



26 July 2019

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Hannah B

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Dear Hannah B

Freedom of information request

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2019 requesting information about history course marks.

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 425 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2017/18 our annual revenue was £984 million, of which over £279 million was research income. We have over 41,000 students and more than 15,000 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 School of History, Classics & Archaeology is one of the great world centres for the study of the human past. The School's community comprises over 100 academic staff, c. 70 honorary professors and fellows, c. 400 graduate students and an undergraduate population of c. 1,350, of whom around a quarter are international students. More information about the [School of History, Classics & Archaeology](#) is published on the University's website.

The University's [Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study \(DRPS\)](#), which is published on the University website, lists all of the programmes and courses the University offers. It provides Degree Programme Tables (DPTs) for each programme, which list the compulsory and optional courses for each year of the programme. The DPTs provide links to a description of each course, including how the course is assessed. Information about courses taken in previous years is also available on DRPS.

History course marks

You asked for the average marks achieved by students in four history courses. I have provided information for the last three academic years available in table 1 below. Please note that in most cases in which I have not provided information, the course in question either did not run or was not picked as an option by any students. *The Era of the*

Witness: Trauma in Contemporary History is a new course for the 2019/20 academic year, therefore the University holds no marks relating to it.

The number of students taking the course *The United States in Vietnam: History and Consequences* was small in 2018/19. Providing an average mark for small numbers of students 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 does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 38(1)(b).

Table 1: Average marks for history courses, 2016/17 – 2018/19

Course name	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
<i>Stalin's Russia, 1921-1941</i>	67.67	Not held	Not held
<i>The United States in Vietnam: History and Consequences</i>	64.46	64.94	Withheld
<i>The Origins of the First World War, 1871-1917</i>	Not held	Not held	63

Please use the University's [Common Marking Scheme](#) for undergraduate assessment to interpret the marks provided.

Applying for information

We note you have not provided your last name with your request. When making a freedom of information request, in order to make the request valid and ensure that the University is obliged to provide you with the information that you have requested, applicants are required to provide their full name. Guidance about this is published on the [website of the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner \(OSIC\)](#). This guidance explains that, as well as the relevant authority being under no obligation to provide the requested information, applicants also lose the right to appeal to the Commissioner, should they be unhappy with the handling of their request. Although we have responded to your request on this occasion, in future please provide your last name to validate your request.

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. If you have submitted a valid request, 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

Rob Don

Information Compliance Officer

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