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6 July 2022

File ref: FOI2022/00323

Mel Hollingbury

Sent by email: request-871980-
24a1f749@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mel Hollingbury

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00323

Thank you for your email of 19 June 2022 requesting information about admissions statistics for graduate applicants to five-year undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) degree from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are globally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 430 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2020/21 our annual revenue was £1.18 billion, of which £324 million was research income. We have over 45,000 students and over 16,000 staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

The [Royal \(Dick\) School of Veterinary Studies](#) is a world leader in veterinary education, research, and clinical practice. It provides an outstanding veterinary education at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, using an award winning curriculum, innovative teaching methods, and an interdisciplinary environment, for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The [five-year undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery \(BVM&S\) degree](#) prepares students for many aspects of the veterinary profession. On completion of this programme, students are eligible for registration with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and are able to practice veterinary medicine in the UK.

Admissions Process

The University of Edinburgh is committed to widening access and welcomes applications from students with diverse backgrounds. Our continuing commitment to diversity plays a vital role in ensuring the University's success as a great civic institution. We recognise that not everyone has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their full academic potential from their school or college qualifications alone. For this reason, we aim to identify applicants who could benefit from additional consideration in the admissions process.

This is known as contextual admissions, as it enables us to consider the achievements of applicants in context.

We use data from a number of sources along with information on the UCAS application to identify applicants for additional consideration in our contextual admissions process. Applicants can be flagged as either 'Plus Flag' or 'Flag'. See the University's [Widening access offers web page](#) for more details.

In the majority of cases, a "Plus flag" applicant will be guaranteed an offer at the minimum entry requirement. You need to be predicted to meet those grades if you have not already met them. For subjects like art, design, medicine, veterinary medicine, education and nursing, there is a second stage of the admissions selection process, usually an interview, portfolio or assessment. "Plus flag" applicants who have achieved or are predicted to achieve the minimum entry requirement grades are guaranteed progression to this stage of the admissions process.

If you are assigned a "Flag", rather than a "Plus flag", your application will be prioritised for a place in degree programmes where competition for places is high. This will be on the basis of the standard entry requirement.

Undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) Admissions

You asked for information about the 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 intakes of students (graduate applicants) to the five-year undergraduate Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S) degree.

You asked for the number of graduate applications received by the University, the number of interviews offered and the number of final offers made to applicants. This information is included below in Table 1.

Table 1: BVM&S graduate admissions statistics 2018/19 – 2020/21

BVM&S Admissions	2018/19 Entry	2019/20 Entry	2020/21 Entry
Number of applications received	25	21	16
Number of interviews offered	12	10	5
Number of offers	<5	5	<5

You will see that I have not provided the exact number where the number is fewer than five. This is because disclosing these low numbers could enable individuals to be identified. This would breach the data protection principles set out in data protection legislation. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 38(1)(b).

Please note it does not matter who makes the request under FOISA, if we disclose information to one person we are expected to disclose it to all. While you may not be able to identify individuals from the information you have requested, others, for example students and staff within the Veterinary School, may be able to do so.

You also asked for the number of available places.

There are a total of 110 places on the five-year BVM&S programme each year, 30-35 of these places are available for International and Graduate applicants. The programme has the following fees categories; Scottish Fee Rate (SFR), Rest of UK (RUK) and Overseas (International, EU and graduates). International and Graduate applications are considered on the basis of “overseas fees status” only.

You also asked if graduates compete for the same places as A Level students or if a set number of places are reserved for graduates. You also asked for the number of places on this programme reserved for graduates.

Graduate applicants for the five-year BVM&S programme do not compete with A level students.

Graduate applicants compete with international applicants who apply for the five-year programme. There are no set number of places reserved for graduate applicants.

Finally, you asked how the degree and A levels of a graduate compare to the GCSEs and A levels of an A Level student during the application process.

The School considers graduate applicants on the basis that they have achieved (or are predicted to achieve) a minimum of a 2:1 in their Science degree. Graduate applicants' A level results are only looked at when an applicant applies with a non-science degree to ensure that they have achieved a sufficient amount of Chemistry and Biology. The A level results of graduates are not compared with A level candidates.

GCSE results do not form part of the selection process for graduate applicants to the five-year BVM&S programme.

Right to review

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section in writing (e.g. by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. The contact details for the Records Management Section are at the top of this letter. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may use the [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) to make an appeal to the Commissioner. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

Privacy notice for information request applicants

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely

Carl Emery
Records Management Section

If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk