



2 July 2019

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Ms Elizabeth Thomson

Sent by email: request-582537-5afdcc5d@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 Ms Thomson

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2019 requesting undergraduate admissions statistics.

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

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 entrants, by domicile, whether Scotland, rUK, EU (non-UK), or International (non-EU). You also asked how many of these entrants gained entry qualifications from a private or fee paying school.

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 most EU (non-UK) and International (non-EU) students. SIMD is a Scotland specific measure and therefore the University does not hold information for groups or students who are not domiciled in Scotland.

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

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

| Domicile | Academic year | School type | All |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----|
| EU (non-UK) | 2013/14 | | 714 |
| | 2014/15 | | 639 |
| | 2015/16 | | 642 |
| | 2016/17 | | 667 |
| | 2017/18 | | 718 |
| | 2018/19 | | 813 |

| Domicile | Academic year | School type | All |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------|
| International (non-EU) | 2013/14 | | 981 |
| | 2014/15 | | 1,052 |
| | 2015/16 | | 1,109 |
| | 2016/17 | | 1,145 |
| | 2017/18 | | 1,373 |
| | 2018/19 | | 1,586 |
| Scotland | 2013/14 | Independent | 359 |
| | | All | 2,488 |
| | 2014/15 | Independent | 275 |
| | | All | 2,331 |
| | 2015/16 | Independent | 260 |
| | | All | 2,444 |
| | 2016/17 | Independent | 307 |
| | | All | 2,286 |
| | 2017/18 | Independent | 282 |
| | | All | 2,310 |
| | 2018/19 | Independent | 275 |
| | | All | 2,088 |
| rUK | 2013/14 | Independent | 632 |
| | | All | 1,496 |
| | 2014/15 | Independent | 779 |
| | | All | 1,772 |
| | 2015/16 | Independent | 778 |
| | | All | 1,812 |
| | 2016/17 | Independent | 851 |
| | | All | 1,909 |
| | 2017/18 | Independent | 948 |
| | | All | 2,110 |
| | 2018/19 | Independent | 831 |
| | | All | 1,877 |

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 table shows all students who are or have been matriculated during the session indicated, as of the snapshot date. To be consistent with the Scottish Funding Council's approach, it includes all matriculated students with the exception of those who within five weeks of Semester 1 commencing either withdrew, interrupted or completed their studies.
- Domicile on entry groupings refer to the student's area of permanent residence prior to commencing their studies; this information is declared by the student at first matriculation.

Of those Scotland domiciled entrants who gained entry qualifications at a private or fee paying school, you also asked how many were from Scotland's 20% most deprived backgrounds (SIMD 20).

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. Between 2013/14 and 2018/19, there were 161 applications from individuals with a SIMD20 background who attended an independent school. 89 applicants received offers, with 21 joining the university as new entrants. I have not provided this data by academic year because disclosing very low numbers 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).

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