

Business Assurance
Information
Compliance

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Tel: 020 7848 7816
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John Kay

By email only to: request-550726-83abc573@whatdotheyknow.com

12 February 2019

Dear John,

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”)

Further to your recent request for information held by King’s College London, I am writing to confirm that the requested information is held by the university.

Your request

We received your information request on 6 February 2019 and have treated it as a request for information made under section 1(1) of the Act.

You requested the following information:

Can you please give the number of applications and number of offers for every postgraduate course at KCL for 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019.

Our response

Please find attached document. This data includes applications and offers for Postgraduate Taught programmes for the following years of entry: 2015/6, 2016/7, 2017/8 and 2018/9. Non-Award, Non-Credit and Free-Standing Module programmes have been excluded. Please note some programmes may be new for recent years, or may no longer run, therefore there will be no historical data.

Where the total number of individuals is under 5, the university has replaced the figure with ‘equal to or less than five’ (≤ 5). The university considers that it is reasonably likely that students could be identified from the low numbers. Such identification would constitute a breach of one of the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). This approach is in accordance with the Information Commissioner’s Office Code of Practice on Anonymisation. This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act. This is an absolute exemption which means that the university does not need to consider the public interest in disclosing the information, we only need to establish that the exemption has been engaged.

The methodology the university has adopted is a variation of the HESA standard rounding and suppression method. Numbers that are five or fewer are replaced with “≤5 (less than or equal to five).

Full details of the HESA methodology can be found on their website:
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/rounding-and-suppression-anonymise-statistics>

This completes the university’s response to your information request.

Your right to complain

If you are unhappy with the service, you have received in relation to your information request or feel that it has not been properly handled you have the right to complain or request a review of our decision by contacting the Assistant Director of Business Assurance (Information Compliance) within 60 days of the date of this letter.

Further information about our internal complaints procedure is available at the link below:

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/college/policyzone/assets/files/governance_and_legal/Freedom_of_Information_Policy_updated_Oct_%202011.pdf

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal complaints procedure provided by King’s College London.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

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

Yours sincerely

Jade Roche
Information Compliance