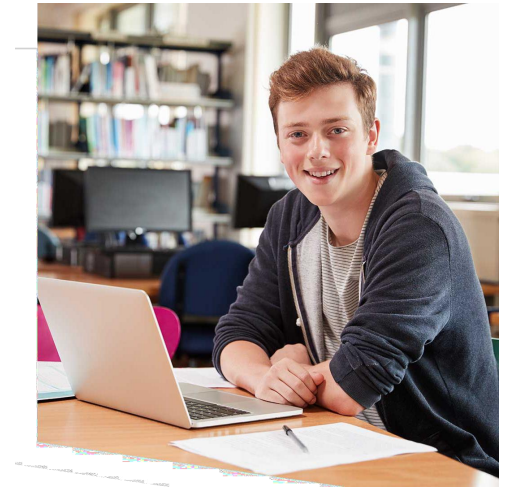


ofqual

GRADE: Grading and Admissions Data for England



Dataset overview



linked data on students' progression from school to universities and colleges covering 2017-2022 (2024)

Dataset overview

The logo for Ofqual, featuring the word "ofqual" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters "o" and "q" are underlined with a green horizontal bar.

qualification results for
GCSEs and A levels



Department
for Education

National pupil database
extracts

The logo for UCAS, featuring the letters "UCAS" in a bold, uppercase, sans-serif font.

HE applications and
admissions

- information on students' qualifications, prior schooling, socio-economic background and their university and college applications and admissions

Dataset overview - scope

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Key stage 2	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Key stage 4 / GCSEs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Key stage 5 / A levels			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
HE application			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Dataset overview – Ofqual data

- GCSE and A level qualifications and examinations taken by students of all ages in England
 - qualifications taken: subjects, tier of entry, grade boundaries
 - students' attainment: qualification marks, provisional grades issued in summer and final grades
 - basic student demographics: age, sex, prior attainment indicator
- For alternative awarding in 2020 and 2021:
 - For 2020: Centre Assessment Grades and calculated grades from the [standardisation model](#)
 - For 2021: [Teacher Assessment Grades](#)



Dataset overview – National Pupil Database

- exam results tables: student-level **results** for Key Stages 4 and 5, covering A levels, GCSE and other general and vocational or technical qualifications
- student tables: student **demographics** such as gender, age, language spoken, free school meal eligibility and special educational needs; type of school or institution and its admissions policy
- census tables: further socio-demographic characteristics (such as ethnicity) and **socio-economic indicators** such as the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
- Prior attainment: students' **prior attainment** including achievement indicators, teacher assessments and test results for Key Stage 2



Dataset overview – UCAS data

- information on applicants to the UCAS undergraduate scheme: **demographic characteristics** (such as gender, age, geographical region) and **socio-economic characteristics** (such as ethnicity, socio-economic background, deprivation index)
- information on qualifications declared by the applicant during their application: incl. **A level grades predicted by teachers**
- information on applications: **application** made (HE provider, subject), **offer** made by each HE provider (conditional, unconditional) and the **response** from the applicant (firm, insurance, not accepted)



Resources

- [GRADE data sharing project - GOV.UK](#)

Guidance

Grading and Admissions Data for England (GRADE) user guide

Updated 21 July 2025

Documents



[GRADE Ofqual data specification](#)

Ref: Ofqual/21/6748/1

ODS, 8.04 KB

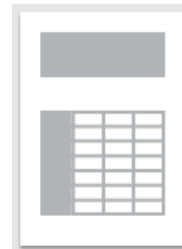
This file is in an [OpenDocument](#) format



[GRADE UCAS data specification](#)

Ref: Ofqual/21/6748/2

HTML



[GRADE DfE data specification](#)

Ref: Ofqual/21/6748/3

ODS, 156 KB

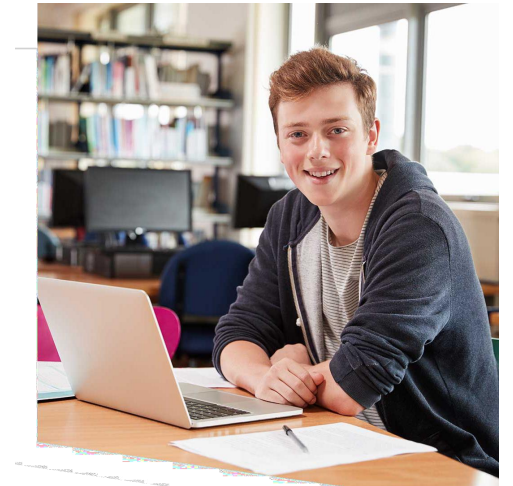
This file is in an [OpenDocument](#) format

Strengths & Limitations

- Size and coverage of student population
- Linked records
- Coverage from pre- to post-pandemic
- Detailed micro-data
- Lower bar to entry compared to much larger datasets like LEO, especially UCAS and Ofqual data are relatively easy to work with
- Administrative data
- Pseudonymisation
- Linkage restrictions
- Requires knowledge of the education system
- Smaller research community
- Specific offer letters to individual students are not available
- Outcomes for individual exam papers are not available
- No information on access arrangements, malpractice, reviews of marking or appeals

Research potential

[Publications based on the GRADE dataset - GOV.UK](#)



[ADR UK Research Fellows: Grading and Admissions Data for England - ADR UK](#)

Research potential

Blogs by ADR UK fellows working on GRADE:

- [Exploring gaps in teacher judgements and the implications for university admissions - ADR UK](#)
- [Data Insight: Gender gaps in teacher grades for university admissions - ADR UK](#)

Data Explained

GRading and Admissions Data for England (GRADE)

Exploring gaps in teacher judgement by ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status

Author: Dr Oliver Cassagneau-Francis

Date: June 2025

[Data Explained GRading and Admissions Data for England GRADE .pdf](#)

Feasibility and Applicant Support

[GRADE data sharing project - GOV.UK](#)

Ofqual

data.sharing@ofqual.gov.uk

Department for Education

data.sharing@education.gov.uk

UCAS

stats@ucas.ac.uk

Guidance

Grading and Admissions Data for England (GRADE) user guide

Updated 21 July 2025

Documents



[GRADE Ofqual data specification](#)

Ref: Ofqual/21/6748/1
ODS, 8.04 KB

This file is in an [OpenDocument](#) format



[GRADE UCAS data specification](#)

Ref: Ofqual/21/6748/2
HTML



[GRADE DfE data specification](#)

Ref: Ofqual/21/6748/3
ODS, 156 KB

This file is in an [OpenDocument](#) format

Data Access Process

Data owner review and feedback



ofqual



Department
for Education

UCAS

GRADE engagement & development

- User survey
- Update in development and planned for spring 2026: adding 2023 and 2024 data
- Supporting the research community and improving resources



ofqual

GRADE: Grading and Admissions Data for England

