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Zakariya Ahmed

By email only to:

05 October 2021

Dear Zakariya Ahmed,

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act")

Further to your recent request for information held by King's College London, I am writing to confirm that the requested information is held by the university.

Your request

We received your information request on 14 September 2021 and have treated it as a request for information made under section 1(1) of the Act.

You requested the following information:

Under the freedom of information act, I would like to request the following information for the A100 course for the 2020 and 2021 entry admissions cycle:

- 1) Are graduate applicants to the A100 course ranked differently to school leavers, if so then how?*
- 2) How much weighting do GCSEs hold for graduates applying to the A100 course? Moreover, if so, how many points are allocated for each GCSE grade?*
- 3) Is the degree classification (predicted or achieved) given any weighting for graduates?*
- 4) Are A Levels given points or considered for graduates applying with life science degrees such as Biomedical Sciences or Biochemistry?*
- 5) How would an applicant who is retaking a Maths GCSE in November be considered against other applicants?*

Our response

- 1) Are graduate applicants to the A100 course ranked differently to school leavers, if so then how?*

No, all applicants to A100 were ranked in the same manner. However graduate applicants were required to meet the entry requirements:

The following information is provided on the A100 course page:
<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/medicine-mbbs>

Suitably qualified graduate applicants to Medicine are welcome to apply to our five-year programme (A100). Any interested applicants should check very carefully that they meet the requirements for the programme.

Bioscience graduates will be considered with minimum 2:1 (upper second class honours) undergraduate degree (or international equivalent) in a Biosciences subject
All other graduates will be considered with minimum 2:1 AND grades AA at A-Level in both Biology and Chemistry (or international equivalent)
In addition, all applicants are required to meet the GCSE requirements for the programme.

Qualified graduate applicants who are eligible for both our four-year Graduate/Professional Entry Programme (A102) and our five-year programme (A100) are welcome to make an application for both. However, due to the competition for places it is only possible to consider applicants for the programme they apply for. As such, the only way to be considered for both programmes is to apply for both programmes.

2) How much weighting do GCSEs hold for graduates applying to the A100 course? Moreover, if so, how many points are allocated for each GCSE grade?

The ranking method was the same for all applicants to A100. The method for 2020 cycle is explained below:

GCSE points were awarded according to the number of A*'s achieved at GCSE (subject is not considered). Less than 5 scored 0, 5 scored 10, 6 scored 20, 7 scored 30, 8+ scored 40. Scores were adjusted according to the quintile for GCSE attainment of the school. If the school performance was one of the lowest two quintiles, then we also counted A grades achieved at GCSE towards the A* count mentioned above. For schools in the 3rd quintile, each A grade was considered equivalent to 0.5 of an A*. For schools in the top two quintiles, no adjustment was made.

Note that the scoring system is reviewed each cycle.

3) Is the degree classification (predicted or achieved) given any weighting for graduates?

Degree performance for graduates was not considered when ranking however when assessing borderline applications they may have been considered holistically.

4) Are A Levels given points or considered for graduates applying with life science degrees such as Biomedical Sciences or Biochemistry?

Applicants to A100 must meet the entry requirements to be considered (see Q1), however neither A-Levels nor degree performance were used in the ranking method. When assessing borderline cases, however, applications may be considered holistically.

5) How would an applicant who is retaking a Maths GCSE in November be considered against other applicants?

The following information is provided on the A100 course page:
<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/medicine-mbbs>

The University has currently implemented a suspension of the resit policies due to the Coronavirus situation, which is in place for all undergraduate programmes. This has now been extended, therefore, this means that all our standard resit policies will pause for applications received in the 2021/22 admissions cycle.

The below is the standard resit policy for this programme and is expected to be reintroduced from the 2022/23 admissions cycle.

In a standard admissions cycle, we are able to consider applicants who have retaken their qualifications, however, you should bear in mind that your application for this programme will be reviewed alongside other strong applicants who might be viewed more favourably if they achieved the required grades within a standard timeframe, for example, a two year period for A-levels. We will only consider second resits if there are significant mitigating circumstances. In these situations we still cannot guarantee that your application will be considered, but you should submit a Mitigating Circumstances form so that this can be considered alongside your application. Please note, we consider taking the same subject again at the same level, even within a different qualification, to be a resit.

We consider applicants who have recently achieved grades which are below the entry criteria, and have subsequently studied/are studying another qualification to seek entry, such as an Access to HE Diploma or a Foundation programme, to be resit applicants.

This completes the university's response to your information request.

Your right to complain

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your information request or feel that it has not been properly handled you have the right to complain or request a review of our decision by contacting the Assistant Director of Business Assurance (Information Compliance) within 60 days of the date of this letter.

Further information about our internal complaints procedure is available at the link below:

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/assets/files/governance_and_legal/Freedom_of_Information_Policy_updated_Oct_%202011.pdf

In the event that you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal complaints procedure provided by King's College London.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

Olenka Cogias
Information Compliance