

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 14 September 2020 15:54

To:

Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/328)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/328)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 17 August 2020, reference K/20/328.

Your request read:

“I am writing to you under the freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the department of admissions, the following questions are in relation to medicine (a100, a101) and dentistry (a200, a201) applications:

1. If a student fails to achieve their offer due to A level grades being lower than predicted due to covid 19 and wishes to reapply, how will their acquired and predicted grades be used in the admissions process?
2. If a student fails to achieve their offer due to A level grades being lower than predicted due to covid 19 but meets it after appealing their grades, will their offer still stand or be deferred to the following year?
3. If a student is offered a deferred entry will they still be able to apply to other universities in the same year?
4. Will the autumn 2020 and summer 2021 A level resits count as the first sitting of the exam and hold equal importance in the admissions process? Will you still consider these students despite their A levels not completing within 2 years due to resits?
5. Will students need to retake entrance exams such as the UCAT and BMAT exams again upon reapplying or deferred entry?
6. Will students need to rewrite personal statements upon reapplying or deferred entry?
7. Will students need to undergo the interview process again upon reapplying or deferred entry?
8. Please provide as much detail as possible about the structure and format of the interviews and whether they will be virtual this year.”

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

- 1. If a student fails to achieve their offer due to A level grades being lower than predicted due to covid 19 and wishes to reapply, how will their acquired and predicted grades be used in the admissions process?**

Students should speak to their school or college regarding the predicted grades included on their UCAS application; a request can be made to the school or college to reissue the original predicted grades in order to apply through UCAS in October

2020. All previously achieved grades should be listed on the UCAS form. UCAS forms contain all previous assessments and as such calculated grades must be included on individuals' application forms. Predicted grades would be used in our shortlisting processes.

- 2. If a student fails to achieve their offer due to A level grades being lower than predicted due to covid 19 but meets it after appealing their grades, will their offer still stand or be deferred to the following year?**

Unlike most university courses, medicine and dentistry have has tightly restricted entry numbers, determined by Government. These places at the University of Leeds were filled on A-level results day. Funding has now been secured for extra places to allow for expanded intake for 2020 as a result of the change to the use of centre assessed grades or appeal. No medicine (A100 and A101) or dental surgery (A200; we do not offer an A201 course) have been asked to defer.

- 3. If a student is offered a deferred entry will they still be able to apply to other universities in the same year?**

If a student meets the terms of their offer with calculated grades or appeals and has their placed deferred to 2021, they can choose to apply through UCAS to other universities. However, they cannot hold their offer with the original course they applied to; they will have to decide whether they keep their offer for the first school and start there in 2021 or apply again.

- 4. Will the autumn 2020 and summer 2021 A level resits count as the first sitting of the exam and hold equal importance in the admissions process? Will you still consider these students despite their A levels not completing within 2 years due to resits?**

Dentistry

We would consider the autumn series of exams to be a resit unless a candidate was not provided with a grade this summer, in which case it would be a first attempt. We do allow one resit per subject however if a candidate wishes to do additional resits, they would only be accepted if the candidate has exceptional mitigating circumstances. We would expect candidates to sit the first resit available to them.

Medicine

We will consider the autumn exams to be a first sit as it will be the first chance an applicant has to take an exam rather than receive a calculated grade. For candidates where an autumn sit is not available the summer 2021 sitting will be considered a first sit i.e. those students sitting examinations within the devolved nations. These cases will be considered as equal importance.

If a candidate has the opportunity to take an autumn sit but chooses to sit next summer then this would be considered as a resit and would only be accepted if the candidate has mitigating circumstances.

- 5. Will students need to retake entrance exams such as the UCAT and BMAT exams again upon reapplying or deferred entry?**

- 6. Will students need to rewrite personal statements upon reapplying or deferred entry?**
- 7. Will students need to undergo the interview process again upon reapplying or deferred entry?**

We address these questions together.

Students who are offered deferred entry would not be expected to retake the BMAT exam, re-apply or re-interview.

Applicants who are reapplying would be expected to submit a new application through UCAS as normal. This means with a new BMAT result, new personal statement, and clearing indicating both achieved grades and grades pending from resits. They would be subject to the normal admissions process, which includes interview.

In medicine, those candidates who are increasing their grade profile, having been made an offer from us this year, will not need to re-take admissions tests or interviews if they are using the autumn series of examinations to do this. This includes those in devolved nations who have their only 'first sit' opportunity as next summer but those candidates in England sitting next summer would need to reapply as a resit and would be considered with BMAT and interview in their new application.

- 8. Please provide as much detail as possible about the structure and format of the interviews and whether they will be virtual this year.**

We do not yet hold any recorded information relevant to this question. Work is ongoing to determine this and is not available at present.

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

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

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).

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