

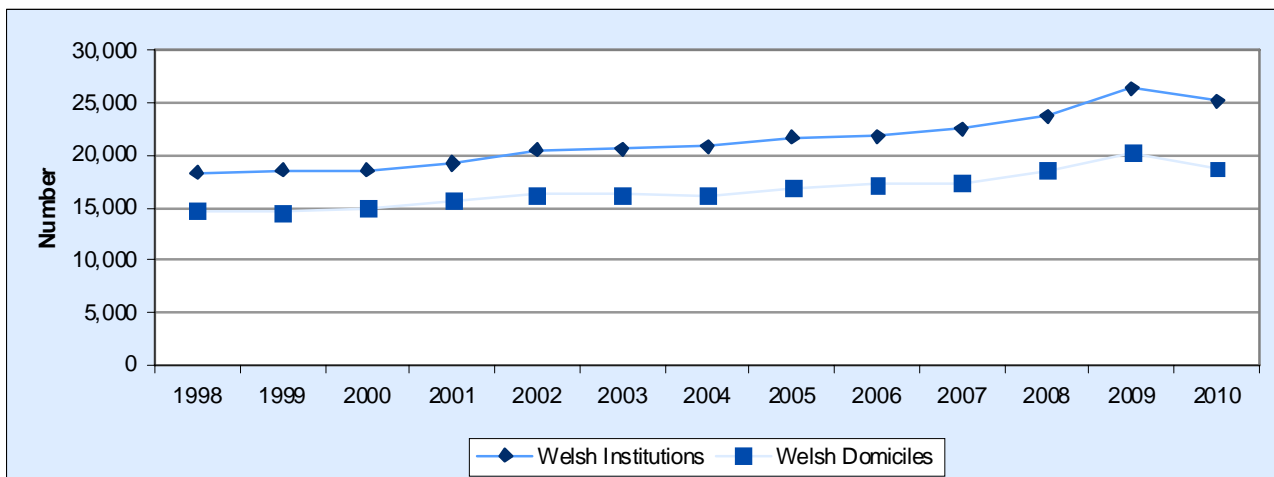
## Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Statistics 2010 Entry

This Bulletin provides an overview of some of the main features of applicants through the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), accepted to full-time degree and HND courses starting in Autumn 2010 in UK universities and colleges. The Bulletin provides a final update to the provisional figures published by UCAS in October 2010. Further information can be found on the UCAS web site.

### 2010 entry summary

- Following a sharp increase in 2009, the number of applicants who were accepted by Welsh institutions fell between 2009 and 2010, but still remained above 2008 levels. The overall trend in recent years has been one of an increasing number of applicants being accepted.
- Comparing the latest two years on a like for like basis, the number of accepted applicants at UK institutions amongst Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland domiciles all fell in 2010, but the percentage fall was greatest amongst Welsh domiciles. There was no percentage change amongst English domiciles. Compared to 2008, however, the number of accepted Welsh domiciled applicants increased slightly.
- The number of accepted applicants amongst Welsh domiciles at Welsh institutions was 15 per cent lower in 2010 than in 2009, whereas Welsh domiciles accepted at English institutions actually increased by 13 per cent. There was also an increase in the number of English domiciles accepted in Wales.
- Accepted applicants from EU countries outside the UK at Welsh institutions decreased slightly on 2009, but there was an increase in acceptances from non-EU countries.
- There was a small increase in the proportion of accepted applications from young students (aged under 21) amongst both Welsh domiciles and students at Welsh institutions.

**Chart 1: Applicants accepted to full-time higher education courses**



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Next Update: March 2012



### **Applicants accepted to Welsh institutions, 2010 entry**

- 25,162 applicants were accepted by Welsh institutions. This was a five per cent decrease on 2009, but still six per cent higher than in 2008 and 37 per cent higher than in 1998. (*Chart 1, Table 1.1*).
- 48 per cent of all applicants accepted by Welsh institutions were from Wales. This was six percentage points lower than the proportion in 2009 (*Chart 2, Table 1.1, Table 1.2*).
- The number of accepted applications by English students to Welsh institutions increased by eight per cent over this period. (*Chart 2, Table 1.1*). 42 per cent of accepted applicants were from England; 29 per cent of these came from the South West and 20 per cent from the South East. Nine per cent of applicants accepted came from overseas and 46 per cent of these were from EU countries (*Table 1.2*).
- 79 per cent of applicants accepted by Welsh institutions were aged under 21 (one percentage point higher than in 2009) and 10 per cent were aged 25 and over (one percentage point lower than in 2009) (*Table 1.3*).
- For accepted applicants the most popular subjects were *Biological Sciences* (12 per cent), *Creative Arts and Design* (10 per cent) and *Business and Administrative Studies* (10 per cent) which were also the three most popular subjects for the 2008 and 2009 entries (*Chart 3, Table 1.4*).
- Accepted applicants to *Engineering* and to *Technologies* were the most male dominated (90 per cent and 89 per cent respectively were from males), while over 82 per cent of accepted applicants to *Education* and 80 per cent of accepted applicants to *Subjects allied to Medicine* were female. Overall 54 per cent of successful applicants to Welsh HEIs were female (*Table 1.4*).
- 1,722 successful applicants to Welsh HEIs deferred their enrolment, a five per cent decrease compared with the previous year. Of all deferred enrolments 64 per cent were English domiciled (*Table 1.1a*).

### **Welsh domiciled applicants accepted to UK institutions, 2010 entry**

- 18,671 Welsh domiciled applicants were accepted by UK institutions – an eight per cent decrease on 2009, but still slightly higher than in 2008 and 27 per cent higher than in 1998. The number of accepted Welsh domiciled applicants at Welsh institutions was 15 per cent lower than in 2009, whilst the number at English institutions increased 13 per cent, the third consecutive year there had been an increase (*Chart 1, Table 2.1*).
- Excluding ex-CATCH courses<sup>1</sup>, accepted applicants to UK institutions amongst Scottish and Northern Ireland domiciles fell compared to 2009 (by five per cent and one per cent respectively).
- 65 per cent of successful Welsh domiciled applicants were accepted by Welsh institutions, six percentage points lower than in 2009, but 10 percentage points higher than 1998 (*Chart 4, Table 2.1*).
- 98 per cent of those accepted at non-Welsh institutions were at English institutions (*Table 2.2*).
- 78 per cent of Welsh applicants accepted by UK institutions were under 21 years of age (two percentage points higher than in 2009) and 12 per cent were aged 25 and over (one percentage point lower than in 2009). (*Table 2.3*).
- For accepted applicants the most popular subjects were *Creative Arts and Design* (11 per cent), *Subjects allied to Medicine* (10 per cent) and *Business and Administrative Studies* (nine per cent), which were also the three most popular subjects for the 2008 and 2009 entries. (*Chart 5, Table 2.4*)
- Over 90 per cent of successful applicants to *Engineering* were male. Conversely, just over 80 per cent of accepted applicants to *Education* and to *Subjects allied to Medicine* were female. Overall 56 per cent of successful applicants from Welsh domiciles were female (*Table 2.4*).
- 93 per cent<sup>2</sup> of Welsh accepted applicants with a known ethnicity were white (*Table 2.5*).
- 1,061 successful Welsh domiciled applicants to UK HEIs deferred their enrolment, a seven per cent decrease compared to 2009. Of all deferred enrolments 57 per cent were to Welsh HEIs (*Table 2.1a*).

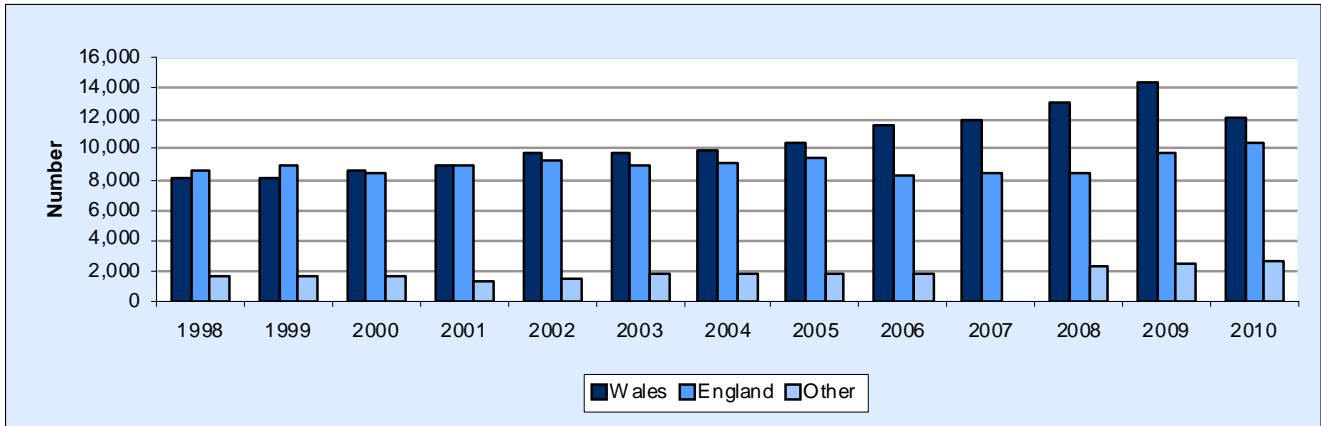
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<sup>1</sup> Applications previously processed by CATCH were processed through UCAS for first time in 2010. See 3.6 in Notes section.

<sup>2</sup> Prior to the 2004 entry bulletin, ethnicity had been presented as a percentage of all applicants, rather than of those of known ethnicity.

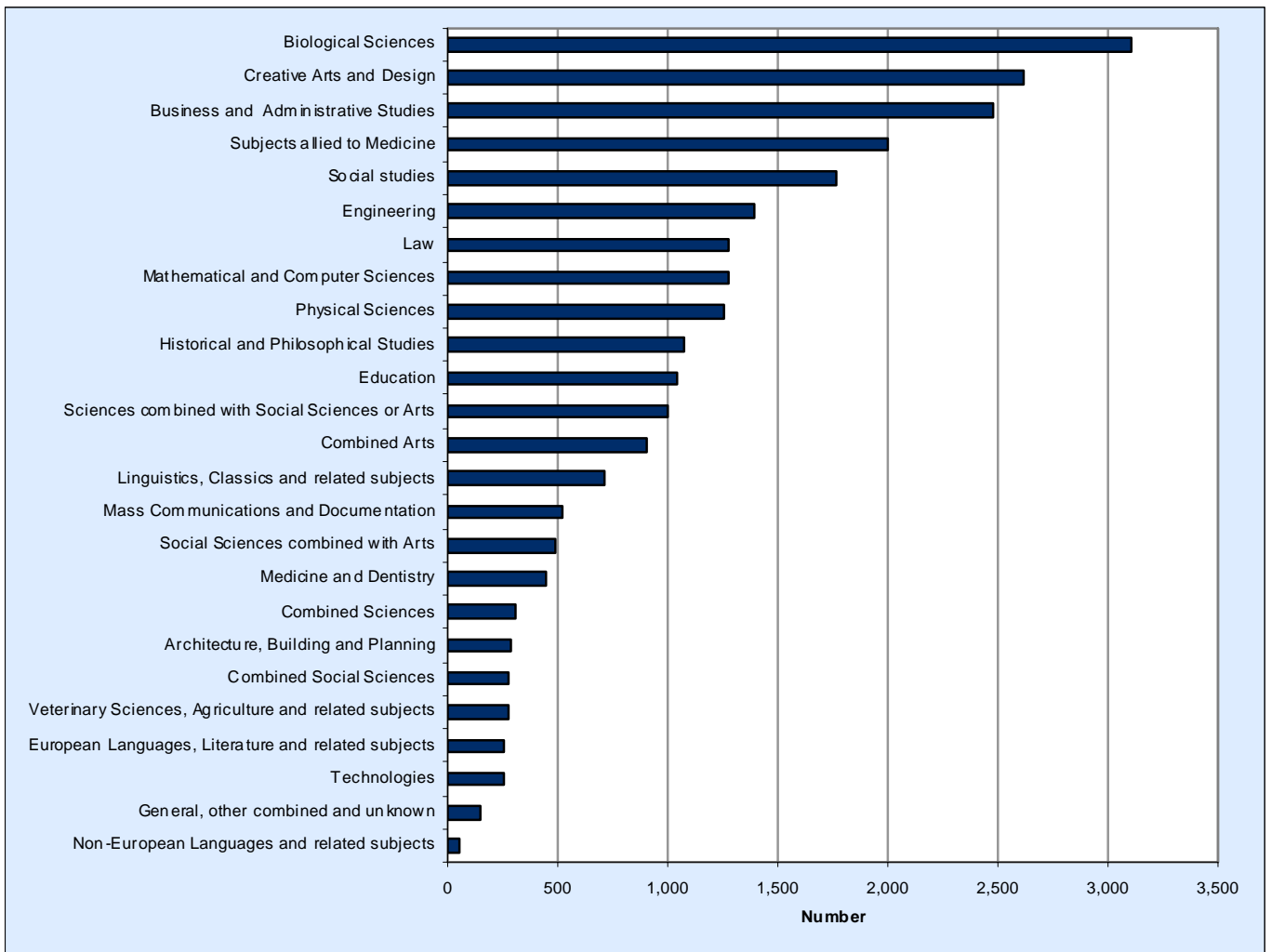
**Chart 2: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by country of domicile**

*Welsh domiciles accepted to Welsh HEIs fell in 2010, whereas accepted English domiciles continued to increase.*



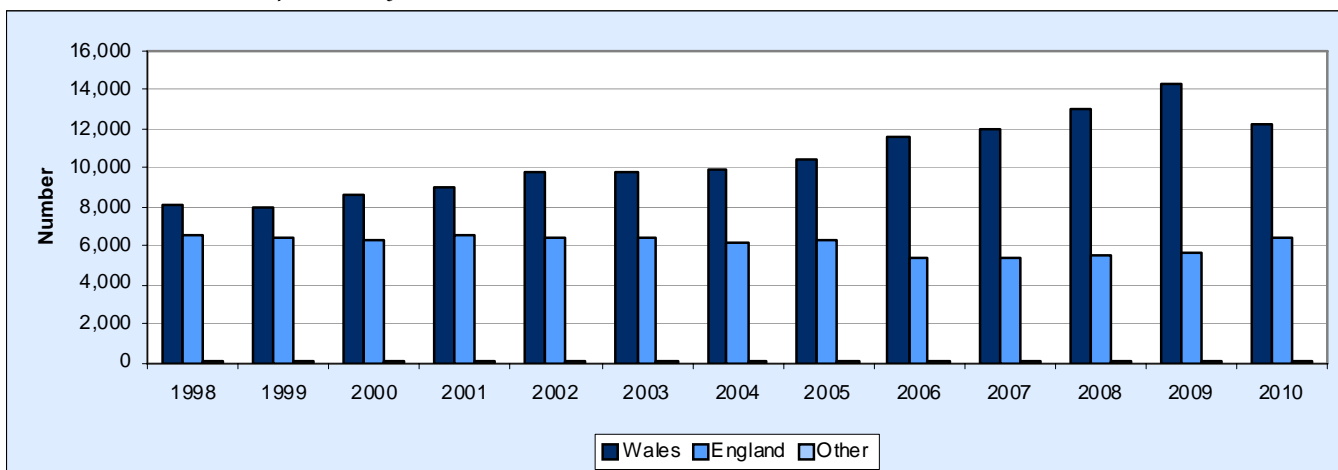
**Chart 3: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by subject of study, 2010 entry**

*The most popular subject of study for accepted applicants to Welsh HEIs in 2010 was Biological Sciences.*



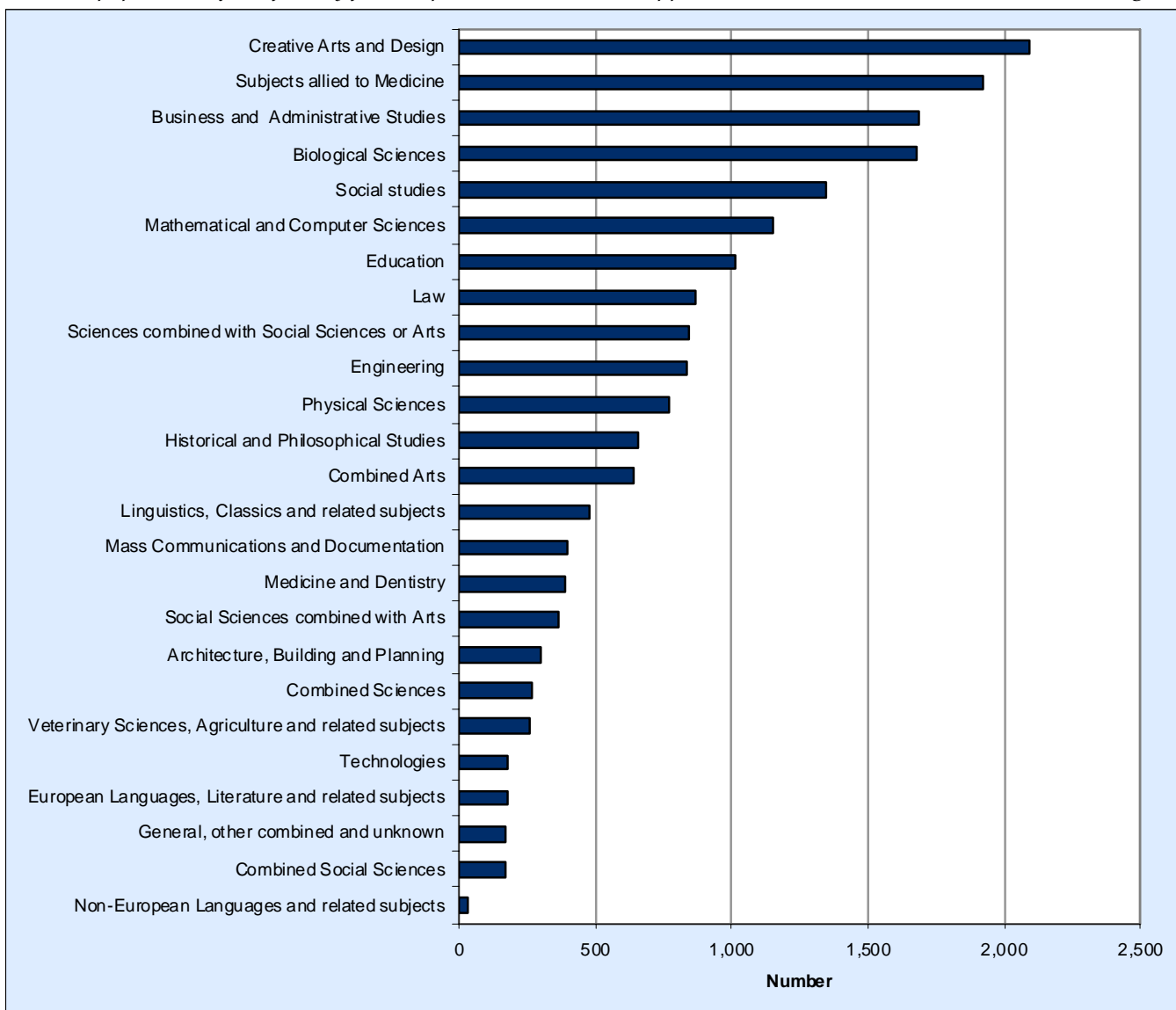
**Chart 4: Welsh accepted applicants: By country of accepting institution**

*In 2010, fewer Welsh domiciles were accepted to Welsh HEIs than in 2009, but more were accepted to English institutions than in the previous year.*



**Chart 5: Welsh accepted applicants: By subject of study, 2010 entry**

*The most popular subject of study for accepted Welsh domicile applicants in 2010 was Creative Arts and Design.*



**Table 1.1: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by country of domicile and year of entry (a)**

	UK domiciled					Overseas		Unknown or stateless	Total
	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Other UK	EU	Non-EU		
<b>Number:</b>									
1998	8,041	8,660	88	164	-	774	582	-	18,309
1999	8,032	8,898	83	122	-	870	511	-	18,516
2000	8,530	8,429	90	124	-	746	602	1	18,522
2001	8,993	8,851	84	96	-	583	602	2	19,211
2002	9,771	9,189	77	93	9	612	733	-	20,484
2003	9,726	8,966	71	92	20	632	997	1	20,505
2004	9,882	9,133	65	107	20	671	932	-	20,810
2005	10,400	9,471	64	109	11	686	910	2	21,653
2006	11,616	8,286	58	110	16	743	919	1	21,749
2007	11,945	8,445	44	101	38	779	1,133	3	22,488
2008	12,982	8,477	67	109	4	831	1,157	12	23,639
2009	14,373	9,694	52	117	4	1,078	1,086	17	26,421
2010	12,178	10,469	55	169	-	1,044	1,240	7	25,162
<b>Per cent:</b>									
1998	44	47	-	1	-	4	3	-	100
1999	43	48	-	1	-	5	3	-	100
2000	46	46	-	1	-	4	3	-	100
2001	47	46	-	-	-	3	3	-	100
2002	48	45	-	-	-	3	4	-	100
2003	47	44	-	-	-	3	5	-	100
2004	47	44	-	1	-	3	4	-	100
2005	48	44	-	1	-	3	4	-	100
2006	53	38	-	1	-	3	4	-	100
2007	53	38	-	-	-	3	5	-	100
2008	55	36	-	-	-	4	5	-	100
2009	54	37	-	-	-	4	4	-	100
2010	48	42	-	1	-	4	5	-	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 1.1a: Welsh institutions: Deferred applicants accepted by country of domicile and year of application and deferred entry (a)**

Year of application	Year of deferred entry	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total
2001	2002	360	1,275	7	6	1,648
2002	2003	481	1,305	14	4	1,804
2003	2004	506	1,297	9	8	1,820
2004	2005	625	1,377	16	9	2,027
2005	2006	612	1,275	9	8	1,904
2006	2007	620	1,062	8	5	1,695
2007	2008	621	1,168	6	5	1,800
2008	2009	599	1,009	11	4	1,623
2009	2010	716	1,077	5	6	1,804
2010	2011	601	1,106	5	10	1,722

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Deferred applicants are included in other tables according to their year of application (See Notes for further information).

**Table 1.2: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by Country or region, 2010 entry (a)**

Country or Region of domicile	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>England</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10,469</b>	<b>42</b>
North East	50	-	56	-	106	-
Yorkshire & the Humber	199	2	170	1	369	1
North West (b)	574	5	576	4	1,150	5
East Midlands	258	2	291	2	549	2
West Midlands	870	7	930	7	1,800	7
Eastern	388	3	330	2	718	3
Greater London	370	3	289	2	659	3
South East	1,047	9	1,070	8	2,117	8
South West	1,409	12	1,592	12	3,001	12
<b>Wales</b>	<b>5,262</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6,916</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>12,178</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other UK</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total overseas</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>9</b>
Africa	79	1	64	-	143	1
Americas	34	-	59	-	93	-
Australasia	1	-	-	-	1	-
Europe (EU)	512	4	532	4	1,044	4
Europe (non EU)	39	-	69	1	108	-
Far East	405	3	377	3	782	3
Middle East	86	1	27	-	113	-
<b>Total (c)</b>	<b>11,688</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,474</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25,162</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

(b) Includes Merseyside.

(c) Includes those of unknown region of domicile or stateless.

**Table 1.3: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by age(a)**

	20 and under		21 to 24		25 to 39		40 and over		All	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2001	15,502	81	1,830	10	1,464	8	415	2	19,211	100
2002	16,418	80	1,995	10	1,654	8	417	2	20,484	100
2003	16,300	79	2,027	10	1,721	8	457	2	20,505	100
2004	16,388	79	2,048	10	1,897	9	477	2	20,810	100
2005	17,213	79	2,154	10	1,830	8	456	2	21,653	100
2006	17,153	79	2,286	11	1,797	8	513	2	21,749	100
2007	17,817	79	2,315	10	1,885	8	471	2	22,488	100
2008	18,597	79	2,541	11	1,981	8	520	2	23,639	100
2009	20,505	78	3,006	11	2,250	9	660	2	26,421	100
2010	19,793	79	2,866	11	2,018	8	485	2	25,162	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 1.4: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by subject of study and gender, 2010 entry (a)**

<b>JACS Subject Group</b>	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Medicine and Dentistry	172	1	278	2	450	2
Subjects allied to Medicine	401	3	1,593	12	1,994	8
Biological Sciences	1,430	12	1,675	12	3,105	12
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects	123	1	150	1	273	1
Physical Sciences	788	7	465	3	1,253	5
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	989	8	288	2	1,277	5
Engineering	1,253	11	138	1	1,391	6
Technologies	222	2	28	-	250	1
Architecture, Building and Planning	192	2	91	1	283	1
Social studies	656	6	1,104	8	1,760	7
Law	489	4	789	6	1,278	5
Business and Administrative Studies	1,283	11	1,188	9	2,471	10
Mass Communications and Documentation	223	2	299	2	522	2
Linguistics, Classics and related subjects	208	2	501	4	709	3
European Languages, Literature and related subjects	73	1	183	1	256	1
Non-European Languages and related subjects	15	-	30	-	45	-
Historical and Philosophical Studies	566	5	506	4	1,072	4
Creative Arts and Design	1,055	9	1,563	12	2,618	10
Education	191	2	851	6	1,042	4
Combined Arts	268	2	636	5	904	4
Combined Sciences	173	1	130	1	303	1
Combined Social Sciences	110	1	166	1	276	1
Sciences combined with Social Sciences or Arts	543	5	450	3	993	4
Social Sciences combined with Arts	207	2	280	2	487	2
General, other combined and unknown	58	-	92	1	150	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,688</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13,474</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25,162</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 2.1: Welsh accepted applicants: By country of accepting institution and year of entry (a)**

<b>Number:</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Total</b>
1998	8,041	6,478	143	4	14,666
1999	8,032	6,388	110	4	14,534
2000	8,530	6,262	115	2	14,909
2001	8,993	6,527	112	4	15,636
2002	9,771	6,365	101	2	16,239
2003	9,726	6,423	121	6	16,276
2004	9,882	6,102	123	6	16,113
2005	10,400	6,324	132	7	16,863
2006	11,616	5,434	94	4	17,148
2007	11,945	5,306	108	7	17,366
2008	12,982	5,491	112	10	18,595
2009	14,373	5,679	131	13	20,196
2010	12,178	6,393	92	8	18,671
<b>Per cent:</b>					
1998	55	44	1	-	100
1999	55	44	1	-	100
2000	57	42	1	-	100
2001	58	42	1	-	100
2002	60	39	1	-	100
2003	60	39	1	-	100
2004	61	38	1	-	100
2005	62	38	1	-	100
2006	68	32	1	-	100
2007	69	31	1	-	100
2008	70	30	1	-	100
2009	71	28	1	-	100
2010	65	34	-	-	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 2.1a: Welsh deferred accepted applicants: By country of accepting institution and year of application and deferred entry (a)**

<b>Year of application</b>	<b>Year of deferred entry</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>England</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Total</b>
2001	2002	360	524	14	1	899
2002	2003	481	492	13	-	986
2003	2004	506	510	16	1	1,033
2004	2005	625	462	17	-	1,104
2005	2006	612	504	19	1	1,136
2006	2007	620	425	14	-	1,059
2007	2008	621	379	9	2	1,011
2008	2009	599	451	21	-	1,071
2009	2010	716	403	19	1	1,139
2010	2011	601	455	4	1	1,061

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service



**Table 2.2: Welsh accepted applicants: By Country or region of accepting institution, 2010 entry (a)**

Country or Region of accepting institution	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>England</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3,507</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6,393</b>	<b>34</b>
North East	64	1	66	1	130	1
Yorkshire & the Humber	230	3	285	3	515	3
North West (b)	645	8	899	9	1,544	8
East Midlands	228	3	187	2	415	2
West Midlands	338	4	406	4	744	4
Eastern	87	1	87	1	174	1
Greater London	304	4	370	4	674	4
South East	342	4	375	4	717	4
South West	648	8	832	8	1,480	8
<b>Wales</b>	<b>5,262</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6,916</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>12,178</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,186</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,485</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,671</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

(b) Includes Merseyside.

**Table 2.3: Welsh accepted applicants: By age(a)**

	20 and under		21 to 24		25 to 39		40 and over		All	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2001	12,672	81	1,342	9	1,238	8	384	2	15,636	100
2002	13,035	80	1,419	9	1,389	9	396	2	16,239	100
2003	13,038	80	1,391	9	1,427	9	420	3	16,276	100
2004	12,764	79	1,368	8	1,549	10	432	3	16,113	100
2005	13,377	79	1,564	9	1,513	9	409	2	16,863	100
2006	13,516	79	1,636	10	1,507	9	489	3	17,148	100
2007	13,592	78	1,713	10	1,621	9	440	3	17,366	100
2008	14,351	77	1,992	11	1,756	9	496	3	18,595	100
2009	15,331	76	2,261	11	1,945	10	659	3	20,196	100
2010	14,488	78	2,013	11	1,731	9	439	2	18,671	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 2.4: Welsh accepted applicants: By subject of study and gender, 2010 entry (a)**

<b>JACS Subject Group</b>	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Medicine and Dentistry	194	2	192	2	386	2
Subjects allied to Medicine	364	4	1,556	15	1,920	10
Biological Sciences	751	9	928	9	1,679	9
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects	108	1	149	1	257	1
Physical Sciences	499	6	274	3	773	4
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	879	11	269	3	1,148	6
Engineering	756	9	78	1	834	4
Technologies	162	2	20	-	182	1
Architecture, Building and Planning	226	3	72	1	298	2
Social studies	399	5	948	9	1,347	7
Law	319	4	546	5	865	5
Business and Administrative Studies	844	10	838	8	1,682	9
Mass Communications and Documentation	180	2	219	2	399	2
Linguistics, Classics and related subjects	128	2	346	3	474	3
European Languages, Literature and related subjects	34	-	141	1	175	1
Non-European Languages and related subjects	11	-	19	-	30	-
Historical and Philosophical Studies	316	4	339	3	655	4
Creative Arts and Design	834	10	1,258	12	2,092	11
Education	177	2	832	8	1,009	5
Combined Arts	179	2	463	4	642	3
Combined Sciences	133	2	135	1	268	1
Combined Social Sciences	59	1	111	1	170	1
Sciences combined with Social Sciences or Arts	433	5	413	4	846	5
Social Sciences combined with Arts	139	2	227	2	366	2
General, other combined and unknown	62	1	112	1	174	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,186</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,485</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,671</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

**Table 2.5: Welsh accepted applicants: By ethnicity and gender, 2010 entry (a)**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
White	7,391	90	9,625	92	17,016	91
Mixed	155	2	196	2	351	2
Asian	238	3	247	2	485	3
Black	95	1	107	1	202	1
Chinese	55	1	55	1	110	1
Other	39	-	49	-	88	-
Unknown	213	3	206	2	419	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,186</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,485</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,671</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

## Notes

### 1. Glossary

#### Accepted applicants (accepts)

The numbers of accepted applicants are close, but not necessarily identical, to the numbers who actually enrol.

#### Age

An applicant's age (in years) at the end of the September, and before entry to higher education. Summarised into four broad age bands.

#### Applicants

UCAS applicants are those who apply to full-time, undergraduate higher education courses offered by universities or colleges in membership of the UCAS scheme.

#### Applications

Up to 2007 entry, each applicant could make up to six applications to different courses and/or institutions. From 2008 entry onwards, each applicant may make up to five applications. From 2000 entry onwards applicants to Medicine were limited to four applications. From 2001 entry this restriction also applied to Dentistry and Veterinary science applicants.

#### Coverage

UCAS membership is limited to universities and colleges offering higher education courses, and extends to all UK universities (excluding the Open University), most colleges of higher education and some colleges of further education are UCAS members. The full list of institutions for the 2010 entry can be viewed via the link below:

[http://www.ucas.com/about\\_us/stat\\_services/stats\\_online/data\\_tables/heinstitution/2010](http://www.ucas.com/about_us/stat_services/stats_online/data_tables/heinstitution/2010)

Figures in this bulletin are the number of applicants that have been accepted, through the UCAS scheme, to full-time degree, foundation degree and HND courses starting in Autumn 2010.

#### Deferred entry

These applicants appear in UCAS statistics only in the year in which they apply. Therefore an applicant who is accepted in 2001 for deferred entry in 2002 appears in the data for 2001 entry only. Tables 1.1a and 2.1a show the numbers of deferred accepted applicants by domicile and accepting country of institution respectively.

#### Ethnicity

Applicants are asked to record their ethnic origin on the UCAS application form. Provision of this information is voluntary and it is not passed to institutions until after the selection process. Ethnicity is published in detail (**Ethnic origin**) or summarised into broad groupings (**Ethnic group**). Ethnicity data are only available for home (UK domiciled) applicants. One additional ethnic origin was introduced for 2004 entry: Chinese. This was previously included under the ethnic origin of "Asian", which is therefore not comparable with data from previous years.

#### Region

Applicant region is based on the home postcode (UK) or the area of permanent residence (overseas). A number of Applicant regional breakdowns are usually available for UCAS data, including Region: country (Government Office Region); Region: continent; Domicile; and Commonwealth.

## Subject

UCAS subject classifications employ the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS). JACS, introduced for 2002 entry, replaces UCAS' Standard Classification of Academic Subject (SCAS), which was used up to and including 2001 entry. Usually presented by broad subject area (Subject group) or detailed subject of study (Subject line). This change in classification means that the data for 2002 entry onwards are not directly comparable with data for previous years.

Where applicants apply to more than one subject area, the subject group listed most frequently on the application form is counted (preferred subject). For some subjects, this creates the impression that there are more people accepted than applied.

## 2. Policy/operational context

Fees charged by institutions for full-time undergraduate courses have undergone some changes recently. Increased fee levels ('top up fees') were introduced for courses in England and Northern Ireland in 2006/07 and in Wales a year later in 2007/08. Different fee support schemes apply to students from different UK countries. Welsh students starting a course in Wales between 2007/08 and 2009/10 may have been eligible for a Tuition Fee Grant to cover the cost of the increase in fee; however entrants in 2010/11 (excluding deferrals) were not eligible for this grant.

In 2002, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) laid out its long-term strategy for higher education in 'Reaching Higher'. This set out a vision of how the HE sector in Wales would contribute to the achievement of the education and lifelong learning programme to 2010. The strategy set out a range of targets for higher education to be met by 2010, relating to widening access, Welsh medium provision, Wales as a destination of first choice, overseas students, reducing overhead costs, 'spinout' companies from universities and research income.

In response to the Jones Review of Higher Education in Wales in 2009, the WAG published 'For Our Future', a new higher education strategy and plan for Wales which builds upon and replaces 'Reaching Higher', with the two areas of social justice and supporting a buoyant economy forming the basis of the Strategy. The HEFCW corporate strategy sets out the indicators associated with the strategy, available via the following link:

[http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/publications/corporate\\_documents/corporate\\_strategy.aspx](http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/publications/corporate_documents/corporate_strategy.aspx)

## 3. Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity and Comparability.

### 3.1 Relevance

UCAS is the organisation responsible for managing applications to full-time, undergraduate courses in the UK, together with applications through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR), the Conservatoires UK Admission Service (CUKAS) and the UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service (UKPASS).

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Assembly Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Officials in the Welsh Assembly Government;
- Other government departments;
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- Higher Education Institutions and representative bodies;

- Students, researchers, and academics;
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media;

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- general background and research;
- inclusions in reports and briefings;
- advice to Ministers;
- to inform the education policy development and decision-making process in Wales;

### **3.2 Accuracy**

This bulletin reports on the number of applicants through UCAS that are accepted. The numbers of accepted applicants are close, but not necessarily identical, to the numbers who actually enrol. Whilst UCAS data provide a useful, timely indicator of trends in higher education, they do not represent a full coverage of the higher education sector. Applicants are mainly full-time undergraduates, but even that group is not covered in its entirety. Furthermore, coverage differs across institutions depending on its profile in terms of provision and student type.

### **3.3 Timeliness and Punctuality**

UCAS published final applicant statistics for the 2010 admissions cycle in January 2011 and their annual datasets, from which data in this bulletin is derived, in February 2011.

### **3.4 Accessibility and Clarity**

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Assembly website.

### **3.5 Comparability**

UCAS is responsible for managing applications to higher education throughout the UK so comparison of statistics with other UK countries is possible. Please use the following link for UCAS media releases: [http://www.ucas.com/about\\_us/media\\_enquiries/media\\_releases/](http://www.ucas.com/about_us/media_enquiries/media_releases/)

### **3.6 Data quality issues**

Up until 2008, a table providing information relating to the socio-economic classification of accepted students was included towards the end of this bulletin. This table has been removed from 2009 onwards, as the information is no longer included in UCAS' annual datasets.

When analysing 2008 and 2009 UCAS applicant numbers, it should be noted that the NMAS service for nursing and midwifery diploma courses was incorporated into UCAS for the first time in 2008. All NMAS courses are offered in England, and most NMAS applicants are English. Therefore this change does not affect figures for Welsh institutions, and is unlikely to have much impact on figures for Welsh domiciles.

Applications previously processed by CATCH (Centralised Applications to Nursing and Midwifery Training Clearing House) were processed by UCAS for the first time in 2010. A total of 3,140 applicants fell into this category, all accepted to Scottish institutions. One of these applications was from a Welsh domicile. Where comparisons are made between 2010 and 2009 accepted applicants by domicile, CATCH courses are excluded from the 2010 figures.

For further information about the UCAS data and specific data issues:

[http://www.ucas.com/about\\_us/stat\\_services/](http://www.ucas.com/about_us/stat_services/)