



University of East Anglia

Information Services Directorate

The Library
University of East Anglia
Norwich Research Park
Norwich NR4 7TJ
United Kingdom

Email: foi@uea.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1603 593 523
Fax: +44 (0) 1603 591 010
Web: <http://www.uea.ac.uk>

[REDACTED]

21 September 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-215)

We have now considered your request of 23 August 2017 for information relating to accessibility of higher education opportunities for refugee and asylum-seeking young people.

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

On this occasion, it is not possible to provide all the requested information. In line with your rights under section 1(1)(a) of the Act to be informed whether information is held, we confirm that the University does not hold information relevant to question 2 of your request. Further information is on page 2 of this letter.

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, or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

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

Yours sincerely

David Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_17-215)

1. Are you (as an institution) able to report on the number of your current students with one of the following immigration statuses:

- A) Refugee
- B) Asylum-seeker
- C) Humanitarian Protection

NB: If you are not collecting such information, please explain why such information is not collected in your institution.

There are two (2) current students with the immigration category of refugee, and one (1) current student with the immigration category of asylum-seeker.

2. Are you (as an institution) able to report on the number of applicants with one of the following immigration statuses:

- A) Refugee
- B) Asylum-seeker
- C) Humanitarian Protection

NB: If you are not collecting such information, please explain why such information is not collected in your institution.

[Information not held - s.1(1)(a), Freedom of Information Act]

The University does not hold recorded information on the immigration status of applicants. Neither the University or the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) request this information during the application process.

We do not hold any recorded information as to why this is the case in relation to UCAS applications nor in relation to Postgraduate applications.

This information is requested at registration when it is required to be held by the University.

3. Does your institution provide any support aimed specifically at refugee and/or asylum-seeking applicants and students, either as part of your Access Agreement, Widening Participation activities or other (e.g. outreach activities, dedicated webpages, targeted scholarships, additional language lessons, specialist counselling service etc.)?

If you are providing such support can you specify when was this put in place, how many people benefit from this form of support, and how is this publicised?

Yes. UEA offers specific several relevant scholarships targeted at refugee and/or asylum seeking students as follows:

- The Monica Malik Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student who has applied for asylum in the UK or has been granted refugee status by the UK Government, to study on an undergraduate course of any discipline at UEA. To be eligible the applicant must be a refugee recognised by the UK government or have been granted Humanitarian Protection by the UK Government; or have applied for asylum on arrival in the UK, and before they have applied for a place at university. This scholarship was established in 2015, and is publicised on the

UEA website at the location below:

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/finance/scholarships/the-monica-malik-scholarship>

- UEA offers an Article 26 Scholarship which consists of a minimum of one undergraduate and one postgraduate scholarship to students who are seeking asylum in the UK, and are not entitled to receive statutory student financial support from Student Finance England (Wales or Northern Ireland), or the Student Awards Agency for Scotland. This scholarship was established in September 2016, and is publicised on the UEA website at the location below: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/scholarships/international-scholarships/article-26-refugee-scholarship>

In 2015-16, UEA contributed to the outreach activities within the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art's (SCVA) Intercultural Dialogues programme. The Intercultural Dialogues programme was organised by the SCVA in partnership with two local organisations (New Routes and City Reach), targeting adult refugees and asylum seekers living in Norfolk. The programme ended in September 2016 due to lack of funding.

Approximately 20-25 persons were involved with the programme.

A representative from New Routes acted as an external consultant/coordinator and promoted the programme amongst the individuals and families who used New Routes' services. The Higher Education information sessions were publicised by word of mouth from SCVA and New Routes staff and the presenter of the sessions. The UEA convenor visited each group during the preceding SCVA session to introduce the session.

The University also offers an 'Experience Uni' residential programme. Three of the attendees of the 2017 programme were refugees/asylum seekers.

Recruitment for the event was done via email, social media, and a promotional postcard. Some attendees were recruited mainly through UEA's partnership with Norfolk Virtual School, who promoted the event to designated teachers, social workers, personal assistants and foster carers. Additional students were recruited by University of Suffolk via Suffolk County Council contacts, and further students who were under the care of Cambridge, Essex, Liverpool and Kent authorities learned about the event via Twitter or national fostering networks.