

Nicky Epaminonda
request-585128-499ba332@whatdotheyknow.com

09 July 2019

Our Ref: FOI 2019/267 – F1203230

Dear Nicky Epaminonda,

Re: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Request for Information

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 26 June 2019 timed 0805 hours, requesting the following information:

- (1) In the years 2018-2019, was there a cut-off LNAT score for applicants (i.e. a minimum LNAT score under which applicants will not be considered)?**
- (2) If so, what was this cut-off score?**
- (3) In any event, what was the average LNAT score for successful applicants (i.e. applicants to whom an offer was made) in the above-mentioned application cycle?**
- (4) Does the university take into account the LNAT essay at all and, if so, in what way and to what extent?**

University's Response

- (1) In the years 2018-2019, was there a cut-off LNAT score for applicants (i.e. a minimum LNAT score under which applicants will not be considered)?**
- (2) If so, what was this cut-off score?**

It is important to note that the primary consideration in deciding whether to make offers is performance at A Level (or equivalent). Offers are made conditional on the applicant getting three As at A Level. The LNAT is a secondary consideration.

The University does not set a specific LNAT score that applicants must attain to receive an offer. The practice in recent years has been to take the LNAT score into account along with actual or predicted school examination grades. A low LNAT score might result in an applicant being denied an offer despite high school examination grades and a high LNAT score might result in an applicant being given an offer despite their school examination grades being

slightly below the normal threshold for an offer. However, there was no specific level of LNAT score at which an applicant would automatically have been rejected.

It is important to note the background to admissions decisions for entry in September 2018 and September 2019. For many years the University of Glasgow had offered only a Scots Law degree. Starting in September 2019 it has also offered a common law degree. The intake of students in September 2018 was therefore the first intake for the Common Law degree and the intake for September 2019 the second intake. In the years up to 2017 (when only the Scots Law degree was offered) the lowest LNAT score with which an applicant was made an offer was generally 17, although a few applicants have been made offers with LNAT scores of 15 or 16. In these cases, the personal circumstances of the applicants had been considered.

It is important to note that the number of places available on the Common Law LLB is far smaller than the number of places on the Scots Law LLB. This is because the Common Law LLB is a new programme and it was considered prudent to build up its size slowly. In the event, only a relatively modest number of applications were received for entry to the Common Law LLB in September 2018 (it went into clearing to fill places) and a dramatically larger number of applications received for September 2019. Ultimately, the number of applications received was more than 10 times the number of places available on the programme, whereas historically there has been much less pressure of applications for the Scots Law LLB. This meant there were many more candidates with the potential to get three As at A Level than the University could possibly make offers to. Accordingly, it was decided to rank applicants for the Common Law LLB, who had the potential to get three As, according to their LNAT scores and made offers to those who had achieved an LNAT score of 24 or better. This seemed a reasonable approach as it relied on an objective measure. Please note, the decision to restrict offers to those who had an LNAT score of 24 was not taken until after the applications deadline of 15 January. This was not a decision that could have been taken before the beginning of the applications cycle window as it was not known in Summer 2018 either the number of applications that would be received for 2019 entry or the general standard of those applications.

(3) In any event, what was the average LNAT score for successful applicants (i.e. applicants to whom an offer was made) in the above-mentioned application cycle?

For those receiving an offer for the Common Law LLB, the average score was 25.

For those receiving an offer for the Scots Law LLB, the average score was 21.

(4) Does the university take into account the LNAT essay at all and, if so, in what way and to what extent?

Up to and including the applications cycle for those entering the LLB in September 2017, the practice was to read the LNAT essays, although this was not necessarily done in all cases. Those were years in which only the Scots Law LLB was offered. For subsequent application cycles, there were several changes in procedures. The essays of applicants for both the Scots Law and Common Law LLB programmes were not considered in deciding whether to make offers.

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Breach of copyright law is an actionable offence and the University expressly reserves its rights and remedies available to it pursuant to the CDPA and common law. Further information on copyright is available at the following website:

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/copy.htm>

Your right to seek a review

Should you be dissatisfied with the way in which the University has dealt with your request, you have the right to require us to review our actions and decisions. If you wish to request a review, please contact the University Deputy Secretary, University Court Office, Gilbert Scott Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland G12 8QQ or e-mail: foi@gla.ac.uk within 40 working days. Your request must be in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape, etc). You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner’s Office may be contacted as follows:

Online Appeal Service:

Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal

By post:

The Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Fax: 01334 464611

E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

An appeal, on a point of law, to the Court of Session may be made against a decision by the Commissioner.

For further information on the review procedure please refer to

(<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/dpfoioffice/policiesandprocedures/foisa-complaintsandreview/>)

All complaints regarding requests for information will be handled in accordance with this procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office