

Reference FOI2021-22-075

17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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[www.sgul.ac.uk](http://www.sgul.ac.uk)

We write to respond to your recent Freedom of Information enquiry.

## Enquiry

I would like to request the following data relating to all Medicine courses (i.e. both the A100 and A101 - not including graduate entry medicine) offered by your university.

I am requesting the data for candidates who received offers for one of the aforementioned medicine courses in the UCAS admissions cycle: 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021 admissions cycles (I refer to these candidates as 'the offerholders').

I request the following data for each admissions cycle:

- 1) The number of applicants who were either planning to complete, or had completed, an Access to Higher Education diploma as their most recent qualification.
- 2) The number of offerholders who were either planning to complete, or had completed, an Access to Higher Education diploma as their most recent qualification.
- 3) The average, highest, and lowest UCAT/BMAT (whichever is applicable) score of offerholders who were either planning to complete, or had completed, an Access to Higher Education diploma as their most recent qualification.
- 4) The number of applicants who were either planning to complete, or had completed, A Levels as their most recent qualification.
- 5) The number of offerholders who were either planning to complete, or had completed, A Levels as their most recent qualification.
- 6) The Average, highest, and lowest UCAT/BMAT (whichever is applicable) score of offerholders who were either planning to complete, or had completed, A Levels as their most recent qualification.

## Response

We hold a complete set of records for two years after application. Therefore, we are unable to provide a response regarding 2018/19, as the information is not held. The answers below pertain to the 2019/20 and 2020/2021 admissions cycles only.

These answers relate to the A100 Undergraduate Medicine programme at St George's, and disregards the mention of the A101 courses due to this course being exclusively for graduate applicants; the requester asks to not include graduate entry Medicine.

St George's currently accepts applications from applicants with Access to Medicine diplomas and A Levels. The information below shows how many applicants were taking an Access diploma or A Levels at the time of application. Data on applicants who may have received an offer with an already-achieved Access diploma or A levels is not held.

For questions 1 and 4, please refer to the information below regarding Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Obtaining the qualification type of each applicant would require each record to be individually accessed which, as mentioned below, exceeds the appropriate limit for the cost of complying with your request.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The FOIA defines the appropriate limit as £450 at a rate of £25 per hour or a time limit of 18 hours.

When estimating the cost of complying with your request we can consider the following:

- a) Determining whether we hold the information
- b) Locating the information
- c) Retrieving the information
- d) Extracting the information

Across the 2019 and 2020 admissions cycles, as we hold a complete set of records for 2 years after application, we would be required to individually access 746 records to review the grades of each applicant. At a minimum of 90 seconds to review each record, it would take over 18 and a half hours to locate the relevant data before we began to extract the specific data requested, exceeding the appropriate limit.

We attach for your information the Information Commissioner's guidance on S12.

[costs of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.pdf \(ico.org.uk\)](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-free-information-act/2019/costs-of-compliance-exceeds-appropriate-limit.pdf)

2. Offered with an Access to Medicine diploma

Cycle	Offered
2019	0
2020	8

3. UCAT scores for Access to Medicine diploma offer holders

Cycle	Highest UCAT	Lowest UCAT	Average UCAT
2019	N/A	N/A	N/A
2020	2830	2530	2698

5. Offered with A Levels

Cycle	Offered
2019	491
2020	340

6. UCAT scores for A Level offer holders

Cycle	Highest UCAT	Lowest UCAT	Average UCAT
2019	3330	2490	2684
2020	3130	2480	2656

Whilst writing may I advise that if you are not happy with the way in which we have handled your request, you can appeal by writing to St George's Head of Information Governance:

Geoffrey Gray  
Head of Information Governance

St George's University of London  
Cranmer Terrace  
Tooting  
London  
SW17 0RE

The Information Commissioner has authority and responsibility under the Freedom of Information Act and you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office by email at [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk) or at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

For more information see the website of the Information Commissioner's Office  
<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information>

May I ask you to direct future FOI requests for SGUL to the generic email address [FOI@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:FOI@sgul.ac.uk) the sake of expediency.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further queries.

Yours faithfully

Kirsten Hylan  
Records Manager