



University of East Anglia

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02 August 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_17-170)**

We have now considered your request of 05 July 2017 as clarified on 06 July for the following information:

1. *How many students September 2011 – June 2017 had not continued their degree, and the reason stated why they chose to make this decision from the university.*

*[Clarified on 06 July to (i) define, for all questions, ‘students’ as first-time undergraduates, (ii) limit non-continuation to those who drop out after their first year of studies, (iii) include the rate of students not continuing with their degree, and (iv) provide a year by year breakdown]*

2. *How many students September 2011 – June 2017 had not continued their degree, and the reason stated why they chose to make this decision from the university.*
3. *The degree course from the university that the students had been studying before they decided not to continue their degree.*
4. *The student’s ethnicity and if possible social Polar3 Quintile<sup>1</sup> of those that had decided not to continue their degree.*

*[Clarified on 06 July to add gender as a characteristic of students not continuing their studies]*

Our response is within the attached document entitled FOI\_17-170 Appendix A.

Please note, when viewing the data provided, that UEA employs several methods of counting/defining non-continuation, depending on the circumstance or the purpose. Because you have requested “...the rates of non-continuation at university”, we have used the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) methodology which counts transferring to another university to continue a course as a continuation (e.g. a student who leaves UEA after a semester to join the University of Essex, will count as “continuation”).

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<sup>1</sup> A definition of a Polar3 Quintile can be found here: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/analysis/yp/POLAR/>

Additionally, for all questions, we have read your request for the 'rate' of non-continuation as a request for the percentage of first year students in each year of the total new starters for that year that do not continue their studies following their first year of studies.

It should be remembered that figures for 2016/17 will be less than that for other years as the current academic year is not as yet complete.

In order to ensure that we do not inadvertently release personal data, in certain tables, numerical values of 1 to 4 are recorded as '<5' and the percentage is also masked in a similar fashion.

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.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

[https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact\\_us](https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us), or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

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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