

## 《英国大学学费昂贵 学生减少17%》

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The government says undergraduate numbers have 'returned to record levels'.

There was a 17% fall in the number of first year undergraduates at UK universities in the first year of higher tuition fees, official figures show.

In 2012-13 UK universities were allowed to treble their yearly fees to ?9,000.

England saw a 12% fall in new full-time undergraduate students overall.

The government acknowledged the fall but stressed that demand for full time higher education has already "returned to record levels".

A spokesperson for Department for Business, Innovation and Skills said the figures were influenced by a higher number of students taking up places the previous year, rather than having a gap year.

"A reduction in entrants in 2012 was well documented and the numbers were affected by the significant number of students who opted not to defer their place from the year before," she said.

'Direct consequence'

The decline had not continued into the current year, she added.

"Application rates for some of the most disadvantaged young people have risen to an all time high in England and more students than ever before are being successful in securing a place at their first choice institution."

The figures, collated by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (Hesa), are official confirmation of other indications that there was a fall in the number of people going to university last year.

Previously released figures had shown declines in applications and offers of places, and the admissions body Ucas also reported a fall.

In Scotland, where the government still pays for the tuition of Scottish students studying within the country, there was a 2% rise in the number of students taking up places on full-time undergraduate courses.



