



University of East Anglia

Information Compliance (ITCS)

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14 March 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI\_18-049)**

We have now considered your request of 21 February 2018 as clarified on 01 March 2018 for the following information:

*'I am seeking for old statistical information of your former Business/management students from September 2011 to 2016. I shall be most grateful if you could grant me access to the following demographical and cultural demographic information of your former students below:*

- 1. Students' background (age, gender and country of origin);*
- 2. Previous academic background (institution name, programme of study and award);*
- 3. Academic background whilst at your institution, to include (programme of study, graduation year, award, withdrawals and reasons for withdrawing.'*

*[Clarified on 01 March to include postgraduate students within request]*

We regret that on this occasion it is not possible to provide the requested information.

In line with section 17 of the Act, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.21(1), Information reasonably accessible to applicant by other means	All the requested data can be obtained from the Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA)

*Exemption explanation*

We have established that the requested information is reasonably accessible by other means and so has been exempted under section 21(1) of the Act. The section 21 exemption confirms there is no right of access under the Act to information that is held by a public authority, if that information is reasonably available to the applicant by another route (whether through commercial publication or publicly-funded provision).

The requested information is gathered from all higher education authorities within the United Kingdom by HESA and is available from them upon request. Whilst there might be a charge for this information, the Information Commissioners Office guidance<sup>1</sup> states that this does not mean that the information is not reasonably accessible.

Within HESA records, Business Management courses are defined by the JACS codes N1 and N2 and this is what should be requested from HESA. This can be requested by institution, and the institution code for UEA is 0117.

All demographic information is returned to HESA by each Higher Education institution and published with a one year delay. HESA are preparing to publish 2016/17 data at the moment. Data that are not freely available on their website<sup>2</sup> can be purchased from HESA.

We hope this response 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.

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

Dave Palmer  
Information Policy and Compliance Manager  
University of East Anglia

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1203/information-reasonably-accessible-to-the-applicant-by-other-means-sec21.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/overviews?keyword=All&&year=620&page=5>