



Date of UCAS analysis: 30th June 2008

Date published by UCAS: 16th July 2008

KEY POINTS FROM UCAS NEWS RELEASE

NORTHERN IRELAND 2008/09 ACADEMIC YEAR

1. This report provides the third and final analysis of applications through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) for entry into higher education in 2008/09 on the number of:
 - Applicants to NI higher education institutions
 - NI domiciled applicants to UK institutions
2. This information has been extracted from the UCAS News Release published on the 16 July 2008 which can be found at

http://www.ucas.co.uk/website/news/media_releases/2008/2008-07-16
3. UCAS News Releases are published periodically throughout the year to show progress through the UCAS process. The information in this News Release relates to applicants data held by UCAS as at 30/06/2008. Comparisons with previous years are at approximately the same stage in the process.
4. It should be noted that in some cases the information includes data on Greenmount Agricultural College as it has not been possible to exclude this institution.
5. It should be noted that since 2006, applicants to St Mary's University College no longer use UCAS. Figures relating to 2005 include applicants to St Mary's University College and comparisons to 2006, 2007 and 2008 should be viewed in this context.

The following tables, comparing 2005/6 (2005), 2006/07 (2006), 2007/08 (2007) and 2008/09 (2008) data, are attached:

1. Total number of applicants applying to NI institutions by domicile.
 2. Total number of NI domiciled applicants applying to UK institutions by age.
 3. Total number of NI domiciled applicants applying to UK institutions by country of institution.
 4. Total number of NI domiciled applicants (aged 18 and under) applying to UK institutions by Socio-Economic Classification (SEC).
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The key points arising from the News Release, relevant to NI, are as follows:

Table 1 - Total number of applicants applying to NI Institutions¹ by domicile in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

- The total number of students applying to NI institutions has decreased by **5%** between 2007 and 2008, decreasing from 19,005 in 2007 to 18,072 in 2008.
- The number of NI domiciled students applying to NI institutions has decreased by **2%** dropping from 14,663 in 2007 to 14,304 in 2008.
- The number of students from Republic of Ireland applying to NI institutions decreased by **21%** (421 students) between 2007 and 2008.

Table 1

Total number of applicants applying to Northern Ireland Institutions by domicile in 2005 - 2008 (position @ 30/06/08)

Domicile	Year				% change between 2007 and 2008
	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Northern Ireland	15,396	14,868	14,663	14,304	(2%)
England	1,174	1,067	1,225	1,235	+1%
Scotland	195	138	150	154	+3%
Wales	75	47	73	67	(8%)
Rep. of Ireland	2,835	2,122	1,993	1,572	(21%)
Other EU	146	155	238	165	(31%)
Outside EU (overseas)	816	669	663	575	(13%)
Grand Total	20,637	19,066	19,005	18,072	(5%)

¹ The table excludes applicants to St Mary's University College in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 2 - Total number of NI domiciled applicants to UK Institutions¹ by age in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

- The total number of NI domiciled students applying to UK institutions has decreased by **1%** dropping from 16,827 in 2007 to 16,689 in 2008.
- There has been a **1%** decrease in the number of NI domiciled students aged under 21 applying to UK institutions, a **0.9%** increase in those aged 21 to 24 and a **0.4%** decrease in those aged 25 and over between 2007 and 2008.

Table 2

Total number of Northern Ireland domiciled applicants applying to UK institutions by age in 2005 - 2008 (position @ 30/06/08)

Age	Year				% change between 2007 and 2008
	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Under 21 years	14,702	14,466	14,065	13,917	(1%)
21 to 24 years	1,836	1,894	1,631	1,645	+1%
25 years and over	1,413	1,442	1,131	1,127	(0%)
Total	17,951	17,802	16,827	16,689	(1%)

¹ The table excludes applicants to St Mary's University College in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 3 - Total number of NI domiciled applicants to UK Institutions¹ by country of institution in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008

- Between 2007 and 2008 the number of NI domiciled applicants applying to NI, English, Scottish and Welsh institutions decreased by **2%** (359 students), **3%** (240 students) **7%** (360 students) and **18%** (176 students) respectively.

Table 3

Total number of Northern Ireland domiciled applicants applying to UK Institutions by country of institution in 2005 - 2008 (position @ 30/06/08)

Country of accepting institution	Year				% change between 2007 and 2008
	2005	2006	2007	2008	
NI	15,396	14,868	14,663	14,304	<i>(2%)</i>
England	8,837	9,419	9,072	8,832	<i>(3%)</i>
Scotland	5,896	5,798	5,502	5,142	<i>(7%)</i>
Wales	890	1,086	989	813	<i>(18%)</i>

Note

There is a difference in the number of applicants in tables 2 and 3. Table 2 refers to the total number of NI domiciled applicants at UK level. Table 3 refers to the total number of NI domiciled applicants at country level. Where an applicant has applied to more than one country, they have been counted more than once.

¹ The table excludes applicants to St Mary's University College in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Table 4 - Total number of NI domiciled applicants (aged 18 and under) to UK Institutions¹ by SEC in 2007 and 2008

- In 2008, 23.7% of NI applicants (aged 18 and under) to UK institutions were from SEC groups 5 to 7. The corresponding figure for 2007 was 24.2%.

Table 4

Total number of Northern Ireland domiciled applicants (aged 18 and under) to UK institutions by SEC in 2007 and 2008 (position @ 30/06/08)

Restricted to applicants aged 18 and under

Socio-economic classification	Year			
	2007	Percentage	2008	Percentage
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	1,013	14.3%	1,112	16.0%
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	2,131	30.0%	2,049	29.4%
3. Intermediate occupations	1,229	17.3%	1,247	17.9%
4. Small employers and own account workers	1,005	14.1%	908	13.0%
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	443	6.2%	414	5.9%
6. Semi-routine occupations	784	11.0%	758	10.9%
7. Routine occupations	500	7.0%	480	6.9%
8. Unknown	1,134		1,155	
Grand Total	8,239		8,123	

Caution needs to be exercised in examining data on socio-economic background as the question asked of applicants changed between 2007 and 2008 to take account of changing age legislation. The 2007 and 2008 questions were as follows: -

2008 question: If you are in full-time education, please state the occupation of the highest-earning family member of the household in which you live. If he or she is retired or unemployed, give their most recent occupation. If you are not in full-time education, please state just your own occupation

2007 question: If you are under 21, please give the occupation of your parent, step-parent or guardian who earns the most. If he or she is retired or unemployed, give their most recent occupation. If you are 21 or over, please give your own occupation

¹ The table excludes applicants to St Mary's University College in 2007 and 2008.