

17 March 2020

Ref: FOI20-124

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your email of 8th March 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the responses to each of your questions below:

a) the number of EU students enrolled at your University for each academic year 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

b) if possible - the number of EU students having their tuition fees paid by Student Loans Company each academic year 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

For questions a and b The data you have requested for past academic years is available through HESA's custom data request scheme (<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/services/custom/data/request>) and is therefore exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA as it is already reasonably accessible through other means.

Data for the current and future years will be available at the same location following its publication by HESA. These data are therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 22 of the FOIA.

Data which is disseminated by HESA for a fee is considered to be commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the FOIA.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and as such a public interest test has been carried out. In favour of disclosure we considered the need for the University to report openly on its activity. Against that we considered the commercial interests of HESA as the organisation responsible for disseminating such statistics. HESA is the body nominated to provide statistics on the Higher Education sector in the UK. Disclosure of data available from HESA would prejudice their ability to sell said data via their paid service to third parties. There is likely to be significant commercial harm as a public disclosure under the FOIA would allow the release of information with commercial value, therefore severely weakening their ability to continue to sell this level of data. Such sales assist in the finance of their operations and the pursuit of their charitable aims; reduction in income from such services could lead to consequences include loss of significant revenue, inability to offer the same level of service to other customers or potentially impact on jobs within their organisation.

Some of the data you have requested represents small populations of individuals which therefore could easily be identified. This data would need to be anonymised and is exempt under Section 40 of the FOIA. It should be noted that HESA will also anonymise this data before release where appropriate.



This response has been prepared in accordance with a request received pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The supply of documents under FOI does not give the person who receives the information an automatic right to re-use the documents without obtaining the consent of the copyright holder. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. You must submit this to the Information Governance Office in writing within 40 days of receipt of this notification. Please quote the reference number above.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. (<https://ico.org.uk/>)

Kind Regards,

Information Governance

University of Exeter

