

Our ref.: F275.23-24

To whom it may concern

8 April 2024

To whom it may concern,

Your request to access information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for access to information held by the University of Warwick.

We have considered your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

You have requested access to the following information:

Treat this as a Freedom of Information Request under FOIA 2000.

All the questions below relate to the course Economics, Politics and International Studies which is an undergraduate course on offer at the University under the UCAS code LLD2.

- 1. Please disclose the date/timing of when offers were given out for this course for the UCAS cycles 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The spreadsheet should have 2 columns - 'Date' and 'Number of offers given out'.**

Please find the requested information in the attached spreadsheet titled 'FOI Request – F275.23-24 – Attachment' – tab 1.

- 2. How many offers and rejections has the University given out, as of when this request is being processed, or 27 March 2024 (or both if both are plausible), for the UCAS cycle 2023-2024?**

Please note that the University declines to provide the requested information in relation to the current cycle data i.e., 2023/24 (Autumn 2024 entry), since it considers that the

exemption under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies. Section 43(2) states that “information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”. The University considers that the release of the requested information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the University.

It is important that the admissions process is fair, transparent, and consistent for all applicants in each admissions cycle. The University is still considering applications for 2024 entry and may still receive new applications until the end of July 2024. We would therefore not provide any information relating to application data (or other related information) during the admissions cycle, that was not available to all applicants at the start of the admissions cycle. Giving mid-cycle data would enable the recipient to analyse and interpret the University’s student recruitment and admissions strategy and operations. This could enable a competitor to better understand the University’s operating model, prejudicing the University’s financial success and profitability in the future.

The exemption at section 43(2) is a qualified exemption which means that the University must consider whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The University considers there is no overriding public interest in the circumstances that would warrant prejudicing the University’s commercial interests.

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is effectively disclosure to the general public at large, not solely the person who has made the request. The University is of the opinion that the public interest lies in favour of withholding the requested information.

3. If the outcome count is below 20, why has the admissions selector not processed any applications between 31 January 2024 and now?

As per the response for Q2 above.

4. How many applications has the University received for this course for the UCAS cycles 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024? Of these applicants, break them down into fee status of overseas/home.

The University declines to provide the requested information as this information is exempt under section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which states that “information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information”.

This information can be found on the Warwick website at [Admissions Statistics Course Level \(warwick.ac.uk\)](https://warwick.ac.uk/admissions/statistics/course-level)

5. How many offers has the University given out - broken down by fee status - for 2021-2022, and 2022-2023?

As per the response for Q4 above – This information can be found on the Warwick website at [Admissions Statistics Course Level \(warwick.ac.uk\)](https://www.warwick.ac.uk/admissions/statistics/course-level)

6. For home applicants for the cycles of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, what was the aggregate outcome by the overall predicted/achieved grade profile? Please include this data for all the grade profiles between A*A*A*A* and UUUU. The spreadsheet should look like this: e.g. predicted/achieved A*A*A*A* - X offers, Y rejections.

Please find the requested information in the attached spreadsheet titled ‘FOI Request – F275.23-24 – Attachment’ – tab 2.

Data notes:

- Many factors influence the numbers involved and this should not be used to determine the likelihood of achieving a place on a course in a current or future cycle.
- Data provided is for applications received from applicants intending to join Warwick in Autumn 2022 and Autumn 2023 on the Economics, Politics, and International Studies course (UCAS code LLD2, internal code U-L1MD) and may include data from applicants who deferred/applied in a previous cycle.
- Tab 1- Date of Offer issued data is based on the date a conditional or unconditional offer code was recorded in the system which should be the date the decision is transmitted to UCAS.
- Tab 2- Data is based on applicants categorised as “Home” in the database. Achieved/predicted A-level data is based on the Modern Contextualised Data Service file provided by UCAS that contains applicant grade profile information.
- Where data is missing from the MCDS file this is not provided.
- Some applicants may have withdrawn their application prior to a decision being made.
- Where applicants meet certain contextual criteria, the University can make reduced offers as per the Contextual Data Policy.

Next steps

For further information on how to interpret our response, including important information on how we present statistics, please see [our methodology](#) available on our websiteⁱ.

We are not able to warrant that any information provided is correct. Any information provided may be subject to intellectual property rights.

If you are dissatisfied with the University's response to your request, you may request an internal review of the response **within 40 working days** by contacting us using the contact details in the footer of this letter.

If you remain dissatisfied with the University's response to your request, you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (**the ICO**). The ICO's contact details are as follows –

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

Phone: 0303 123 1113

Fax: 01625 524510

www.ico.gov.uk

We hope that this information is helpful, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Yours faithfully,

Legal and Compliance Services

ⁱ <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/legalandcomplianceservices/freedomofinformation/methodology/>