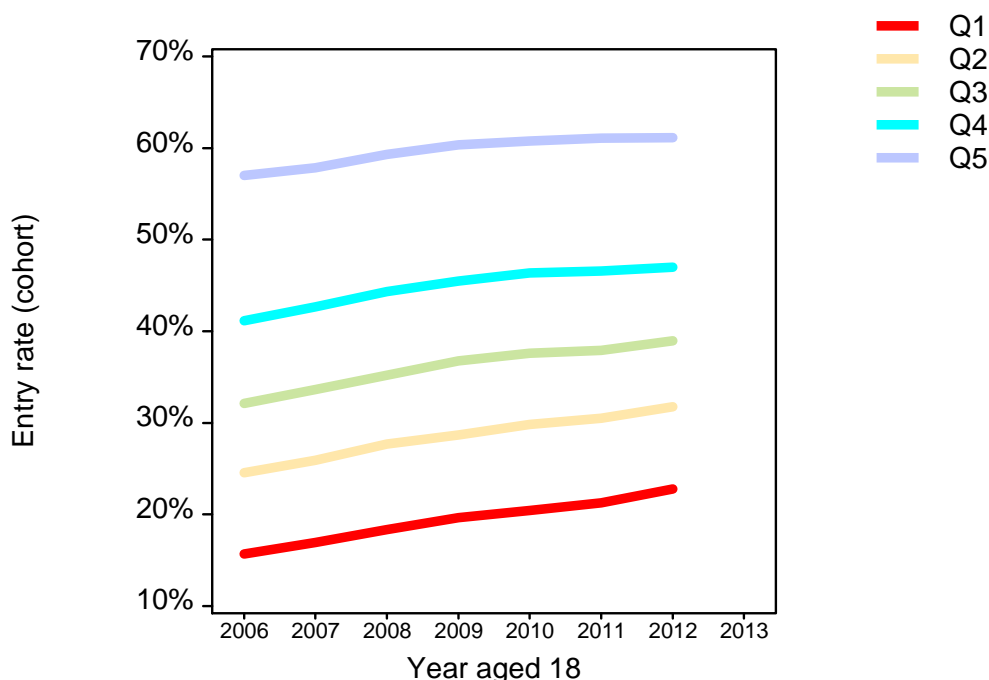
Cohort young entry rates increase by 7 per cent to new high for disadvantaged

Figure 58 reports cohort entry rates for English young people by area-based background. This measure combines the proportion of the population accepted for entry at age 18 with the proportion of the same population accepted for entry at age 19, a year later. As such, it gives a representation of the total proportion of a young cohort that has been accepted for entry into higher education by age 19. It is therefore unaffected by people switching their age of entry between age 18 and age 19, as happened with recent changes in deferred entry and acceptance rates for 18 year olds (which deplete the cohort of potential acceptances at age 19).

The entry rates are higher on this cohort measure than for entry at age 18 alone. For the young cohort that was aged 18 in 2012 living in the most disadvantaged areas (POLAR2 Q1), 22.8 per cent were accepted for entry aged either 18 in 2012 or 19 in 2013. This is an increase of 1.5 percentage points (7.1 per cent proportionally) on the previous cohort (2011, which experienced higher fees at age 19) and the highest value recorded. The 2012 cohort rate is 2.3 percentage points (11 per cent proportionally) higher than the 2010 cohort, the last cohort not to experience higher fees at either age 18 or 19.

For 18 year olds in 2012 living in the most advantaged areas, 61.1 per cent were accepted for entry aged either 18 in 2012 or 19 in 2013. This entry rate is similar for the cohorts that reached age 18 in 2010 and 2011, showing that the marked elevated rate of entry aged 18 in 2011 (from both the increase in the acceptance rate and the reduction in the deferred entry rate) was offset by a lower entry rate from 19 year olds in 2012.

Figure 58 Young cohort entry rates (aged 18 or 19 on entry) by background (POLAR2 Q5=advantaged) for England



Entry rates to higher tariff institutions for disadvantaged 18 year olds increased to new highs in all countries in 2013 for the second successive year

Figure 59 shows the proportion of 18 year olds living in disadvantaged areas across the UK who were accepted for entry into a higher tariff institution. These entry rates were relatively low, typically between 1 and 3 per cent of the age group and, for the smaller countries, show a high degree of cycle-to-cycle proportional variation (reflecting the small population and acceptance base and the geographical distribution of higher tariff institutions).

The entry rate to higher tariff institutions for disadvantaged 18 year olds increased for all countries in both the 2012 and 2013 cycles and, in all cases, takes the entry rate in 2013 to a higher level than any other cycle in the period. In 2013, the entry rate increased by over 10 per cent proportionally in each country. In England, the entry rate has increased proportionally by 11 per cent in 2013, and by a total of 26 per cent between the 2011 cycle and the 2013 cycle, in contrast to a relatively stable period between 2004 and 2011.

Entry rates to higher tariff institutions for advantaged areas increased in England in both 2012 and 2013

Entry rates to higher tariff institutions for 18 year olds in advantaged areas are typically between six to nine times greater than in disadvantaged areas, larger differences than for entry to all institutions.

Across the 2006 to 2011 cycles, the entry rates have been relatively constant in England and Northern Ireland and decreasing in Scotland and Wales. For 18 year olds in advantaged areas in England, the entry rate to higher tariff institutions has increased in both the 2012 and 2013 cycles (12 per cent proportional increase between the 2011 and 2013 cycles, 4 per cent between 2012 and 2013). In Wales, the rate in 2013 is similar to 2012, following an increase in 2012. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the rate has remained broadly similar to 2011.

Figure 59 18 year olds entry rates to higher tariff institutions for disadvantaged areas (POLAR2 Q1) by country

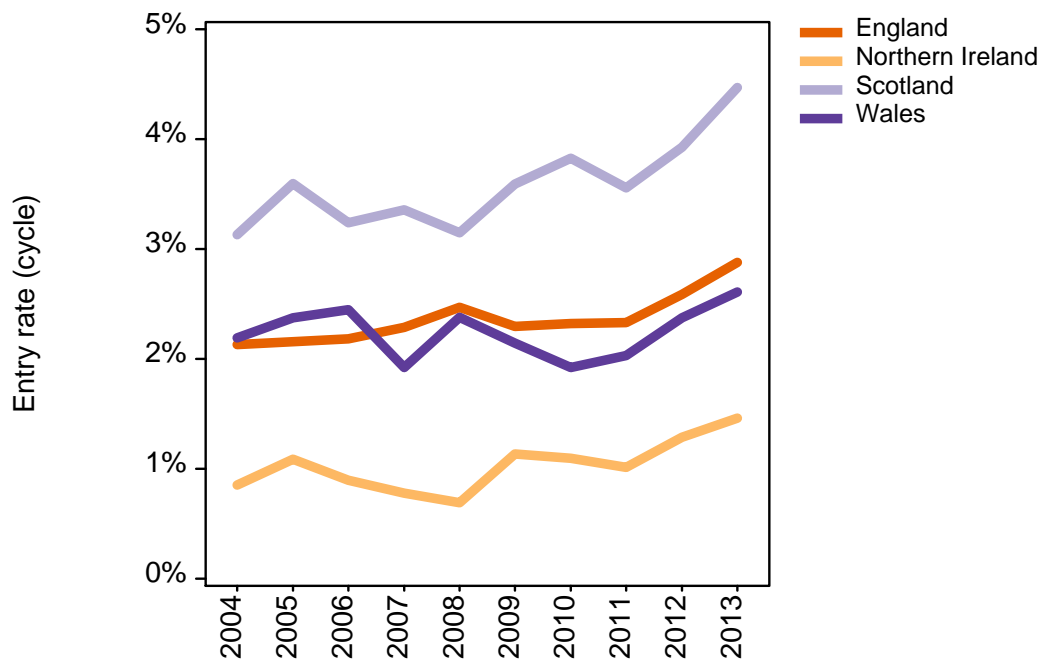
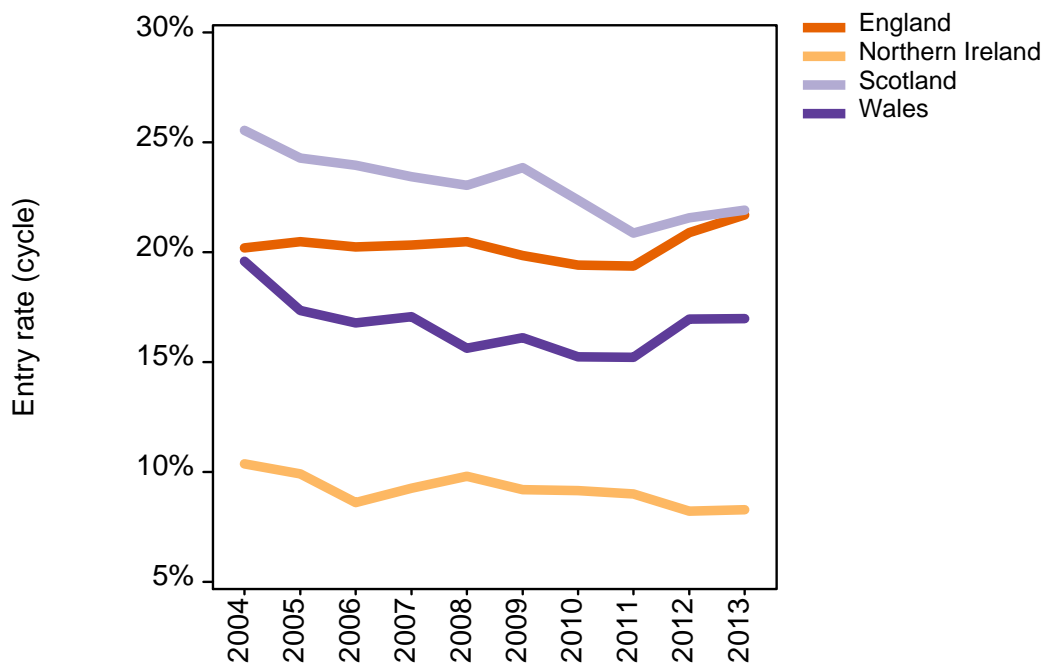


Figure 60 18 year olds entry rates to higher tariff institutions for advantaged areas (POLAR2 Q5) by country



Differences in entry rates to higher tariff institutions by background are higher than other types of institutions but reduce across the UK in 2013

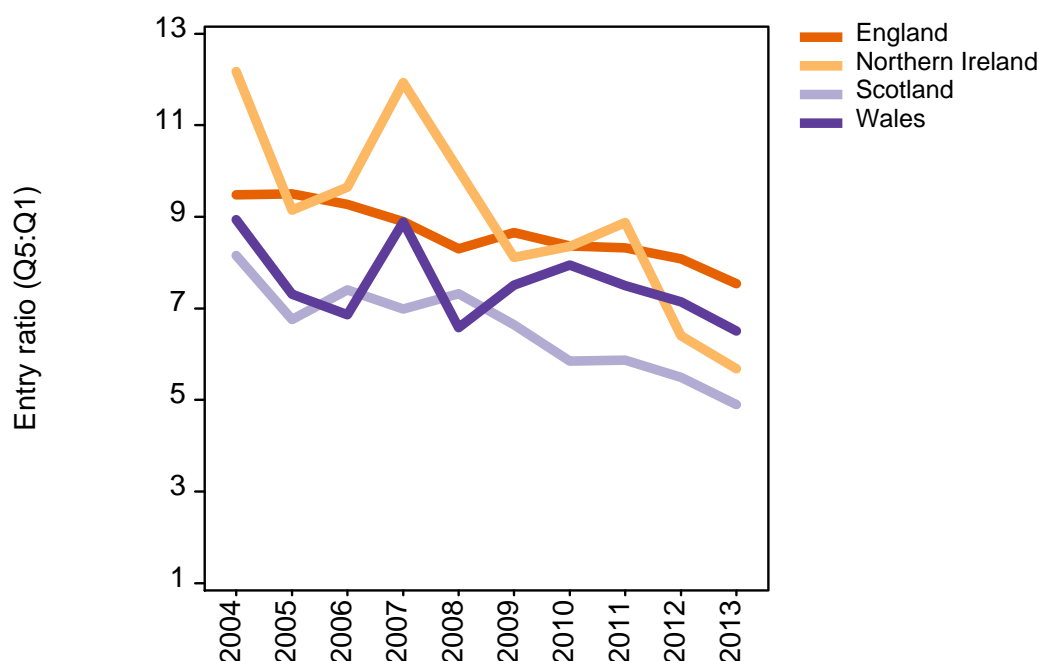
Figure 61 shows the ratios of the entry rates to higher tariff institutions from the most advantaged areas to the entry rates to higher tariff institutions for the most disadvantaged areas within each country. That is, how much more likely the 18 year olds in the most advantaged areas are to enter these institutions than those living in the most disadvantaged areas.

Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales show a high degree of cycle-to-cycle variation in the entry rates (reflecting the small population and acceptance base), which translates into variable entry ratios. In each of these three countries, despite the cycle-to-cycle variation, the trend across the period has been for these entry ratios to reduce. There is still a much greater proportion of 18 year olds in the most advantaged areas entering higher tariff institutions, compared to 18 year olds in the most disadvantaged areas. In 2013, the entry ratio is around 6 in Northern Ireland, 5 in Scotland and 6.5 in Wales.

In England, the entry ratio in 2004 was 9.5, therefore 18 year olds from the most advantaged areas were nearly 10 times as likely to enter higher tariff institutions compared to those from the most disadvantaged areas. Across the period this ratio reduced in every cycle (apart from 2009) so that in 2013, English 18 year olds from the most advantaged areas were 7.5 times more likely to enter higher tariff institutions compared to the most disadvantaged areas.

In all countries, the relative difference in entering higher tariff institutions between advantaged and disadvantaged groups reaches a new low in 2013. The reduction in the entry ratio between 2012 and 2013 is one of the larger decreases across the period for most countries.

Figure 61 18 year old entry rate ratios (higher tariff institutions): most advantaged areas (POLAR2 Q5) to most disadvantaged areas by country of domicile



English 18 year olds - entry rates from the most disadvantaged areas increase in 2013 to all types of institutions

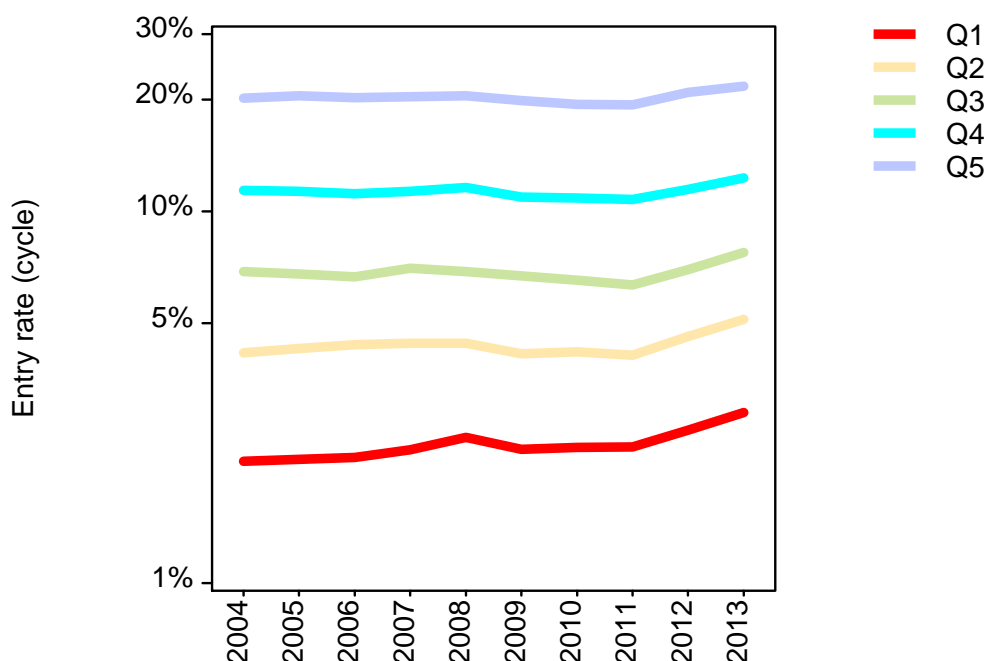
Figures 62 to 64 show the English 18 year old entry rates to each of the three institution tariff groups by area-based background (POLAR2). The uneven distribution of institutions by tariff group across the UK, in combination with the relatively small number of entrants from different background groups, means that the large population bases in England provide the clearest way to look at trends by background and type of institution.

In all three institution tariff groups there is a progression from lower to higher entry rates across the disadvantaged (quintile 1) to the advantaged (quintile 5) groups. The difference in entry rates between backgrounds is greatest for the higher tariff institutions and lowest in the lower tariff institutions.

Entry rates to higher tariff institutions increase for applicants from all backgrounds, greatest increase from most disadvantaged areas

Figure 62 shows entry rates by background for the 18 year old population in England against a logarithmic axis (so that the proportional changes are clearer). For the second successive cycle there have been greater proportional increases in the more disadvantaged areas (over 11 per cent increases proportionally in quintile 1 – quintile 3 for 2013) compared with the more advantaged areas (7 per cent proportionally in quintile 4, 4 per cent proportionally in quintile 5). This greater proportional increase for the more disadvantaged areas means that, in 2013, English 18 year olds living in the most advantaged areas were 7.5 times more likely to enter a higher tariff institution, compared to 2004 when they were 9.5 times more likely.

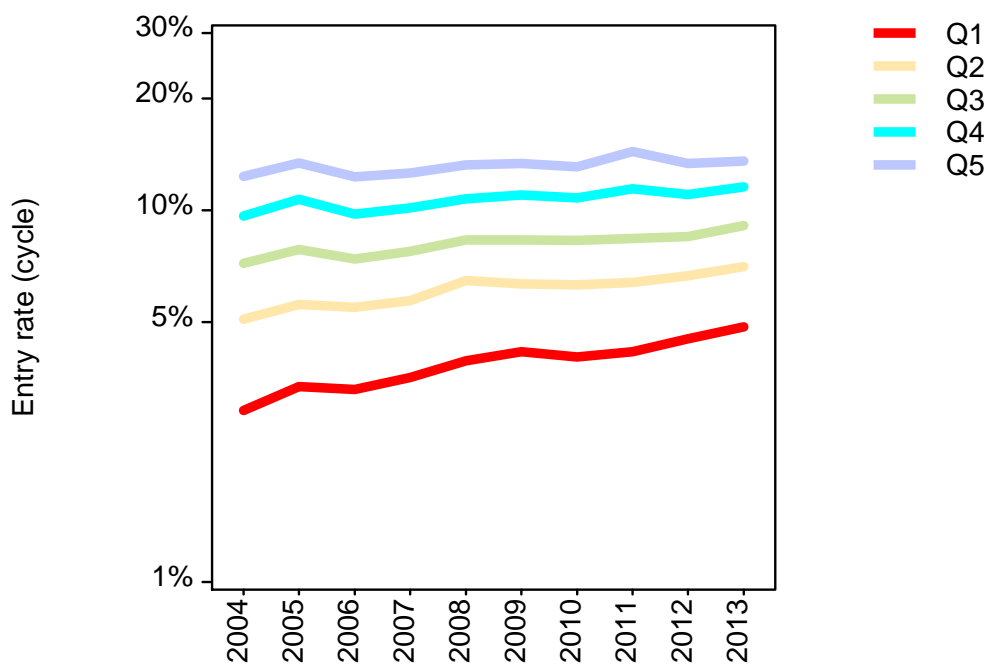
Figure 62 English 18 year olds, entry rates to higher tariff institutions by POLAR2 groups



Entry rates to medium tariff institutions increase from all backgrounds in 2013

Entry rates to medium tariff institutions (Figure 63) have generally increased across the period in all areas, but there are greater increases in entry rates from the more disadvantaged areas. The difference and progression in entry rates between the groups are evident for these institutions, but have declined over the period. In 2013, English 18 year olds living in the most advantaged areas are 2.8 times more likely to enter medium tariff institutions than those from the most disadvantaged areas.

Figure 63 English 18 year olds, entry rates to medium tariff institutions by POLAR2 groups

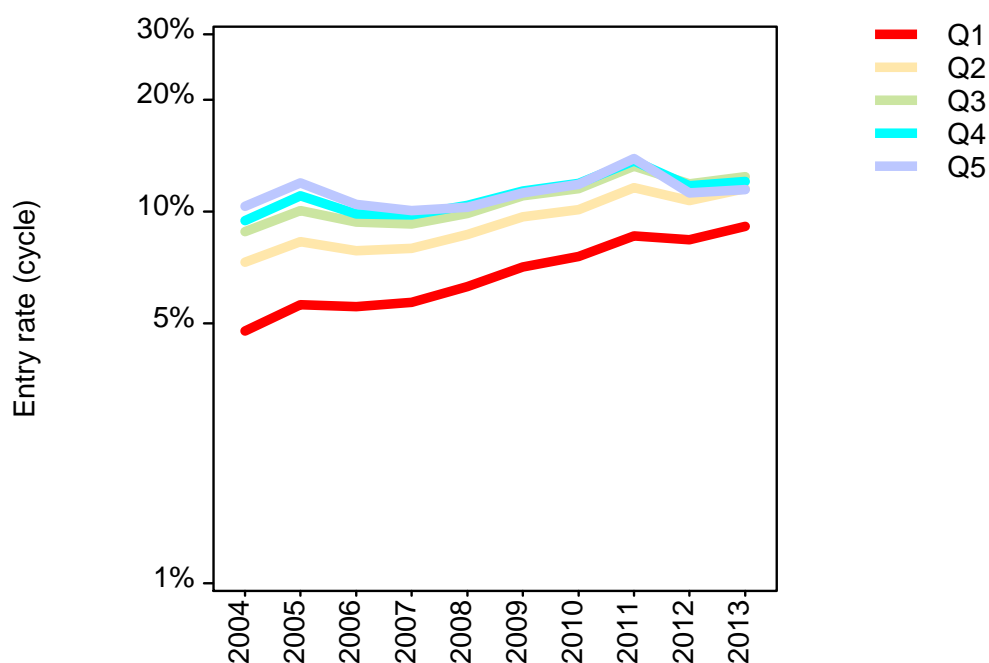


Small and reducing differences in entry rates to lower tariff institutions by background

For entry to lower tariff institutions (Figure 64), there is much less differentiation in entry rates by background and in 2013, the entry rates from all backgrounds are within a 3.2 percentage point range, the closest recorded.

In 2004, the entry rate to lower tariff institutions from the most advantaged areas was 2.1 times the entry rate from the most disadvantaged areas. By the end of the period, in 2013, the entry rate from the most advantaged areas was 1.3 times the entry rate from the most disadvantaged areas. In 2004, there was a clear progression from lower to higher entry rates across the most disadvantaged (quintile 1) to the most advantaged (quintile 5) group. In 2013, the entry rate for quintile 2, quintile 3, quintile 4 and quintile 5 are all around 12 per cent. It is only in the most disadvantaged areas (quintile 1) that the entry rate is lower, at 9.1 per cent. This rate increased by 9 per cent proportionally in 2013, the largest proportional increase by background.

Figure 64 English 18 year olds, entry rates (cycle-based) to lower tariff institutions by POLAR2 groups



Entry rates by income background and ethnic group for state school pupils from England

For pupils attending state schools in England, administrative data sets record whether an individual is receiving free school meals (FSM, a means-tested benefit that can be used as an indicator of low income) and their ethnic group. Linking these pupil data sets (source: National Pupil Database, Department for Education) to the UCAS admissions data allows the calculation of entry rates by these categories.

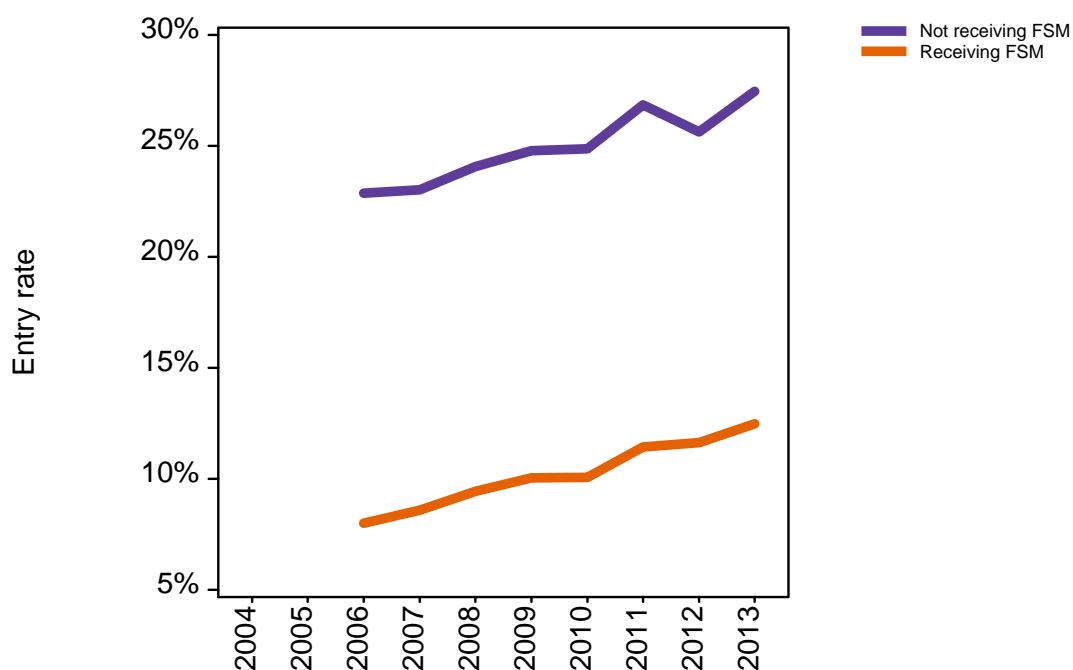
To calculate these statistics, a conservative linking method has been used, that requires a full match across a range of identifying details to English-domiciled UCAS applicants. This necessarily makes the entry rate lower than the true value (for example, ambiguous matches are not used). The linking method, and differences in scope between the two data sources, introduces more uncertainty into these linked entry rates than the other methods used in this report, that do not rely on record linking. All the entry rates for FSM and ethnic group are based on linking.

Entry rates for both FSM and non-FSM pupils increase in 2013 to highest recorded values

Between 12 and 14 per cent of the state school 15 year old population were in receipt of free school meals (FSM) over the period. The entry rate for young people who received FSM was 12.5 per cent in 2013, which compares to 27.4 per cent for the non-FSM group. This is a proportional increase in entry rate of around 7 per cent on 2012 for both groups, taking entry rates for FSM and non-FSM pupils to the highest recorded in the period covered.

The entry rate for FSM pupils has increased proportionally by over 50 per cent since 2006; more than twice the proportional increase seen in the non-FSM entry rate over the period.

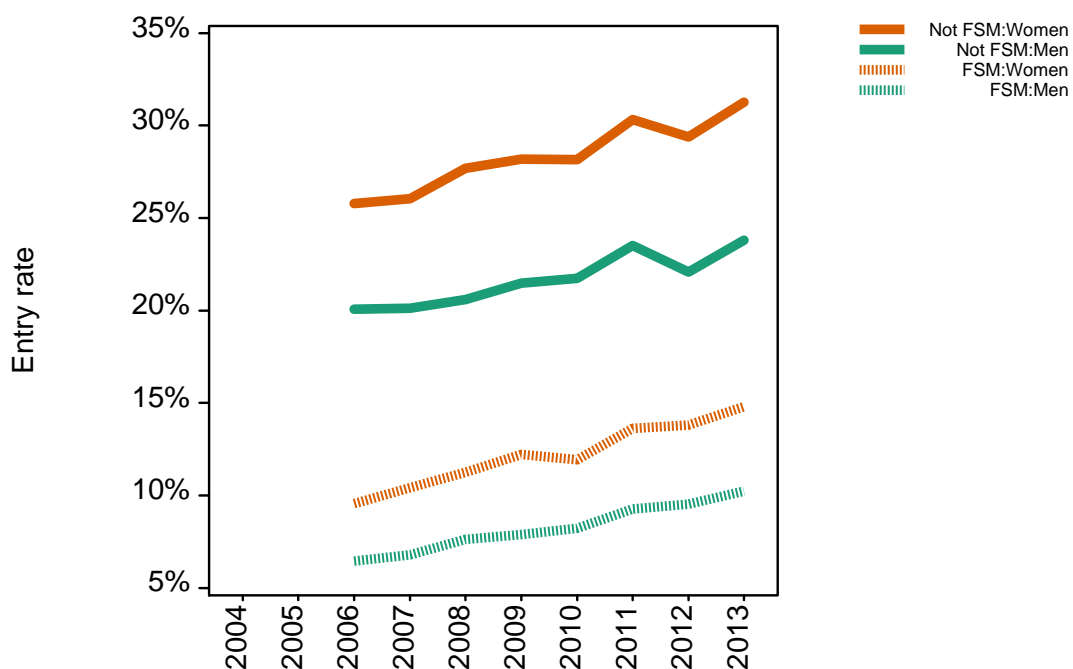
Figure 65 Entry rates for English 18 year old state school pupils by free school meal (FSM) status at age 15



Entry rates 44 per cent higher for women than men amongst free school meal (FSM) pupils

Young women have higher entry rates than men within both the FSM and non-FSM populations. In 2013, the entry rate for the non-FSM group was 31.3 per cent for women, higher (31 per cent proportionally) than the 23.8 per cent for men. In the FSM group the entry rate for women was 14.8 per cent in 2013, 44 per cent higher (proportionally) than for the 10.2 per cent for men. This 44 per cent difference between men and women in the FSM group is the lowest observed over recent cycles (where it has varied between 44 to 55 per cent) but the percentage point gap (4.6 percentage points) is the highest recorded.

Figure 66 Entry rates for English 18 year old state school pupils by free school meal (FSM) status at age 15 and sex

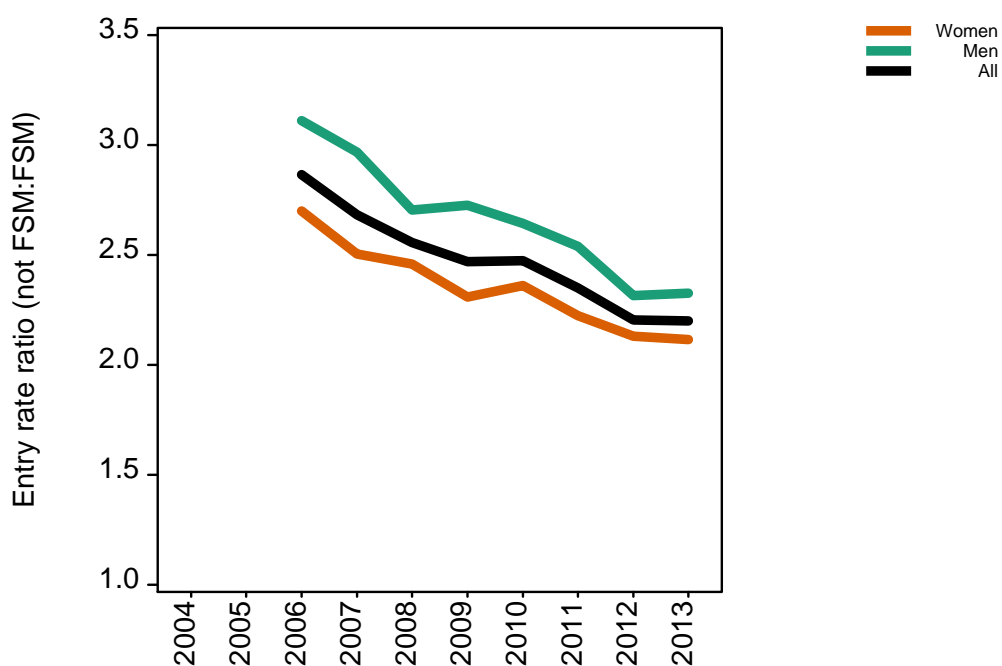


Non-FSM pupils over twice as likely to enter than FSM pupils, but differences reducing as entry rate for FSM pupils increases by over 50 per cent since 2006

The ratio of entry rates between formerly free school meal (FSM) and non-FSM pupils has been generally declining from 2.9 in 2006 to 2.2 in 2012. This decline is a result of the entry rate for FSM pupils increasing (proportionally) by over 50 per cent, more than twice the increase for non-FSM pupils. The similar proportional increase in entry rates for both groups in 2013 means that the ratio is unchanged for 2013.

The ratio of non-FSM to FSM entry rates is higher for men (2.3) than women (2.1) but both sexes show a similar trend of declining differences over time.

Figure 67 Entry rate ratios (formerly not FSM: FSM) for English 18 year olds from state English schools



FSM pupils have low entry rates to higher tariff institutions but have become 38 per cent more likely to enter over past two cycles

For young English people in 2013 who were formerly in state English schools and not in receipt of free school meals (non-FSM), 10.6 per cent entered lower tariff institutions, 8.8 per cent medium tariff institutions and 8.0 per cent higher tariff institutions. Non-FSM entry rates increased in 2013 to all institution groups, and for higher and medium tariff institutions were the highest levels recorded.

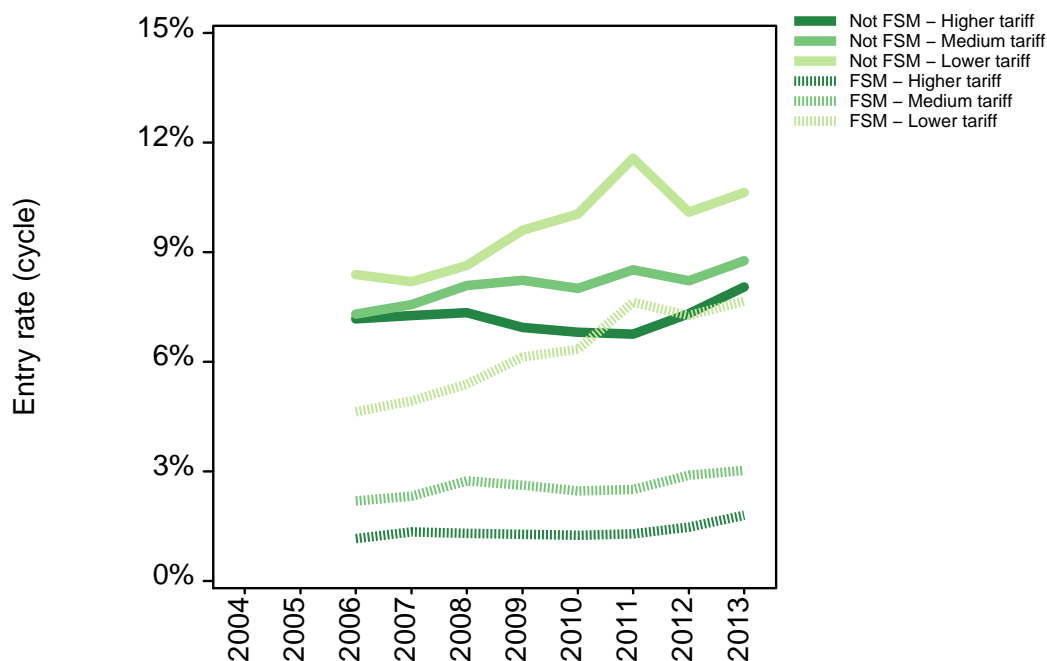
Entry rates to all types of institution are lower for those who formerly received FSM. The entry rate to lower tariff institutions (7.7 per cent) is much higher than to medium (3.0 per cent) and higher tariff (1.8 per cent) institutions. Entry to a lower tariff institution is over four times more likely for this group than is entry to a higher tariff institution.

In 2013, the entry rate of non-FSM pupils to higher tariff institutions is 4.4 times larger than that of FSM pupils, the equivalent ratios for medium and lower tariff institutions are 2.9 and 1.4 respectively.

Entry rates to all types of institution for the FSM group increased in 2013 to the highest recorded values. The entry rate to lower tariff institutions has increased by 65 per cent since 2006, though a fall in the entry rate for 2012 leaves the 2013 entry rate close to that of 2011.

For entry to higher tariff institutions, there have been large proportional increases in both 2012 and 2013. FSM pupils are 39 per cent more likely to enter these institutions in 2013 than in 2011, twice the proportional increase for non-FSM pupils.

Figure 68 Entry rates for English 18 year old state school pupils by free school meal (FSM) status at age 15 and institution tariff group



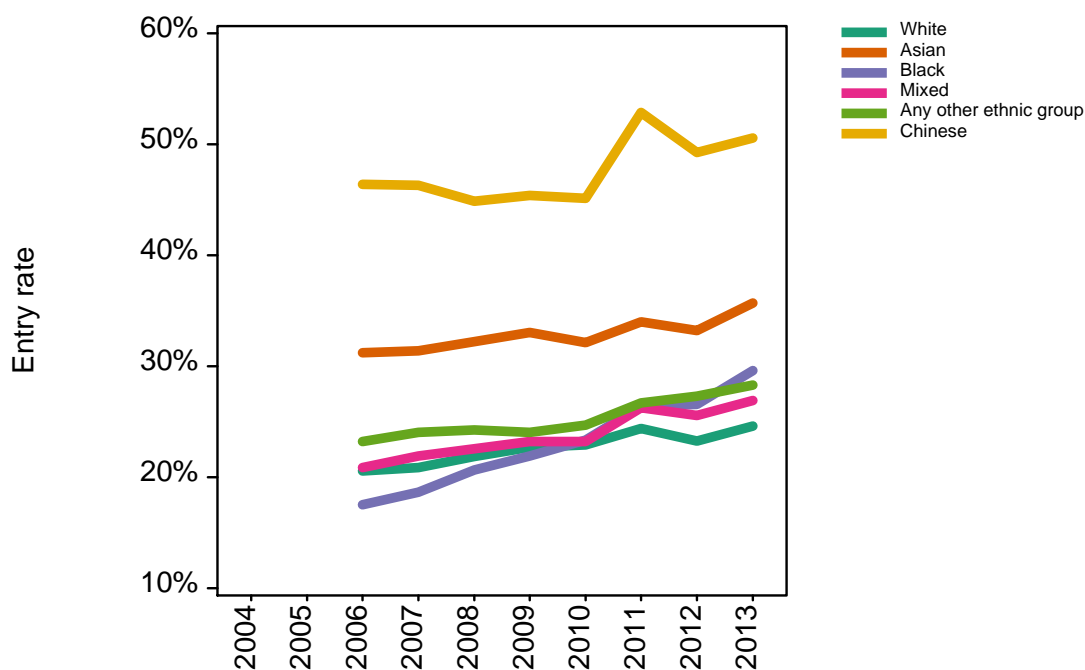
Large differences in entry rates by ethnic group for English pupils

The entry rates for 18 year olds who were formerly in English state schools varies by the ethnic group recorded in the pupil data sets. Former pupils recorded as being in the Chinese ethnic group have the highest entry rate (50 per cent in 2013) and those recorded in the White ethnic group have the lowest (25 per cent in 2013).

The entry rates for all ethnic groups increase in 2013, reaching highest recorded values for each group except the Chinese group (where entry rates in 2011 were higher). The largest increase in 2013 is for young people recorded in the Black ethnic group, where the entry rate increases by 3 percentage points to 30 per cent, making these pupils 11 per cent more likely to enter in 2013 than in 2012.

Young people recorded in the Black ethnic group also have the largest increase in entry rates over the period, increasing from 17 per cent in 2006 (the lowest entry rate of the different groups in that cycle) to 30 per cent in 2013, a proportional increase of around 70 per cent.

Figure 69 Entry rates for English 18 year old former state school pupils by ethnic group



Entry rates for FSM pupils increase in 2013 for White, Asian, Black and Mixed ethnic groups

There is a wide range of entry rates of free school meal (FSM) pupils by selected ethnic group (only the four groups with the largest populations are used in this analysis). In 2013 these entry rates range from 7.9 per cent of FSM pupils in the White ethnic group to 24.6 per cent of pupils in the Asian ethnic group.

The entry rates for FSM pupils across each of the ethnic groups increased in 2013, with the largest increase (13 per cent proportionally) being for pupils recorded in the Black ethnic group (who had an entry rate of 22.5 per cent in 2013).

There is also a range, though smaller, in the entry rates of non-FSM pupils by ethnic group, from 26.8 per cent (White) to 39.2 per cent (Asian). The entry rates for non-FSM pupils increased for each ethnic group in 2013, with the largest increase (11 per cent proportionally) for the pupils in the Black ethnic group.

Within each ethnic group, former non-FSM pupils have higher entry rates than FSM pupils. The differences in entry rates between the non-FSM and FSM groups vary substantially between the ethnic groups. In 2013 non-FSM pupils were 3.4 times more likely to enter than FSM pupils for the White group, 2.1 times for the Mixed group, 1.6 times for Asian group and 1.5 times from the Black group. For all ethnic groups the proportional differences between non-FSM and FSM entry rates are smaller than in 2006.

Figure 70 Entry rates for English 18 year old former state school pupils who were in receipt of free school meals (FSM) by selected ethnic group

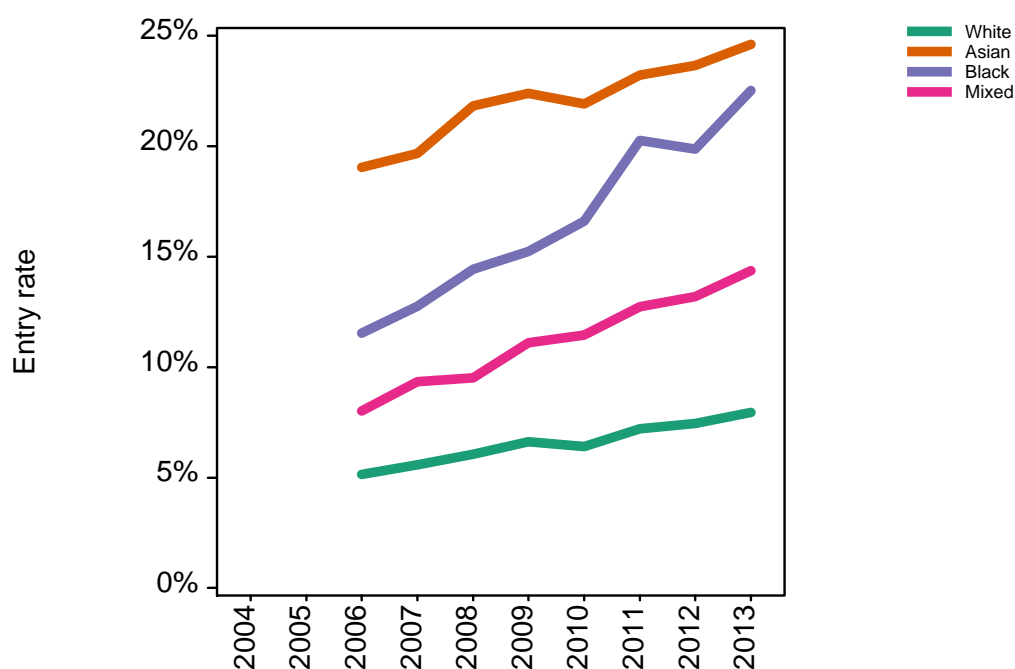


Figure 71 Entry rates for English 18 year old former state school pupils who were not in receipt of free school meals (non-FSM) by selected ethnic group

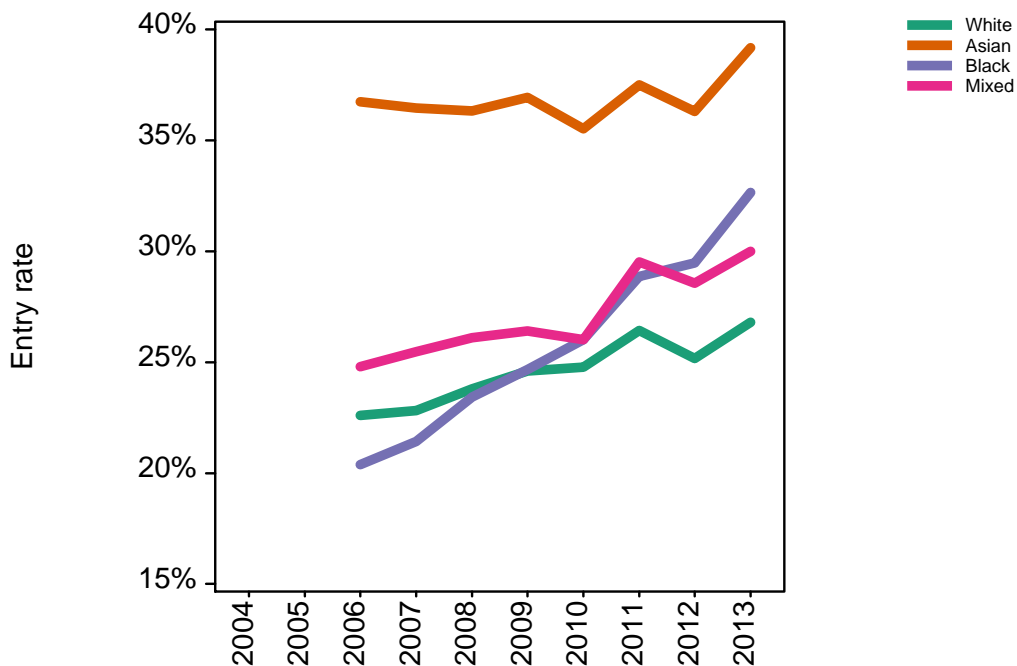
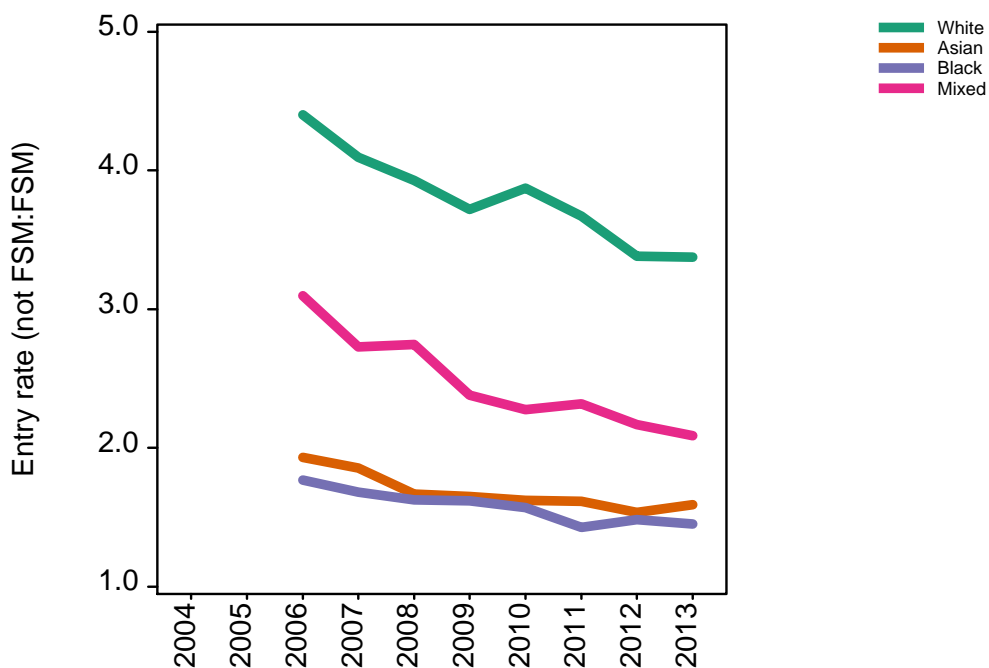


Figure 72 English 18 year olds by selected ethnic group: ratio of entry rates for former state school pupils who were not in receipt of free school meals to those who were



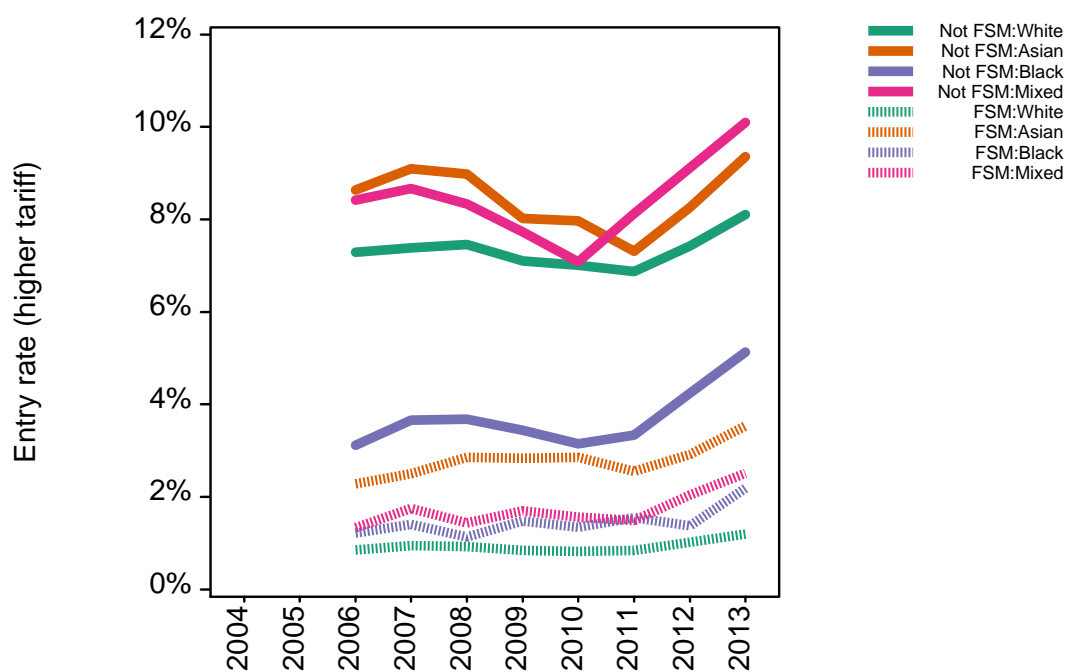
Entry rates to higher tariff institutions vary widely increase across ethnic groups and FSM status

Entry rates to higher tariff institutions for English free school meal (FSM) pupils range from 1.2 per cent for the White group to 3.5 per cent for the Asian group.

Entry rates are higher for pupils who did not receive FSM. The non-FSM entry rates are similar across the White (8.1 per cent), Asian (9.3 per cent) and Mixed (10.1 per cent) ethnic groups. The non-FSM entry rate for pupils in the Black ethnic group is lower (5.1 per cent) than for non-FSM pupils in other ethnic groups.

The entry rates to higher tariff institutions for both FSM and non-FSM pupils from all ethnic groups increased in 2013. In most cases this was the second successive year of increases (except for the Black FSM group). The largest proportional increases for both the non-FSM and FSM groups in 2013 were for the Black group (20 per cent for non-FSM and 60 per cent for FSM).

Figure 73 English 18 year olds from state schools by selected ethnic group: entry rates to higher tariff institutions by free school meal status



Application and entry rates by sex

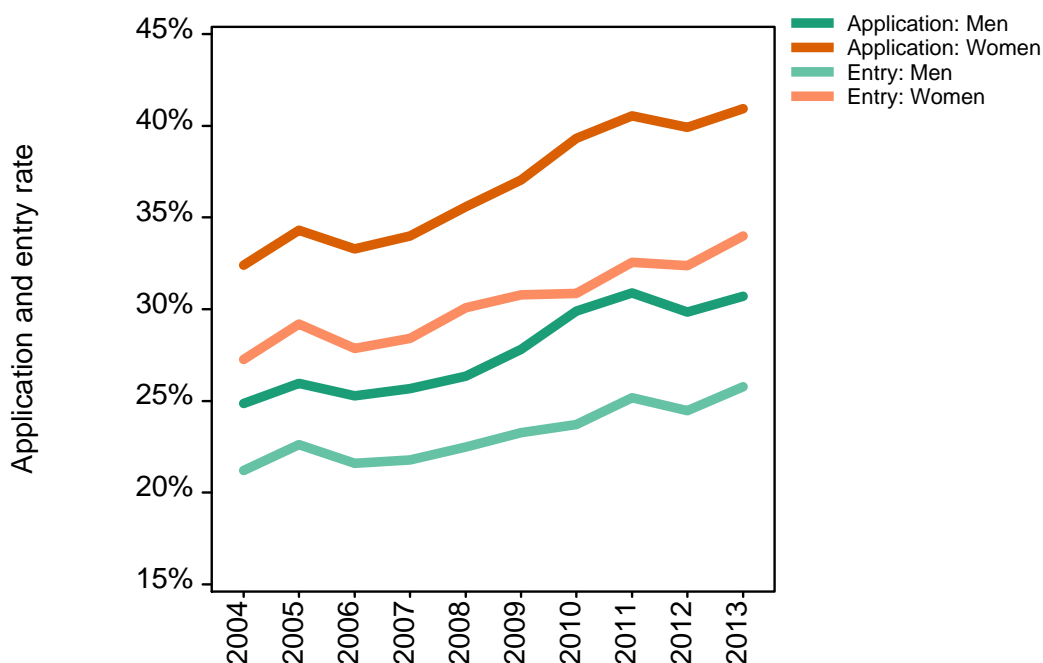
18 year old women a third more likely to enter higher education than men

In 2013, around 35 per cent of the UK 18 year old population applied to higher education through UCAS and around 30 per cent were accepted for entry. These national rates are a mixture of different rates for men and women. Figure 74 shows the application rates and entry rates for UK domiciled 18 year old men and women.

The application rate for women has been substantially higher than that for men for the whole period. Despite increases in the application rate for men and women, the application rate for men in 2013 (30.7 per cent) remains below the level for women nine years previously in 2004 (32.4 per cent). For both men and women, the application rate increased (around 3 per cent proportionally) in 2013 following a fall in 2012. In 2013, as in most recent cycles, 18 year women were around a third more likely to apply than 18 year old men.

A similar pattern is seen for entry rates for men and women. The entry rate for women is considerably higher than the entry rate for men across the whole period, and remains above the application rate for men in each cycle. This means that even if the acceptance rate for men was 100 per cent and every 18 year old man that applied was accepted for entry, the entry rate for women would still be higher than the entry rate for men. For 18 year olds in 2013 the entry rate increased (around 5 per cent proportionally) for both men and women to record levels (men 25.8 per cent, women 34.0 per cent). As with application rates, 18 year old women are around a third (32 per cent) more likely to enter higher education than 18 year old men.

Figure 74 UK domiciled 18 year olds, application and entry rates by sex



Cohort entry rates show women 27 per cent more likely to enter than men by age 19

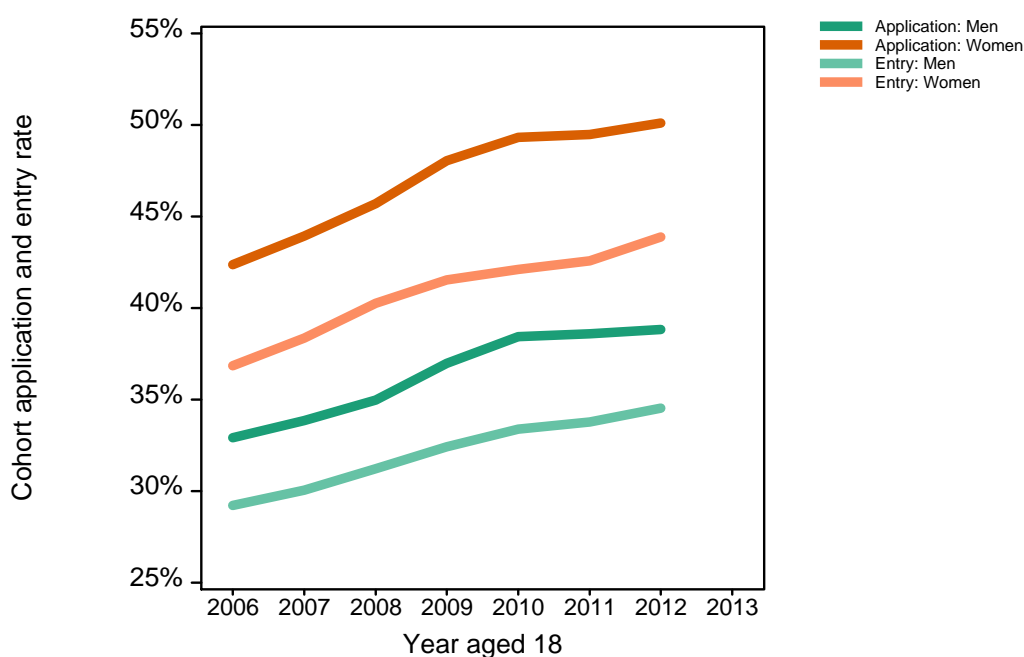
Figure 75 reports cohort application rates and cohort entry rates for UK domiciled young men and women. These measures combine the proportion of the population that apply or are accepted for entry at age 18 with the proportion of the same population that apply or are accepted for entry at age 19 a year later. As such, they give a representation of the total proportion of a young cohort that has been accepted for entry into higher education by age 19. These rates have the disadvantage that they cannot yet be reported for the cohort that was aged 18 in 2013, since they are yet to have the opportunity to apply at age 19.

Each cohort of young men and women has been more likely to apply and to be accepted for entry to higher education than the preceding cohort. The cohort that were 18 in 2012 are around 18 to 19 per cent more likely to apply or be accepted to enter higher education than the cohort that were 18 in 2006. This is the case for both men and women.

Throughout this period the application rate and entry rate for each cohort of young women is substantially higher than the application rate and entry rate for each cohort of young men. For those that were 18 in 2012, women were 29 per cent more likely to apply for higher education by age 19 than men, and 27 per cent more likely to be accepted to enter higher education by age 19.

For the 2012 cohort (those who were 18 in 2012 and 19 in 2013) the cohort entry rate for women was 43.9 per cent, over 9 percentage points higher than for men (34.5 per cent). The cohort entry rate for women (43.9 per cent) is higher by 4.9 percentage points than the cohort application rate (38.8 per cent) for men. The cohort application rate for women for the 2012 cohort is 50.1 per cent.

Figure 75 UK domiciled cohort application and entry rates by sex



Entry rates for women are higher than for men at all types of institutions

Figure 76 shows the entry rate ratios of UK 18 year old women to men for entry to different groups of institutions.

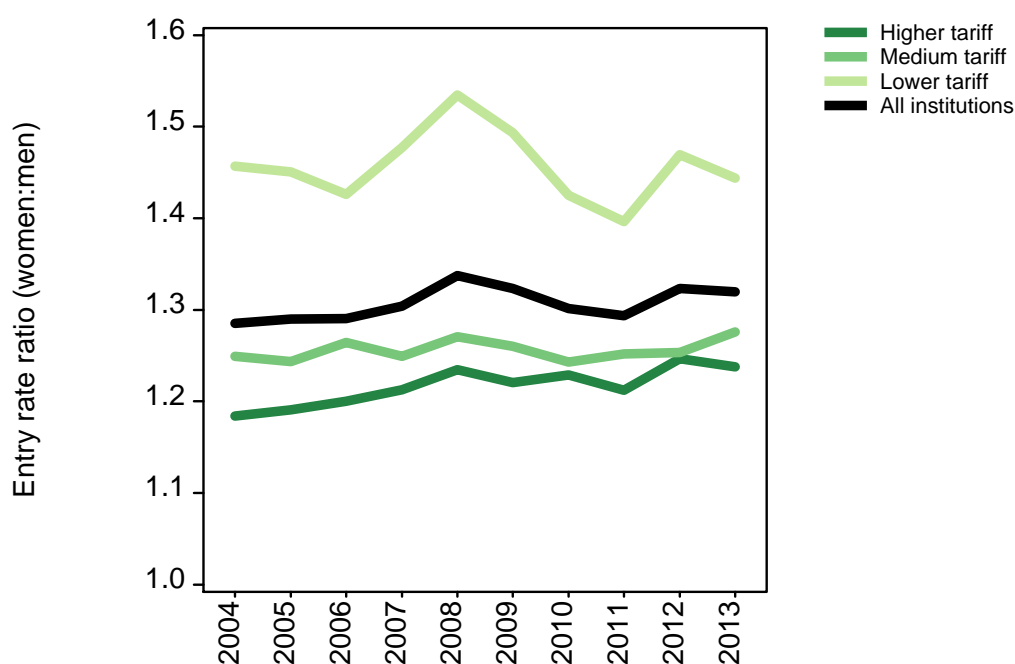
18 year old women are around 30 per cent more likely to enter all types of higher education than 18 year old men. The entry rate ratios are greater than 1.0 for entry to all three institution tariff groups. That is, young women are more likely to enter all of these types of institutions than young men.

In all cycles the entry rate ratio between women and men is lower for higher tariff institutions than other institution tariff groups at around 1.2 (that is, young women are around 20 per cent more likely to enter higher tariff institutions). Over the period the relative difference between men and women entering higher tariff institutions has increased. In 2004, women were 18 per cent more likely to enter higher tariff institutions than men, in 2013 they are 24 per cent more likely to enter than men.

The entry rate ratio for medium tariff institutions is generally around 1.25. That is, women are around 25 per cent more likely to enter medium tariff institutions than men.

Lower tariff institutions have the greatest entry rate ratio between men and women for each cycle. The ratio is variable from cycle-to-cycle but at least 1.4 in each year. In 2013, 18 year old UK women are 44 per cent more likely to enter lower tariff institutions than men.

Figure 76 Ratio for UK 18 year olds of entry rate from women to entry rate from men by institution tariff group



Differences in entry rates by background are greater for men than for women and reduce for both sexes in 2013

Figure 77 shows the entry rates for men and women from the most advantaged areas (POLAR2 Q5) and most disadvantaged areas (POLAR2 Q1). The entry rates from the most advantaged areas are greater than the entry rates from the most disadvantaged areas, and the entry rates for women are greater than the entry rates for men from both areas.

Figure 78 shows the ratios of the entry rates from the most advantaged areas divided by the entry rates for the most disadvantaged areas for men and women. For both men and women, 18 year olds living in the most advantaged areas are much more likely to enter higher education than 18 year olds in the most disadvantaged areas. The entry rate ratios have decreased in each cycle between 2004 and 2013, but in each cycle the entry ratio is greater for men than women.

For UK 18 year olds in 2004, men in the most advantaged areas were nearly five times more likely to enter higher education than men in the least advantaged areas. Women in the most advantaged areas were four times more likely to enter higher education than those in the most disadvantaged areas.

By 2013 these entry rate ratios had decreased for men and women. The relative differences by background for men have reduced by more than the ratios for women, but remain greater than the differences by background for women. In 2013, men from the most advantaged areas are 3.1 times more likely to enter higher education than men from the most disadvantaged areas, compared with women where the ratio is now 2.5.

Figure 77 UK 18 year olds entry rates from most advantaged (POLAR2 Q5) areas and from most disadvantaged areas (POLAR2 Q1) by sex.

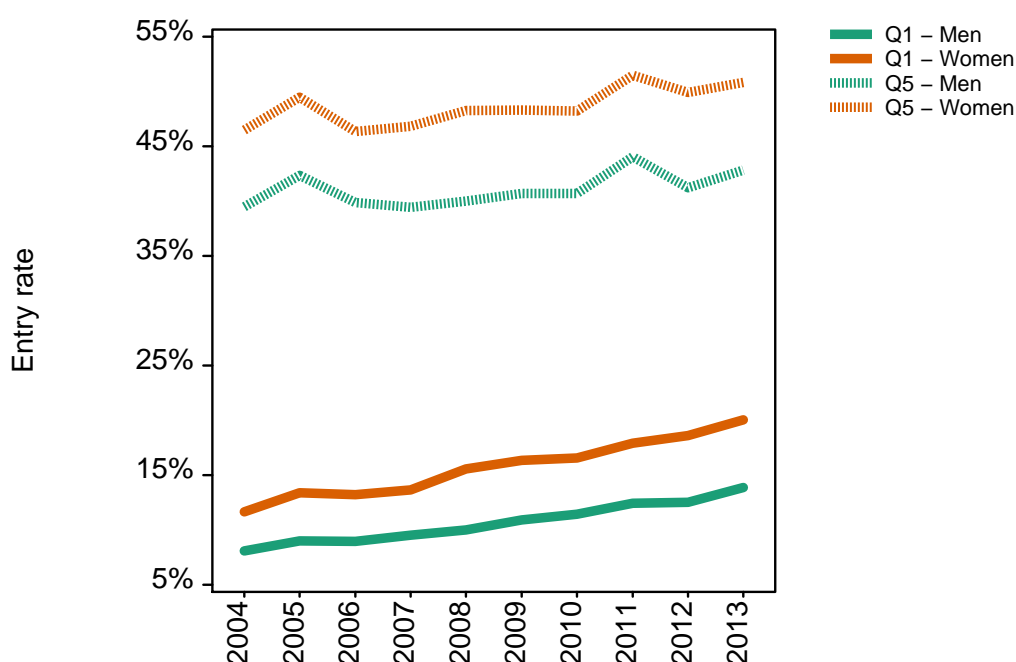
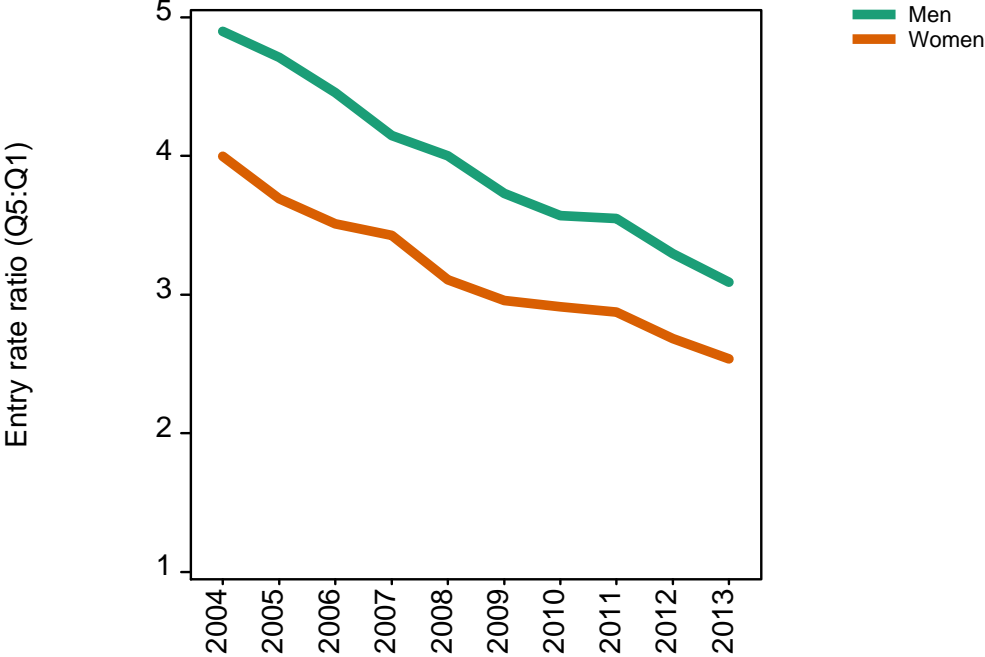


Figure 78 UK 18 year olds ratio of entry rate from most advantaged (POLAR2 Q5) areas to entry rate from most disadvantaged areas (POLAR2 Q1) by sex.



Recruitment changes for institutions between 2011-12 and 2013-14

Larger institutions who have been constant users of UCAS services between 2007 and 2013 (155 in total) account for the large majority of acceptances (over 97 per cent). The entry year 2013-14 is the second academic year under the set of changes made to tuition fees and student number controls. The following analysis reports changes in total recruitment (that is, acceptances from all domiciles) by entry year for this set of constant UCAS institutions between 2011-12 and 2013-14. The number of acceptances to each institution always varies from cycle to cycle. Changes in recruitment in the two year period preceding these changes (2008-09 to 2010-11) are also shown for comparison.

Many institutions have fewer acceptances to the 2013-14 entry year than to 2011-12

Figures 79 and 80 show the share of institutions that have increased or decreased their total recruitment between 2011-12 and 2013-14 (Figure 79) or 2008-09 and 2011-12 (Figure 80). The share of institutions is shown weighted by their acceptances at the start of the period.

For changes in total recruitment between 2011-12 and 2013-14 the largest category in the distribution is institutions which have around 10 per cent fewer acceptances between those years. Weighted by size at the start of the period, 38 per cent of institutions are around 10 per cent smaller in 2013-14 than 2011-12, and 7 per cent are around 20 per cent smaller. This is a larger share of institutions reducing in size than in the 2008-09 to 2010-11 period: across that period 12 per cent reduced in size by around 10 per cent, and 2 per cent of institutions reduced in size by around 20 per cent.

Between 2011-12 and 2013-14, 31 per cent of institutions had around the same number of acceptances, a smaller proportion than the 42 per cent between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

Between 2011-12 and 2013-14, 21 per cent of institutions increased total recruitment by around 10 per cent or more, a substantially smaller proportion than the 40 per cent between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

Figure 79 Institutional distribution of proportional changes in total recruitment between 2011-12 and 2013-14 entry years (institutional distribution weighted by 2011-12 recruitment)

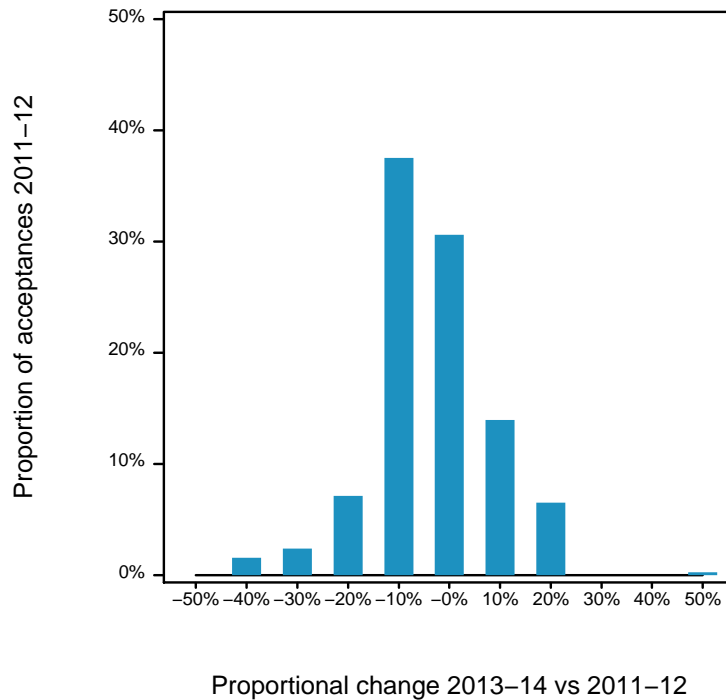
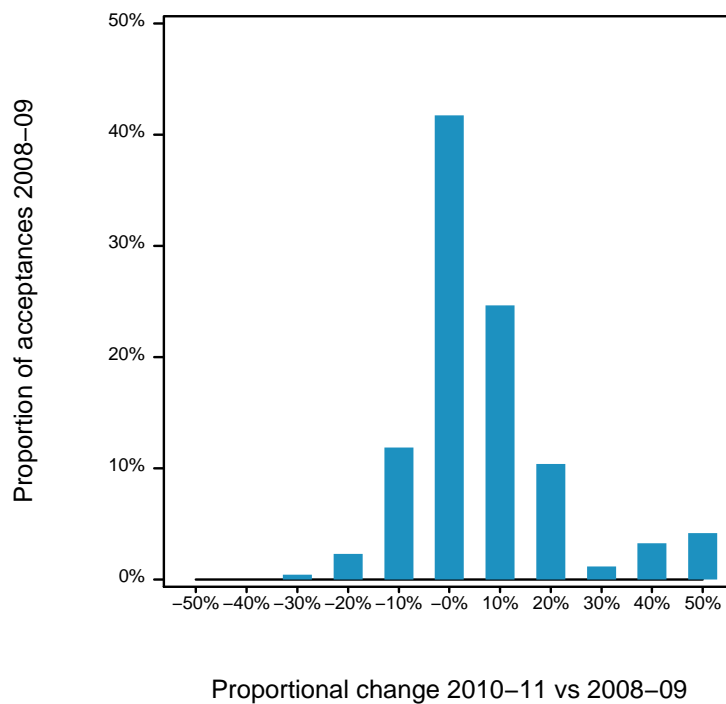


Figure 80 Institutional distribution of proportional changes in total recruitment between 2008-09 and 2010-11 entry years (institutional distribution weighted by 2008-09 recruitment)



Institution-level changes in total recruitment

Figure 81 shows the changes in recruitment relative to 2011-12 in each of the two following academic years (2012-13 and 2013-14) for individual institutions. The plot is limited to larger institutions that have recruited through UCAS since 2007.

The vertical axis shows the total proportional change in recruitment over the two years since the changes to funding and number controls were introduced, that is between 2011-12 and 2013-14. The horizontal axis shows the proportional change in recruitment in the first year after the changes (that is, between 2011-12 and 2012-13).

- Institutions in the upper half of the graph were larger in 2013-14 than 2011-12 (those below were smaller)
- Institutions in the right hand side of the graph were larger in 2012-13 than 2011-12 (those to the left were smaller)
- Institutions above the diagonal line were larger in 2013-14 than 2012-13 (those below were smaller)

Figure 82 uses the same representation, but to show changes in total recruitment over the two year period between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

Wide range of institution-level recruitment outcomes between 2011-12 and 2013-14

There has been a wide range in changes in institutional-level total recruitment between 2011-12 and 2012-13 with changes of between -20 per cent and + 20 per cent being common.

Overall, 61 per cent of institutions had lower recruitment to 2013-14 than 2011-12, with total recruitment to this group of institutions decreasing by 11 per cent. The group of institutions which increased recruitment between 2011-12 and 2013-14 (39 per cent of institutions) has had a total increase in recruitment of 9 per cent.

Most institutions which decreased in size in 2012-13 have gone on to increase in size in 2013-14

The majority (84 per cent) of institutions reduced in size between 2011-12 and 2012-13. Most (80 per cent) of these institutions then increased their total recruitment to 2013-14 relative to that lower 2012-13 total, though typically not by enough to be larger than they were in 2011-12. A minority (20 per cent) of those institutions which saw decreases in 2012-13 had further reductions in recruitment in 2013-14.

Relatively few institutions (16 per cent) increased in size between 2011-12 and 2012-13. These institutions mostly (80 per cent) increased recruitment further between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Overall, 80 per cent of institutions have increased their recruitment to the second year of this period, that is between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Compared to the changes in recruitment in the previous two year period (2008-09 and 2011-12) there has been a more mixed range of outcomes and more of a distinction between general increases and decreases in the two years.

Figure 81 Institution level changes in recruitment for 2012-13 and 2013-14, both relative to 2011-12 recruitment

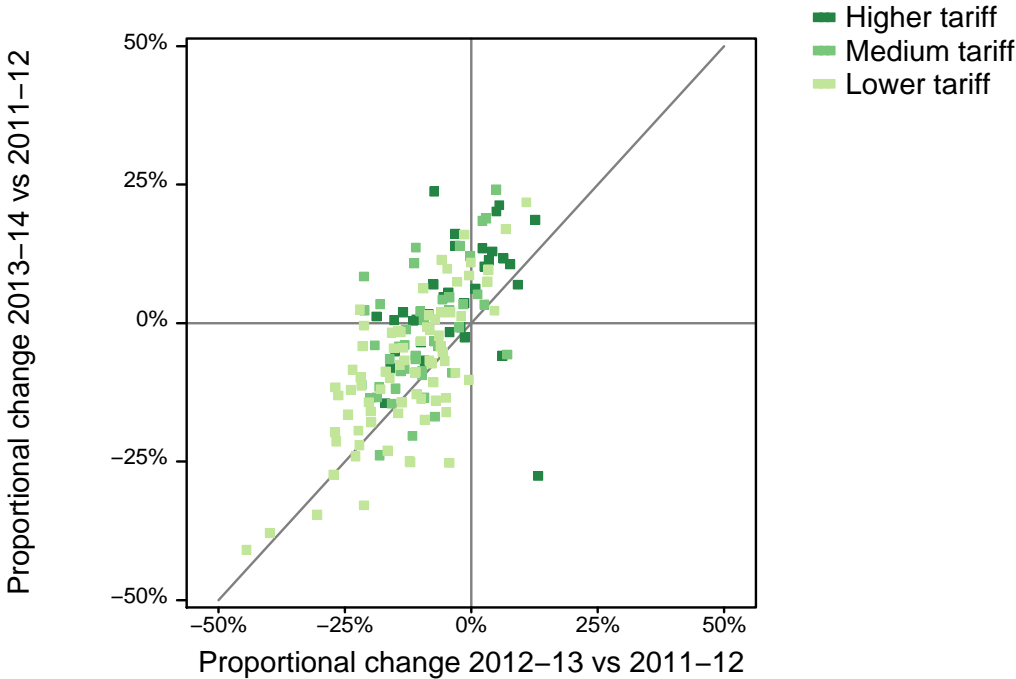
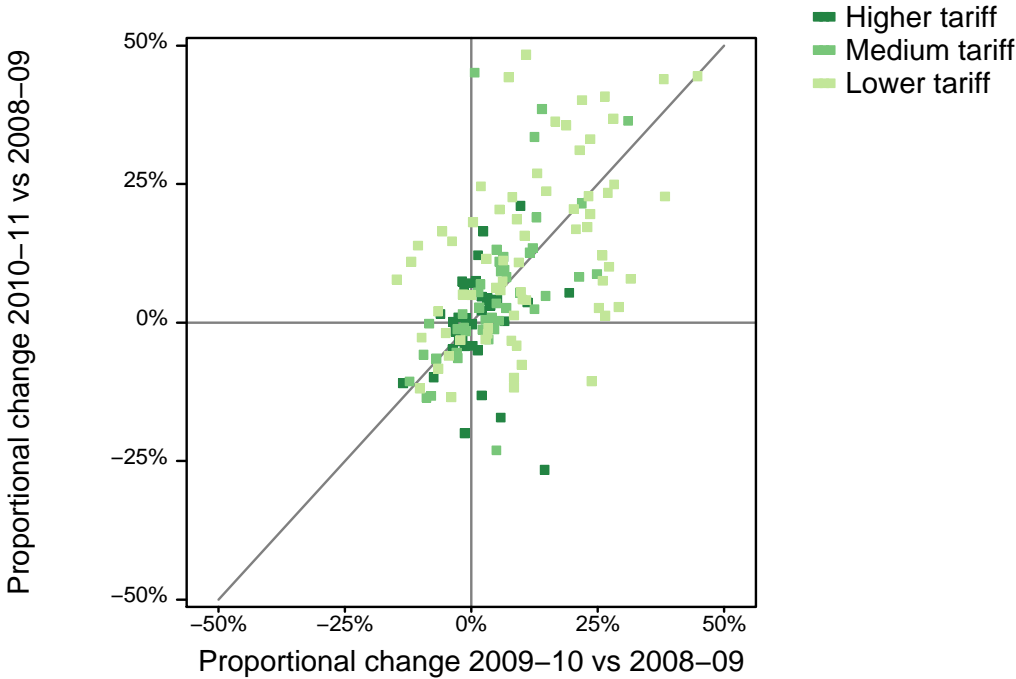


Figure 82 Institution level changes in recruitment for 2009-10 and 2010-11, both relative to 2008-09 recruitment



18 year old acceptances by qualification level and institution group

The majority of courses at English institutions in 2013 were subject to a student number control system that exempted those students holding certain entry qualifications (a list of qualifications referred to as ABB+ from the A level grades that defined its lower point limit amongst A level qualifications). Since this classification covers different types of qualifications, the proportion of acceptances that hold these qualifications can be used as a broad-based statistic of entry qualification levels across different types of institutions.

Since qualifications are strongly associated with age and domicile, UK domiciled 18 year olds are used as the base for these statistics to give a clearer view of trends.

Proportion of 18 year old acceptances holding ABB+ decreases in 2013 by 1 per cent for institutions in England and 8 per cent for institutions in Wales

The proportion of 18 year old UK domiciled acceptances holding ABB+ qualifications in 2013 varies by country of institution: Wales (25.1 per cent), England (41.7 per cent), Northern Ireland (44.5 per cent) and Scotland (67.4 per cent, predominantly from Scottish Qualification Authority qualifications, rather than A levels as elsewhere in the UK).

In the 2010 and 2011 cycles the proportion holding ABB+ increased for institutions across the UK.

In Northern Ireland and Wales the proportion holding ABB+ has decreased in both 2012 and 2013 cycles. In 2013 the proportion holding ABB+ accepted into Northern Ireland institutions reduced by 2.4 percentage points (5 per cent proportionally) and, for Welsh institutions, 2.3 percentage points (8 per cent proportionally). In Scotland the proportion remains similar to 2012.

In England the proportion of 18 year old acceptances holding ABB+ increased from 35.7 per cent to 42.2 per cent between the 2008 and 2011 cycles. In 2013 the proportion fell slightly (-0.4 percentage points, 1 per cent proportionally) to 41.7 per cent.

Proportion of unplaced English 18 year old applicants who hold ABB+ increases in 2013

Around 15-25 per cent (depending on country of domicile) of 18 year old UK applicants are unplaced. The proportion of unplaced 18 year old applicants in 2013 holding ABB+ is around 19 per cent for applicants from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and around 25 per cent for applicants from England.

For unplaced applicants from Scotland the proportion holding ABB+ has been increasing by around 1 percentage point per cycle throughout the period. For unplaced applicants from Wales the proportion fell by 0.6 percentage points in 2013.

The proportion of unplaced applicants from England holding ABB+ increased from 2012 by 2.3 percentage points from to 25.4 per cent in 2013 - the highest recorded proportion. For unplaced applicants from England, the proportion holding ABB+ increased in 2013 among both those holding A levels and those holding BTECs.

Figure 83 Proportion of 18 year old UK domiciled acceptances who are holding qualifications in the ABB+ set by country of institution

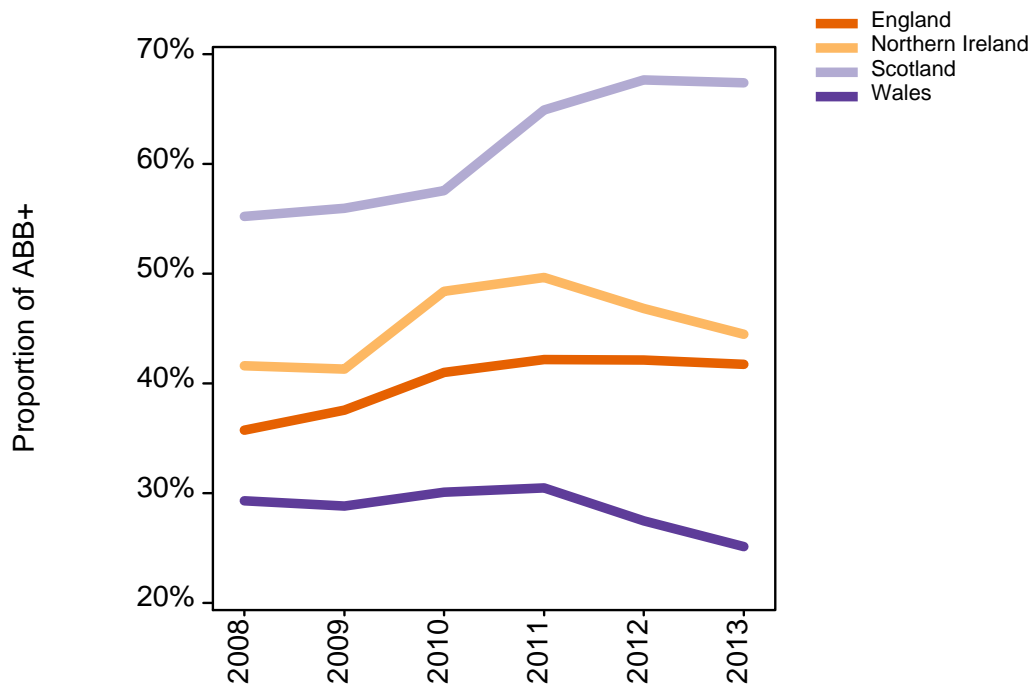
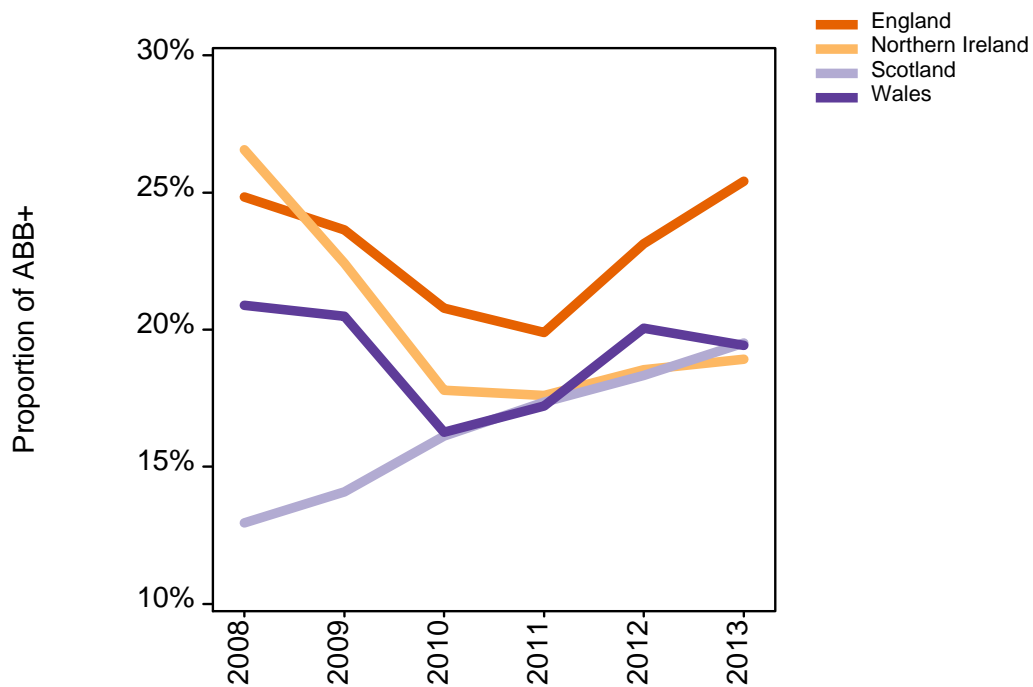


Figure 84 Proportion of 18 year old unplaced applicants who are holding qualifications in the ABB+ set by UK country of domicile



Proportion of ABB+ at English higher tariff institutions higher than other institutions but continues to decrease in 2013

The proportion of English 18 year old acceptances that hold ABB+ qualifications varies substantially by the tariff group of the institution. Recent trends in this proportion are different for these institution groups.

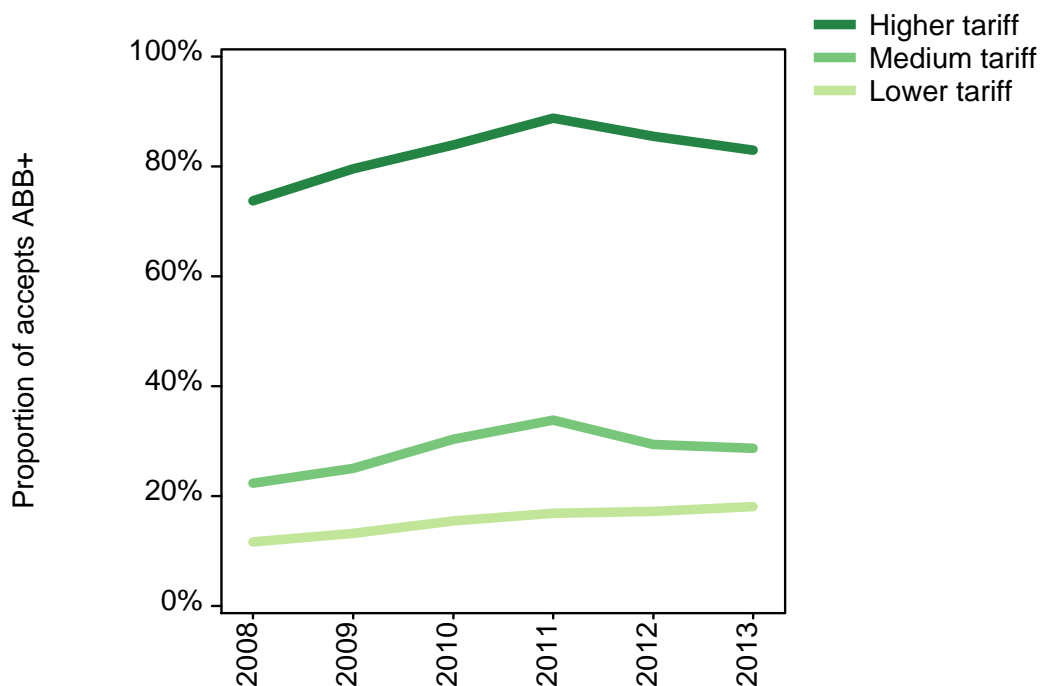
The proportion of English 18 year old acceptances holding ABB+ is much higher at English higher tariff institutions than other English institutions. At these institutions the proportion increased from 74 per cent in 2008 to a high point of 89 per cent in 2011. Since then it has decreased, in both the 2012 and 2013 cycles, to reach 83 per cent in 2013.

The proportion holding ABB+ at medium tariff institutions increased from 22 per cent to 34 per cent between 2008 and 2011. In 2012 the proportion decreased by 4.5 percentage points and there was a further decrease in 2013 to 29 per cent. At lower tariff institutions the proportion holding ABB+ has increased each cycle from 12 per cent in 2008 to 18 per cent in 2013.

For English 18 year olds the ABB+ acceptances are predominantly those who hold A level or BTEC qualifications at higher grades. In 2013, 78 per cent of these ABB+ acceptances were from those holding A levels (87 per cent in 2008) and 20 per cent were from those holding BTECs (11 per cent in 2008). In 2013 the share of English 18 year old ABB+ acceptances that held BTECs varied across the English institutional groups from 75 per cent (2008, 59 per cent) at lower tariff institutions to 2 per cent (2008, 1 per cent) at higher tariff institutions.

The proportion of English 18 year old acceptances to these institutions who are BTEC ABB+ has been increasing for all institution groups across all years. The proportion of acceptances who are A level ABB+ has decreased for all institution groups in both 2012 and 2013. The trends in the proportion of English 18 year old acceptances who are ABB+ for these institutions are a composite of the varying contributions of the BTEC and A level sub groups to each institutional group.

Figure 85 Proportion of English 18 year old acceptances who are holding qualifications in the ABB+ by institution tariff group



Average A level grades of acceptances decrease in 2013 for all types of institution in England

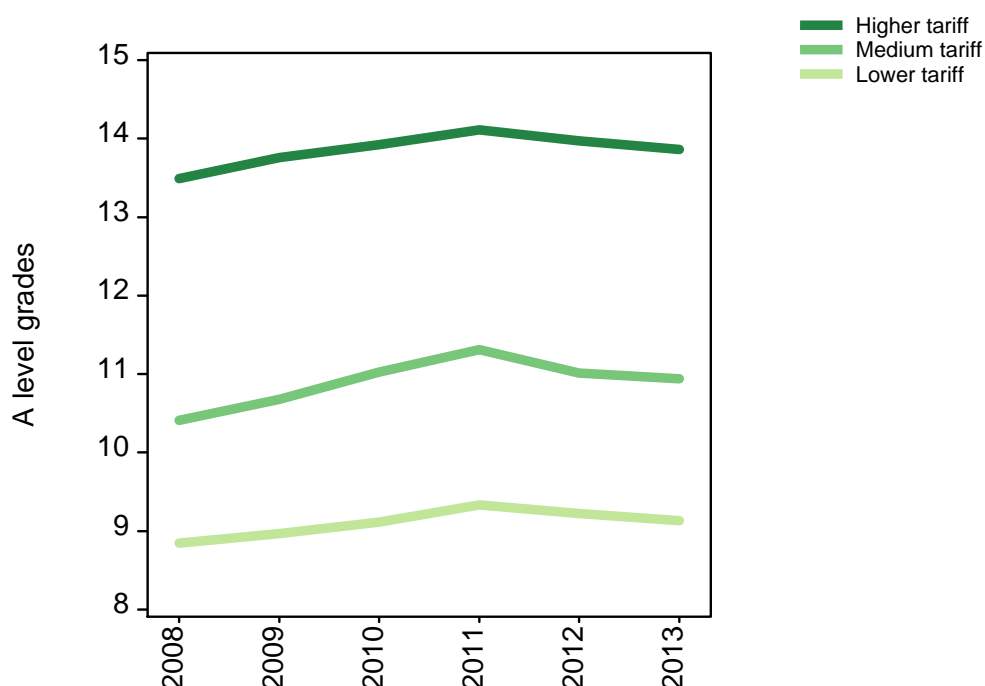
At English higher tariff institutions, most 18 year old English acceptances who hold ABB+ do so from A levels (96 per cent). At lower tariff institutions, most who hold ABB+ do so from BTECs (75 per cent). With the relative shares of A levels and BTECs amongst young acceptances changing, it can be useful to look at trends in the level of entry qualifications amongst A level holders as a more uniform measure.

Figure 86 shows, for 18 year old English acceptances to English institutions who hold three or more A levels, the number of A level grades from their highest graded three A levels. That is, taking the difference between adjacent A level grades to be 1.0, giving, for example, a value of 3 for EEE and 6 for DDD. A* grades are taken as A grades for the purpose of this time series.

The average attainment level of these acceptances ranges from around 9 A level grades (that is, CCC) at lower tariff institutions, to 11 grades (BBC) at medium tariff institutions, and 14 grades (AAB) at higher tariff institutions.

Between 2008 and 2011, the average A level grade profiles of these entrants increased at all types of institution, by around half an A level grade at lower and higher tariff institutions, and a single A level grade at medium tariff institutions. In 2012 and 2013, average A level grades decreased slightly by (in total) a quarter of a grade at higher tariff institutions, two fifths at medium tariff institutions and a fifth of a grade at lower tariff institutions.

Figure 86 Average number of A level grades (best three A levels for those holding three or more A levels, BBB=12) for 18 year old English acceptances to English institutions



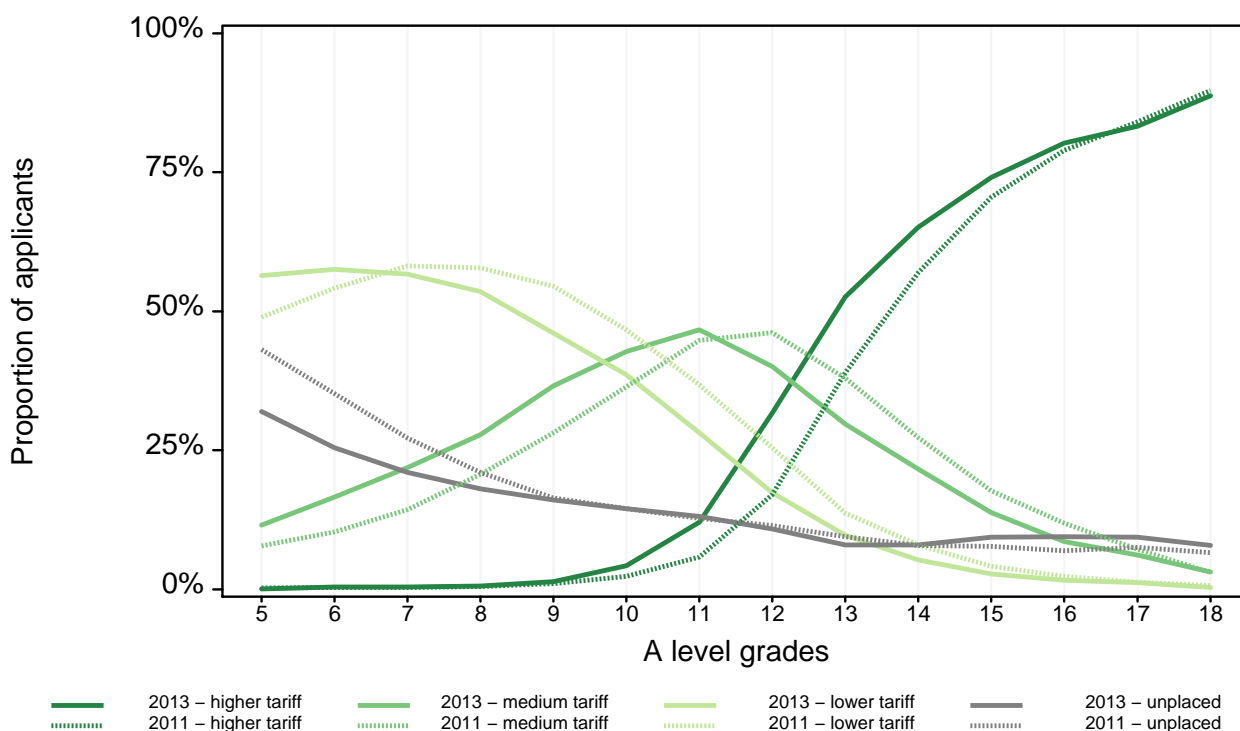
Between 2011 and 2013 all types of institution increase the proportion of applicants they admit with relatively lower A level grades

The previous analysis shows that the average attainment level of accepted applicants reached a high in the 2011 cycle before reducing in the 2012 and 2013 cycles. This section examines how that change in the average level of attainment is reflected in the proportion of applicants of different attainment levels who enter different types of institution (or are unplaced).

Figure 87 covers English 18 year old applicants in the 2011 and 2013 cycles with three A levels who were either accepted to English institutions, or made a main scheme application to an English institution but were unplaced (in total, around 150,000 per cycle). The applicants are grouped by the number of A level grades they obtained (A* treated as six grades, E as one) and the proportion of applicants in each grade group that were accepted to higher, medium or lower tariff institutions, and the proportion who were unplaced, reported.

Applicants with the highest number of A level grades are most likely to enter high tariff institutions, those with the lowest grades are most likely to enter lower tariff institutions and those with grades in between are most likely to enter medium tariff institutions. Applicants with the lowest number of A level grades are the most likely to be unplaced.

Figure 87 Proportion of English 18 year old applicants (to English institutions) accepted to higher, medium and lower English institutions or unplaced, by number of A level grades



Between the 2011 and 2013 cycles, the distribution of the proportion of applicants entering different types of institutions has changed. Applicants with between 11 and 14 A level grades (BBC to AAB) have become substantially more likely to enter higher tariff institutions. For example, the proportion entering higher tariff institutions for those with 12 grades (BBB) has increased from 17 per cent in 2011 to 32 per cent in 2013 (a proportional increase of over 80 per cent).

The proportion of applicants entering other types of institutions has decreased for these higher grades. For example, the proportions with 13 (ABB) or 14 (AAB) grades entering medium or lower tariff institutions have decreased by (proportionally) around 20 per cent for medium tariff and 30 per cent for lower tariff.

The distribution of the proportion of applicants accepted by number of A level grades in 2013 for medium and lower tariff institutions is similar in shape to that for 2011, but is displaced by around one A level grade lower (that is, to the left on the graph). For example, the proportion of applicants entering medium and lower tariff institutions with 9 A level grades in 2013 was similar to that entering with 10 A level grades in 2011.

The proportion of applicants unplaced has increased for those with 15 (AAA) or more grades (by around 1-2 percentage points), is similar for those with between 14 and 9 grades (AAB to CCC) and decreased for those with 8 (CCD) or fewer grades (by 3 to 14 percentage points).

English 18 year old acceptances with ABB+ holding BTECs have increased by 16 per cent between 2011 and 2013, ABB+ accepts holding A levels have decreased by 4 per cent

Figure 88 shows (as a change relative to 2011) the number of English 18 year olds accepted to English institutions by whether they hold qualifications that are in the ABB+ group and, if they do, whether those qualifications are A levels or BTECs.

The number of 18 year old acceptances to all English institutions fell in 2012 for acceptances in each of the three qualification groups. In 2013 the number of acceptances who are ABB+ through BTECs increased to 16 per cent higher than in 2011. The number of acceptances who are ABB+ through A levels is similar in 2013 to 2012, and remains 4 per cent below 2011 totals. The number of acceptances who do not hold ABB+ increased in 2013 to 1 per cent higher than the 2011 total.

18 year old acceptances to English higher tariff institutions who are not ABB+ increase in 2013 and are around 70 per cent higher than in 2011

Figure 89 shows (as a change relative to 2011) the number of 18 year old English acceptances to English higher tariff institutions split by qualification type.

The number of acceptances to English higher tariff institutions has increased in both 2012 and 2013 cycles for each type of acceptance.

The number of acceptances who hold ABB+ through A levels is 5 per cent higher in 2013 than in 2011. Acceptances that hold ABB+ through BTECs are 30 per cent higher in 2013 compared to 2011, but remain a small proportion of acceptances at higher tariff institutions (2 per cent in 2013).

Acceptances from those who do not hold qualifications in the ABB+ group are around 70 per cent higher than in 2011 following increases in both the 2012 and 2013 cycles. The proportion of English 18 year old acceptances to these institutions that do not hold ABB+ qualifications is 17 per cent in 2013, up from 11 per cent in 2011, reversing around half of the fall in the number of these acceptances between 2008 and 2011.

Figure 88 Acceptances to English institutions from English 18 year olds by qualification status (change relative to 2011 cycle)

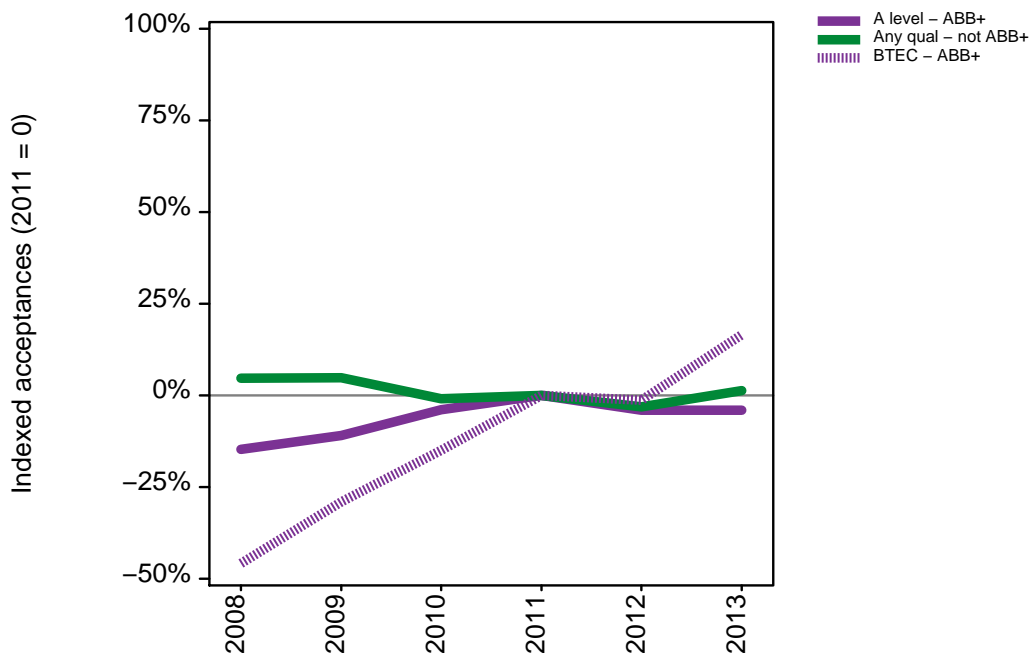
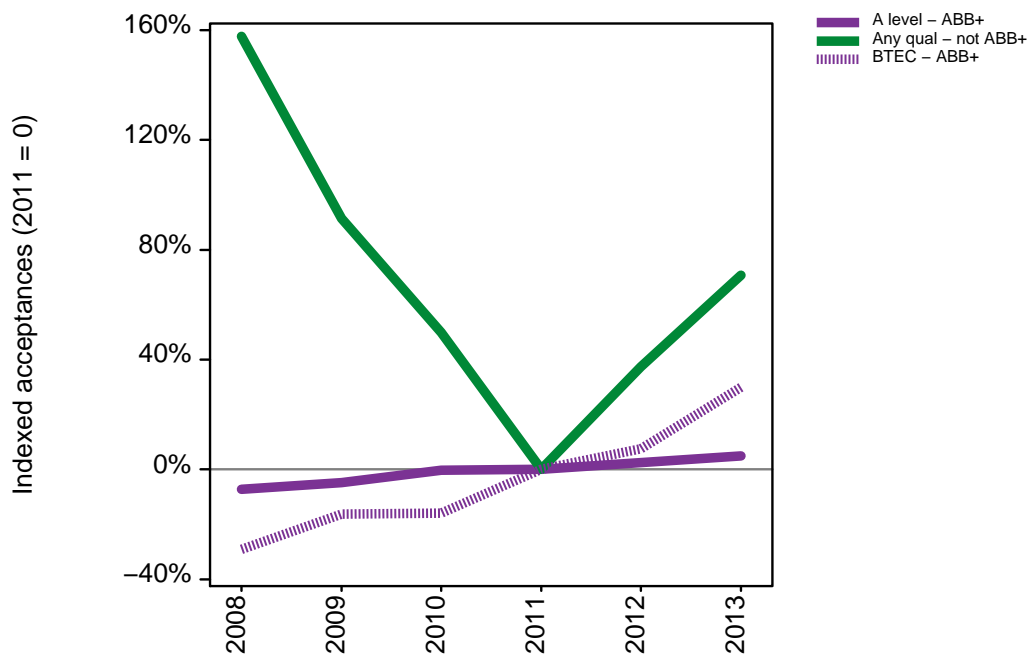


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Applicants & acceptances

Table 1a:

Applicants and acceptances for full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total applicants	534,495	588,689	639,860	697,351	700,161	653,637	677,373
Total accepted applicants	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596
Total unplaced applicants	121,065	132,062	158,006	210,022	208,131	188,727	181,777
Acceptance rate	77.3%	77.6%	75.3%	69.9%	70.3%	71.1%	73.2%
Average number of choices per applicant	4.4	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0
Number of institutions with UCAS membership receiving applications	322	306	304	305	304	324	364

Table 1b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of applicants and acceptances for full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total applicants	-	+10.1%	+8.7%	+9.0%	+0.4%	-6.6%	+3.6%
Total accepted applicants	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%
Total unplaced applicants	-	+9.1%	+19.6%	+32.9%	-0.9%	-9.3%	-3.7%

Table 2a:
Application route (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Main scheme	492,742	538,112	590,184	657,953	667,952	616,521	635,781
Directly into Clearing	14,179	17,184	19,975	15,765	16,396	18,765	21,944
Record of Prior Acceptance	27,574	33,393	29,701	23,633	15,813	18,351	19,648
Total	534,495	588,689	639,860	697,351	700,161	653,637	677,373

Table 2b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of application route (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Main scheme	-	+9.2%	+9.7%	+11.5%	+1.5%	-7.7%	+3.1%
Directly into Clearing	-	+21.2%	+16.2%	-21.1%	+4.0%	+14.4%	+16.9%
Record of Prior Acceptance	-	+21.1%	-11.1%	-20.4%	-33.1%	+16.1%	+7.1%
Total	-	+10.1%	+8.7%	+9.0%	+0.4%	-6.6%	+3.6%

Table 3a:
Acceptance route (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Main scheme	343,833	375,105	399,283	409,994	415,340	382,535	410,383
Extra	3,767	5,327	5,619	7,018	9,537	7,859	7,815
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	382	377	552	1,329	1,219
Clearing	38,858	43,890	47,673	46,925	51,169	55,721	57,098
Record of Prior Acceptance	26,972	32,305	28,897	23,015	15,432	17,466	19,081
Total	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596

Table 3b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptance route (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Main scheme	-	+9.1%	+6.4%	+2.7%	+1.3%	-7.9%	+7.3%
Extra	-	+41.4%	+5.5%	+24.9%	+35.9%	-17.6%	-0.6%
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-1.3%	+46.4%	+140.8%	-8.3%
Clearing	-	+12.9%	+8.6%	-1.6%	+9.0%	+8.9%	+2.5%
Record of Prior Acceptance	-	+19.8%	-10.5%	-20.4%	-32.9%	+13.2%	+9.2%
Total	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

⁽¹⁾ Adjustment has only been available since 2009.

Age group

Table 4a:

Applicants by age group (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Under 18	8,505	8,826	9,291	9,502	9,492	9,922	10,708
18	251,772	266,551	282,034	299,315	300,204	293,233	298,838
19	100,848	109,942	119,846	133,283	139,973	122,556	134,671
20	42,257	50,186	54,396	59,668	60,166	55,120	57,204
21-24	67,505	76,511	85,776	95,370	94,293	85,005	86,878
25-39	51,344	61,242	69,944	79,700	76,736	69,857	70,857
40 and over	12,264	15,431	18,573	20,513	19,297	17,944	18,217
Total	534,495	588,689	639,860	697,351	700,161	653,637	677,373

Table 4b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of applicants by age group (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Under 18	-	+3.8%	+5.3%	+2.3%	-0.1%	+4.5%	+7.9%
18	-	+5.9%	+5.8%	+6.1%	+0.3%	-2.3%	+1.9%
19	-	+9.0%	+9.0%	+11.2%	+5.0%	-12.4%	+9.9%
20	-	+18.8%	+8.4%	+9.7%	+0.8%	-8.4%	+3.8%
21-24	-	+13.3%	+12.1%	+11.2%	-1.1%	-9.9%	+2.2%
25-39	-	+19.3%	+14.2%	+13.9%	-3.7%	-9.0%	+1.4%
40 and over	-	+25.8%	+20.4%	+10.4%	-5.9%	-7.0%	+1.5%
Total	-	+10.1%	+8.7%	+9.0%	+0.4%	-6.6%	+3.6%

Table 5a:
Acceptances by age group (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Under 18	5,104	5,249	5,347	4,921	4,782	5,014	5,350
18	207,047	220,660	228,829	228,947	234,499	229,664	238,441
19	81,097	88,633	94,934	100,200	105,078	92,417	105,169
20	31,722	37,939	39,751	40,741	40,721	38,093	40,958
21-24	46,478	53,080	57,428	57,852	56,370	51,534	54,941
25-39	33,468	40,390	43,595	43,315	40,362	38,124	40,115
40 and over	8,514	10,676	11,970	11,353	10,218	10,064	10,622
Total	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596

Table 5b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by age group (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Under 18	-	+2.8%	+1.9%	-8.0%	-2.8%	+4.9%	+6.7%
18	-	+6.6%	+3.7%	+0.1%	+2.4%	-2.1%	+3.8%
19	-	+9.3%	+7.1%	+5.5%	+4.9%	-12.0%	+13.8%
20	-	+19.6%	+4.8%	+2.5%	-0.0%	-6.5%	+7.5%
21-24	-	+14.2%	+8.2%	+0.7%	-2.6%	-8.6%	+6.6%
25-39	-	+20.7%	+7.9%	-0.6%	-6.8%	-5.5%	+5.2%
40 and over	-	+25.4%	+12.1%	-5.2%	-10.0%	-1.5%	+5.5%
Total	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

Table 6:
Acceptance rate by age group (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Under 18	60.0%	59.5%	57.6%	51.8%	50.4%	50.5%	50.0%
18	82.2%	82.8%	81.1%	76.5%	78.1%	78.3%	79.8%
19	80.4%	80.6%	79.2%	75.2%	75.1%	75.4%	78.1%
20	75.1%	75.6%	73.1%	68.3%	67.7%	69.1%	71.6%
21-24	68.9%	69.4%	67.0%	60.7%	59.8%	60.6%	63.2%
25-39	65.2%	66.0%	62.3%	54.3%	52.6%	54.6%	56.6%
40 and over	69.4%	69.2%	64.4%	55.3%	53.0%	56.1%	58.3%
Total	77.3%	77.6%	75.3%	69.9%	70.3%	71.1%	73.2%

Table 7a:
Acceptances by sex (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Men	189,685	204,695	218,185	220,085	221,876	208,287	222,068
Women	223,745	251,932	263,669	267,244	270,154	256,623	273,528
Total	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596

Table 7b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by sex (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Men	-	+7.9%	+6.6%	+0.9%	+0.8%	-6.1%	+6.6%
Women	-	+12.6%	+4.7%	+1.4%	+1.1%	-5.0%	+6.6%
Total	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

Table 8a:
Acceptances by ethnicity (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Asian - Bangladeshi	3,248	3,705	4,040	4,308	4,685	4,821	5,531
Asian - Chinese	3,494	3,614	3,432	3,468	3,600	3,325	3,295
Asian - Indian	13,813	14,255	14,720	14,385	14,902	14,067	14,651
Asian - other Asian background	4,229	5,306	5,936	6,658	7,300	7,061	7,876
Asian - Pakistani	9,282	10,395	11,032	11,907	12,710	13,272	14,297
Black - African	12,554	15,809	17,641	19,246	21,423	22,662	23,742
Black - Caribbean	4,982	5,981	6,383	6,681	6,914	6,587	7,015
Black - other black background	1,156	1,223	1,218	1,232	1,347	1,542	1,727
Mixed - White and Asian	3,462	3,851	4,087	4,486	4,817	4,621	5,048
Mixed - White and Black African	1,174	1,324	1,600	1,551	1,849	1,826	2,056
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	2,705	3,263	3,746	4,070	4,408	4,180	4,652
Mixed - other mixed background	3,364	3,687	3,863	4,062	4,407	4,176	4,484
Other ethnic background	3,867	3,874	4,055	4,412	4,705	5,897	6,192
Unknown	19,205	22,482	17,037	6,633	4,930	4,764	5,458
White	276,834	305,088	325,164	330,331	332,071	307,441	327,588
Total	363,369	403,857	423,954	423,430	430,068	406,242	433,612

Table 8b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by ethnicity (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Asian - Bangladeshi	-	+14.1%	+9.0%	+6.6%	+8.8%	+2.9%	+14.7%
Asian - Chinese	-	+3.4%	-5.0%	+1.0%	+3.8%	-7.6%	-0.9%
Asian - Indian	-	+3.2%	+3.3%	-2.3%	+3.6%	-5.6%	+4.2%
Asian - other Asian background	-	+25.5%	+11.9%	+12.2%	+9.6%	-3.3%	+11.5%
Asian - Pakistani	-	+12.0%	+6.1%	+7.9%	+6.7%	+4.4%	+7.7%
Black - African	-	+25.9%	+11.6%	+9.1%	+11.3%	+5.8%	+4.8%
Black - Caribbean	-	+20.1%	+6.7%	+4.7%	+3.5%	-4.7%	+6.5%
Black - other black background	-	+5.8%	-0.4%	+1.1%	+9.3%	+14.5%	+12.0%
Mixed - White and Asian	-	+11.2%	+6.1%	+9.8%	+7.4%	-4.1%	+9.2%
Mixed - White and Black African	-	+12.8%	+20.8%	-3.1%	+19.2%	-1.2%	+12.6%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	-	+20.6%	+14.8%	+8.6%	+8.3%	-5.2%	+11.3%
Mixed - other mixed background	-	+9.6%	+4.8%	+5.2%	+8.5%	-5.2%	+7.4%
Other ethnic background	-	+0.2%	+4.7%	+8.8%	+6.6%	+25.3%	+5.0%
Unknown	-	+17.1%	-24.2%	-61.1%	-25.7%	-3.4%	+14.6%
White	-	+10.2%	+6.6%	+1.6%	+0.5%	-7.4%	+6.6%
Total	-	+11.1%	+5.0%	-0.1%	+1.6%	-5.5%	+6.7%

Domicile

Table 9a:

Applicants, acceptances and acceptance rate by domicile (2007-2013)

Applicants	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
UK	452,744	501,070	542,913	585,302	587,864	543,339	561,983
Other EU	33,621	34,530	39,504	47,318	49,275	43,149	44,836
Non-EU	48,130	53,089	57,443	64,731	63,022	67,149	70,554
Total Applicants	534,495	588,689	639,860	697,351	700,161	653,637	677,373
Acceptances							
UK	363,369	403,857	423,954	423,430	430,068	406,242	433,612
Other EU	20,661	21,363	23,807	25,607	26,701	23,233	24,508
Non-EU	29,400	31,407	34,093	38,292	35,261	35,435	37,476
Total Acceptances	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596
Acceptance rate							
UK	80.3%	80.6%	78.1%	72.3%	73.2%	74.8%	77.2%
Other EU	61.5%	61.9%	60.3%	54.1%	54.2%	53.8%	54.7%
Non-EU	61.1%	59.2%	59.4%	59.2%	56.0%	52.8%	53.1%
Total acceptance rate	77.3%	77.6%	75.3%	69.9%	70.3%	71.1%	73.2%

Table 9b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of applicants and acceptances by domicile (2007-2013)

Applicants	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
UK	-	+10.7%	+8.4%	+7.8%	+0.4%	-7.6%	+3.4%
Other EU	-	+2.7%	+14.4%	+19.8%	+4.1%	-12.4%	+3.9%
Non-EU	-	+10.3%	+8.2%	+12.7%	-2.6%	+6.5%	+5.1%
Total Applicants	-	+10.1%	+8.7%	+9.0%	+0.4%	-6.6%	+3.6%
Acceptances							
UK	-	+11.1%	+5.0%	-0.1%	+1.6%	-5.5%	+6.7%
Other EU	-	+3.4%	+11.4%	+7.6%	+4.3%	-13.0%	+5.5%
Non-EU	-	6.8%	+8.6%	+12.3%	-7.9%	+0.5%	+5.8%
Total acceptances	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

Table 10a:**Applicants, acceptances and acceptance rate by country (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)**

Applicants	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
England	378,673	423,205	460,049	494,365	496,633	454,001	471,120
Northern Ireland	17,149	17,116	17,864	19,682	20,242	19,377	20,546
Scotland	35,496	38,035	40,053	46,347	46,015	45,116	45,721
Wales	21,426	22,714	24,947	24,908	24,974	24,845	24,596
Total applicants	452,744	501,070	542,913	585,302	587,864	543,339	561,983
Acceptances							
England	305,784	342,441	359,127	359,004	367,149	342,753	367,898
Northern Ireland	13,001	13,430	13,601	13,507	13,792	13,283	14,554
Scotland	27,218	29,391	31,030	32,248	30,800	30,899	31,497
Wales	17,366	18,595	20,196	18,671	18,327	19,307	19,663
Total acceptances	363,369	403,857	423,954	423,430	430,068	406,242	433,612
Acceptance rate							
England	80.8%	80.9%	78.1%	72.6%	73.9%	75.5%	78.1%
Northern Ireland	75.8%	78.5%	76.1%	68.6%	68.1%	68.6%	70.8%
Scotland	76.7%	77.3%	77.5%	69.6%	66.9%	68.5%	68.9%
Wales	81.1%	81.9%	81.0%	75.0%	73.4%	77.7%	79.9%
Total acceptance rate	80.3%	80.6%	78.1%	72.3%	73.2%	74.8%	77.2%

Table 10b:**Cycle-to-cycle change of applicants and acceptances by country (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)**

Applicants	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
England	-	+11.8%	+8.7%	+7.5%	+0.5%	-8.6%	+3.8%
Northern Ireland	-	-0.2%	+4.4%	+10.2%	+2.8%	-4.3%	+6.0%
Scotland	-	+7.2%	+5.3%	+15.7%	-0.7%	-2.0%	+1.3%
Wales	-	+6.0%	+9.8%	-0.2%	+0.3%	-0.5%	-1.0%
Total applicants	-	+10.7%	+8.4%	+7.8%	+0.4%	-7.6%	+3.4%
Acceptances							
England	-	+12.0%	+4.9%	-0.0%	+2.3%	-6.6%	+7.3%
Northern Ireland	-	+3.3%	+1.3%	-0.7%	+2.1%	-3.7%	+9.6%
Scotland	-	+8.0%	+5.6%	+3.9%	-4.5%	+0.3%	+1.9%
Wales	-	+7.1%	+8.6%	-7.6%	-1.8%	+5.3%	+1.8%
Total acceptances	-	+11.1%	+5.0%	-0.1%	+1.6%	-5.5%	+6.7%

Institution country

Table 11a:

Acceptances by institution country (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
England	345,181	382,546	402,224	410,099	415,069	388,796	416,569
Northern Ireland	9,286	9,824	10,152	9,751	9,549	10,042	10,963
Scotland	36,475	40,618	43,057	42,317	41,163	41,944	42,553
Wales	22,488	23,639	26,421	25,162	26,249	24,128	25,511
Total	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596

Table 11b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by institution country (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
England	-	+10.8%	+5.1%	+2.0%	+1.2%	-6.3%	+7.1%
Northern Ireland	-	+5.8%	+3.3%	-3.9%	-2.1%	+5.2%	+9.2%
Scotland	-	+11.4%	+6.0%	-1.7%	-2.7%	+1.9%	+1.5%
Wales	-	+5.1%	+11.8%	-4.8%	+4.3%	-8.1%	+5.7%
Total	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

Table 12a:
Acceptances by institution country (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
England	303,718	339,818	355,026	356,496	364,199	340,877	365,405
Northern Ireland	8,740	9,310	9,598	9,083	8,913	9,382	10,291
Scotland	30,394	33,126	35,149	35,047	33,485	34,387	35,069
Wales	20,517	21,603	24,181	22,804	23,471	21,596	22,847
Total	363,369	403,857	423,954	423,430	430,068	406,242	433,612

Table 12b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by institution country (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
England	-	+11.9%	+4.5%	+0.4%	+2.2%	-6.4%	+7.2%
Northern Ireland	-	+6.5%	+3.1%	-5.4%	-1.9%	+5.3%	+9.7%
Scotland	-	+9.0%	+6.1%	-0.3%	-4.5%	+2.7%	+2.0%
Wales	-	+5.3%	+11.9%	-5.7%	+2.9%	-8.0%	+5.8%
Total	-	+11.1%	+5.0%	-0.1%	+1.6%	-5.5%	+6.7%

Institution grouping

Table 13a:

Acceptances by institution tariff grouping (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Higher tariff group	117,376	125,285	125,823	123,971	121,382	123,286	131,609
Medium tariff group	130,680	145,557	150,633	154,962	152,866	145,564	153,986
Lower tariff group	165,374	185,785	205,398	208,396	217,782	196,060	210,001
Total	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596

Table 13b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by institution tariff grouping (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Higher tariff group	-	+6.7%	+0.4%	-1.5%	-2.1%	+1.6%	+6.8%
Medium tariff group	-	+11.4%	+3.5%	+2.9%	-1.4%	-4.8%	+5.8%
Lower tariff group	-	+12.3%	+10.6%	+1.5%	+4.5%	-10.0%	+7.1%
Total	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

Table 14a:
Acceptances by acceptance route and institution tariff grouping (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Higher tariff group	117,376	125,285	125,823	123,971	121,382	123,286	131,609
Main scheme	108,150	115,241	116,691	116,691	114,689	113,109	120,599
Extra	752	1,196	1,096	1,066	1,145	1,016	1,181
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	134	123	179	679	575
Clearing	6,357	6,386	5,814	4,393	3,582	6,669	7,245
Record of Prior Acceptance	2,117	2,462	2,088	1,698	1,787	1,813	2,009
Medium tariff group	130,680	145,557	150,633	154,962	152,866	145,564	153,986
Main scheme	109,187	120,121	126,548	130,784	130,873	120,212	130,138
Extra	1,292	1,723	1,799	2,088	2,490	2,076	2,038
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	145	150	245	433	470
Clearing	13,253	14,669	14,559	12,435	13,054	16,814	15,970
Record of Prior Acceptance	6,948	9,044	7,582	9,505	6,204	6,029	5,370
Lower tariff group	165,374	185,785	205,398	208,396	217,782	196,060	210,001
Main scheme	126,496	139,743	156,044	162,519	169,778	149,214	159,646
Extra	1,723	2,408	2,724	3,864	5,902	4,767	4,596
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	103	104	128	217	174
Clearing	19,248	22,835	27,300	30,097	34,533	32,238	33,883
Record of Prior Acceptance	17,907	20,799	19,227	11,812	7,441	9,624	11,702
Total	413,430	456,627	481,854	487,329	492,030	464,910	495,596

Table 14b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptance route and institution tariff grouping (2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Higher tariff group	-	+6.7%	+0.4%	-1.5%	-2.1%	+1.6%	+6.8%
Main scheme	-	+6.6%	+1.3%	+0.0%	-1.7%	-1.4%	+6.6%
Extra	-	+59.0%	-8.4%	-2.7%	+7.4%	-11.3%	16.2%
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	-8.2%	+45.5%	+279.3%	-15.3%
Clearing	-	+0.5%	-9.0%	-24.4%	-18.5%	+86.2%	+8.6%
Record of Prior Acceptance	-	+16.3%	-15.2%	-18.7%	+5.2%	+1.5%	+10.8%
Medium tariff group	-	+11.4%	+3.5%	+2.9%	-1.4%	-4.8%	+5.8%
Main scheme	-	+10.0%	+5.4%	+3.3%	+0.1%	-8.1%	+8.3%
Extra	-	+33.4%	+4.4%	+16.1%	+19.3%	-16.6%	-1.8%
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	+3.4%	+63.3%	+76.7%	+8.5%
Clearing	-	+10.7%	-0.7%	-14.6%	+5.0%	+28.8%	-5.0%
Record of Prior Acceptance	-	+30.2%	-16.2%	+25.4%	-34.7%	-2.8%	-10.9%
Lower tariff group	-	+12.3%	+10.6%	+1.5%	+4.5%	-10.0%	+7.1%
Main scheme	-	+10.5%	+11.7%	+4.1%	+4.5%	-12.1%	+7.0%
Extra	-	+39.8%	+13.1%	+41.9%	+52.7%	-19.2%	-3.6%
Adjustment ⁽¹⁾	-	-	-	+1.0%	+23.1%	+69.5%	-19.8%
Clearing	-	+18.6%	+19.6%	+10.2%	+14.7%	-6.6%	+5.1%
Record of Prior Acceptance	-	+16.2%	-7.6%	-38.6%	-37.0%	+29.3%	+21.6%
Total	-	+10.4%	+5.5%	+1.1%	+1.0%	-5.5%	+6.6%

Educational establishment

Note: As the establishment type of a centre can change over time, the numbers detailed in these tables relate to the most recently recorded educational establishment type. The introduction of academies as an establishment type has altered the time series and we include additional tables to show the breakdown of the former establishment types of academies.

Table 15a:

Applicants by educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy	63,974	70,135	75,064	80,035	82,052	77,829	83,905
Further education	40,915	43,781	48,512	50,625	47,112	42,567	45,118
Grammar	12,573	12,865	13,164	13,284	13,245	12,674	12,933
Independent	33,826	36,126	37,212	37,500	36,096	34,552	34,184
Other	30,327	26,572	26,163	36,069	43,635	40,922	44,127
Sixth form college	55,508	61,313	66,959	70,104	70,385	64,957	65,912
State	79,499	85,608	89,444	91,470	89,596	82,768	83,294
Total	316,622	336,400	356,518	379,087	382,121	356,269	369,473

Table 15b:

Academy applicants by former educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy - new	-	-	-	-	-	790	3,057
Academy - previously Grammar	15,630	16,768	17,244	17,848	17,983	16,736	17,510
Academy - previously any other	48,344	53,367	57,820	62,187	64,069	60,303	63,338

Table 15c:

Cycle-to-cycle change of applicants by educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy	-	+9.6%	+7.0%	+6.6%	+2.5%	-5.1%	+7.8%
Further education	-	+7.0%	+10.8%	+4.4%	-6.9%	-9.6%	+6.0%
Grammar	-	+2.3%	+2.3%	+0.9%	-0.3%	-4.3%	+2.0%
Independent	-	+6.8%	+3.0%	+0.8%	-3.7%	-4.3%	-1.1%
Other	-	-12.4%	-1.5%	+37.9%	+21.0%	-6.2%	+7.8%
Sixth form college	-	+10.5%	+9.2%	+4.7%	+0.4%	-7.7%	+1.5%
State	-	+7.7%	+4.5%	+2.3%	-2.0%	-7.6%	+0.6%
Total	-	+6.2%	+6.0%	+6.3%	+0.8%	-6.8%	+3.7%

Table 15d:

Cycle-to-cycle change of academy applicants by former educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy - new	-	-	-	-	-	-	+287.0%
Academy - previously Grammar	-	+7.3%	+2.8%	+3.5%	+0.8%	-6.9%	+4.6%
Academy - previously any other	-	+10.4%	+8.3%	+7.6%	+3.0%	-5.9%	+5.0%

Table 16a:**Acceptances by educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy	55,322	60,926	63,826	65,310	69,087	65,651	72,455
Further education	32,350	35,169	38,393	37,809	36,054	33,090	36,509
Grammar	10,862	11,231	11,218	10,764	10,894	10,262	10,809
Independent	29,215	30,951	31,318	31,068	30,551	29,601	29,566
Other	25,386	22,491	21,570	26,804	32,344	31,616	35,213
Sixth form college	47,263	52,708	56,528	56,477	57,586	53,651	55,930
State	65,867	71,690	73,892	70,674	70,679	65,884	68,110
Total	266,265	285,166	296,745	298,906	307,195	289,755	308,592

Table 16b:**Academy acceptances by former educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy - new	-	-	-	-	-	613	2,539
Academy - previously Grammar	14,007	14,975	15,157	15,305	15,971	14,678	15,645
Academy - previously any other	41,315	45,951	48,669	50,005	53,116	50,360	54,271

Table 16c:**Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy	-	+10.1%	+4.8%	+2.3%	+5.8%	-5.0%	+10.4%
Further education	-	+8.7%	+9.2%	-1.5%	-4.6%	-8.2%	+10.3%
Grammar	-	+3.4%	-0.1%	-4.0%	+1.2%	-5.8%	+5.3%
Independent	-	+5.9%	+1.2%	-0.8%	-1.7%	-3.1%	-0.1%
Other	-	-11.4%	-4.1%	+24.3%	+20.7%	-2.3%	+11.4%
Sixth form college	-	+11.5%	+7.2%	-0.1%	+2.0%	-6.8%	+4.2%
State	-	+8.8%	+3.1%	-4.4%	+0.0%	-6.8%	+3.4%
Total	-	+7.1%	+4.1%	+0.7%	+2.8%	-5.7%	+6.5%

Table 16d:**Cycle-to-cycle change of academy acceptances by former educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy - new	-	-	-	-	-	-	+314.2%
Academy - previously Grammar	-	+6.9%	+1.2%	+1.0%	+4.4%	-8.1%	+6.6%
Academy - previously any other	-	+11.2%	+5.9%	+2.7%	+6.2%	-5.2%	7.8%

Table 17a:**Acceptance rate by educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy	86.5%	86.9%	85.0%	81.6%	84.2%	84.4%	86.4%
Further education	79.1%	80.3%	79.1%	74.7%	76.5%	77.7%	80.9%
Grammar	86.4%	87.3%	85.2%	81.0%	82.3%	81.0%	83.6%
Independent	86.4%	85.7%	84.2%	82.8%	84.6%	85.7%	86.5%
Other	83.7%	84.6%	82.4%	74.3%	74.1%	77.3%	79.8%
Sixth form college	85.1%	86.0%	84.4%	80.6%	81.8%	82.6%	84.9%
State	82.9%	83.7%	82.6%	77.3%	78.9%	79.6%	81.8%
Total	84.1%	84.8%	83.2%	78.8%	80.4%	81.3%	83.5%

Table 17b:**Academy acceptance rate by former educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Academy - new	-	-	-	-	-	77.6%	83.1%
Academy - previously Grammar	89.6%	89.3%	87.9%	85.8%	88.8%	87.7%	89.3%
Academy - previously any other	85.5%	86.1%	84.2%	80.4%	82.9%	83.5%	85.7%

Table 18a:

Acceptances by educational establishment and institution tariff grouping (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Higher tariff group	85,191	88,449	86,984	84,391	80,862	83,413	89,747
State schools and colleges ⁽²⁾	62,169	65,338	64,109	61,281	57,714	59,705	65,421
Independent	20,218	21,125	21,058	20,562	19,388	19,926	19,927
Other	2,804	1,986	1,817	2,548	3,760	3,782	4,399
Medium tariff group	84,932	92,870	95,152	95,564	96,198	92,427	98,265
State schools and colleges ⁽²⁾	70,415	78,371	81,183	79,364	78,557	75,409	80,188
Independent	6,356	7,051	7,100	7,190	7,397	6,752	6,677
Other	8,161	7,448	6,869	9,010	10,244	10,266	11,400
Lower tariff group	96,142	103,847	114,609	118,951	130,135	113,915	120,580
State schools and colleges ⁽²⁾	79,080	88,015	98,565	100,389	108,029	93,424	98,204
Independent	2,641	2,775	3,160	3,316	3,766	2,923	2,962
Other	14,421	13,057	12,884	15,246	18,340	17,568	19,414
Total	266,265	285,166	296,745	298,906	307,195	289,755	308,592

Table 18b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by educational establishment and institution tariff grouping (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Higher tariff group	-	+3.8%	-1.7%	-3.0%	-4.2%	+3.2%	+7.6%
State schools and colleges ⁽²⁾	-	+5.1%	-1.9%	-4.4%	-5.8%	+3.4%	+9.6%
Independent	-	+4.5%	-0.3%	-2.4%	-5.7%	+2.8%	+0.0%
Other	-	-29.2%	-8.5%	+40.2%	+47.6%	+0.6%	+16.3%
Medium tariff group	-	+9.3%	+2.5%	+0.4%	+0.7%	-3.9%	+6.3%
State schools and colleges ⁽²⁾	-	+11.3%	+3.6%	-2.2%	-1.0%	-4.0%	+6.3%
Independent	-	+10.9%	+0.7%	+1.3%	+2.9%	-8.7%	-1.1%
Other	-	-8.7%	-7.8%	+31.2%	+13.7%	+0.2%	+11.0%
Lower tariff group	-	+8.0%	+10.4%	+3.8%	+9.4%	-12.5%	+5.9%
State schools and colleges ⁽²⁾	-	+11.3%	+12.0%	+1.9%	+7.6%	-13.5%	+5.1%
Independent	-	+5.1%	+13.9%	+4.9%	+13.6%	-22.4%	+1.3%
Other	-	-9.5%	-1.3%	+18.3%	+20.3%	-4.2%	+10.5%
Total	-	+7.1%	+4.1%	+0.7%	+2.8%	-5.7%	+6.5%

⁽²⁾ The aggregation of state schools and colleges includes academies, further education, grammar, sixth form colleges and state centres.

Distance

Table 19a:
Acceptances by distance (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0 to 24 miles	156,436	176,175	187,071	179,028	178,438	170,895	180,870
25 to 49 miles	60,374	66,776	71,955	73,244	74,607	70,155	75,472
50 to 74 miles	41,491	45,135	48,102	49,712	50,331	47,031	50,683
75 to 99 miles	31,162	34,241	35,486	37,726	39,507	37,032	39,387
100 to 124 miles	23,120	24,504	25,791	27,092	28,311	26,590	28,391
125 to 149 miles	14,296	14,925	15,816	16,515	17,401	16,098	17,192
150 to 174 miles	12,697	13,342	14,106	14,925	15,595	14,009	15,377
175 miles or further	20,609	21,421	23,076	23,997	24,838	23,343	25,145
Unknown	3,184	7,338	2,551	1,191	1,040	1,089	1,095
Total	363,369	403,857	423,954	423,430	430,068	406,242	433,612

Table 19b:
Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by distance (UK domiciled only, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0 to 24 miles	-	+12.6%	+6.2%	-4.3%	-0.3%	-4.2%	+5.8%
25 to 49 miles	-	+10.6%	+7.8%	+1.8%	+1.9%	-6.0%	+7.6%
50 to 74 miles	-	+8.8%	+6.6%	+3.3%	+1.2%	-6.6%	+7.8%
75 to 99 miles	-	+9.9%	+3.6%	+6.3%	+4.7%	-6.3%	+6.4%
100 to 124 miles	-	+6.0%	+5.3%	+5.0%	+4.5%	-6.1%	+6.8%
125 to 149 miles	-	+4.4%	+6.0%	+4.4%	+5.4%	-7.5%	+6.8%
150 to 174 miles	-	+5.1%	+5.7%	+5.8%	+4.5%	-10.2%	+9.8%
175 miles or further	-	+3.9%	+7.7%	+4.0%	+3.5%	-6.0%	+7.7%
Unknown	-	+130.5%	-65.2%	-53.3%	-12.7%	+4.7%	+0.6%
Total	-	+11.1%	+5.0%	-0.1%	+1.6%	-5.5%	+6.7%

POLAR2

Note: The POLAR (Participation of Local Areas) classification groups small areas across the UK into five quintile groups according to their rate of young participation in higher education in the early 2000s. In quintile 1 fewer than one in five young people enter higher education compared to well over half in quintile 5. Each quintile represents around 20 per cent of the young population. These tables follow the POLAR2 grouping (definition window for 18 year olds 2000-2004) rather than the POLAR3 grouping (definition window for 18 year olds 2005-2009) to minimise the impact of the definition window boundaries on the data trends.

Table 20a:

Acceptances by POLAR2 quintile (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Quintile 1	25,168	27,799	30,128	30,949	32,168	31,444	34,241
Quintile 2	38,473	42,025	44,568	45,401	47,145	45,146	48,671
Quintile 3	50,277	52,831	57,125	57,072	58,562	55,366	59,704
Quintile 4	63,998	67,725	70,461	71,247	72,828	67,758	72,381
Quintile 5	86,589	89,949	93,224	93,435	95,724	89,271	92,820
Unknown quintile	1,760	4,837	1,239	802	768	770	775
Total	266,265	285,166	296,745	298,906	307,195	289,755	308,592

Table 20b:

Cycle-to-cycle change of acceptances by POLAR2 quintile (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2007-2013)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Quintile 1	-	+10.5%	+8.4%	+2.7%	+3.9%	-2.3%	+8.9%
Quintile 2	-	+9.2%	+6.1%	+1.9%	+3.8%	-4.2%	+7.8%
Quintile 3	-	+5.1%	+8.1%	-0.1%	+2.6%	-5.5%	+7.8%
Quintile 4	-	+5.8%	+4.0%	+1.1%	+2.2%	-7.0%	+6.8%
Quintile 5	-	+3.9%	+3.6%	+0.2%	+2.4%	-6.7%	+4.0%
Unknown quintile	-	+174.8%	-74.4%	-35.3%	-4.2%	+0.3%	+0.6%
Total	-	+7.1%	+4.1%	+0.7%	+2.8%	-5.7%	+6.5%

JACS3 Subject Group

Table 21:

Acceptances by JACS3 subject group and educational establishment (UK domiciled only, aged 19 and under, 2013)

	Academy	Further education	Grammar	Independent	Sixth form college	State	Other	Total
Group A: medicine and dentistry	1,725	94	543	1,667	660	1,046	268	6,003
Group B: subjects allied to medicine	5,049	2,571	1,085	1,311	4,043	5,355	2,362	21,776
Group C: biological sciences	8,142	3,749	834	2,474	6,043	7,633	2,985	31,860
Group D: veterinary sciences, agriculture and related subjects	767	846	169	420	521	708	592	4,023
Group F: physical sciences	4,636	943	620	1,914	2,629	3,944	842	15,528
Group G: mathematical sciences	2,199	280	296	552	1,146	1,670	293	6,436
Group H: engineering	3,793	1,526	814	1,800	2,316	3,890	1,438	15,577
Group I: computer sciences	2,448	2,463	556	405	2,507	2,891	1,604	12,874
Group J: technologies	248	224	59	107	279	273	232	1,422
Group K: architecture, building and planning	860	535	187	455	663	900	555	4,155
Group L: social studies	5,687	2,065	702	3,267	3,907	4,755	2,235	22,618
Group M: law	3,328	1,478	603	1,044	3,505	3,373	1,207	14,538
Group N: business and administrative studies	7,426	4,045	1,121	2,852	6,300	7,596	4,140	33,480
Group P: mass communication and documentation	1,757	1,171	188	237	1,722	1,685	980	7,740
Group Q: linguistics, classics and related subjects	2,795	559	350	1,526	1,875	2,299	644	10,048
Group R: European languages, literature and related subjects	839	109	184	947	444	674	145	3,342
Group T: Eastern, Asiatic, African, American and Australasian languages, literature and related subjects	247	53	22	204	163	174	60	923
Group V: historical and philosophical studies	3,474	576	397	2,405	1,929	2,695	700	12,176
Group W: creative arts and design	4,787	7,352	502	1,288	6,016	4,703	8,188	32,836
Group X: education	2,673	1,513	295	297	2,123	2,907	1,433	11,241
Combined arts	2,115	664	247	883	1,577	1,938	762	8,186
Combined sciences	1,253	725	258	439	1,025	1,276	584	5,560
Combined social sciences	776	298	92	354	677	801	298	3,296
Sciences combined with social sciences	2,573	1,650	280	792	2,109	2,572	1,500	11,476
Social sciences combined with arts	1,691	708	235	1,014	1,131	1,464	799	7,042
General, other combined and unknown	1,167	312	170	912	620	888	367	4,436
Total	72,455	36,509	10,809	29,566	55,930	68,110	35,213	308,592

Table 22:
Clearing acceptances by JACS3 subject group (2012 - 2013)

	2012	2013	% change
Group A: medicine and dentistry	444	432	-2.7%
Group B: subjects allied to medicine	5,203	5,661	+8.8%
Group C: biological sciences	5,163	5,426	+5.1%
Group D: veterinary sciences, agriculture and related subjects	653	657	+0.6%
Group F: physical sciences	1,951	1,979	+1.4%
Group G: mathematical sciences	892	959	+7.5%
Group H: engineering	3,469	3,586	+3.4%
Group I: computer sciences	2,721	2,766	+1.7%
Group J: technologies	278	270	-2.9%
Group K: architecture, building and planning	904	919	+1.7%
Group L: social studies	5,299	5,476	+3.3%
Group M: law	3,285	3,347	+1.9%
Group N: business and administrative studies	8,610	8,565	-0.5%
Group P: mass communication and documentation	1,284	1,220	-5.0%
Group Q: linguistics, classics and related subjects	1,003	1,072	+6.9%
Group R: European languages, literature and related subjects	345	313	-9.3%
Group T: Eastern, Asiatic, African, American and Australasian languages, literature and related subjects	141	150	+6.4%
Group V: historical and philosophical studies	1,344	1,347	+0.2%
Group W: creative arts and design	4,066	4,022	-1.1%
Group X: education	1,908	2,192	+14.9%
Combined arts	1,088	1,011	-7.1%
Combined sciences	1,222	1,096	-10.3%
Combined social sciences	816	756	-7.4%
Sciences combined with social sciences	1,969	1,855	-5.8%
Social sciences combined with arts	1,014	1,092	+7.7%
General, other combined and unknown	649	929	+43.1%
Total	55,721	57,098	+2.5%



Section 3 Glossary

ABB+	The high grade qualification combinations used in the number control arrangements for most courses in England in the 2013-14 academic year. They approximate the categories that relate to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) student number control arrangements from information recorded in the UCAS system. The assessment of entry qualifications uses a number of data sources including information provided by applicants themselves.
Academic year entry rates	The number of acceptances for entry to start higher education within an academic year divided by the base population estimate. These may include acceptances from more than one application cycle. Within-cycle acceptances, those applicants accepted to start in the academic year within which they apply, are excluded from these rates.
Acceptance	An applicant who at the end of the cycle has been placed for entry into higher education.
Acceptance rate	The number of acceptances divided by the number of applicants.
Adjustment	An acceptance route where applicants who have met and exceeded the conditions of their firm choice choose to take up an alternative offer.
Age	This analysis uses country-specific age definitions that align with the cut off points for school and college cohorts within the different administrations of the UK. For England and Wales, ages are defined on the 31 August, for Northern Ireland on the 1 July and for Scotland on the 28 February the following year. Defining ages in this way matches the assignment of children to school cohorts. For applicants outside of the UK the cohort cut off for England and Wales has been used.
Applicant	A person who has made an application in the UCAS system.
Application rate	The number of applicants divided by the estimated base population.
Base population estimate	The population estimates are based upon Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates and national population projections. For 16 to 20 year olds the estimates are obtained by aging 15 year olds from the appropriate number of years earlier. This approach avoids the estimates being susceptible to changes in net migration (including overseas students) during these ages. Older ages are obtained from the mid-year estimates and national population projections without aging. In both cases the estimates are adjusted from age at mid-year to age on the country-specific reference dates using the monthly distribution of births. The small area population estimates used were provided by HEFCE.
Clearing	An acceptance route available late in the application cycle.
Cohort	A group of the population all born in the same academic year, and are therefore, for example, all aged 18 on a particular reference date.

Conditional firm	An offer made by an institution dependent on achieving specified requirements which has been accepted by the applicant as their first choice.
Cycle entry rate	Number of acceptances from a UCAS application cycle divided by the estimated base population.
Defer (deferred)	Most acceptances are into the academic year that starts immediately at the end of the cycle, for example into 2013-14 from the 2013 application cycle. Acceptances can also be deferred for entry into the following academic year, for example into 2014-15 from the 2013 cycle. These are called deferred acceptances.
Direct Clearing	Applied via Clearing without an initial application through the main scheme.
Domicile	Declared area of permanent residence.
Extra	An acceptance route where applicants who held no offers after using all five main scheme choices, make additional choices.
Firm choice	An offer made by an institution which has been confirmed by the applicant as their first choice. These can be either conditional (dependent on achieving specified requirements) or unconditional (these have no further conditions to be met and are assumed to be accepted or placed at the institution).
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England.
Higher tariff institution	An institution that belongs to the higher tariff group, from the grouping of institutions based on the average levels of attainment of their accepted applicants (summarised through UCAS Tariff points) in recent cycles. The other two groups are medium tariff institutions, and lower tariff institutions. Each group of institutions accounted for around a third of all UK 18 year old acceptances in recent cycles.
Insurance choice	An offer made by an institution which has been confirmed by the applicant as their second choice, in case the conditions of the firm choice are not met. These can be either conditional (dependent on achieving specified requirements) or unconditional (no further requirements to be met).
Main scheme	The main UCAS application scheme through which up to five institutions/courses can be applied to. This opens in September and closes to new applications on 30 June the following year.
Main scheme Clearing	Where an applicant was unsuccessful in the main scheme (ie applied before 30 June) and subsequently found a place using Clearing.
National pupil database	The Department for Education's national pupil database (NPD) holds a range of information about pupils who attend schools and colleges in England. For this analysis a link has been formed between individuals attending state schools and colleges in the NPD at 15 years old and those that were 18 years old in UCAS data three years later.

Non-EU	Countries outside the European Union. Includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, which were previously included in the data for England.
Offer	Institution decision to grant a place to an applicant; may be subject to satisfying academic and other criteria.
ONS	Office for National Statistics.
POLAR2	Developed by HEFCE and classifies small areas across the UK into five groups according to their level of young participation in HE. Each of these groups represents around 20 per cent of young people and is ranked from quintile 1 (areas with the lowest young participation rates, considered as the most disadvantaged) to quintile 5 (highest young participation rates, considered most advantaged). POLAR2 is used in preference to the newer POLAR3 to avoid any distortion of entry rate trends associated with the boundaries to the more recent period used to define POLAR3.
RPA	Record of Prior Acceptance, where an application is submitted to UCAS by an institution when an unconditional firm has been offered and accepted by the applicant.
SQA	Scottish Qualifications Authority.
Tariff	A numerical summary of qualification level.
UK	United Kingdom. Excludes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, which were previously included in the data for England.
Withdrawal	In this report withdrawal refers to complete withdrawal, where the whole application has been removed from the scheme.

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