

Outcomes from the UCAS Admissions Process Review



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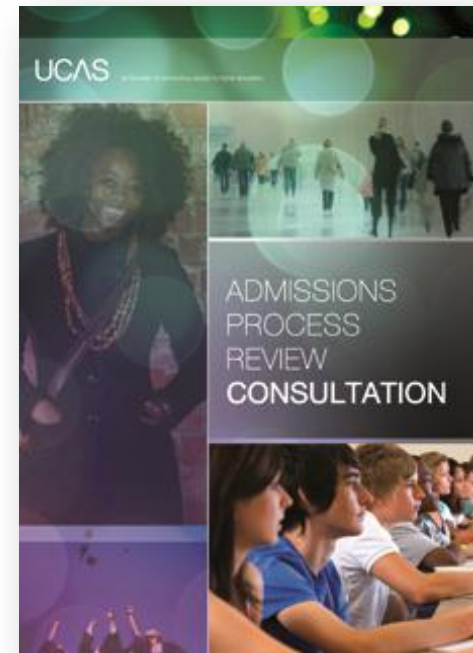
The Admissions Process Review

- The admissions process has served us well for over 50 years
- But incremental changes had made the system overly complex
- The APR was commissioned to ensure the system:
 - continues to be an efficient shared service; and
 - remains fit-for-purpose in a rapidly changing environment



The Admissions Process Review Consultation

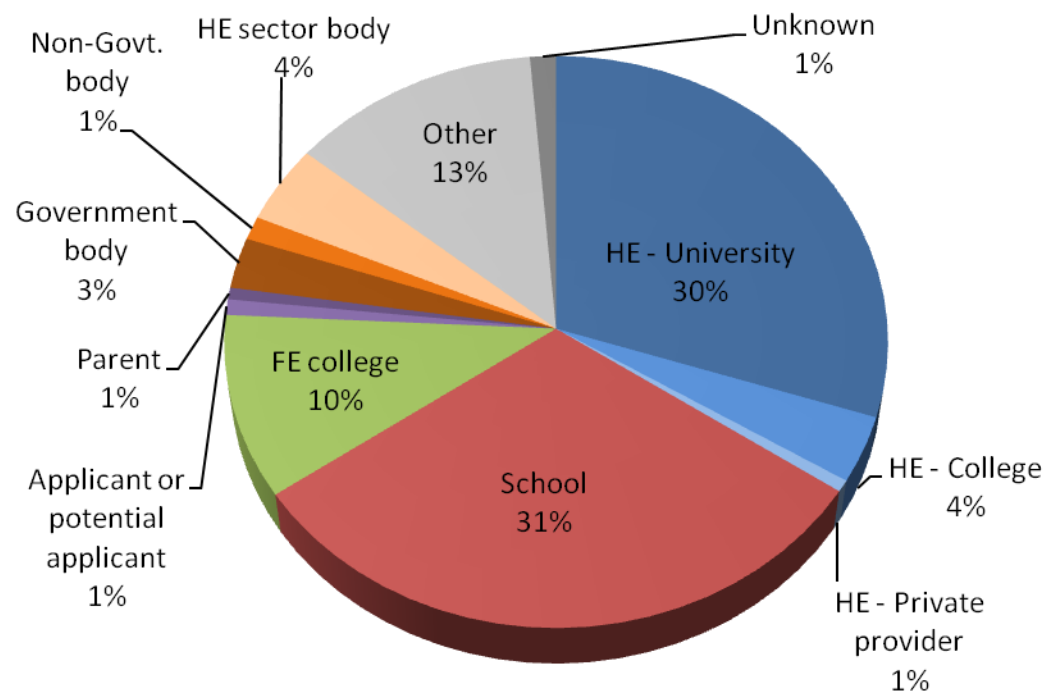
- The APR Consultation proposed changes to the admissions process for undergraduate courses in the UK
- It was launched 31 October 2011 and closed 20 January 2012
- We received diverse, thoughtful and insightful responses from across the education sector
- We are extremely grateful for the candour and resources devoted to responding to the consultation



We would like to thank you for your enthusiastic engagement

Consultation and applicant survey responses

Consultation responses by source



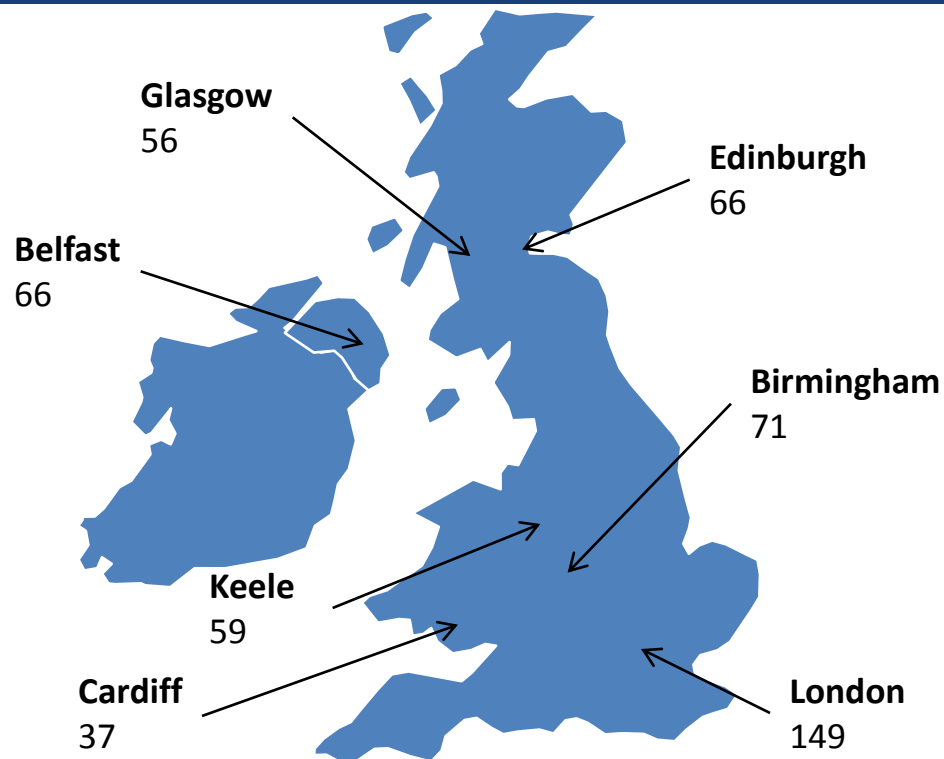
Source: UCAS Response Analysis

- **454** consultation responses were received across a broad cross section of the sector
- **11,164** survey responses were also received from current year applicants about the APR proposals
- Institutions have discussed the issues thoroughly and at the highest level before responding

The responses were detailed and showed great insight

Engagement during the APR Consultation

Consultation events and number of attendees



- Seven consultation events across the UK attended by over 500 delegates
- A widening participation event at UCAS HQ with 50 experts
- Four in-depth focus groups with undergraduate students
- 12 in-depth interviews with schools and FE colleges.

Discussing the consultation proposals with colleagues across the sector was seen as a huge positive

Outcome on proposal for post-results applications

- In principle, a logical and desirable goal
- But well articulated concerns about:
 - the practicalities of implementation
 - risks to certain applicant groups
- **UCAS is not recommending a move to post-results applications**



Positive feedback about post-results applications

- Fairer than applying with predicted grades
- More efficient for HEIs to process
- More time for applicants to research choices before applying
- Better match of applicant to course



Challenges raised about post-results applications

- Compression of key activities - exams, marking and HEI decision making
- Loss of teaching time
- Lack of time for HEI and applicant relationship building
- Loss of motivational effect of offers
- Lack of school support over the summer
- Insufficient time to prepare for entering HE



Feedback on other proposals fell into four categories

- Proposals that received strong support
- Proposals that have been refined in light of feedback
- Proposals that require further technical refinement
- Proposals that were not supported



Proposals that received strong support

- myUCAS web portal
- More mandatory fields and data validation
- Uploading documents, including portfolios
- Extend the ABL
- Improved terminology
- Better guidance for referees
- E-forms and paperless processing
- Improved facility to provide feedback
- CI visibility of the CF's conditions
- Improved information capture and data quality
- Central data capture for third parties – UKBA, SLC



Proposals that have been refined in light of feedback

- Pop-ups and wizards during the online application (rather than flags and warnings)
- Opt-in service to match results to offers (rather than automatic matching)
- Tailored section of the personal statement in Apply (rather than tailoring the full personal statement)
- Option for a new personal statement in Extra and the final application window (rather for all choices)
- Use of pop-ups and wizards to support the selection of the insurance choice (rather than using enforcing the correct use)



Implementation of well supported and refined proposals

- Well supported and refined proposals recommended for implementation
- Deliver phased implementation of these proposals from 2014 year of entry
- Continue to work with applicants, schools, colleges and HEIs in designing and testing solutions for implementation



Proposals that require further technical refinement

- Consistent adherence to deadlines and decision-making guidelines
- Offer window with no decisions before 15 January or after 31 March
- Increasing flexibility to gain offers in Extra while holding an offer from Apply
- Replacing Clearing with a managed process and introducing a gap after Confirmation



Implementation of proposals that require further refinement

- Take further guidance from sector on technical details before moving to implementation
- Establish working groups consisting of applicants, schools, colleges and HEIs and other key stakeholders
- Phased implementation post-2014 year of entry to allow sufficient time for preparation and technical refinement



Proposals that will not be implemented

- A post-results admissions model
- A reduction in choices
- Moving the 15 January equal consideration deadline
- Changing the branding of Apply or Extra



Next steps

- Embark on a programme of continuous improvement
- Seek a mandate from UUK, Guild HE and AoC to implement recommendations
- Agree and establish a cross-sector governance framework to oversee and guide the improvements, including:
 - Advisory Board
 - Working groups



Today is the start of defining a continuous improvement journey

Questions



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