

HEPI Report (62)

Annex B1 – Application rates – definitions and descriptions

1. Spreadsheets providing details of the calculations are shown at Annex B2.

Main report table 10

2. The 'Dip' is calculated from the rates = (Aged 18 2012) - (Aged 18 2011)

Main report figure 8

3. Plot points = 19 year rate (year n+1) / (18 rate (year n) + 19 year rate (year n+1)).
4. Rates based on the same populations, so this is the same as the ratio of the number of applicants. One person can be counted as two applicants if they apply at age 18 and aged 19.
5. Applications to nursing courses are excluded and the identification of nursing courses has improved so that the figures for years 2004 to 2011 are slightly different from those in our previous report.

Main report figure 9

6. The rates include nursing courses. The total rate aged 19 was estimated by assuming the proportion on nursing courses was the same as for 18 year old applicants.
7. The temporary effects created by the 2012-13 fee increases were calculated using the first-time 19 year old application rates. For the temporary effects created by the 2006-07 fee increases it was assumed that the proportion of the total dip in 19 year old applications due to first-time applications was the same as found for the 2012-13 fee increases in England. In both cases the high point was taken as the year following the dip:-
 - aged 18 in 2006 rate – aged 18 in 2007 rate
 - aged 18 in 2012 rate – aged 18 in 2011 rate

This is because the cohort proceeding the 'dip' year may be inflated by temporary effects. So, for example, an applicant who would have applied aged 20 in 2012, may instead apply aged 19 in 2011 to avoid the fee increase. This change would increase the 19 year old application rate for the cohort aged 18 in 2010-11.

Main report figure 10

8. The rates include nursing courses. The total rates aged 20 were estimated by assuming the proportion on nursing courses were the same as for 18 year old applicants.

9. Figure B1-1 shows for each age cohort the proportion of those applying at 18, 19 or 20 who apply aged 20. The horizontal axis shows the year when the cohort was aged 18.

10. Figure B1-1: Proportion of 20 year old applicants out of 18 ,19 and 20 year old applicants in the same age cohort (the cohort aged 18 in the year in question)

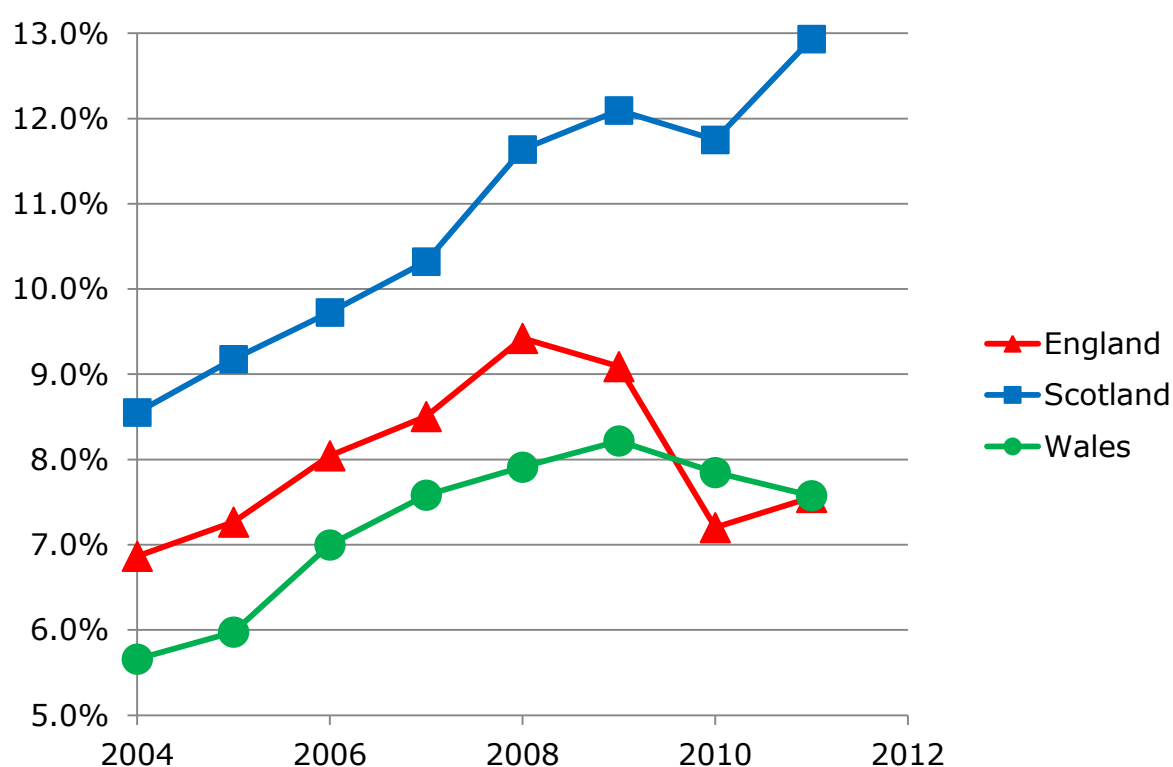


Figure B1-1 details

Source - UCAS, 2013a, figures 17, 19 and 20.

Plot points = $20 \text{ year rate (year } n+2) / (18 \text{ rate (year } n) + 19 \text{ year rate (year } n+1) + 20 \text{ year rate (year } n+2))$.

Rates based on the same populations, so this is the same as the ratio of the number of applicants. One person can be counted as two applicants if they apply at age 18, 19 and/or 20. Applications to nursing courses are excluded.

11. The picture is much less clear than for the plot of the proportion of 19 year olds (Main Report figure 8). We would expect 'dips' for cohorts aged 18 in 2004 and 2010 as those who would have applied aged 20 in 2006 and 2012 applied earlier. There seems to be no discontinuity at 2004, and all three countries show the same pattern. There is a marked decrease for applicants from England for 2010, though we do not see a return to the 2009 proportion in 2011, and both Scotland and Wales see reductions, though these are much smaller. It is possible that those who would have applied aged 20 in 2013, avoided the fee increase by applying aged 18 in 2011, and this would be expected to produce a 'dip' with a two year 'base' of cohorts aged 18 in 2010 and 2011. A return to something like the 2009 cohort proportion of 20 year olds with the 2012 cohort (available from the 2014 application cycle) would support this interpretation.

12. We do not have data on first time application rates for 20 year olds, so for the main report figure 10 we have had to take the proportion of first time applications from the 19 year old data.

13. In calculating the size of the temporary 'dip', we cannot use the cohort aged 20 in 2012, so we have to use 2009. This may be slightly higher than it would have been, through those who would have applied aged 21 in 2012 applying aged 20 in 2011. This is the aged 18 in 2009 cohort. We have not tried to adjust for this effect, since 21 entry rates are about half of 20 year old rates, and the calculation is only approximate anyway, depending on a number of assumptions.

Main report figures 11 and 12

14. Applications to nursing courses are excluded and the identification of nursing courses has improved so that the figures are slightly different from those in our previous report.

15. The rates for the 20 to 24 year old groups were calculated by adding the rates for individual ages. They should be weighted by the population size of each individual age but the population data were not available. Given that the time series for the individual ages are similar (see figure B3.1 below), the time series shown for the 20-24 age group in figure 11 of the main report should not be too distorted by the lack of population weighting.

Figure B3.1: Relative mature (20 to 24) application rates – England

