# New Government, Same Challenges

# Factors Driving Student Decision-Making

Aryan Bhattacharya

**Account Manager** 







## Agenda

### Overview of the Session



Introduction Setting the Stage for Today's Session



Who Are IDP? Connecting Students with Opportunities



#### Policy Roulette

Navigating the Changing UK Education Landscape



#### **Clicks and Concerns**

What's Guiding Student Curiosity?



**Home or Away?** Mapping Shifts in Student Location Preferences



### Degrees of Interest

Tracking the Shifts in Student Interests



### When Dreams Take Shape

Timing Student Recruitment Strategies



#### In Their Own Words

What Students Love (and Loathe)



#### What We've Learned

Key Takeaways for Navigating 2025 and Beyond



### Questions and Answers

Burning Questions, Honest Answers

# Who Are IDP?

Connecting Students with Opportunities

## Who we are: IDP Education

### Shaping the future of higher education

We understand the unique challenges of our clients and sector partners. By working closely with their teams, we offer tailored data, consultancy, marketing, and in-country solutions to meet their specific needs.

Our global scale and expertise drive international recruitment solutions. Using advanced data analytics, we connect partners with the right students, supporting them throughout their journey to ensure successful outcomes.



## Whatuni

#### Used by more than 5 million users annually

## An unrivalled source of institution and course information

Fully comprehensive

180,000 student reviews

Advice sections, articles, videos and blogs.

Unique search algorithm *only* matches relevant students with courses and institutions.

### Your uni search

made easier

Find courses, read honest reviews, get expert advice

| Courses Universit | 4 |               |                     |
|-------------------|---|---------------|---------------------|
| Undergraduate     | ~ | Enter subject | Location (optional) |

#### 😤 More than 5 million people come to Whatuni each year for their university research

UK

C





## **Complete University Guide**

#### Used by more than 10.5 million users annually



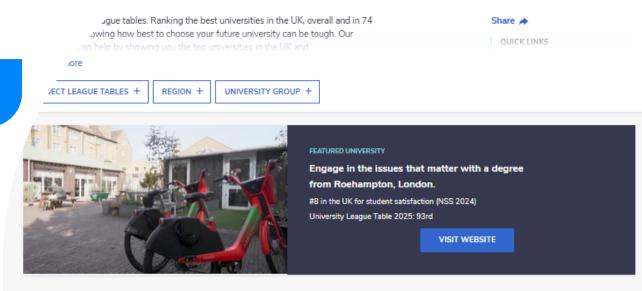
## Used by students and key influencers (parents, guardians, and teachers)

Respected and independent league table, including subject-specific rankings

Search algorithm matches students with relevant courses and institutions allowing ranking-based filtering.

Provides content-focused, trusted and agnostic advice and support for users.

#### ague Tables 2025



|                       |   | FULL TABLE                   |                                       |                         |  |                              |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| University<br>ranking | University<br>name                                    | <u>Overall</u><br>score<br>▼ | <u>Entry</u><br><u>standards</u><br>~ | Student<br>satisfaction | <u>Research</u><br><u>quality</u><br>~ | <u>Graduate</u><br>prospects |
| 1                     | University of Cambridge<br>VIEW COURSES →             | 100%                         | 98%                                   | n/a                     | 88%                                    | 93%                          |
| 2                     | University of Oxford<br>VIEW COURSES →                | 97%                          | 97%                                   | n/a                     | 87%                                    | 92%                          |
| 3                     | London School of Economics and Poli<br>VIEW COURSES → | 95%                          | 92%                                   | 77%                     | (88%)                                  |                              |
| 4                     | University of St Andrews VIEW COURSES →               | 94%                          | 100%                                  | 8.34                    |  |                              |
| F                     | Imperial College London                               |                              |                                       |                         |  |                              |

## **Trusted partner**

We partner with 85%\* of all UK universities across our 3 websites and all major UK media agencies.

Our clients span all of the institutional groups including Russell Group, MillionPlus and Post 92.

\*110 of the 130 universities in the CUG league tables



















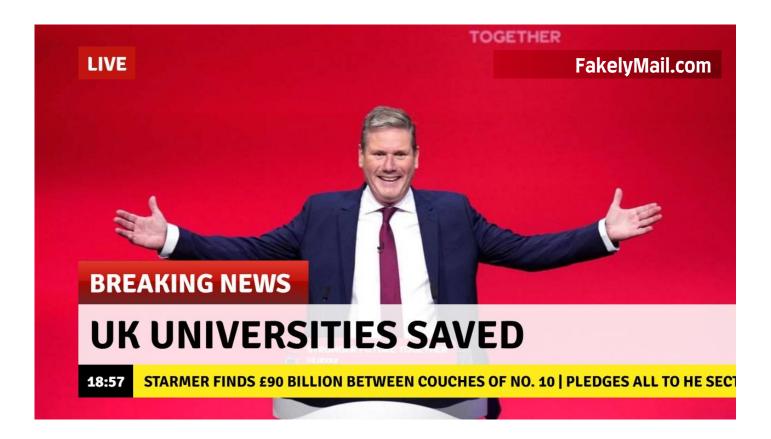


X University of Brighton

# **Policy Roulette**

Navigating the Changing UK Education Landscape







### Britain Votes to Leave E.U.; Cameron Plans to Step Down



After Britain's decision to withdraw from the European Union, the British prime minister said he would leave his post by October. Andrew Testa for The New York Times



By <u>Steven Erlanger</u> June 23, 2016

# Nick Clegg apologises for tuition fees pledge

Liberal Democrat leader apologises for making 'a promise we were not absolutely sure we could deliver'





Friday, July 17, 1998 Published at 18:00 GMT 19:00 UK

### Education

### Student tuition fees become

law



David Blunkett: "It is fair to individual students and their families"

The Education Secretary, David Blunkett, has hailed the new Teaching and Higher Education Act as a shot in the arm for universities.





Monday July 6 1992 Issue 179 Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor: Prof Kenneth Barker



#### Dawn of a new era for institution

Goodbye Leicester Polytechnic, hello De well as working internationally with partners in Europe, Montfort University!

Staff, student representatives, friends of the institution the distinguished history of De Montfort University.

Montfort Hall, with an address by Chief Executive and Vice-

"Provide teaching, research and complementary services University. I have no doubt that it is well within our capability. delivered through a distributed University which is It depends upon us sharing a common cause and working internationally competitive, locally sensitive and everywhere together." excellent."

concerned with vocationally-related knowledge and skills Executive Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Michael Brown, before and retain a strong association with the local community as a celebration lunch.

North America, the Pacific Rim and the Third World. To maintain and develop its standing on the world and civic dignitaries got together to welcome in a new era in stage De Montfort University needs to grow in size, from its

present 14,500 students to a total of 30,000 at four sites - at The celebrations began, appropriately enough at De Leicester, Milton Keynes, Lincoln and Bedford - by the turn But Prof Barker pledged that the increase in size would

He spoke about the numerous achievements of the institution in the past and highlighted the opportunities which official university status would bring in the future.

The mission of the University would, he said, be to: a polytechnic. We must now be equally successful as a new

Presentations were also made by Chairman of the Prof Barker said the institution would remain primarily Board of Governors and Pro Chancellor Dr John White and



### De Olde News

13 JAN 2025

#### Established By BENJAMIN DOVER

edee: In this most auspicious year, come to fruition, the likes of which scholars and clerics, many of whom gun, one that shall surely endure for hath not been witnessed since the are well-versed in the sacred texts of centuries to come. foundations of our beloved realm. It the church. These early disciples of

is with great joy and no small mea- wisdom have made their vows to imsure of astonishment that we, the part their knowledge to the youth of humble inhabitants of Oxford, do the kingdom, that they may grow in hereby proclaim the establishment of virtue and understanding, and thus the most venerable and noble institu- contribute to the flourishing of both tion to ever grace our shoresOxford church and state. University, a place where the learned It is also whispered in the corri-

shall gather to impart and acquire the dors of power that King William, in sacred knowledge of the heavens and his infinite wisdom, hath offered his blessing upon this noble undertaking, the earth Let it be known that this grand and that he shall, in time, bestow

undertaking, which hath been borne lands and coin upon the University to of many years of deliberation and ensure its prosperity for generations toil, shall serve as a beacon of learn- to come. The most honourable of the ing, attracting scholars from across clergy, led by Archbishop Thomas, the land, nay, even from distant for- hath likewise lent their support to eign kingdoms. The founding of this this worthy cause, for it is well underinstitution, though it may seem a stood that the preservation and propmere triffe to some, will surely echo agation of knowledge is, indeed, a dithroughout the annals of history, for vine undertaking.

here shall the brightest minds of the Many a learned man hath already start today with hopes for an increase age find sanctuary, and here shall the begun to gather at the newly con- in the worldwide moose population arts and sciences be tended as if they structed halls, bringing with them compared to last year's disapointing were sacred gardens.

is said, shall partake in the study of and earnest discussions upon all man-ures of six moose, a twenty percent most noble pursuitsbe it the myster- ner of topics. From the pursuit of increase on 2011's figures of five, and ies of the stars, the secrets of ancient mathematics to the study of ancient Uruguay whose moose population retomes, or the lofty ideals of rhetoric philosophy, from the exploration of mains stable at eleven. and philosophy. It is our belief that the heavens to the refinement of the According to Robbie McRobson, within these hallowed walls, many a Latin tongue, Oxford doth promise head of the UN Moose Preservaprodigious mind shall flourish, to the to be a place where minds may be tion Council, worldwide moose numglory of the realm and the advance- set alight, and wisdom passed down bers are expected to grow markedly ment of mankind.

through the ages. The venture is, by all accounts, Thus, it is with great pride and moose strongholds of Canada and the the brainchild of the noble Lord Bald- no small measure of anticipation that United States, with the larger dewin of Bicester, who, after much con- we, the good folk of Oxford, do veloping moose ecologies also poised sultation with the wise and learned hereby declare the establishment of to make gains. The largest percentmen of the kingdom, did decree this illustrious seat of learning. May agege increase in moose will likely that a grand hall be built to house it endure through the ages, and may come from China", says McRobson, this assembly of intellect. The edi- the wisdom of Oxford shine like a bea- The Chinese government has invested fice, though still in its infancy, doth con of light unto the world. We do heavily in moose infrastructure over

Oxford University promise to be a marvel of craftsman-hope that, in time, many a young noship and design. It is said that the bleman and lady, as well as the sons hall shall be adorned with every man- and daughters of the common folk, ner of book, scroll, and manuscript shall seek out this noble institution, known to man, so that all who enter that they too might partake in the might drink from the cup of knowl- noble work of the mind and the heart. Let it be written. Let it be known. Amongst the first of those to join Oxford University is born! And with a most remarkable enterprise hath this esteemed institution are a host of it, a new chapter of learning hath be-



International Moose Count Underway

By BOB O'BOBSTON

Moose Census got off to a flying their scrolls and parchments, their figures. Among the traditional early The worthy scholars of Oxford, it quills and inkpots, to engage in deep reporters were Egypt, returning fig-

on last year due to the traditional





## In the News...

### 2024 in Headlines

to maintenance loans.

Published 4 November 2024

#### I Higher education reform to back opportunity and protect students F

Tuition fees to rise in line with inflation, helping put

universities on a secure footing alongside inflation-linked lift

### 'ows to "we onal studer

ernment will maintain the gra ind study "with certainty an ridget Phillipson has said.

#### proition in financial arisis University tuition fees rising to £9,535 in England



Tuition fees and maintenance loans will both be increasing in the 2025/26 academic year

Hazel Shearing > Nathan Standley @hazelshearing >

Education correspondent Education reporter

The sector has welcomed an easing of hostility towards international students under the new Labour government. Photo: Unsplash.

From: Department for Education and The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP





Watch: Moment Rishi Sunak calls general election

By Paul Seddon Politics reporter, BBC News

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# That was just one year???



## **Clicks and Concerns**

What's Guiding Student Curiosity?

## **Top Articles on Complete University Guide in 2024**

### Source: IDP Google Analytics

#### Tips for writing your personal statement



#### Types of degrees in the UK

Learn about the different types of degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level that you can choose from when applying to university. CHOOSING ACOURSE POSTGRADUATE UNDERGRADUATE







#### Top 10 universities in London 2025

Would you like to study in London? Check out the Top 10 London unis and find out more about studying in the nation's capital.



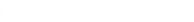




#### **UCAS** points

**Cicely Olive** 

Find out what UCAS points (also known as UCAS tariff points) are, how they're calculated, and why. Use our tables to work out your own score.





Sophie Roge

#### Student loan repayment calculations

Knowing how to calculate your student loan repayments can give you an idea of how much you might expect to pay back and over what period of time.



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## **Top Articles on Whatuni in 2024**

### Source: IDP Google Analytics

How do GCSE grades work?

Confused about how GCSE grades work? We unpack the GCSE grading system and how students will be assessed.





#### UCAS points calculator: a guide

Confused by how to calculate your UCAS points? Don't worry, our UCAS points calculator is all you need.





#### What's an HNC and HND?

Considering an HNC or HND? Learn what they are, the difference between HNC and HND, and how they can benefit you.





#### What is a BTEC? Is it as valuable as an A-level?

What's a BTEC? What's a BTEC level 3 equivalent to? How do they compare to A-levels? We've explored all you need to know.





How to change your university course during your first year

After all the excitement of starting uni has died down, it suddenly dawns on you that you actually hate your course. Now what?



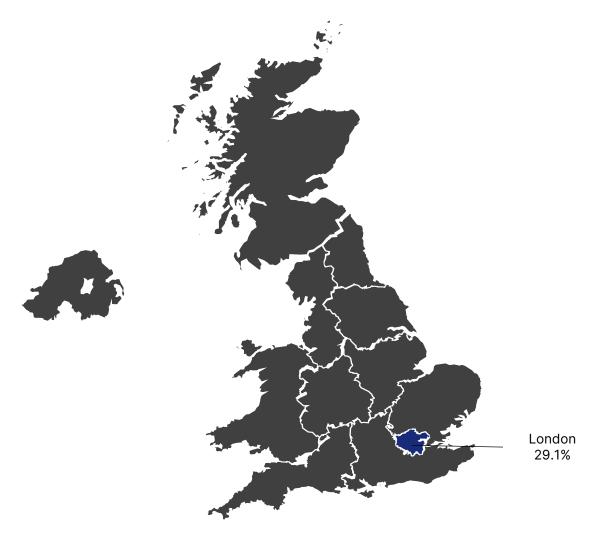


# Home or Away?

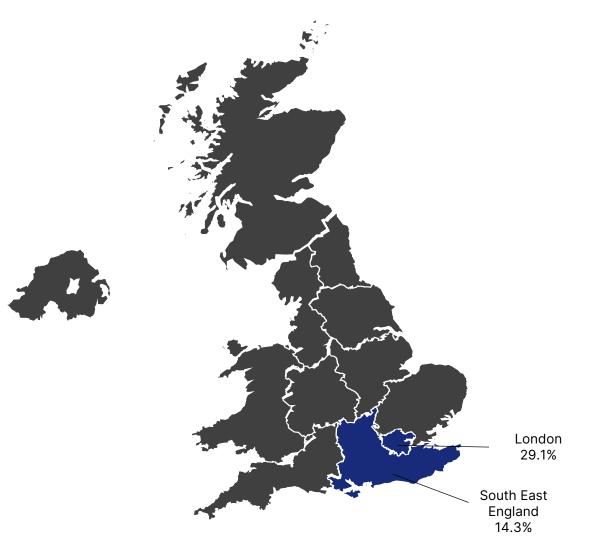
Mapping Shifts in Student Location Preferences



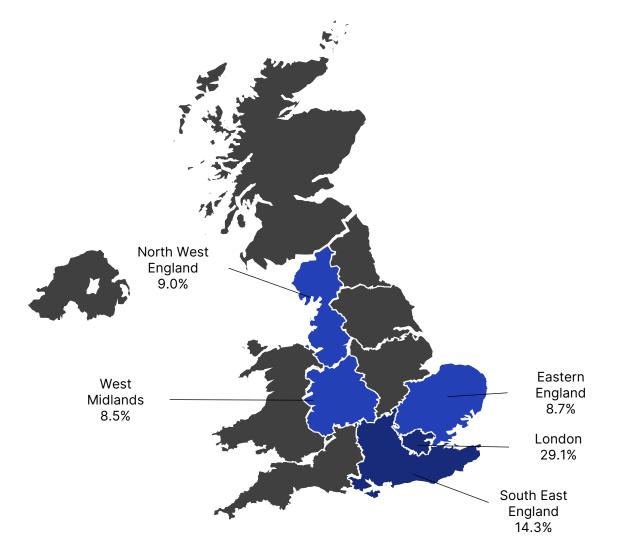




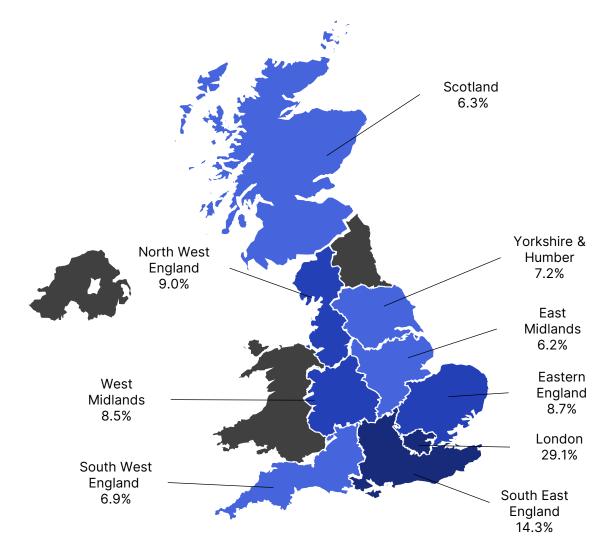




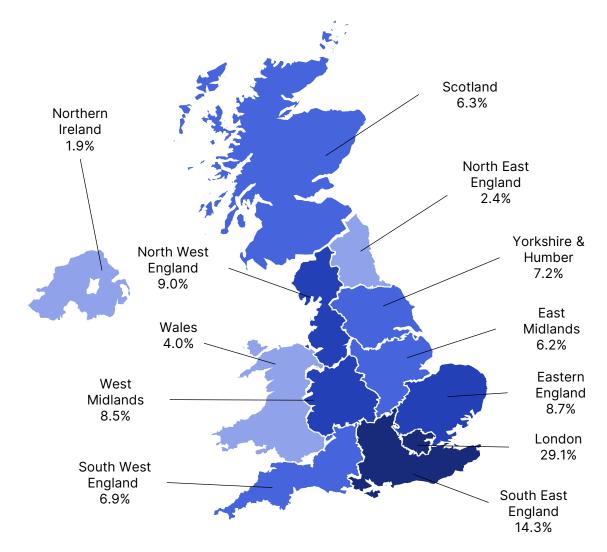




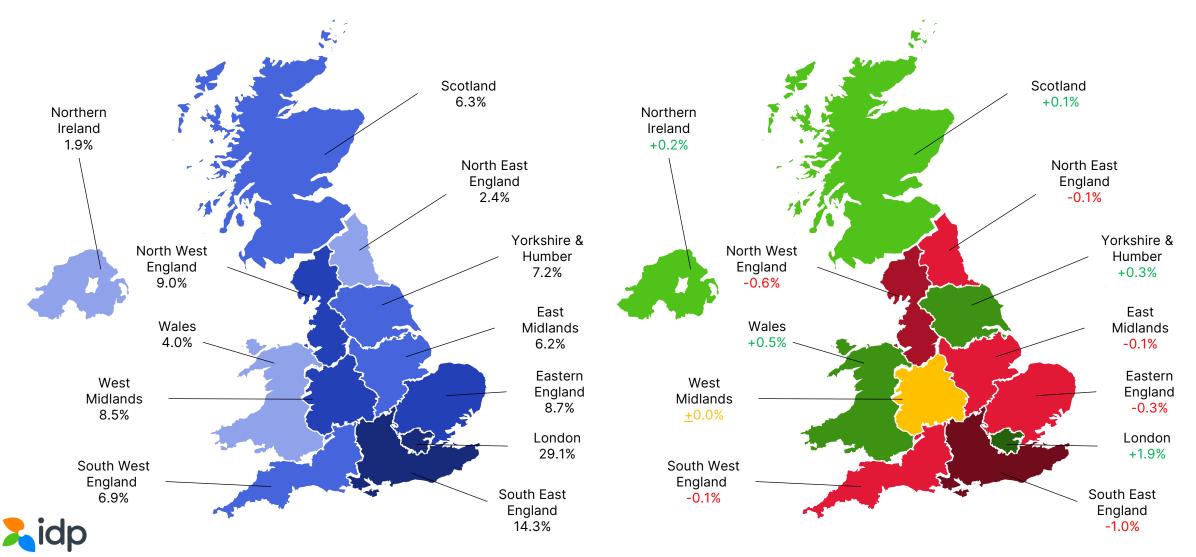




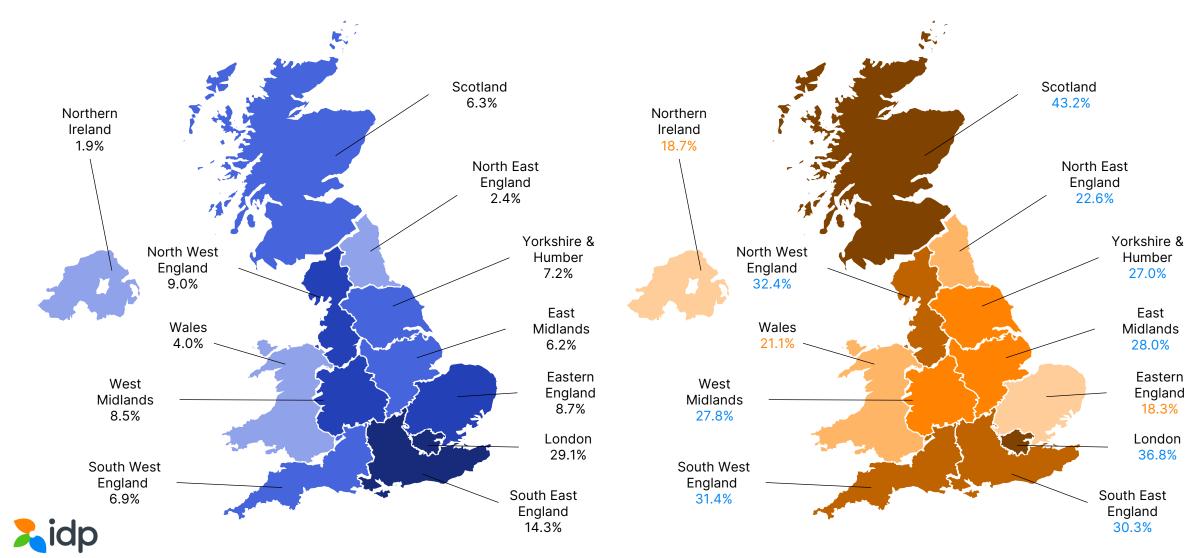


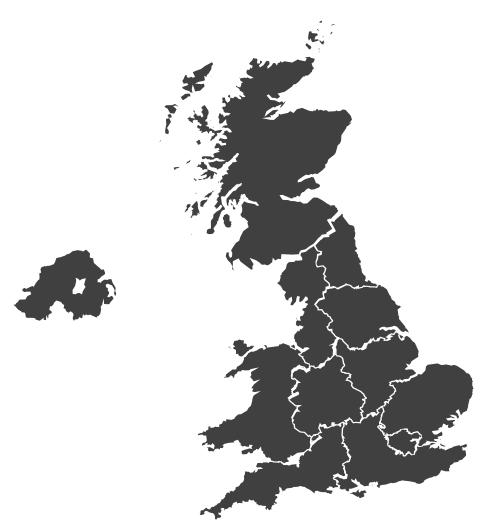






## Who's staying local?

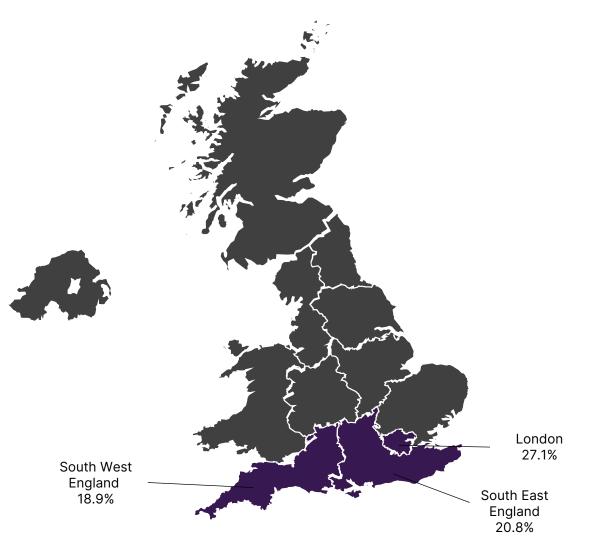




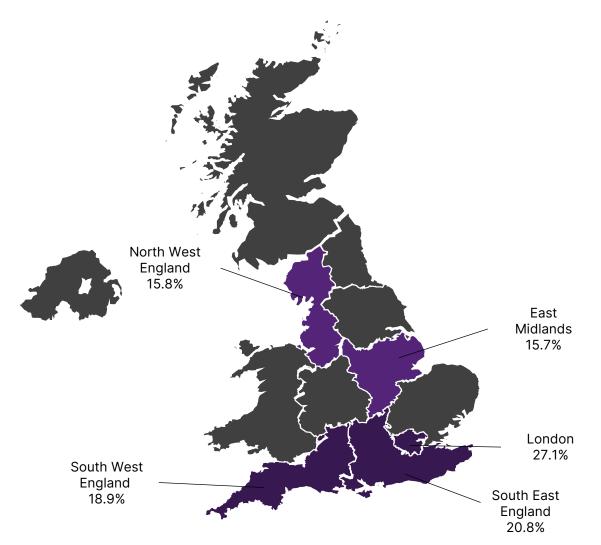




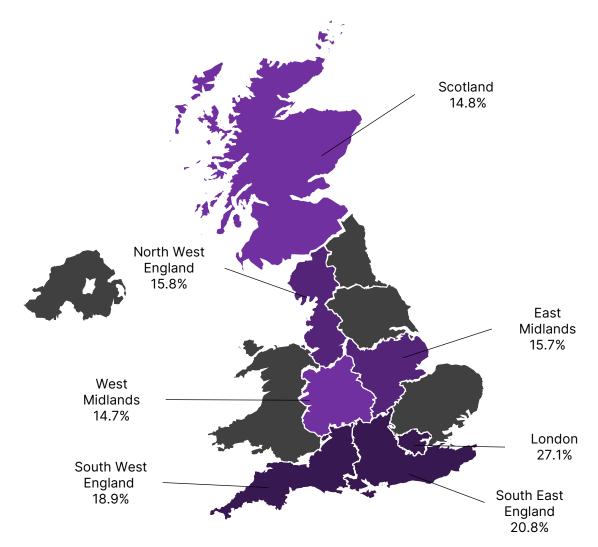




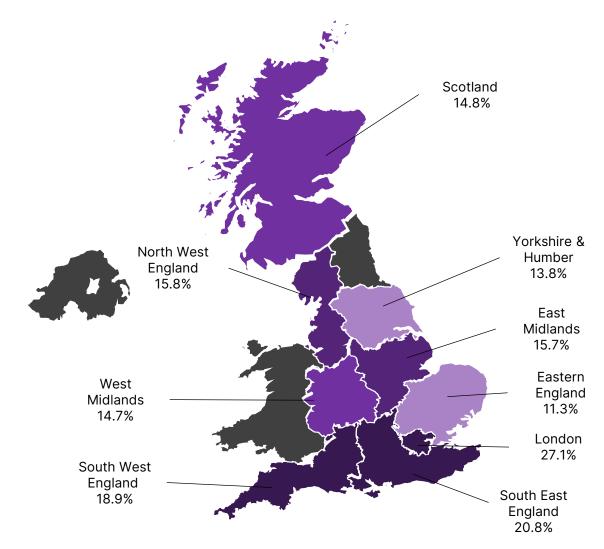






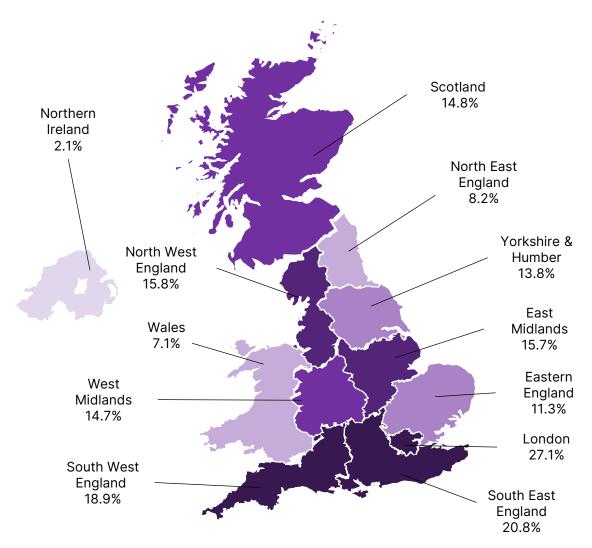






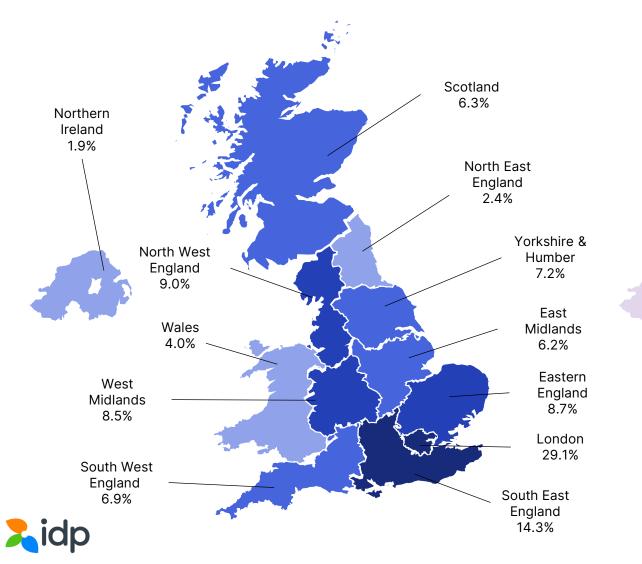


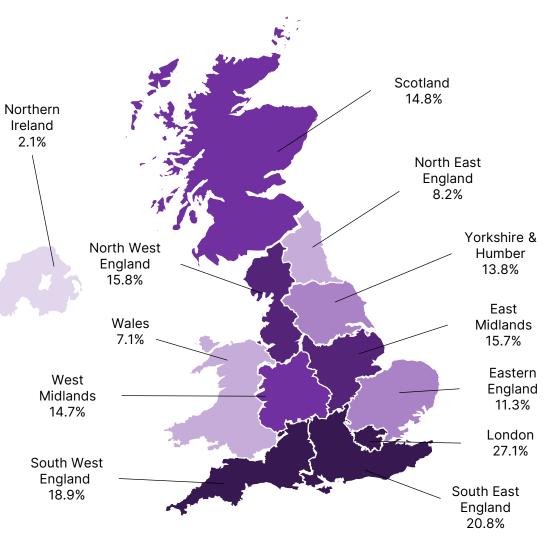
## Where are you going?





## **Origin VS Destination**





#### **Summary** Demand by Region

| Region               | Origin | Shift from 2023 | Staying Local | Destination |
|----------------------|--------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Greater London       | 29.1%  | +1.9%           | 36.8%         | 27.1%       |
| South East England   | 14.3%  | -1.0%           | 30.3%         | 20.8%       |
| North West England   | 9.0%   | -0.6%           | 32.4%         | 15.8%       |
| Eastern England      | 8.7%   | -0.3%           | 18.3%         | 11.3%       |
| West Midlands        | 8.5%   | <u>+</u> 0.0%   | 27.8%         | 14.7%       |
| Yorkshire and Humber | 7.2%   | +0.3%           | 27.0%         | 13.8%       |
| South West England   | 6.9%   | -0.1%           | 31.4%         | 18.9%       |
| Scotland             | 6.3%   | +0.1%           | 43.2%         | 14.8%       |
| East Midlands        | 6.2%   | -0.1%           | 28.0%         | 15.7%       |
| Wales                | 4.0%   | +0.5%           | 21.1%         | 14.7%       |
| North East England   | 2.4%   | -0.1%           | 22.6%         | 8.2%        |
| Northern Ireland     | 1.9%   | +0.2%           | 18.7%         | 2.1%        |

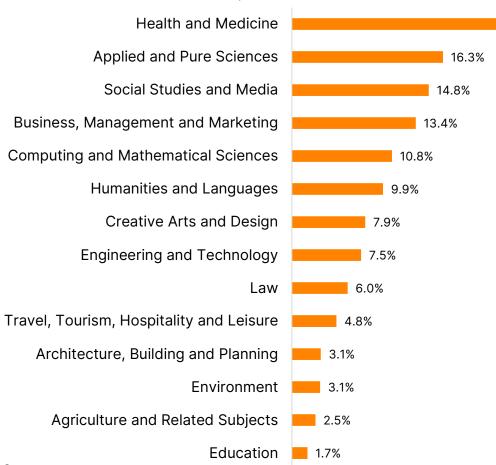


# Degrees of Interest

Tracking the Shifts in Student Interests

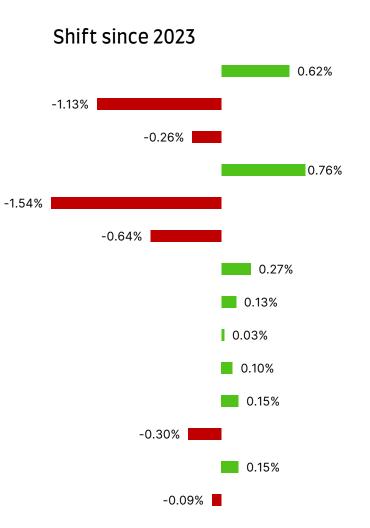
## **Subject Demand Trends**

#### **Source:** IQ Demand+ | 01 Jan 2024 – 31 Dec 2024



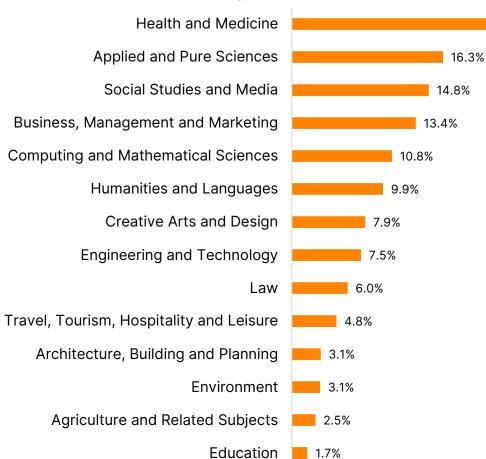
#### Subject Demand 2024

25.0%



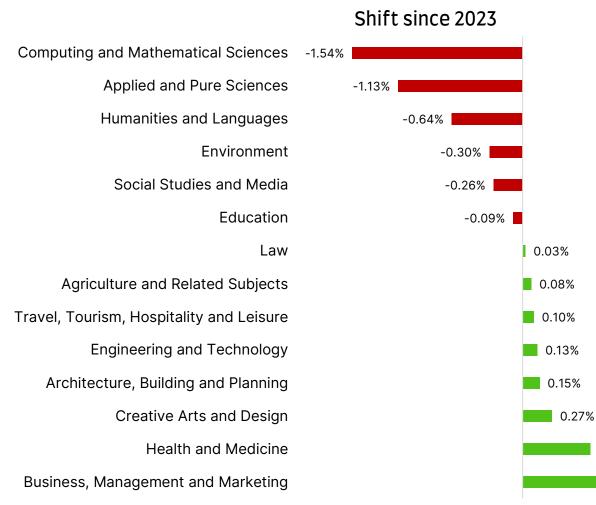
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#### Subject Demand 2024

25.0%



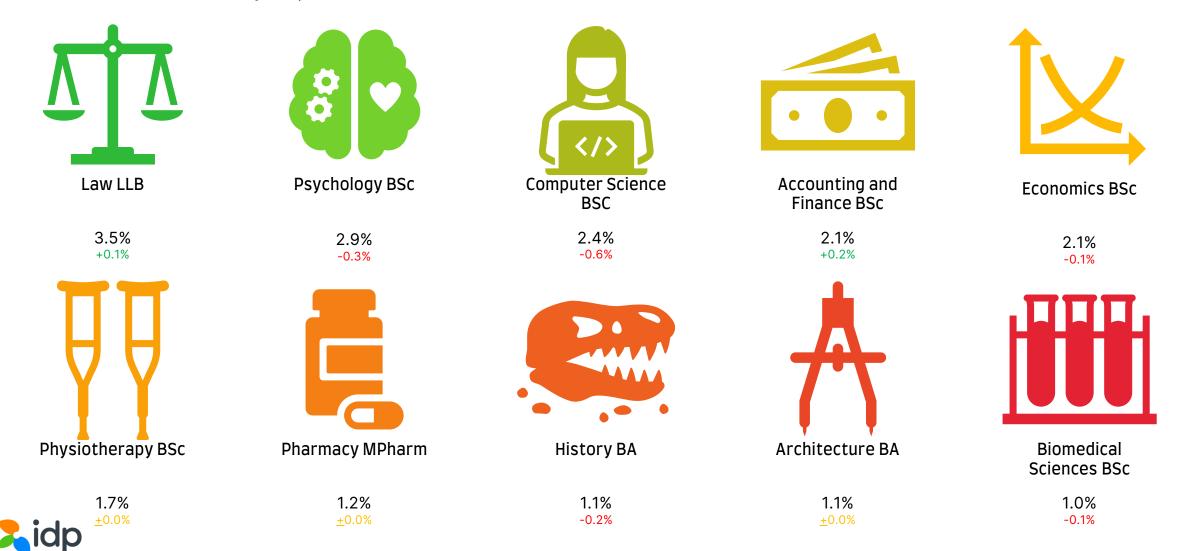
0.62%

0.76%

## **Top 10 Sub–Disciplines of 2024**

| Veterinary               | Computer Science           | Medical             | Fashion / Textiles /     | Medical Tech /           |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Services                 | Computing and Mathematical | Sciences            | Clothing                 | Pharmacology             |
| Agriculture and Related  | Sciences                   | Health and Medicine | Creative Arts and Design | Health and Medicine      |
| <b>11.5%</b>             | <b>7.4%</b>                | 6.3%                | <b>5.8%</b>              | <b>5.0%</b>              |
| +0.2%                    | +4.4%                      | +0.6%               | +0.5%                    | +0.5%                    |
|                          |                            |                     |                          |                          |
| Photography /            | Theatre and                | Health Care         | Music                    | Communication /          |
| Media Production         | Dramatic Arts              | Management          | Performance              | Media                    |
| Social Studies and Media | Creative Arts and Design   | Health and Medicine | Creative Arts and Design | Social Studies and Media |
| 5.0%                     | <b>3.8%</b>                | <b>3.3%</b>         | 3.2%                     | 3.1%                     |
| -0.5%                    | +0.4%                      | +0.2%               | -0.1%                    | -0.3%                    |

## **Top 10 Courses of 2024**



| <b>Mission Group</b> | #1           | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 |  |
|----------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|--|
|                      | Subject Area |    |    |    |    |  |
| Russell Group        |              |    |    |    |    |  |
| Post-92              |              |    |    |    |    |  |
| University Alliance  |              |    |    |    |    |  |
| Million Plus         |              |    |    |    |    |  |
| GuildHE              |              |    |    |    |    |  |
| IHE                  |              |    |    |    |    |  |
|                      |              |    |    |    |    |  |

| Mission Group       | #1                  | #2           | #3 | #4 | #5 |  |  |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|----|----|----|--|--|
|                     |                     | Subject Area |    |    |    |  |  |
| Russell Group       |                     |              |    |    |    |  |  |
| Post-92             | Health and Medicine |              |    |    |    |  |  |
| University Alliance | Health and Medicine |              |    |    |    |  |  |
| Million Plus        | Health and Medicine |              |    |    |    |  |  |
| GuildHE             |                     |              |    |    |    |  |  |
| IHE                 |                     |              |    |    |    |  |  |
| <b>X</b> idp        |                     |              |    |    |    |  |  |

| <b>Mission Group</b> | #1                  | #2                  | #3 | #4 | #5 |  |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----|----|----|--|
|                      |                     | Subject Area        |    |    |    |  |
| Russell Group        |                     | Health and Medicine |    |    |    |  |
| Post-92              | Health and Medicine |                     |    |    |    |  |
| University Alliance  | Health and Medicine |                     |    |    |    |  |
| Million Plus         | Health and Medicine |                     |    |    |    |  |
| GuildHE              |                     | Health and Medicine |    |    |    |  |
| IHE                  |                     | Health and Medicine |    |    |    |  |
| <b>X</b> idp         |                     |                     |    |    |    |  |

| Mission Group       | #1 | #2                       | #3                       | #4                       | #5 |  |  |
|---------------------|----|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|
|                     |    | Subject Area             |                          |                          |    |  |  |
| Russell Group       |    |                          | Social Studies and Media |                          |    |  |  |
| Post-92             |    | Social Studies and Media |                          |                          |    |  |  |
| University Alliance |    |                          | Social Studies and Media |                          |    |  |  |
| Million Plus        |    | Social Studies and Media |                          |                          |    |  |  |
| GuildHE             |    |                          | Social Studies and Media |                          |    |  |  |
| IHE                 |    |                          |                          | Social Studies and Media |    |  |  |
| <b>X</b> idp        |    |                          |                          |                          |    |  |  |

| Mission Group       | #1                       | #2           | #3                       | #4                       | #5 |  |  |  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|
|                     |                          | Subject Area |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |
| Russell Group       |                          |              |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |
| Post-92             |                          |              |                          | Creative Arts and Design |    |  |  |  |
| University Alliance |                          |              |                          | Creative Arts and Design |    |  |  |  |
| Million Plus        |                          |              | Creative Arts and Design |                          |    |  |  |  |
| GuildHE             | Creative Arts and Design |              |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |
| IHE                 | Creative Arts and Design |              |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |
| <b>X</b> idp        |                          |              |                          |                          |    |  |  |  |

#### **Source:** IQ Demand+ | 01 Jan 2024 – 31 Dec 2024

Zidp

| Mission Group       | #1 | #2                                    | #3                                     | #4                                    | #5                                     |
|---------------------|----|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|                     |    |                                       | Subject Area                           |                                       |  |
| Russell Group       |    |                                       |  |                                       | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing |
| Post-92             |    |                                       | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing |                                       |  |
| University Alliance |    | Business, Management<br>and Marketing |  |                                       |  |
| Million Plus        |    |                                       |  | Business, Management<br>and Marketing |  |
| GuildHE             |    |                                       |  | Business, Management<br>and Marketing |  |
| IHE                 |    |                                       |  |                                       |  |

#### **Source:** IQ Demand+ | 01 Jan 2024 – 31 Dec 2024

MP

| Mission Group       | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5                                     |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|--|
|                     |    |    |    |    |  |
| Russell Group       |    |    |    |    |  |
| Post-92             |    |    |    |    | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
| University Alliance |    |    |    |    |  |
| Million Plus        |    |    |    |    | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
| GuildHE             |    |    |    |    |  |
| IHE                 |    |    |    |    | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
|                     |    |    |    |    |  |

| Mission Group       | #1                       | #2                                    | #3                                     | #4                                    | #5                                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|                     |                          |                                       | Subject Area                           |                                       |  |
| Russell Group       |                          |                                       |  |                                       | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing |
| Post-92             |                          |                                       | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing | Creative Arts and Design              | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
| University Alliance |                          | Business, Management<br>and Marketing |  | Creative Arts and Design              |  |
| Million Plus        |                          |                                       | Creative Arts and Design               | Business, Management<br>and Marketing | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
| GuildHE             | Creative Arts and Design |                                       |  | Business, Management<br>and Marketing |  |
| IHE                 | Creative Arts and Design |                                       |  |                                       | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |



| Mission Group       | #1                       | #2                                    | #3                                     | #4                                    | #5                                     |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|                     |                          |                                       | Subject Area                           |                                       |  |
| Russell Group       |                          | Health and Medicine                   | Social Studies and Media               |                                       | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing |
| Post-92             | Health and Medicine      | Social Studies and Media              | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing | Creative Arts and Design              | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
| University Alliance | Health and Medicine      | Business, Management<br>and Marketing | Social Studies and Media               | Creative Arts and Design              |  |
| Million Plus        | Health and Medicine      | Social Studies and Media              | Creative Arts and Design               | Business, Management<br>and Marketing | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |
| GuildHE             | Creative Arts and Design | Health and Medicine                   | Social Studies and Media               | Business, Management<br>and Marketing |  |
| IHE                 | Creative Arts and Design | Health and Medicine                   |  | Social Studies and Media              | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences |



| Mission Group       | #1                           | #2                                    | #3                                     | #4                                    | #5   |  |  |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                     |                              | Subject Area                          |  |                                       |  |  |  |
| Russell Group       | Applied and Pure<br>Sciences | Health and Medicine                   | Social Studies and Media               | Humanities and<br>Language            | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing       |  |  |
| Post-92             | Health and Medicine          | Social Studies and Media              | Business, Management,<br>and Marketing | Creative Arts and Design              | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences       |  |  |
| University Alliance | Health and Medicine          | Business, Management<br>and Marketing | Social Studies and Media               | Creative Arts and Design              | Engineering and<br>Technology                |  |  |
| Million Plus        | Health and Medicine          | Social Studies and Media              | Creative Arts and Design               | Business, Management<br>and Marketing | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences       |  |  |
| GuildHE             | Creative Arts and Design     | Health and Medicine                   | Social Studies and Media               | Business, Management<br>and Marketing | Travel, Tourism,<br>Hospitality, and Leisure |  |  |
| IHE                 | Creative Arts and Design     | Health and Medicine                   | Agriculture and Related<br>Subjects    | Social Studies and Media              | Computing and<br>Mathematical Sciences       |  |  |

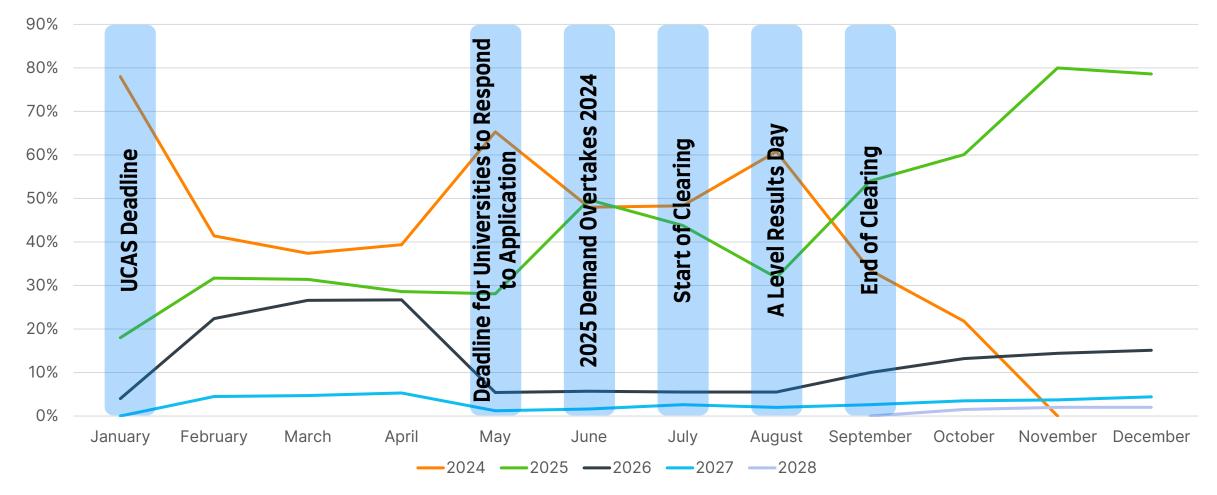


# When Dreams Take Shape

Timing Student Recruitment Strategies

## **Intended Year of Entry 2024**

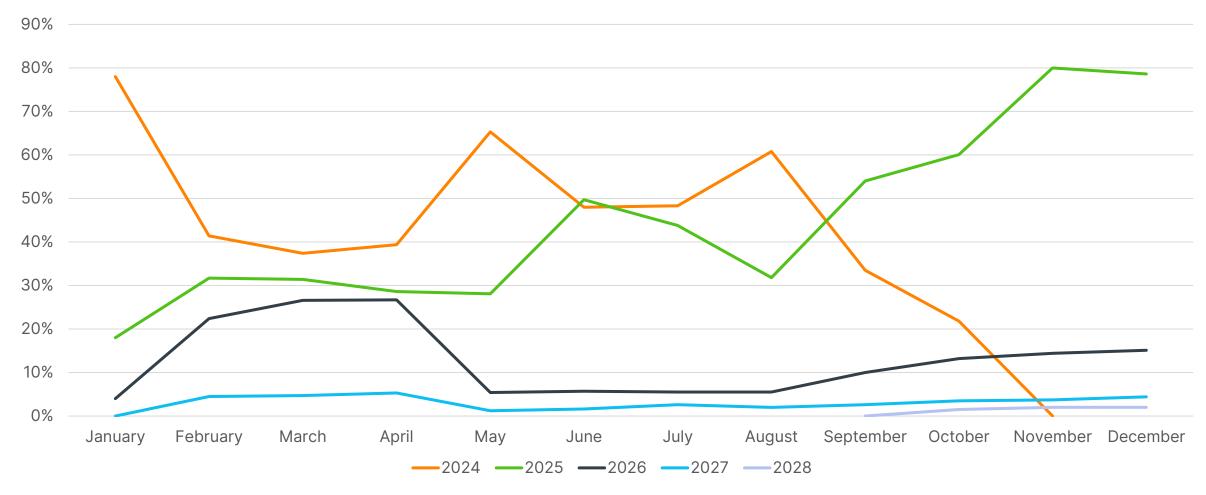
#### Source: IDP Google Analytics | 01 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2024



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## **Intended Year of Entry 2024**

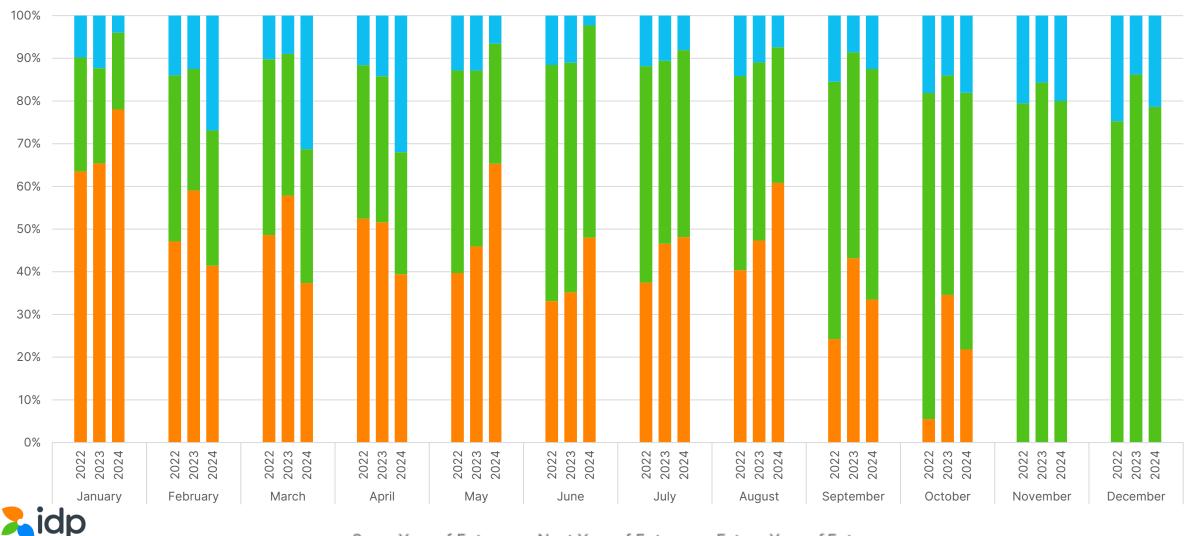
#### Source: IDP Google Analytics | 01 Jan 2024 - 31 Dec 2024





## **Intended Year of Entry Trends**

#### Source: IDP Google Analytics | 01 Jan 2022 - 31 Dec 2024

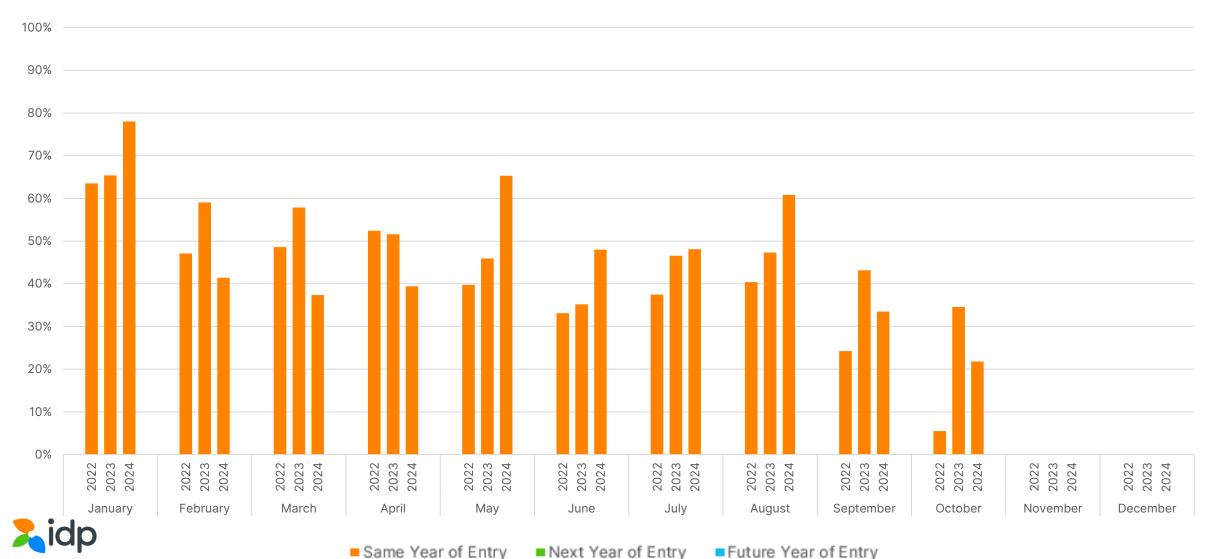


Same Year of Entry Ne:

Next Year of Entry
Future Year of Entry

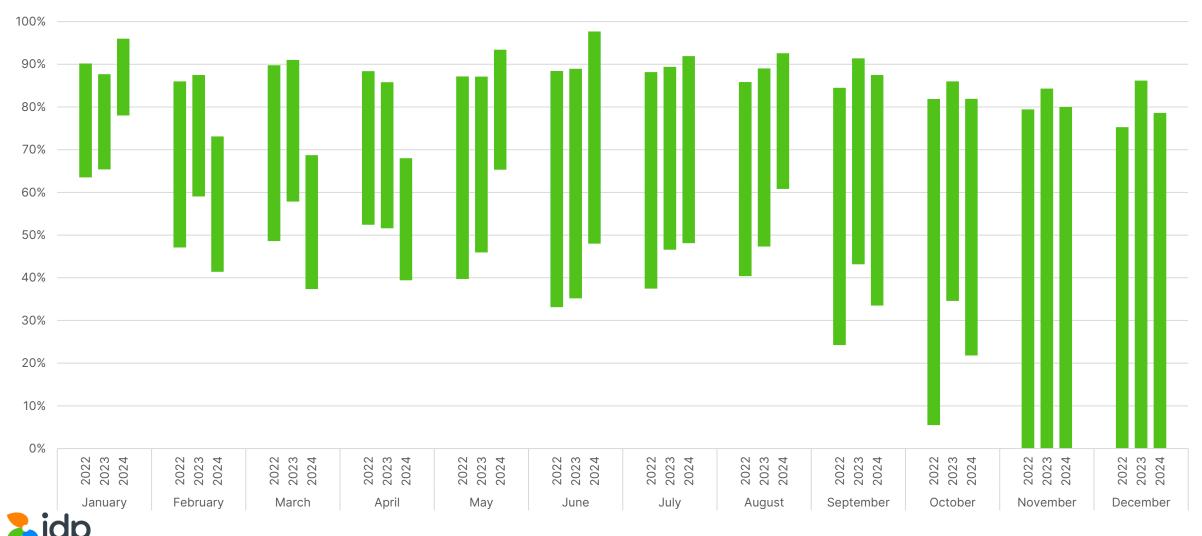
### Intended Year of Entry Trends – Same Year Trends

#### Source: IDP Google Analytics | 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2024



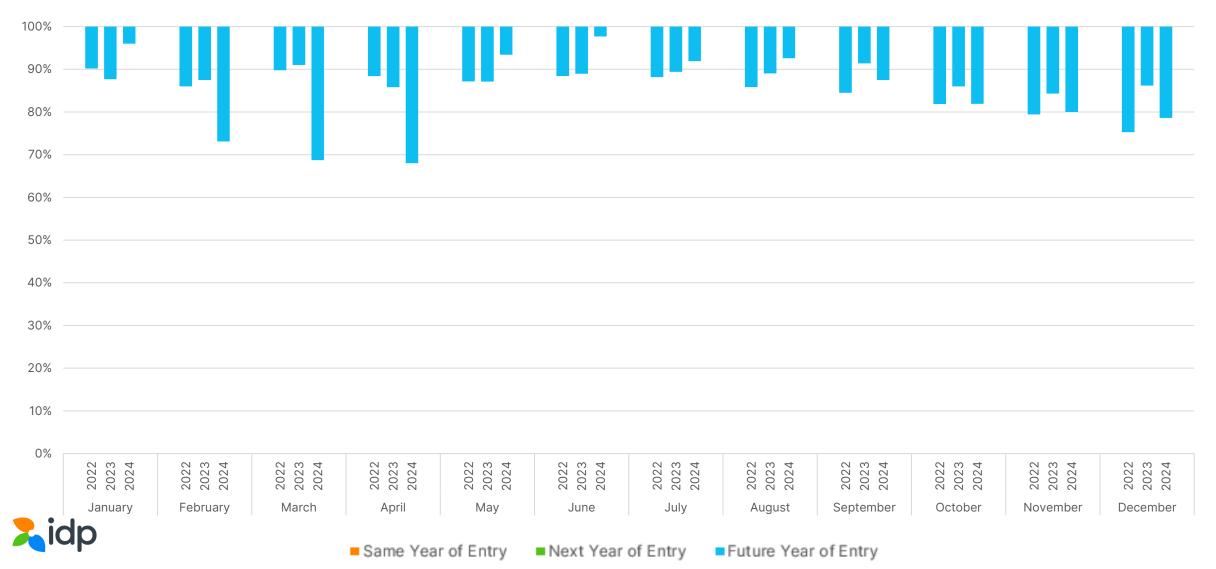
## Intended Year of Entry Trends – Next Year Trends

#### Source: IDP Google Analytics | 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2024



## **Intended Year of Entry Trends – Future Year Trends**

#### Source: IDP Google Analytics | 01 Jan 2022 – 31 Dec 2024

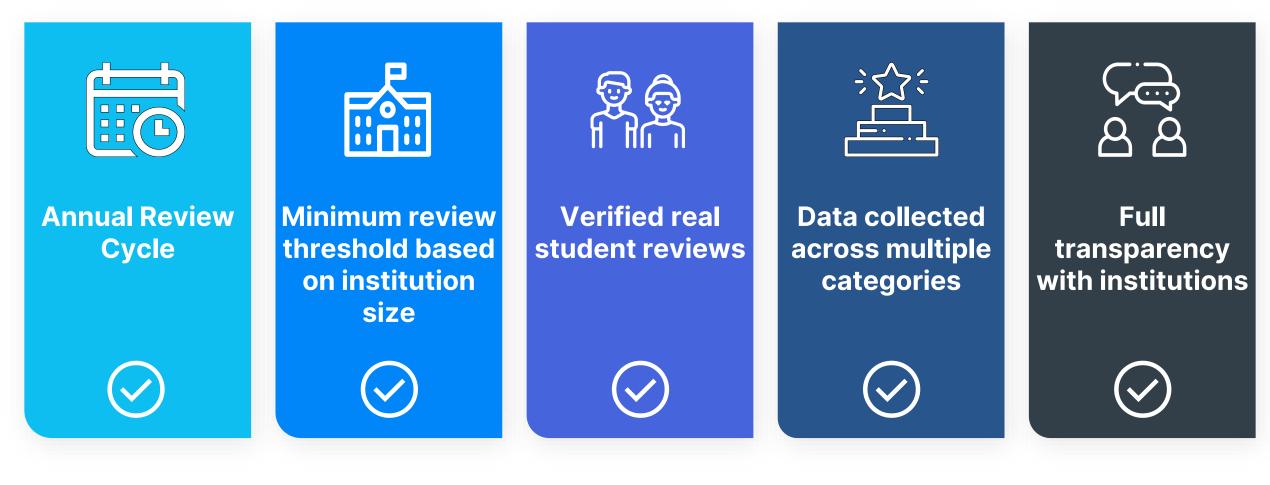


# In Their Words

What Students Love (and Not So Much)

## **Whatuni Review Collection**

The only Higher Education awards voted for exclusively by students





# What are they saying?

ChatGPT analysis of real student reviews between Mar 2024 – Dec 2024



# **University Ratings**

Universities with high overall ratings are often praised for excellent teaching, diverse extracurricular opportunities, and strong career support.

Lower ratings frequently cite issues with responsiveness to student concerns and perceived gaps in the quality of certain services or facilities.





# **Cost of Living**



Affordable universities located in smaller cities or towns are praised for their manageable living costs. Students also appreciate clear financial support or bursaries.



High costs of accommodation and overall expenses in major cities are a common complaint. Many students feel that tuition fees and living expenses aren't matched by the value they receive.





# Value for Money

Students in universities that offer robust career opportunities and excellent teaching feel they're receiving good value for their investment.



A recurring theme is dissatisfaction with high tuition fees and a sense that the education provided doesn't justify the cost.





## **Student Halls**



Students appreciate clean, well-maintained halls with modern facilities and good proximity to the campus. Social opportunities and a strong sense of community within halls are also frequently praised.



Complaints often center around high costs, limited availability of halls, and issues with heating, plumbing, or noise. Some students find the allocation process unclear or feel their preferences were not considered.



# Property Management

Prompt responses to maintenance requests and helpful property management teams are highly valued by students. Universities that actively communicate about issues and resolve them quickly receive praise.



Students commonly criticise delayed repairs, lack of transparency in handling issues, and insufficient communication about changes to contracts or policies. High fees for minimal support also receive negative feedback.





# Internet / WiFi

Universities with reliable and fast WiFi are highly appreciated, especially those with strong connectivity across all campus areas.

Complaints center around inconsistent coverage, slow speeds during peak times, and lack of reliable connectivity in accommodation.



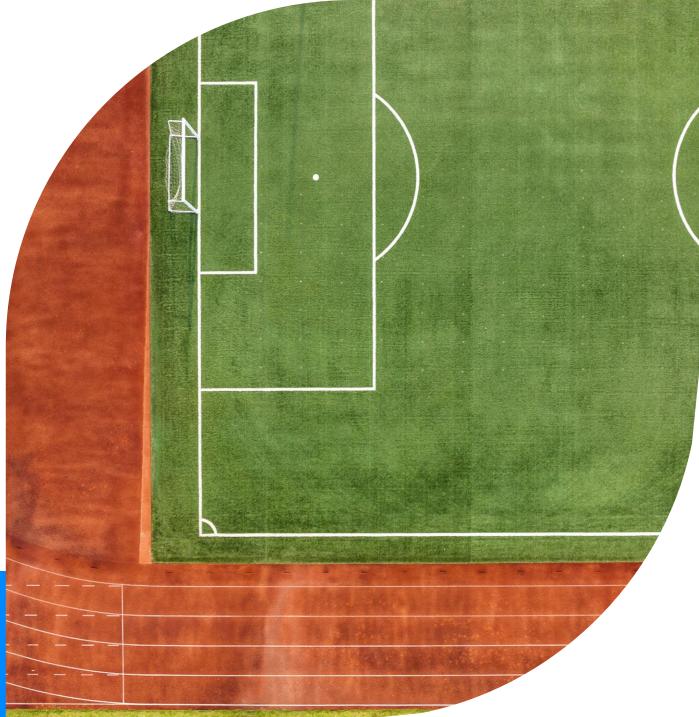


# Facilities

Modern libraries, well-equipped labs, and clean, aesthetic campuses receive positive feedback. Students value spaces designed for both individual and group study.

A few st outdate overcroy mainten

A few students raised concerns about outdated equipment or facilities, overcrowding in study spaces, and maintenance issues in older buildings.





# **Career Prospects**



Many students appreciate the availability of work placements, internships, and careerfocused workshops, which they find helpful in preparing for the job market. Universities offering strong links to industry partners are particularly praised.

Some students feel career support services could be more proactive, with better guidance on finding opportunities and clearer communication about available resources.





# **Student Support**



Positive feedback highlights accessible, understanding, and proactive support services. Students value mental health support, academic advisors, and initiatives aimed at improving well-being.



Some students feel support services are understaffed, making it difficult to get timely help. Others report a lack of follow-up or inadequate support for international students or those with specific needs.





# **Mental Health**



Students appreciate accessible mental health services, such as counseling, therapy, and peer support programs. Universities with clear communication about available resources and trained staff who offer empathetic and practical help are particularly praised.



Students often highlight long waiting times for appointments and lack of sufficient staff to handle demand. Criticism of limited awareness campaigns, with some students feeling unsure about how to access services or finding them stigmatised within the campus culture.





# **Overall Sentiment**



Students generally enjoy the social and academic environment at universities. They value community-driven experiences, opportunities for personal growth, and supportive lecturers.



A small percentage of reviews reflect dissatisfaction with administrative efficiency and communication from university staff.



# What We've Learned

Key Takeaways for Navigating 2025 and Beyond

#### **Key Takeaways**





Students remain uncertain about choices, but trends show that students are trying to inform themselves to be aware of all their opportunities. The linear "traditional" path is no longer the only option for students.



While students in

most regions do

prioritise local

institutions,

majority of

students have been

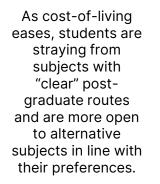
keener this year

than years prior to

migrate away from

home for university.





Users are increasingly taking longer to finalise their choices for university, reflecting uncertainty in the sector. Future generations are starting to research their choices earlier indicating that the conversion cycle is getting extended.

Factors like costof-living, student support, facilities, & accommodation have been important for student satisfaction and investment in these will be key in making institutions attractive.



# **Questions?**

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