



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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26 May 2022

File ref: FOI2022/00233

James Sullivan

Sent by email: request-858382-
52aea8c4@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear James Sullivan

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00233

Thank you for your email of 2 May 2022 requesting information about awards for MSc students in the School of Informatics.

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.

School of Informatics

Informatics is one of seven schools in the College of Science and Engineering, at the University of Edinburgh. It is the only School in the College of Science and Engineering that is not located on the King's Buildings campus, but rather in the Central area, thus allowing it to foster networks beyond the usual tech links. [More information on the School](#) can be found on the University website.

Taught MSc programmes in the School of Informatics

Details of Taught MSc programmes in the School of Informatics and how to apply can be found [on the relevant degree finder page](#) of the University website. For more detailed structure, you can view the [Degree Programme Table for each programme](#) on the University website.

Awards for MSc students in the School of Informatics

You requested information regarding awards for students studying Informatics MScs in each specialisation in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21. You asked for numbers of students achieving the awards levels of Distinction, Merit, Pass and Fail. I am interpreting

'specialisation' as each programme within the School of Informatics at Master of Science (MSc) level.

Please note, there is not a 'Fail' award level for MSc programmes. When academic results are not of the required level, students are awarded a lesser degree depending on the time or amount of study they have undertaken. In instances where students have withdrawn from programmes, they are categorised as receiving no award (N/A). More [information on how the University awards degree classifications](#) can be found on the relevant page of the University website.

Though students may enter programmes in the same academic year, the academic year of exit may differ. This is because part time Masters students study over two or three years as opposed to one. Full time Masters students generally enter in September of one academic year and complete in August of the following year. However, they may also choose to exit after semester 1 with a Postgraduate Certificate (PGC), or after semester 2 with a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD). The figures I have provided in the enclosure are inclusive of both full time and part time students for each programme.

In Table 1 of the enclosure, I have provided the academic years of entry, the names of programmes, and level of award attained at MSc level; Distinction, Merit, or Pass. I have also included numbers of students who received a PGC or PGD for each programme, the number of students who withdrew from each programme, the number continuing their studies, and the total number of students who entered each programme in the relevant academic years.

You will see that I have not provided the exact number where the number is fewer than five. Furthermore, in instances where disclosing the total number of students would allow low numbers to be discerned from the table or from other information publically available, I have also withheld this information. 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 other students and staff on these programmes, may be able to do so.

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

David Ward

Records Management Section

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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: Student numbers within the School of Informatics, by academic year of entry, name of programme, level awarded for MSc, number of withdrawals, number of students awarded PGCs and PGDs, number of continuing students, total number of students, 2018/19 to 2020/21

Year	Programme	MSC			Withdrawal	PGC	PGD	Continuing	All
		Distinction	Merit	Pass					
2018/19	MSc in Advanced Design Informatics	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	Withheld
2018/19	MSc in Artificial Intelligence	63	83	32	9	<5	9	<5	199
2018/19	MSc in Cognitive Science	<5	6	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	16
2018/19	MSc in Computer Science	15	30	15	<5	<5	5	0	Withheld
2018/19	MSc in Data Science	15	33	19	<5	<5	7	0	77
2018/19	MSc in Design Informatics	<5	8	<5	0	0	0	0	13
2018/19	MSc in High Performance Computing	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	10
2018/19	MSc in High Performance Computing with Data Science	<5	12	5	0	<5	<5	<5	26
2018/19	MSc in Informatics	12	8	5	<5	0	0	0	Withheld
2019/20	MSc in Advanced Design Informatics	<5	8	0	0	0	0	0	Withheld
2019/20	MSc in Artificial Intelligence	35	34	14	<5	<5	0	<5	86
2019/20	MSc in Cognitive Science	7	6	<5	0	0	0	0	Withheld
2019/20	MSc in Computer Science	6	29	26	<5	0	0	0	Withheld
2019/20	MSc in Cyber Security, Privacy and Trust	<5	<5	0	<5	0	0	0	6
2019/20	MSc in Data Science	12	14	6	<5	0	0	0	Withheld
2019/20	MSc in Design Informatics	<5	11	<5	0	0	0	0	Withheld
2019/20	MSc in High Performance Computing	<5	6	<5	<5	0	0	<5	13
2019/20	MSc in High Performance Computing with Data Science	11	24	19	0	0	<5	<5	57
2019/20	MSc in Informatics	<5	7	<5	0	0	<5	0	14
2020/21	MSc in Advanced Design Informatics	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16
2020/21	MSc in Advanced Technology for Financial Computing	6	11	0	0	0	0	<5	Withheld
2020/21	MSc in Artificial Intelligence	60	50	16	<5	0	0	10	Withheld
2020/21	MSc in Cognitive Science	9	5	<5	0	0	0	<5	19
2020/21	MSc in Computer Science	23	54	10	<5	<5	0	9	99
2020/21	MSc in Cyber Security, Privacy and Trust	5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	19
2020/21	MSc in Data Science	16	11	<5	0	0	<5	<5	33
2020/21	MSc in Design Informatics	8	25	<5	0	0	0	6	Withheld
2020/21	MSc in High Performance Computing	5	<5	0	<5	0	0	<5	12
2020/21	MSc in High Performance Computing with Data Science	<5	7	<5	<5	0	<5	8	22
2020/21	MSc in Informatics	<5	9	<5	<5	0	0	<5	15