

Meteor Gao  
By email: request-716073-ceb0eb74@whatdotheyknow.com

16 March 2021

Dear Meteor Gao,

**G00056: Freedom of Information Request (RITM0352418)**

We refer to your request for information dated 02/02/2021 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "Act").

Please find below your question, with the University's corresponding response.

**Question**

Dear University of Southampton,

I'm sorry I didn't express my request clearly. I am requesting for the following information. Please kindly provide data for 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021 admission cycle.

1. Number of applicants and offers made (each postgraduate programmes)
2. Number of Chinese\* applications and offers made (each postgraduate programmes)

\*Chinese means applicants whose nationality is China

Yours faithfully,

Meteor Gao

**Answer:**

- 1) The number of applications and offers made for postgraduate programmes:

Entry Year	Applications	Offers
2018/19	34429	12988
2019/20	40600	15914

- 2) The number of applications and offers made for postgraduate programmes to applicants whose nationality is China:

Entry Year	Applications	Offers
2018/19	19130	7098
2019/20	26433	10116

Further information and advice on our current admissions can be found at the following link: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/index.page> .

To the extent that you are seeking information at the individual programme level and also information for the current academic year; this information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of Section 43(2) of the Act, entitled Commercial Interests. In assessing the public interest test we have considered recommendations by the Information Commissioner's Office. As section 43(2) is a qualified exemption, the University has considered whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

#### Factors favouring disclosure

- Openness and Transparency: it is in the public interest that the University is open and transparent in its operations and the way in which it makes decisions.

#### Factors favouring non-disclosure

Commercial Interests: it is not in the public interest to share information that would undermine the ability of the University to compete with other higher education providers. Higher education providers are in a highly competitive market, which is more acute as a result of Covid-19, and sharing the requested information would undermine the University's ability to react swiftly to our in-cycle admissions data without our competitors having an unfair insight into our admissions from which to springboard their own admissions activities.

Operational Sustainability: Admission data informs our admissions strategy which drives student enrolment and tuition fees are driven by student enrolment and this is a major factor in the University's operational sustainability.

Given the above considerations, the University concludes that it is in the greater public interest not to disclose the information at this time. We hope you understand that there is a need to balance Freedom of Information with the release of anticompetitive information, which may hinder our ability to offer the best standards in teaching and research.

If you do not feel that we have dealt with your request in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act, you may request a review. Your request for a review should specify in what respect you consider that the requirements of [Part I](#) have not been met. Please address your request for a review by completing the [form](#) and selecting Fol Review.

In accordance with section 5.3 of the [Code of Practice](#), a request for a review must be sent within 40 working days of the date of this letter. The University is not obliged to accept any requests for a review beyond 40 working days. We will acknowledge your request for a review and endeavour to respond within 20 working days of its receipt but please note that a deadline for a review response is not prescribed by the Act.

The Information Commissioner is responsible for enforcing rights of access to information and the operation of the publication scheme. You may apply to the Information Commissioner in writing (FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane,

Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF) or [electronically](#) for a decision whether, in any specified respect, your request for information has been dealt with by the University in accordance with the requirements of [Part I](#) of the Act. The Information Commissioner will not normally take action unless they are satisfied that the University's review procedure has been exhausted.

Yours sincerely,

*foi*  
Freedom of Information Act 2000/RESPONSE TO REQUEST  
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[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/university\\_of\\_southampton](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/university_of_southampton)