



University of East Anglia

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04 July 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-140)

We have now considered your request of 06 June 2017 for information relating to retention rates in Medicine with a Foundation Year entry (A104) and the five year MB BS (A100).

Our response is on pages 2-5 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

We hope this information will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60 calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

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Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_17-140)

My request refers to two groups of students – A and B:

A. Students who commenced the Medicine with a Foundation Year (UCAS Code A104) course in the years (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010 and (d) 2011. It is appreciated that the graduation data may be incomplete for those intended to graduate in 2017. These students complete an initial 'Foundation Year' or 'Year 0' and then follow on to the MBBS Medicine (UCAS Code A100) Course which lasts 5 years (denoted Years 1 – 5 below.)

B. Students who commenced the MBBS Medicine (UCAS Code A100) course in the years (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010 and (d) 2011 and (e) 2012. It is appreciated that the graduation data may be incomplete for those intended to graduate in 2017.

Based on A (Foundation Year Entry Students on the A104 six year course):

1. How many students were recruited to the undergraduate Medicine with a Foundation Year (A104) programme in the years (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010 and (d) 2011?

2. In each of these six years of the programme commencing (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010 and (d) 2011 (including the Year 0/Foundation Year) how many students left the programme during the year?

3. How many students who started the Foundation Year Programme (A104) in (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010 and (d) 2011 successfully graduated from the MBBS Medicine (A100) course in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016 and (d) 2017?

Our response to questions 1, 2 and 3 is presented in the table below:

			Year of Entry			
			2008	2009	2010	2011
Q1	Number of starters		25	25	25	24
Q2	Leavers	Year 0	2	2	2	2
		Year 1	3	6	0	1
		Year 2	2	2	0	0
		Year 3	1	0	0	0
		Year 4	0	0	0	0
		Year 5	0	0	0	0
Q3	Graduated	2014	14			
		2015	1	10		
		2016	1	5	15	
		2017 ¹				

¹ Please note that non-continuation figures for 2017 are accurate at the date of receipt of request but subject to change due to on-going examinations and reassessments.

4. What were the reasons given for withdrawal for each of those students, from the total number of those who left the course, based on the student records system (e.g. Financial; Personal; Failure)?

Our response is presented in the table below:

Reason	Number
Academic fail	12
Exclusion	1
Internal transfer	1
Other	2
Other personal	3
Transferred	1
Written off ²	3

Based on B (students on the traditional A100 MBBS Medicine five year course):

5. How many students were recruited to the undergraduate MBBS Medicine (A100) programme in the years (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011 and (e) 2012?

6. In each of the five years of the programme commencing (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011 and (e) 2012 how many students left the programme during the year?

7. How many students who started the MBBS Medicine (A100) Programme in (a) 2008, (b) 2009, (c) 2010, (d) 2011 and (e) 2012 successfully graduated from the MBBS Medicine (A100) course in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016 and (e) 2017?

Our response to questions 5, 6 and 7 is presented in the table below:

		Year of Entry ³					
		2008 ⁴	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Q5	Number of starters	141	141	139	141	145	
Q6	Leavers	Year 1	4	10	5	5	2
		Year 2	6	9	3	1	1
		Year 3	3	0	2	1	1
		Year 4	1	0	0	0	0
		Year 5	1	0	0	0	0

² 'Written off' for the purposes of our records indicates students who left the course without formal notification of withdrawal.

³ The number of starters for each year include students progressing from a preceding foundation year as we cannot 'subtract' foundation year students from the total number of students commencing the MBBS programme

⁴ The year of entry for foundation year students is the year they commenced their foundation year, not the year of entry onto the MBBS programme. Thus, the year of entry figures for each year will contain foundation students who entered the 5 year MBBS programme at least one year later. Students who transfer during the course of their studies will have the year of entry as the year of transfer. The year of graduation for such students will be earlier than any student whose year of entry was year 1 of the course.

Q7	Graduated ^{5,6}	2013	111				
		2014	29	104			
		2015	2	26	101		
		2016	1	11	37	83	
		2017 ⁷					

8. What were the reasons given for withdrawal for each of those students, from the total number of those who left the course, based on the student records system (e.g. Financial; Personal; Failure)?

Our response is presented in the table below:

Reason	Number
Academic fail	22
Employment	1
Exclusion	2
Financial	1
Health	6
Internal transfer	3
Other	1
Other personal	10
Transferred	8
Unknown ⁸	1
Written off ⁹	2

9. Please can you describe any initiatives to tackle attrition rates among Medicine with a Foundation Year (A104) students at the University of East Anglia throughout their six years of medical training?

The following initiatives have been implemented:

We have a student mentoring programme which is run by previous Foundation (Year 0) students for the current Foundation Year students. This is structured in the first year (Year 0) of the programme and more informal as the students move through the subsequent years.

Students are provided with one to one support from their personal advisers in Year 0 and throughout their six year programme. Students also have access to the Senior Advising team. There is a specific member of that team that supports Year 0 and

⁵ See footnote 3 above

⁶ Students may intercalate during their studies and could therefore graduate over a wide time span. Some students will also resit examinations which may defer the date of graduation.

⁷ See footnote 1 above

⁸ 'Unknown' for the purposes of our records means students who informed UEA that they were withdrawing but did not provide a reason.

⁹ See footnote 2

Year 1. They have a study skills remit in this role and help students who may be struggling with studying.

Current Foundation Year programme course directors always available for Year 0 student support (for the remainder of the 6 years) should they want it.

The Foundation Year programme runs a specific session on transferring to the Year 1 MBBS programme. This session helps students to think about what the issues may be and how to cope with them.

Peer assisted learning (PAL) sessions are in place for Year 1 and all students can participate in these sessions. As a result of the success of PAL, PAL sessions are being introduced to year 0 for 2017-18.

After year 1 formative exam, failing students are identified and specific action plans are put in place for these students.