



7 May 2021

File ref: FOI2021/00050

Josh Daniels

Sent by email: request-723138-6a1f31a0@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Josh Daniels

Freedom of Information: FOI2021/00050

Thank you for your email of 1 February requesting information about MSc Public Policy grades. You requested a review of this response on 27th March and we responded to your review request on 26th April. We apologised for the delayed response and confirmed that we would respond by 7th May. Please find our response below.

Public Policy grades

In 2019/20, the University had 17,725 taught and research postgraduate students studying full-time and part-time. We are committed to providing a wealth of resources and opportunities to enable our postgraduates to benefit from our inspiring research culture. Our academics are leaders in their fields and the University is also committed to delivering high-quality, innovative teaching. The latest report from the Quality Assurance Agency awarded us the highest rating possible for the quality of the student learning experience. More information on our [postgraduate degree programmes](#) is available on our website.

Your request

You asked for the number of 'distinction' and 'merit' and 'pass' grades given out to each student studying the [MSc Public Policy](#) programme during the first semester of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years. You also asked for the number of students enrolled on this programme for both of these years to allow you to calculate averages.

The table in the enclosure provides the information you requested. However, 'distinction', 'merit' and 'pass' refer to programme award classifications, so we have interpreted this request for grades achieved in Semester 1 as focusing on course results rather than programme outcomes, as Masters students do not get programme-level awards during Semester 1. The requested groupings of grades into 'Distinction', 'Merit' and 'Pass' do not apply so I have therefore provided a dataset showing the number of passes relating to each standard description used in the [common marking scheme for postgraduate courses](#), with a key showing which grades map to each description.

Table 1 of the spreadsheet reflects all Semester One course results for all students on the MSc Public Policy in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The data includes full-time and part-time students. To ensure consistency between the 2019/20 and 2020/21 results, I have used the first sit results, to avoid resit results from later in the session being used for 2019/20 when there are no such resit results available yet for 2020/21.

Additionally, I have also provided the total number of course results as individual students will take more than one course, and so have multiple course results. This will allow you to calculate the average for each course. There were 42 full- and part-time students on the programme in 2019/20. In 2020/21 there were 79 full- and part-time students.

Right to appeal

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to investigate. You must do so within six months of receipt of this response. The [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) describes the process for making an appeal to the Commissioner, including the application form. If you do not have access to the Internet, I can provide a copy of the relevant web pages, or you can contact the Commissioner's Office using the details below. When the appeal process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you have the right to appeal to the Court of Session, but on a point of law only.

Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS.

Email: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

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

Mark Hepworth

Records Management Section

Enc. Table 1: All Semester 1 course results for all students on the MSc Public Policy in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

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

Table 1: All Semester 1 course results for all students on the MSc Public Policy in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

	2019/20	2020/21
An excellent performance, satisfactory for a distinction	12	22
A very good performance	58	102
A good performance, satisfactory for a masters degree	47	90
A satisfactory performance for the diploma and certificate, but inadequate for a masters degree	5	14
Total number of course results:	122	228

First Attempt Grade	Marking Scheme Outcome
A1	An excellent performance, satisfactory for a distinction
A2	An excellent performance, satisfactory for a distinction
A3	An excellent performance, satisfactory for a distinction
B	A very good performance
C	A good performance, satisfactory for a masters degree
D	A satisfactory performance for the diploma and certificate, but inadequate for a masters degree
CA	Fail
E	Fail
NS	NS