Dear Freedom of Information Request (Our Ref: K/20/220)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 24 June 2020, reference K/20/220.

Your request read:

“I just want to understand how many people from an ethnic minority background apply to the University of Leeds and how many are accepted and whether this is representative.

Essentially what I want to understand is what percentage of people apply to the uni from different backgrounds and what percentage are then accepted.

In my previous email to the admissions team dated 4th June, I asked for general data writing "If it’s ok with you, please could I ask for a breakdown of the Leeds Uni demographic for nursing to reflect ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, background (social class of parents etc)."

Sorry if there was any confusion, because the above formed a part of a continuous email chain, i didn’t feel the need to repeat myself. It’s just general data really. In February 2019 (I think) the government said it was working with Russell Group universities to bridge the gap and ensure that there is an appropriate representation of ethnic minorities. Was Leeds Uni included in this list? If so what steps and work is it doing to ensure that this has been looked into? Where this data is available, I’d be quite keen to see this and the steps the uni has taken to make progress in terms of racial disparity. This question might be more applicable for the equalities team but I'll let you decide.”

Unfortunately, we are still not clear on exactly what recorded information you are requesting under the terms of the FOI Act. However, we are able to provide some information which we hope will be helpful to you and may help you to refine your request.

We publish a range of equality data on our website. This includes admissions, registrations and degree classifications data broken down by protected characteristics. The information we publish dates back to 2012; starting from the 2020 (academic year 2019/20) data you can navigate to previous years’ data via the links on the left-hand side of the page.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publish a wide range of information about who attends university. They publish some specific information about ‘widening participation’, which focuses on entrants from under-represented groups.
Some of this data can be broken down to individual provider level (although not individual course level). Similar information is available from the Office for Students.

UCAS publish a broad range of data regarding undergraduate applications. You may find their analysis by ethnic group and Sex, Area Background and Ethnic Group (University of Leeds) reports of particular interest.

We have also published a summary of University of Leeds activities relating to equality and inclusion generally, and those focussed on racial equality. This is available via our Equality Policy Unit webpages. You can also find our Access and Participation Plan (2020/21 – 2024/25) on the Office for Students website.

We hope this information is helpful. If, based on this, you still require specific information from us, please clarify the following elements of your request:

- You have asked “how many people from an ethnic minority background apply to the University of Leeds and how many are accepted and whether this is representative”
  - Please clarify the timescale this question relates to (e.g. applications received in which year(s))
  - Please clarify what “representative” means in this context – for instance are you seeking a comparison to the UK population, a specific population (e.g. nation, county or other geographical area), to other Russell Group universities, to other universities in general, or something else?

- You asked “please could I ask for a breakdown of the Leeds Uni demographic for nursing to reflect ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, background (social class of parents etc).”
  - Please clarify the timescale this question relates to (e.g. applications received in which year(s))
  - Please provide a specific definition of “background” – you may find some of the HESA data referred to above helpful.
  - We offer four courses at undergraduate level which have “nursing” in the course title (see our Course Search function). Please therefore clarify whether you are seeking information in relation to all of these courses. If you are only interested in a specific course or courses, please set out which.

- You asked “In February 2019 (I think) the government said it was working with Russell Group universities to bridge the gap and ensure that there is an appropriate representation of ethnic minorities. Was Leeds Uni included in this list?”
  - We understand this part of your request to relate to this statement from the Government in February 2019. However, this statement does not appear to refer to any specific work being carried out with Russell Group universities. As such, we are not clear what this element of your request refers to.

Please send your clarified request to foi@leeds.ac.uk. Please note that as per the Information Commissioner’s Office guidance, the 20-working day timeframe will commence the next working day following receipt of the clarified request.
Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds