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RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Shan Ouyang

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Dear Shan Ouyang

Freedom of information request

Thank you for your two emails of 11 January 2019 requesting information about applicants to MSc High Performance Computing and MSc High Performance Computing with Data Science.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are globally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 425 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2017/18 our annual revenue was £984 million, of which over £279 million was research income. We have over 41,000 students and over 10,200 full-time equivalent staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

The School of Informatics provides students a good foundation in computer science and offers a new perspective on ways that computational thinking can be applied to different settings. Students develop a solid scientific understanding, and the practical skills required to analyse, design, implement and maintain computer-based systems in any setting. More information about the School of Informatics is available on the University's website at www.ed.ac.uk/informatics.

Admissions statistics

For each of the last five years, you requested application, offer, acceptance, and entry statistics for the postgraduate degree programmes High Performance Computing (MSc full-time) and High Performance Computing with Data Science (MSc full-time). You also requested this information for international applicants. I have interpreted 'international applicants' as those applicants with an overseas fee status. More information about fee status is published on our website at www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/fees-finance/tuition/status. The requested information is provided in tables 1 and 2 below. Please note that I have used unconditional firm acceptances as a measure for entrants.

Table 1: High Performance Computing (MSc) admissions statistics, 2014/15 to 2018/19

		Year				
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
All applicants	Applications	58	50	43	45	54
	Offers	34	26	25	26	28
	Acceptances	21	20	20	16	22
	Entrants	11	6	13	9	11
Overseas applicants	Applications	40	43	31	29	40
	Offers	20	21	16	15	18
	Acceptances	11	16	13	9	16
	Entrants	<5	<5	6	<5	6

Table 2: High Performance Computing with Data Science (MSc) admissions statistics, 2014/15 to 2018/19

		Year				
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
All applicants	Applications	12	106	76	85	104
	Offers	5	59	42	42	66
	Acceptances	2	41	33	28	52
	Entrants	1	21	13	14	32
Overseas applicants	Applications	8	82	64	71	87
	Offers	1	41	31	34	51
	Acceptances	1	29	24	24	40
	Entrants	0	13	5	12	21

You will see that I have not provided the exact number of entrants where the number is fewer than five. This is because disclosing these low numbers could enable individuals to be identified. This would breach the data protection principles set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 38(1)(b).

Right to review

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section (www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/about/contact) in writing (e.g. by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner using the guidance at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

Privacy notice for information request applicants

The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice, which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is available on-line at www.ed.ac.uk/records-management/freedom-information/make-a-request/privacy-notice.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Rideout
Information Compliance Officer

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk