

FOI response

I am making a request regarding the statistics for the A100 UCAS cycle, regarding the 2014/2015 cycle or, if not possible, the 2013/2014. I hope I can get the information in a machine readable format such as Excel or PDF. Thank you very much and I hope this is not too much trouble.

1) The median and quartile ranges for the UMS average of the AS levels of those applying and accepted.

2) The median and quartile ranges for the number of A* achieved at GCSE of those applying and accepted.

3) The median and quartile ranges for IB prediction of those applying and accepted.

4) The median and quartile ranges for predicted A level results and achieved of those applying and accepted.

In relation to parts 1-4, this information is not readily available and it is estimated that the work involved in locating, retrieving and extracting this information will exceed the Freedom of Information appropriate limit (£450/18 hours) as set out at section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act and in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss narrowing the scope of these sections of your request.

5) The number of applicants, the number interviewed and the number of offers given.

Number of applications: 3389

Number interviewed: 867

Number of offers: 321

6) I would also like any scoring or grading system used (such as for interview or personal statement) to assess candidates and if a form or such is available to record the performance, I would also kindly request this.

The University does hold this information but it is considered exempt from disclosure under section 36(2)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act:

"Information to which this section applies is exempt information if, in the reasonable opinion of a qualified person, disclosure of the information under this Act would otherwise prejudice, or would be likely to prejudice, the effective conduct of public affairs."

These scoring proforma give detailed information about the exact basis on which personal statements and interviews are scored by the University's admissions selection team. The disclosure of these proforma into the public domain would undermine the admissions process, with applicants using these to provide a 'tick list' which they then seek to comply with when providing their application and attending an interview. Taken to an extreme, this could result in all applicants coming forward with a personal statement and interview performance which will attract a top score, leaving the University trying to differentiate between equally capable candidates on some other undeclared basis. Again, this is unlikely to help the University meet its obligations to deliver a fair and equitable selection process and it could result in a having to create new criteria to separate candidates.

Public interest considerations

We are required to consider the public interest in disclosure when applying this exemption. There is a public interest in demonstrating that the University's admissions procedure is clear and transparent so applicants (and the public) can be assured that the selection process is consistent and fair and there can be no accusation of bias. The integrity of admissions procedures is pivotal for all higher education institutions to ensure that there is trust that they are selecting the most suitable applicants.

However, there is also a public interest in ensuring that the University is admitting students who are able to submit an independent application that specifically relates to them as an individual, rather than tailoring their application and interview performance to pre-defined scoring criteria. That could lead to the University accepting applicants who are not as suitable for the programme but who have strictly adhered to the criteria. If disclosed, applicants who were to find and use these proforma when preparing their application would gain an unfair advantage over other applicants. The disclosure could cause the University huge problems in having to create new criteria against which to judge large numbers of applications of an equally high quality and will not ensure that the most suitable applicants are selected. This public interest is increased when the programme relates to a vocational programme, such as Medicine.

As the wording of the exemption states, it may only be applied if such prejudice would, or would be likely to, occur in the "reasonable opinion of a qualified person". The qualified person for universities is the Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent) and our Vice-Chancellor has approved the application of this exemption having considered the relevant issues.

The [Medicine Admissions Statement](#) does contain some information about the criteria upon which applications are considered.

7) How many offers were given to international students/people who applied during clearing.

The University does not advertise in clearing for this course and does not accept new applications in clearing. However, the University maintains a 'reserve list' of very high quality applicants who interviewed well but, due to the restricted number of offers, missed out on receiving an offer during the cycle. This reserve list is used if extra offers are needed at Confirmation to fill unforeseen shortfalls (for example, if an accepted applicant withdraws their application). At this point in the year, the only way to accept a previously-unsuccessful applicant on to the course is through the Clearing mechanism. Therefore, a small number of accepted applicants will appear to have applied through clearing but it is important to note that this is not the same as the clearing standard process.

Number of offers given to international students at any point in the cycle (defined as overseas fee payer): 23

Notes to data

- Data shows applications made in the 2014 application cycle through UCAS.
- Applications made for both current entry (ie, entry in 14/15 academic year) and deferred entry (i.e. 15/16 academic year)
- Data shows home and overseas fee payers combined.
- Note that an applicant can make more than one application during a cycle. For example, a significant minority of applicants make an application for both current and deferred entry.