

University of Oxford

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



15 June 2009

Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act	
Your Ref:	E-mail of 15 May 2009
Address:	Amie Jones, Whatdotheyknow.com
Request	How many students have been stopped from graduating due to having an outstanding library loan or fine. If possible, could you tell me the year they were due to graduate, the course they were due to graduate from, the amount the fine was for, and the outcome.

Thank you for your request.

At Oxford, students are not required to graduate in a particular year, and will sometimes do so years after they have completed their course. Once a student has been given leave to graduate, he or she can be presented at any time when the college concerned has a quota place available.

Students with unpaid debts to the University are not permitted to take their degrees. Library fines for non-returned or overdue books are one kind of debt. Where a library reports a case of this sort, the Proctors' Office asks the student to settle the debt, at the same time putting a 'hold' on their electronic record, so that staff in the Degree Conferrals Office are aware that the student is not permitted to graduate. The number of students reported to the Proctors for unpaid library fines or non-returned books is published in the Proctors' Oration in the *University Gazette*, see http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/2008-9/supps/2_4876. (We do not analyse the figures by course.)

In the great majority of cases, the intervention of the Proctors' Office results in payment being made to the library concerned. However, the University does not know whether the 'hold' on the student record has prevented the individual from graduating at the time originally planned. Similarly, in the small number of cases where the debt is not settled, we do not know whether the student has failed to graduate because of the 'hold' or for some other reason.

FOI OXFORD

Tel: 01865-270000

Fax: +44 (0)1865-270222 E-Mail: foi@admin.ox.ac.uk Web: www.ox.ac.uk