

12 October 2020

Ref: FOI20 - 357

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your email of 17th September 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the responses to each of your questions below:

1. How many Tier 4 international students are enrolled at the university in the 2019-2020 academic year?

The University of Exeter had 3683 Tier 4 International students for the academic year 2019/20.

2. How many Tier 4 international students have contacted the student funding services to report difficulties with paying their tuition fees on time?

The University of Exeter received 14 Tier 4 students who contacted to report they were having difficulties in paying their tuition fees. The figure relates to the last 12 months.

3. What sort of assistance is in place for Tier 4 international students who are unable to pay their tuition fees?

The University of Exeter offers a payment plans to help spread the cost of the fees throughout the academic year. When applying for a payment plan students financial situation and offer will be assessed by the Accounts Receivable Team on a case by case basis. We can also extend the payment due date to allow more time for the student to pay. The University would also advise students to seek advice from the Students Guild and direct them to information relating to possible loans and financial assistance schemes that can be found at <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfunding/>

4. What sort of COVID-19 provisions are in place for Tier 4 international students? Please answer for the following:

a. Health and wellbeing, including mental health b. Immigration advice c. Other, please elaborate

For questions, 4 and 4a the requested data is exempt from disclosure in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 exempts information, which is already reasonably accessible through other means. This information is reasonably accessible on our webpages; therefore, we have provided the appropriate links below.



<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/wellbeing/> The University of Exeter are supporting students both remotely and in person and/or perhaps more specifically, the University pages on Covid support for staff and students <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus/wellbeing/>

5. Is the university providing hardship funds for Tier 4 international students? If yes, please also answer the following:

a. How many Tier 4 international students applied for hardship funds?

b. How many Tier 4 international students were granted hardship funds?

c. If a Tier 4 international student was denied a hardship fund, what were the primary reasons for this?

For question 5, The University had 147 Tier 4 students who received a hardship award last academic year 19/20 (142 from the Emergency Assistance Fund & 5 from the Hardship & Retention Fund). There were no refusals.

6. Have any Tier 4 international students been reported to the Home Office during the COVID-19 lockdown? If yes, how many?

The University of Exeter is required by UKVI to report any Tier 4 student who changes their programme of study, withdraws from their programme, takes an interruption of study or starts a period of work placement. The University continues to report these changes of circumstance during the lockdown period but would need clarification of dates to give an exact number.

7. How many Tier 4 international students have contacted the university's immigration support office requiring advice and/or reporting immigration difficulties from March 2020 until presently August 2020?

The data is not held centrally. For the University to establish the requested data it would be necessary to contact all relevant departments and scrutinise all learner case files to determine accurate data. It would take the University over eighteen hours to establish accurate data; this would take over the cost limit, which is proscribed by section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act

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Kind Regards,

Information Governance

University of Exeter



