

Differences in Offer Making at The University of Manchester

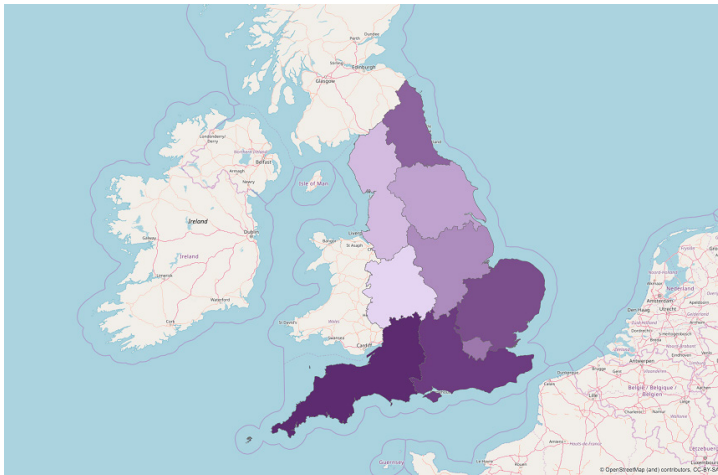
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Objectives

The aim of the report was to build upon previous research and identify whether any differences existed in the process of making an offer for those who applied for undergraduate degree courses at The University of Manchester in 2016 and 2017.

The report aimed to examine socio-demographic and widening participation trends in offer rates across academic schools at The University of Manchester whilst controlling for applicants' predicted A-level grades and subject requirements of individual academic programmes. Further to this, the report explored the intersectional relationships between certain demographic criteria and how this may affect offer rates for applicants.

This research also examined trends in offer rates within The University of Manchester for applicants who applied with non-traditional qualifications such as BTEC Qualifications, or mature students who have undertaken an Access Course.



Differences in offer rates at The University of Manchester by National Region

Methodology

The initial dataset consisted of data from 48,405 applications for undergraduate degree courses at The University of Manchester in 2016 and 2017. The data was filtered by a range of criteria for example, applicants who applied after the UCAS 30th June deadline and applications submitted for Foundation year courses were omitted from the sample.

As part of the institutional and school level analysis, controls were applied to account for the A level grade and subject requirements of each undergraduate academic programme that was offered to identify whether applications met these criteria. Applications were then categorised as either receiving an offer from The University of Manchester and applications who did not receive an offer from The University of Manchester.

I then used a range of data analysis software such as Excel, SPSS, QGIS and R to analyse the dataset and test the significance of varying widening participation and socio-demographic factors on offer rates.

Regression Modelling

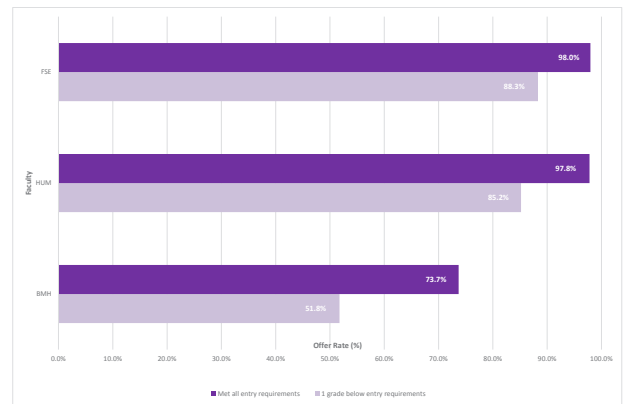
Regression modelling was utilised in this report to identify whether widening participation and socio-demographic variables (i.e. gender, ethnicity and previous school) can be shown to significantly impact the likelihood of being made an offer, and what the odds of being made an offer are compared to other applicants within the variable.

Findings

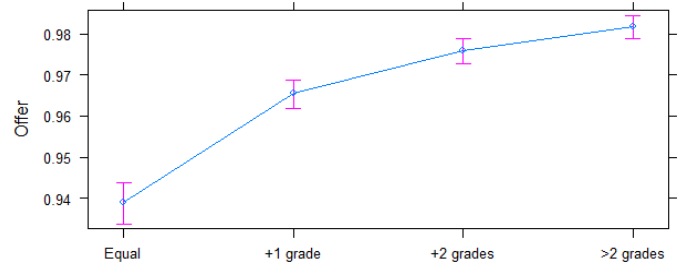
Over the two-year period, 75% of applications in this sample had met the minimum entry requirements of the course to which they were applications.

Of those who met the requirement, offer rates varied by Faculty- around 98% of applications were made and offer for Science and Engineering and Humanities compared to 74% in Medicine and Health.

27% of eligible applications came from applicants living in the North West and 18% were from London; there was little range in offer rates across English regions.



Differences in offer rates at The University of Manchester by Faculty



Predicted grade effect plot for offer rates at The University of Manchester

Conclusions and Recommendations

The analysis did not find that there were significant differences in offer making for applicants from Widening Participation backgrounds, which perhaps evidences the successes of contextual admission policies.

The analysis did find evidence of differences in offer making for BAME applicants who were less likely to be made an offer than their White counterparts when entry requirements were controlled for. This is an area that needs further investigation regarding factors outside the scope of this report such as, differences in personal statements.

The descriptive analysis and regression modelling both found evidence to suggest that the probability of receiving an offer from The University of Manchester was significantly impacted by the number of grades above the minimum entry requirements an applicant was predicted. This may raise questions around these minimum requirements and whether they are necessary or fair especially if certain groups of applicants are at a disadvantage because of this (for instance, WP applicants who are being underpredicted).