

**From:** Freedom of Information

**Sent:** 14 September 2020 16:02

**To:**

**Subject:** Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/297)

Dear

**Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/297)**

Thank you for your clarified Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 19 August 2020, reference K/20/297.

Your request read as follows. Your clarifications are shown in italicised text:

*“Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all newly starting postgraduate research students (including both ‘masters by research’ and ‘PHD’ students), for each of the following five academic years: a) 2015/16 b) 2016/17 c) 2017/18 d) 2018/19 e) 2019/20*

*Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all newly starting PHD students, for each of the following five academic years a) 2015/16 b) 2016/17 c) 2017/18 d) 2018/19 e) 2019/20*

*Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of both i) all applicants to PHD student roles ii) successful applicants to PHD student roles - for the following five academic years: a) 2015/16 b) 2016/17 c) 2017/18 d) 2018/19 e) 2019/20*

*Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all of the panels which decide on PHD applications*

*Is there an internal policy or guidance on the make-up of panels which decide on PHD applications? If so, could you please disclose this information*

*I am referring to students applying to study in that academic year.  
By PHD student roles I am simply referring to PHD students - IE anyone studying towards to award of a PHD.”*

The University of Leeds holds some of this information. For your convenience we have responded to each of your questions in turn below.

- 1. Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all newly starting postgraduate research students (including both ‘masters by research’ and ‘PHD’ students), for each of the following five academic years:**
  - a. 2015/16**
  - b. 2016/17**
  - c. 2017/18**
  - d. 2018/19**
  - e. 2019/20**

The University of Leeds holds this information. Please find in the table below details of all who held a registration status in their first year of study to a research degree within each academic session e.g. 20516 = 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016

Stated Ethnicity	201617	201516	201718	201819	201920	Grand Total
Arab	55	53	71	65	35	279
Asian - Other	41	35	14	27	22	139
Asian/Asian British - Indian	15	23	12	10	14	74
Asian/Asian British- Pakistani	16	11	*	16	15	*
Asian/Asian British-Bangladeshi	*	*	*	6	6	17
Black - Other	*	7	8	*	*	26
Black/Black British- African	20	19	26	16	11	92
Black/Black British-Caribbean	*	*	*	*	*	8
Chinese	35	30	34	46	61	206
Mixed - White & Asian	6	7	*	9	*	26
Mixed-White & Black African	*	*	*	*	*	10
Mixed-White & Black Caribbean	*	*	*	*	*	8
No Comment	22	20	12	14	11	79
Not Known	*	*	7	*	*	14
Not provided	157	133	161	201	192	844
OBS Information Not Yet Sought	*	*	*	*	*	1
OBS White - British	*	*	*	*	*	7
Other Ethnic background	7	10	8	10	9	44
Other Mixed background	15	11	14	12	10	62
White	440	470	414	436	320	2080
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>4079</b>

Please note that where the total number in a particular group is less than or equal to five, we are withholding the total figure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. This is represented in the table above as (\*). We have also withheld 'total' figures where their inclusion would enable individual numbers to be backwards calculated. Section 40(2) sets out that information is exempt from disclosure if it is the personal data of someone other than the person making the request, and disclosure would; contravene the data protection principles; contravene an objection to processing; or if the data is exempt from the right of subject access. We consider that the release of this information would be likely to lead to the identification of individuals and would therefore reveal sensitive information regarding their ethnicity. This would be unfair and would therefore breach their data protection rights.

**2. Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all newly starting PHD students, for each of the following five academic years**

- a. 2015/16
- b. 2016/17
- c. 2017/18
- d. 2018/19
- e. 2019/20

The University of Leeds holds this information. As above we have withheld information where the number of people in any specific group is less than or equal to five. We have also withheld 'total' figures where their inclusion would enable individual numbers to be backwards calculated.

All who held a registration status in their first year of study to a Doctor of Philosophy degree within each academic session e.g. 2016 = 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016

Stated Ethnicity	201516	201617	201718	201819	201920	Grand Total
Arab	53	55	71	65	34	278
Asian - Other	35	41	14	27	20	137
Asian/Asian British - Indian	23	14	12	10	12	71
Asian/Asian British- Pakistani	9	13	*	16	15	*
Asian/Asian British-Bangladeshi	*	*	*	6	6	17
Black - Other	7	*	6	*	*	24
Black/Black British- African	18	20	26	16	11	91
Black/Black British-Caribbean	*	*	*	*	*	8
Chinese	27	34	32	45	58	196
Mixed - White & Asian	7	6	*	9	*	26
Mixed-White & Black African	*	*	*	*	*	10
Mixed-White & Black Caribbean	*	*	*	*	*	8
No Comment	20	22	11	13	10	76
Not Known	*	*	7	*	*	14
Not provided	124	152	154	189	181	800
OBS White - British	*	*	*	*	*	7
Other Ethnic background	10	7	8	10	9	44
Other Mixed background	11	15	14	11	10	61
White	446	418	386	412	299	1961
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>3887</b>

3. Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of both i) all applicants to PHD student roles ii) successful applicants to PHD student roles - for the following five academic years:

- a. 2015/16
- b. 2016/17
- c. 2017/18
- d. 2018/19

**e. 2019/20**

**i) all applicants to PHD student roles**

The University of Leeds holds this information. As above we have withheld information where the number of people in any specific group is less than or equal to five. We have also withheld 'total' figures where their inclusion would enable individual numbers to be backwards calculated.

All applicants to a research degree within each academic session e.g. 20516 = an application submitted between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016

Stated ethnicity	201516	201617	201718	201819	201920	Grand Total
Arab	611	671	650	485	418	2835
Asian - Other	381	223	261	260	245	1370
Asian/Asian British - Indian	228	187	177	150	161	903
Asian/Asian British-Pakistani	162	113	199	150	115	739
Asian/Asian British-Bangladeshi	32	14	83	52	38	219
Black - Other	125	133	146	80	71	555
Black/Black British- African	362	293	345	241	195	1436
Black/Black British-Caribbean	12	9	6	32	11	70
Chinese	397	414	572	636	589	2608
Gypsy or Traveller	*	*	*	*	7	*
Mixed - White & Asian	80	24	55	47	41	247
Mixed-White & Black African	12	22	22	12	14	82
Mixed-White & Black Caribbean	15	16	11	*	*	47
No Comment	138	107	147	91	61	544
Not Known	8	32	36	24	44	144
Not provided	2509	2447	2921	2854	2849	13580
OBS Information Not Yet Sought	*	*	7	*	*	*
OBS White - British	*	25	31	35	*	101
Other Ethnic background	103	52	96	121	64	436
Other Mixed background	116	146	92	70	62	486
White	3271	3246	3150	2563	1963	14193
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8567</b>	<b>8174</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>7908</b>	<b>6953</b>	<b>40609</b>

**ii) successful applicants to PHD student roles**

The University of Leeds holds this information. As above we have withheld information where the number of people in any specific group is less than or equal to five. We have also withheld 'total' figures where their inclusion would enable individual numbers to be backwards calculated.

All applicants to a research degree who received an offer within each academic session e.g. 20516 = an offer received between 01/09/2015 and 31/08/2016

Stated ethnicity	201516	201617	201718	201819	201920	Grand Total
Arab	71	80	84	56	44	335
Asian - Other	50	28	30	33	29	170
Asian/Asian British - Indian	29	20	22	18	22	111
Asian/Asian British- Pakistani	21	11	23	20	16	91
Asian/Asian British-Bangladeshi	*	*	11	7	*	29
Black - Other	13	13	13	7	*	*
Black/Black British- African	38	26	31	23	17	135
Black/Black British-Caribbean	*	*	*	*	*	9
Chinese	54	60	68	93	74	349
Mixed - White & Asian	10	*	7	7	*	29
Mixed-White & Black African	*	*	*	*	*	11
Mixed-White & Black Caribbean	*	*	*	*	*	6
No Comment	26	20	23	14	9	92
Not Known	*	6	6	*	8	23
Not provided	402	363	411	427	431	2034
OBS Information Not Yet Sought	*	*	*	*	*	*
OBS White - British	*	*	6	6	*	17
Other Ethnic background	11	8	11	18	8	56
Other Mixed background	18	19	11	12	10	70
White	509	496	479	407	292	2183
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1261</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>5802</b>

4. Can we get a breakdown by ethnicity of all of the panels which decide on PHD applications
5. Is there an internal policy or guidance on the make-up of panels which decide on PHD applications? If so, could you please disclose this information

We address these questions together.

We do not record the ethnicity of panel members. Guidance for panel composition is set out in the PGR admissions policy:

*"All applicants must be interviewed before an offer of admission can be made.*

*At least two members of academic staff must be involved in conducting the interview. It is normally expected that at least one of the interviewers is a*

*potential supervisor and another is not a member of the proposed supervisory team.*

*The interview must be conducted in English. Where a face-to-face interview is impractical the interview may be conducted by telephone or by video streaming. Some applicants (for example, disabled applicants, applicants who are pregnant, etc.) will require adjustments at interview (for example, a sign-language interpreter or an adjustment to an audition process) to provide them with full and equal access to the process. Academic Schools are responsible for making reasonable adjustments where possible. The University's Disability Services team should be consulted for further advice or information regarding disability related adjustments ([disability@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disability@leeds.ac.uk)) and the Equality Policy Unit for advice on other adjustments ([equality@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:equality@leeds.ac.uk)).*"

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