



Ref. FOI/20190709/2

08 August 2019

Reply to request for information under Freedom of Information of Act	
Your Ref	FOI/20190709/2
Address	request-589622-90628ba8@whatdotheyknow.com
Request	<p>Please provide the following data in relation to all of your undergraduate law courses (i.e. for both the M100 and any law-related courses with an M1xx course code);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A full list of the scores achieved by offerholders in the multiple choice section of the LNAT for the 2018/2019 admission cycle.2. Whether the admissions team assesses the essay component of the LNAT.3. A description of the way in which the LNAT essay is assessed. This should include the grading scale and assessment criteria used by the assessors.4. A list of the scores awarded to offerholders for the essay section of the LNAT for the 2018/2019 admission cycle.

Dear Mr Dimitroulopoulos,

I write in reply to your email requesting the above information. Part 1 you may find attached.

2. Whether the admissions team assesses the essay component of the LNAT:

The LNAT essays are sent to the Faculty of Law from the company which runs the test, Pearson Vue. It is the responsibility of colleges to see to it that LNAT essays are marked; however, the Faculty offers central training for tutors or graduate students wishing to mark LNAT essays on behalf of colleges. This is to ensure fair and consistent marking while making it easier for colleagues to find qualified markers. College Law tutors making admissions decisions will refer to the essay when making their decisions.

3. A description of the way in which the LNAT essay is assessed:

Reflecting the general admissions criteria in turn, high scoring essays will normally exhibit:

- (1) Application: close attention to the question(s) asked and sustained and focussed treatment of the issues;
- (2) Reasoning ability: well-drawn distinctions, a keen eye for relevance, awareness of more than one possible line of argument, and an element of independent critical judgment;
- (3) Communication: clear and fluent writing and notable clarity and appropriateness of structure and argument.

Low scoring essays will normally exhibit:

- (1) Application: poor attention to the question(s) asked, no sustained and focussed treatment of the issues.

(2) Reasoning ability: poorly developed arguments, a preponderance of irrelevant points, few or no well-drawn distinctions, a lack of awareness of more than one possible line of argument, no evidence of independent critical judgment.

(3) Communication: lack of fluency and clarity and no clear or appropriate structure or argument

The essay is to be marked as a percentage and tutors marking the test are asked to mark by analogy to the conventional understanding of marks in examinations: for example, it will only be in the rarest of cases that a candidate would obtain a mark of 75 or above. Marks should be awarded on the following basis:

70 and above: Excellent: The essay clearly and consistently contains "high mark features". There are no "low mark features"; or the negligible "low mark features" are wholly outweighed by the excellence of the "high mark features". The essay is therefore at a level one would expect of candidate very likely to obtain a place.

65 to 69: Very good: The essay contains a preponderance of "high mark features" with only a limited number of "low mark features" and is therefore at a level one would expect of a candidate with a strong chance of obtaining a place.

60 to 64: Good: The essay contains a number of "high mark features" which, taken as a whole, outweigh the "low mark features". The essay is therefore at a level one would expect of candidate with some chance of obtaining a place.

55 to 59: Moderate: The essay may provide some "high mark features" but, taken as a whole, those features are outweighed by the "low mark features". The essay is therefore at a level one would expect of candidate unlikely to obtain a place.

50 to 54: Poor: The essay contains a preponderance of "low mark features" with only a limited number of "high mark features" and is therefore at a level one would expect of a candidate very unlikely to obtain a place.

49 and below: Very poor: The essay clearly and consistently contains "low mark features". There are no "high mark features"; or the negligible "high mark features" are wholly outweighed by the "low mark features". The essay is therefore at a level one would expect of candidate almost certain not to obtain a place.

Please note that the LNAT guidelines on essay length emphasise that economy of expression is important and that the ideal LNAT essay length is about 500-600 words.

Yours sincerely,

FOI OXFORD