



11 July 2019

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Mr Lazo Banaee

Sent by email: request-584243-75ba46dc@whatdotheyknow.com

The University of Edinburgh
Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

Direct Dial 0131 651 4099
Switchboard 0131 650 1000

Email recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk

Dear Mr Banaee

Freedom of information request

Thank you for your email of 20 June 2019 requesting information about International Baccalaureate grades of mechanical engineering students.

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.

We are one of the most popular universities for undergraduate study in the UK. Entry to the University is highly competitive and the admissions process is highly selective. We seek to admit the very best students who demonstrate the potential to benefit from, and contribute to, the academic experience we offer. Whilst prior academic attainment is the most important single factor determining whether or not an applicant is offered a place, no applicant is admitted to the University on the basis of grades alone.

For 2020 entry, the IB standard entry requirement for [mechanical engineering on the University's Degree Finder](#) is "37 points with 666 at HL – 32 points with 555 at HL". Standard entry requirement ranges are framed so as to give an indication on what grades may realistically be needed to secure an offer. The University's [advice on understanding our entry requirements](#) holds that applicants will be expected to achieve close to the upper grade level to receive an offer. Our [undergraduate admissions statistics webpage](#) provides more detail on the factors that cause offer rates to vary, and gives the offer rates for subject levels over the last three years split by fee group. There is also further information on [International Baccalaureate results](#) on the website.

International Baccalaureate grades

You asked for the International Baccalaureate (IB) grades achieved by each student enrolled in mechanical engineering programmes at the University. As the numbers of

students who hold IB qualifications studying such programmes are low, I have interpreted your request as relating to students on both BEng Mechanical Engineering and MEng Mechanical Engineering programmes.

The information you have requested is provided in table 1 below.

You will see that I have combined grade scores into categories, including current students in all years of study. This is because disclosing the grades at a more detailed level 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).

It is important to note that, as I have combined grades across all years of study and included students from a number of separate applicant cohorts, the information provided in table 1 may be less helpful to you as a prospective applicant, than the information provided above about 2020 entry.

Table 1: International Baccalaureate grades of current BEng Mechanical Engineering and MEng Mechanical Engineering students

IB grades	Number of entrants
32 – 34	4
35 – 37	10
38 – 40	12
41 – 43	7

Table notes:

- These figures include students who began programmes in the 2015/16 to 2018/19 academic years
- The level of competition within an applicant cohort for any given year plays a large part in determining the grades needed to secure an offer
- Offer rates may differ between tuition fee status groups because the number of offers accepted is linked to applicants' country of domicile

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

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