



19 May 2021

Freedom of Information Request: Graduation plans for 2020 and 2021 cohorts

Dear Mr Ali

With reference to your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, dated 11 May 2021 I can confirm the University holds some, but not all, the information requested.

Your request was, in general terms, for the following information, which is set out in full detail below: whether in-person graduation ceremonies have been/will be held.

Your request and our response:

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I have an interest in how you have approached your graduation ceremonies during the Coronavirus pandemic. Please could you answer the following:

1) For your students who graduated in 2020, have they had an in-person graduation yet?

No, due to continuing restrictions on indoor events and multiple lockdowns across the past year, the 2020 graduating cohort has not yet had an in-person ceremony.

2) If no to question 1., are there plans to have an in-person graduation, when restrictions have been lifted? If so, will they be the same as previous cohorts (2019, 2018, etc.) and when are they currently planned for?

As restrictions on mass indoor gatherings are still unclear, we will be holding celebratory events on our campus for our 2020 cohort in July. These events will give graduates the opportunity to book gowns, professional photography and

celebrate with their family and friends in a COVID-secure outdoor setting. We are also holding virtual ceremonies for those who cannot yet travel internationally and are also investigating whether it will be possible to deliver a traditional ceremony for this cohort in 2022.

3) For your students who are due to graduate in 2021, will they have an in-person graduation? If no, what are your plans for these students?

The plans for the 2021 cohort largely depends on the success of the roadmap out of lockdown and the government guidance on mass gatherings indoors. If possible we will host graduation ceremonies for the 2021 cohort later this year, however if uncertainty still remains we will look to have smaller on campus events and move a traditional ceremony to 2022. The safety of our graduates, their families and our staff is imperative in our decision making.

If you are dissatisfied with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach the University's FOI complaints officer in writing, within two months of the date of our response, and explaining what you would like us to review, as follows:

Ms Kim Small
Head of Legal Services
Room GH103 Grove House
Froebel College
Roehampton University
Roehampton Lane
LONDON
SW15 5PJ

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF, or enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Any other future correspondence you may have with the University in relation to this matter should be sent to the Freedom of Information Officer, Alison Bainbridge.

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