

**From:** Freedom of Information

**Sent:** 17 August 2020 15:44

**To:**

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/273)

Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/273)**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 20 July 2020, reference K/20/273.

Your request read:

“I am writing to you regarding your MBBS Medicine (A100) course. Could you please provide myself with an Excel spreadsheet with the following data/information from the last 2 admission cycles:

- 1) average A Level grades (predicted)
- 2) Average A Level grades (achieved)
- 3) Average BMAT score
- 4) Whether an offer was made
- 5) Whether they were interviewed

Could you also provide me with the average GCSE grade for Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics for those who were given an offer? Also, what was the lowest GCSE grade combination for those who were given an interview and given an offer?”

Firstly, it may be helpful if we explain that not all applicants take A-Level and/or GCSE courses before applying/attending university. As such, your questions do not apply to the entire cohort of A100 applicants, which in turn limits the amount of relevant information we hold.

Predicted grades are used as a starting point when considering applications. Applicants with predicted grades which do not meet the entry requirements of the course (either directly or via a widening participation programme) will not progress through the application process. As such, we do not retain a record of each applicant’s predicted grades, and as such do not hold information relevant to question one of your request.

We only hold information regarding the achieved grades of applicants who were offered and accepted a place on the course. The achieved grades of unsuccessful applicants and those who withdrew from the admissions process is not retained. We did not start recording (and retaining) this information in relation to successful applicants until 2019. As such, we only hold partial information in relation to question two.

We do not hold information regarding BMAT scores in the format you have requested. BMAT scores are used to inform our academic scoring system, which is

used for shortlisting. As such, we do not hold information in relation to question three.

We do not retain information regarding the GCSE grades of applicants. Applicants who do not hold relevant or sufficiently strong GCSE grades will not progress through the applications process. As such, we do not hold information relevant to your final two (unnumbered) questions.

We do hold information in relation to applicants who were interviewed, and who were offered a place on the course. We do, therefore, hold information in relation to questions four and five of your request. However, we consider that to provide the information in the format you have set out engages section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, which exempts information which, if disclosed, would infringe on someone's rights under the Data Protection Act.

To provide the information broken down to the level you have requested and linked in the manner you have (i.e. demonstrating what each applicant achieved) would be likely to result in the identification of individuals, contrary to their rights under the Data Protection Act.

Providing a response to your request in the format you have set out would reveal detailed information regarding the academic achievements of applicants to the A100 course. Your request seeks detailed information regarding the academic history and achievement of each applicant. This would result in information which people expect to be handled sensitively and confidentially by the University of Leeds being publicly available, and in a manner which makes it likely that it can be linked back to a specific individual. This would be grossly unfair, far exceeding individuals' expectations and would therefore contravene the Data Protection Act, thus engaging section 40(2) of the FOI Act. As such, we are not providing the information we hold in the format you have requested. However, we are able to provide information in an unlinked way.

In 2018, we received 2142 applications to the A100 medicine and surgery course. Of these, 661 applicants were interviewed. The remaining 1481 applicants were not interviewed. This may have been because they did not meet entry requirements, or they withdrew from the application process. 348 offers were made. As outlined above, we do not hold information in relation to the achieved grades of 2018 applicants.

In 2019, we received 2486 applications to the A100 medicine and surgery course. Of these, 1056 were interviewed and 1430 were not. 394 offers were made. Offer holders achieved grades from ABB to A\*A\*A\*A\* at A-Level. As noted above, not all applicants rely on A-Level grades for entry and as such this does not give a full picture of the 2019 cohort.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on [foi@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foi@leeds.ac.uk)

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an

Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle  
Deputy Secretary  
The University of Leeds  
Leeds  
LS2 9JT

Email: [foi@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foi@leeds.ac.uk)

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website ([www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)).

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. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

**Chloe Wilkins**  
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat  
University of Leeds