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**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Legal Services

**Director
Mrs C M E Pike LLB
Solicitor**

Kai Chen
What Do They Know

(By Email)

12 November 2019

Dear Kai Chen

Re: request for information under The Freedom of Information Act.

Further to your request for information dated 5 November 2019, please find attached the University of Birmingham's response. If you have any queries with regard to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please note our statement in respect of Copyright, which is also attached.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which your request has been dealt with, you may ask for an internal review. The University's Complaints and Appeals procedure is available at

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/governance/policies-regs/information/index.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University of Birmingham

Encs

Your request for information reads:

I am requesting for the following information. Please kindly provide data for 2019/2020 admission cycle.

- 1. List of all postgraduate taught courses for 2019/2020*
- 2. Number of applicants (all postgraduate programmes)*
- 3. Number of offers made (all postgraduate programmes)*
- 4. Number of Chinese applications and offers made (all postgraduate programmes)*

The University of Birmingham responds:

The University of Birmingham is required to respond to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") if it holds the information being requested, unless it is appropriate to apply one of the limited exemptions set out in the Act.

Please find attached a list of the post graduate programmes offered by the University of Birmingham for 2019/20.

The Refusal Notice below explain why the University has not provided the information requested in questions 2-4.

Refusal Notice

Reasons for non-disclosure

Section 43(2) – Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Commercial Interests

The University has decided that the application and offer information you have requested is commercially sensitive and that to provide it would be likely to prejudice the University's commercial interests.

Information about applications and offers is commercially sensitive because it is a key asset in developing and implementing the University's marketing, recruitment and offering strategies. These in turn direct affect the University's ability to recruit high calibre students on whose fees and achievements the University's financial and reputational success depends.

Disclosing this type of information is likely to prejudice the University's ability to compete effectively and fairly in the highly competitive higher education market as it:

- Forms the basis of the way in which the University structures its business, which is one of the factors which distinguishes the University from its competitors;
- Discloses and gives unfair insight into the University's marketing, recruitment and offering strategies for the current recruitment cycle to competitor institutions.

It is the current policy of the Government that the higher education market should be competitive in the interests of students and the wider public and indeed, this is why it regulates markets and anti-competitive practices. Prejudicing the University's ability to compete fairly is not in the public interest because the University is an engine of economic growth and long-term economic resilience through its role in developing highly-skilled knowledge workers, its research and generation of new knowledge and intellectual advances, its contribution to the cultural vibrancy of the region and the nation and as an employer. The University is also a charity and so its trustees are under a duty to avoid activities that might place the charity's endowment, funds, assets or reputation at undue risk. Taking these factors into account, the University does not consider it to be in the public interest to disclose this information.

Therefore, under S43(2) of the Act the University is not providing the information you have requested.

More information about the exemption in this section of the Act is available on the Information Commissioner's Office's website <https://ico.org.uk/>.

The University of Birmingham

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