Dear Applicant,

**Freedom of Information request reference K/20/004**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 3 January 2020, reference **K/20/004**.

Your request read:

“1. What classification do you use for the final medical degree awarded at graduation, ranked from highest to lowest (e.g. honours, distinction, merit)?
2. What percentage of medical students obtain each of these final degree classifications at graduation?
3. What criteria are used to determine whether a student obtains each of these degree classifications?
4. Are there any additional awards that students may achieve in years other than final year? (e.g distinction in surgery in third year, merit in fourth year).
5. For each of these additional awards what percentage of medical students obtain them? (e.g 5% of third year students obtain a distinction in surgery in third year)
6. For each of these additional awards what must a student do to obtain each of them?”

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

1. **What classification do you use for the final medical degree awarded at graduation, ranked from highest to lowest (e.g. honours, distinction, merit)?**

Degree classifications are as follows:
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB, ChB) with honours
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB, ChB)

The aim of identifying students who have continually achieved high standards throughout their undergraduate programme is to permit the award of the MBChB degree with Honours. This system closely links with the Assessment Strategy for Curriculum 2010, and applies to students who entered year one of the programme in the 2010-11 session, and beyond.

Summative (graded) passes apply only to end of year assessments. It is from these graded assessments that the honours policy is drawn and all five years of graded passes will contribute to the honours award.

2. **What percentage of medical students obtain each of these final degree classifications at graduation?**

The percentage of students who achieve each classification each year will differ based on performance and the number of students in the graduating year group.
3. **What criteria are used to determine whether a student obtains each of these degree classifications?**

In Assessments for Progression, an A-F mark scheme is used. All assessed work is marked and returned with a grade. The grade boundaries are subject to statistical standard setting procedures.

The grades are:
- A (excellent)
- B (good)
- C (pass)
- D (bare pass)
- E (bare fail)
- F (poor fail)

Within the MBChB programme the first principle is to determine who is competent to progress or in year 5 to qualify as a doctor. A grade D marks the lowest grade denoting competence. Grades A and B in Assessments for Progress (end of year written, OSCE examinations and ESREP project) contribute towards the Honours points system. Grade C is what is expected of the average student and signifies an acceptable level of performance. Students are informed of the grade to give feedback on their performance against the required standards.

Eligibility for MBChB with Honours is accumulated progressively throughout the programme. Honours will reflect performance in high-stakes assessments throughout the programme, and assessments contributing to MBChB with Honours are criterion referenced.

4. **Are there any additional awards that students may achieve in years other than final year? (e.g. distinction in surgery in third year, merit in fourth year).**

Candidates who have completed and passed three years of the Leeds MBChB, and are not eligible for the award of MBChB, may be eligible for the award of a BSc(Hons) degree in Human Life Sciences.

We will classify the existing Bachelor of Sciences degree in Human Life Sciences for those successfully completing three years of study on the MBChB programme.

However, we do not seek to propose the routine award of this qualification to students who remain on the course. Only those withdrawing early, without the award of MBChB would be eligible.

5. **For each of these additional awards what percentage of medical students obtain them? (e.g 5% of third year students obtain a distinction in surgery in third year)**
The percentage of students achieving each award each year differs depending on the performance and size of the year group.

6. **For each of these additional awards what must a student do to obtain each of them?**

For the award of the Bachelor of Science in Human Life Sciences students must have completed in-course requirements for three years or more, and passed the end of year exam in at least years one to three.

We will classify the BSc as follows, using an average graded pass performance in all relevant assessments, which are converted to a numerical (percentage) value:

- A = 1.0
- B = 0.8
- C = 0.6
- D = 0.4
- E = 0.2
- F = 0.0

This allows us to calculate a numerical ‘average’ grade by year. We then combine these across Years one to three of the course.

This would convert to:

- 1st class degree Grade A average (>0.9)
- 2:1 Grade B average (0.7-0.89)
- 2:2 Grade C average (0.5-0.69)
- 3rd Grade D average (<0.5)

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.

Sincerely

Chloe Wilkins

Freedom of Information Officer
University of Leeds