

Ref No: FOI 4695
Date: xxxx
Subject: Chinese Student
Admissions

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Dear Lancaster University,

(1) Can you provide me with admission statistics for all of your postgraduate programs, both generally and for Chinese students?

Specifically, I'd like to know for each individual program, how many total students applied, how many total students were given offers, how many Chinese students applied, and how many Chinese students were given offers.

Please provide this data for each year, for the last 5 years of entry that you have this data available.

Please see the attached spreadsheet.

Please note that where fewer than five persons meet a specific criteria, we substitute the figure with <5 in order to protect personal information. This information is exempt under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as disclosure of this information would breach one of the data protection principles. This acts as our refusal notice.

(2) If available, please also provide me with a list of all Chinese educational institutions that your university is willing to accept applicants from, along with an explanation of whether your university is willing to consider applications from students from other Chinese institutions not on that list. If this varies between individual schools or departments in your university, please provide this information for each school or department.

This information is exempt from release under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act being information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the University. This acts as our refusal notice.

Section 43(2) is a qualified exemption and therefore we are required to conduct a public interest test.

The argument for exempting the information is that the University believes that this information would, or would be likely to, give an unfair advantage by other UK academic institutions to grow

market share. This would likely impact admissions numbers and the University's ability to generate income.

Having considered the wider public interest in openness and transparency, we believe it is in the public interest for the University to maintain its ability to generate income via applicants from Chinese educational institutions.

However, we can confirm that we accept applications from a wide variety of institutions in China and have considered applications from over 800 institutions over the last few years. Grades and institutions differ depending upon the subject area.

Your request i.d. is: FOI 4695. Please quote this in all enquiries.

The University aims to comply fully with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and to ensure that the service it provides for those wishing to gain access to information is helpful and effective.

The personal information you have supplied will be used only to process your request; some details will be retained for our records after the request has been answered. This information will not be passed on to other parties unrelated to the University unless we are required to do so by law, or where it would be necessary to answer the request in full (in which case we would seek your consent for any transfer).

Process for Making a Complaint

If you feel the service you have received does not meet our aims or your expectations, please write to:

Head of Governance Services
University House
Lancaster University
Bailrigg
Lancaster
LA1 4YW

Email: information-governance@lancaster.ac.uk

If, following our internal review, you are dissatisfied with the response provided, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, for details visit www.ico.org.uk.