Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/21/074)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 5 February 2021, reference K/21/074.

Your request read:

“For the course 'Philosophy, Politics and Economics' for 2018, 2019 and 2020 entry for each entry year could you tell me the:
1) The offer rate
2) How many people missed their offers and still gained a place? What were those grades?
3) The number of applicants who received an offer through UCAS Extra.”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

1) The offer rate
2) How many people missed their offers and still gained a place? What were those grades?

We address these questions together.

In 2018, the offer rate was 91%; in 2019 it was 74% and in 2020 it was 90%.

Across all three years, a total of 24 applicants were accepted on to the course with lower grades than the original offer. The typical offer is AAA, and an IELTS score of 6.5 overall, with no less than 6.0 in any component. The accepted grades were

- AAB
- ABB
- BBB
- -0.5 points in IELTS

We are declining to provide this information broken down by individual year, or to provide the number of offers associated with the grades listed above, as we consider that to do so would risk the identification of students who were offered places. We are withholding this information under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.
Many students who were offered places on the Philosophy, Politics and Economics course in 2018, 2019 or 2020 will still be studying the programme. By studying together, students will have come to know one another, and we therefore consider that there is a genuine risk that, if provided with the number of people who were offered a place in each year with lower grades than the original offer, plus the year in which the offer was made, students would be able to identify the individuals to whom the offer relates. This would reveal information about their classmates which would not ordinarily be available. Students (and applicants) expect the University of Leeds to treat their academic information as confidential, and as such to disclose the information would be far beyond the expectations of the individuals, and would therefore contravene data protection principles.

3) The number of applicants who received an offer through UCAS Extra

No offers were made via UCAS Extra.

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.

Yours sincerely

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer