



University of East Anglia

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[REDACTED]

20 January 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST
(Our file: FOI_13-193)

Your request for information received on 23 December 2013 for information regarding the attrition and dropout rates for pre-registration nursing courses Nursing students at UEA been considered and the information requested is provided on page 2 of this letter. I trust this will be to your satisfaction.

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

You have the right of appeal against this decision. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your grounds of appeal and send to me at the address noted in the heading to this letter.

You must appeal our decision 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 at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

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_13-193)

I would like the following information in relation to attrition/dropout rates for pre-registration nursing courses at your institution.

I would like to know:

- 1. How many students commenced a three-year pre-registration degree programme in nursing at your institution in 2009, and how many completed a three year pre-registration degree programme in nursing in 2012*

Eighty-five (85) students commenced a three year pre-registration degree programme in Nursing at UEA in 2009 and eighty-nine (89) students completed a three year pre-registration degree programme in Nursing at UEA in 2012¹.

- 2. How many students commenced a four-year pre-registration degree programme in nursing at your institution in 2008 and how many completed a four-year pre-registration nursing degree programme in 2012*

Zero (0). UEA does not offer a four year pre-registration degree programme in Nursing.

- 3. How many students commenced a three-year pre-registration nursing diploma at your institution in 2009 and how many completed a three-year pre-registration nursing diploma in 2012*

One hundred seventy-eighty (178) students commenced a three year pre-registration diploma programme in Nursing at UEA in 2009 and ninety-four (94) students completed a three year pre-registration diploma programme in Nursing at UEA in 2012².

- 4. Please give a further breakdown of attrition numbers for different courses for questions 1, 2 and 3 if available. For example adult nursing, mental health nursing etc.³*

Specialty	Programme Type	Starting	Completing
Adult Nursing	Degree	49	53
	Diploma	132	70
Children's Nursing	Degree	2	4
	Diploma	12	5
Learning Disability Nursing	Degree	6	4
	Diploma	4	2

¹ More people completed degrees in 2012 than actually started in 2009 for a variety of reasons; a number of students transferred from Diploma to Degree courses during the three years, or students may have started prior to 2009 but intercalated or retook a year

² As noted above, a number of Diploma students transferred to a Degree programme in these three years and this is a significant contributor to the difference between these two figures.

³ Please note that we are reporting figures for all students who started in 2009, and finished in 2012. This figure includes those retaking a year or intercalating and would not, in our view, constitute 'attrition'.

Mental Health Nursing	Degree	10	13
	Diploma	30	17
Midwifery	Degree	18	15

5. Please give details of annual tuition fees charged by your institution between 2008/09 academic year and 2011/12 academic year for

a. Pre-registration nursing degree programmes⁴

Year	Price
2008/09	£7,322.98
2009/10	£7,418.00
2010/11	£7,888.45
2011/12	£8,091.00

b. Pre-registration nursing diploma programmes

Please note response to question 5(a) above.

6. a) Who covered the cost of tuition fees for nursing students at your institution between 2008 and 2012, and who covers the fees now?

All nursing fees are paid by the Department of Health via the local Strategic Health Authority (SHA), in this case Health Education East of England.

- c) What was the cost per place per academic year for nursing students on pre-registration degree programmes and pre-registration diploma programme in 2008 to 2012?

As noted in the response to question 6(a) above, the cost per place of the programme was set by the Health Education East of England and linked to national benchmark standards which are given in the response to question 5(a) and (b) above. Indirect costs relating to placement travel and accommodation varied on an individual basis so there was not a standard overall cost per place for any year between 2008 and 2012.

- d) How often were payments made to the university- i.e. once a year and so on.

Payments are made to the University on a monthly basis.

- e) What happened to these payments if a student left a course early- would the university receive the full fees regardless, or would there be a reduced payment?

Fees for students who leave the course have to be paid back if the attrition rate goes above a certain level set by the Department of Health. The actual rate varies according to course based on the number of students registered in that course and, amongst other things, takes into account that one or two students leaving a small course can be a large percentage of the total course.

⁴ Please note the price is set by the Department of Health and it is the same annual price for both degree and diploma students

7. *I would also like details of any schemes/processes your institution follows to try and reduce attrition/dropout rates.*

The School of Nursing Sciences has an annual **Student Attrition Reduction Action Plan** for dealing with issues affecting student attrition, with the current Action Plan most recently updated in October 2013. The Action Plan is applicable to all pre-registration areas of instruction and to all pre-registration students. Areas of focus in the current Action Plan include:

- Student selection processes
- Student induction processes
- Problems associated with practice placements
- Assessment issues
- Student engagement with the course

For each area of focus, the Action Plan notes whether the issue was identified on student withdrawals from the programme, identifies planned action points for the current year and in future years, and provides a completion date and assessment of the impact on quality monitoring.

In addition, there is a campus-wide **Peer Assisted Learning programme (PAL)** which is currently in the process of implementation at UEA. PAL is a structured mentoring system in which first year undergraduate students are mentored by students in higher years with the aim of supporting the first year students through the transition into higher education. Mentors provide pastoral and academic support and share the experience and skills they have gained. A complementary objective of PAL is to enhance the experience of both the recipients and deliverers of PAL by enhancing retention and academic performance in first year students, and by improving employability in mentors.

PAL is linked to specific modules and is supplemental to, rather than replacing teaching. First year students are invited to attend PAL sessions in small groups led by mentors working in pairs. Mentors receive training in order to provide a safe, confidential learning environment. Students are encouraged to share their knowledge and ask questions they may have shied away from in lectures.

PAL faculty level officers, drawn for PG student cohorts in each school, liaise with module conveners to ensure PAL links with current teaching. The officer role includes providing leadership and support for the mentors. This in turn enables them to develop skills they can transfer into the workplace.