



19 June 2019

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

File ref: T3/30/431

Ms Elizabeth Thomson

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

Sent by email: [request-580282-f8a60dcd@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-580282-f8a60dcd@whatdotheyknow.com), [request-580261-9806c256@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-580261-9806c256@whatdotheyknow.com), and [request-580609-a85e2955@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-580609-a85e2955@whatdotheyknow.com)

Direct Dial 0131 651 4099  
Switchboard 0131 650 1000

Email [recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk](mailto:recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk)

Dear Ms Thomson

### **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your emails of 3 June 2019 requesting admissions statistics and information about tuition fee income.

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.

The University is committed to admitting the very best students who demonstrate the potential to benefit from, and contribute to, the academic experience we offer; to that end we seek to attract a wide range of students from different social, cultural and educational backgrounds. We aim to operate fair, transparent and consistent admissions practices. Details of our [admissions policy and practices](#) are published on the University website.

We are also committed to widening access and welcome applications from students with diverse backgrounds. Our continuing commitment to diversity plays a vital role in ensuring the University's success as a great civic institution. We recognise that not everyone has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their full academic potential from their school or college qualifications alone. For this reason, we aim to identify applicants who could benefit from additional consideration in the admissions process. This is known as [contextual admissions](#), as it enables us to consider the achievements of applicants in context.

The University uses the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), the Scottish Government's official tool to identify areas of multiple deprivation in Scotland. It identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation and ranks from most deprived to least deprived. It uses 38 indicators across seven domains, namely: income, employment, health, education, skills and training, housing, geographic access and crime. However, the SIMD analyses reflect the geographic area in which an individual lives and not

UNIVERSITY SECRETARY Ms Sarah Smith

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336

necessarily their personal circumstances. [Further information about the SIMD](#), including how it can and cannot be used, is published on the Scottish Government website. Our contextualised admissions criteria therefore also includes care experience, attending a school with low attainment/progression statistics or being eligible for a recognised widening access programme. [Our widening participation strategy](#) is published on our website.

More information about participation indicators used in Scottish Higher Education institutions is available on the [Scottish Funding Council \(SFC\)](#) and [Higher Education Statistics Agency \(HESA\)](#) websites.

[The SIMD analyses for applications for entry to the University of Edinburgh](#) (and other Scottish higher education institutions) from 2015 to 2018 are available online from the UCAS, including 'key technical points' to help you understand the data.

## Admissions statistics

For each of the last six academic years, you asked for the number of undergraduate applications and offers, by applicant domicile, whether Scotland, rUK, EU (non-UK), or International (non-EU). You also asked how many of these applicants gained entry qualifications from a private or fee paying school. Of those Scotland domiciled applicants who gained entry qualifications at a private or fee paying school, you asked how many were from Scotland's 20% most deprived backgrounds (SIMD 20).

The University holds the previous institution categories supplied to us by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). These categorisations are defined by UCAS and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Independent and private schools are categorised as 'independent'. We do not hold this data for some entrants. This is usually because they used the UCAS 'Apply Online' service, which obscures the previous institution information in the data we receive from UCAS. In other cases the categorisation is recorded as 'not applicable' because the student previously attended or transferred from another university. The remaining students are categorised by HESA in general terms as 'state', which includes comprehensive schools, grammar schools, and sixth form and technical colleges. While we hold this information, it has no bearing on our student recruitment or selection decisions.

The University therefore does not hold information about school type in respect of EU (non-UK) and International (non-EU) students. It also does not hold SIMD 20 information for either these groups of students, or for rUK students.

The information we hold in relation to your request is provided in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Number of undergraduate applications and offers, by domicile and school type, 2013/14 to 2018/19**

Domicile	Admissions cycle	School type	Applications		Offers	
			All	SIMD20	All	SIMD20
EU (non-UK)	2013/14		10,615		1,879	
	2014/15		11,070		1,775	
	2015/16		11,811		1,465	
	2016/17		12,241		1,637	

Domicile	Admissions cycle	School type	Applications		Offers	
			All	SIMD20	All	SIMD20
International (non-EU)	2017/18		11,584		1,648	
	2018/19		11,594		1,793	
	2013/14		8,476		5,350	
	2014/15		9,902		6,085	
	2015/16		10,136		6,261	
	2016/17		10,571		6,796	
	2017/18		11,552		7,657	
	2018/19		12,663		8,636	
Scotland	2013/14	Independent	1,831	19	901	8
		All	16,599	1,373	5,752	391
	2014/15	Independent	1,839	29	776	13
		All	17,604	1,732	5,363	460
	2015/16	Independent	1,828	28	770	13
		All	18,064	1,713	5,750	446
	2016/17	Independent	1,941	32	809	13
		All	18,757	1,861	5,324	446
	2017/18	Independent	1,732	23	812	19
		All	17,536	1,868	5,560	602
	2018/19	Independent	1,649	30	774	23
		All	15,796	1,592	5,244	663
rUK	2013/14	Independent	4,740		2,404	
		All	15,208		5,983	
	2014/15	Independent	5,512		3,201	
		All	16,718		7,821	
	2015/16	Independent	5,435		3,333	
		All	17,008		8,749	
	2016/17	Independent	5,637		3,722	
		All	17,489		9,394	
	2017/18	Independent	6,070		4,000	
		All	19,204		10,176	
	2018/19	Independent	6,211		3,979	
		All	18,358		9,859	

*Table notes:*

- We cannot guarantee that the school from which applications were made is the school in which entry qualifications were gained. For example, an application may be made from a further education college, but the entry qualifications can still be those gained whilst still in secondary education.
- The 2018/19 data, for example, refers to the admissions cycle that concluded at the end of September 2018 for both immediate entry in the 2018/19 academic year, as well as for deferred entry in the 2019/20 academic year

The category 'independent school' is equivalent to 'private/fee-paying' school. All of the independent schools attended by SIMD20 entrants provide income-assessed bursaries for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## **Tuition fee income**

You asked for the amounts of undergraduate tuition fee income for each academic year from 2013/14 to 2018/19, by student domicile, whether Scotland, rUK, EU (non-UK), or International (non-EU).

Prior to 2012/13 the University did not distinguish between students from Scotland and those from the rest of the UK, and used the fee status 'Home - UK' for new students within both groups. Students who matriculated before this change remained classified as 'Home – UK' students. [Further information about fee status](#) is published on our website.

The University publishes tuition fee income within the [Annual Report and Accounts](#), published on our website. Tables 3 and 4 of the notes to the accounts hold the relevant information. The teaching grant represents the University's second source of income in relation to Scotland and EU domiciled students whose fee status is determined to be 'Home-Scotland/EU.'

A more detailed breakdown of the information you have requested is also published on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) website. Information about the [data that HESA holds](#), as well as an overview of their [custom data service](#), is published on the HESA website. You can also [contact HESA by email](#) or by telephoning +44 (0) 1242 211133.

## **Technical exemption**

Please note that where information is available to you through the University or HESA websites, it is technically exempt from the University's obligation to answer requests for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information is exempt under section 25 of this Act, because it is available to you by another route. This exemption is a technical matter only and does not affect your ability to obtain the information.

## **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

**Lorraine Orr**  
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](mailto:recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk)**