Report on UCAS Applications data for March 2018 deadline

5 April 2018: today UCAS has released data regarding UK and overseas applications for full-time undergraduate courses at Higher Education Institutions for the March 2018 deadline (particularly relevant for HE courses in Arts and Design). Overall, nationally the rate of 18-year olds applications has risen to an all-time high since records began, reaching 37.8%. This is indeed very good news for the HE sector at large.

As far as applications for our subject groups Q (Linguistics, Classics and related), R (European Languages, Lit and related) and T (non-European Languages, Lit and related) are concerned, the overall trend for all domiciles registers a decrease in applications on last year’s figures. Mirroring last year’s trend, group R seems the most affected with a loss of -12%. This year, the least affected is group T with -4%, whereas group T registers a decrease of -8%.

However, when applications by sex and domicile are looked at in more details, a varied picture emerges. In particular, overall applications from EU students and non-EU students are on the increase for group T with a 7% and 49% growth on last year’s figures respectively. Figures for non-EU students for group Q are also on the rise with an increment of 4% on 2017.

When looking at gender breakdown, female applications continue to outweigh male applications nationally and internationally despite the fact that a decrease in numbers is recorded for all three groups for both sexes on last year’s figures (Women: Q -6%, R -11%, T -2%; Men: Q -13%, R -16%, T -10%).

However, some positive news comes from both Women’s and Men’s figures when international applications are considered. Of the three groups, group T outperforms the others with an increase for both sexes for EU (excluding UK) and non-EU applications: for EU applications, Women and Men are up by 7% and 4% respectively on last year’s data; for non-EU applications, group T records a whopping 69% increase for Women and a 22% rise for Men on 2017. Group Q also shows signs of growth: applications for EU Men are up by 6% and those for non-EU Women by 7% respectively.


The next set of data relevant to our groups will be released later in July 2018.

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