

5 July 2023

Freedom of Information Act request, relations between the College and selected countries, IMPFOI-23-305

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act request. Please see below the request and Imperial College's response.

(1) Financial income

(a) The university's total financial income for each of the latest three available financial years.

Please refer to the College's [Annual Report and Accounts](#). Information is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (Section 21) if it is already reasonably accessible to the requester. The published figures are updated annually; information that is intended for future publication is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act by virtue of Section 22 of the Act.

(b) For each of the latest three available financial years, please specify the university's total financial income from tuition fees paid by students from the People's Republic of China.

(c) For each of the latest three available financial years, please specify the university's total financial income from tuition fees paid by students from Russia.

(d) For each of the latest three available financial years, please specify the university's total financial income from tuition fees paid by students from Belarus.

(e) For each of the latest three available financial years, please specify the university's total financial income from tuition fees paid by students from Iran.

The College is able to provide information on the total tuition fees invoiced for students whose nationality is Chinese, Russian, Belarusian or Iranian. As follows:

PAYMENT RECEIVED	Financial Year			
Country of legal nationality	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	Grand Total
Belarus	121,363.00	64,515.00	51,467.80	237,345.80
China	126,395,607.94	148,533,408.19	102,460,373.61	377,389,389.74
Iran	609,468.15	394,666.95	309,402.40	1,313,537.50
Russia	3,002,633.68	2,695,402.15	1,691,782.40	7,389,818.23
Grand Total	130,129,072.77	151,687,992.29	104,513,026.21	386,330,091.27

(2) Make up of undergraduate courses

For each of your undergraduate programmes in 2022/23, please specify:

- (a) the number of enrolled students;
- (b) the number of enrolled students from the People's Republic of China;
- (c) the number of enrolled students from Russia;
- (d) the number of enrolled students from Belarus;
- (e) the number of enrolled students from Iran.

Please refer to the published admission statistics The published information can be accessed at the transparency pages of our website:

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/transparency-information/>.

Information is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (Section 21) if it is already reasonably accessible to the requester. The published figures are updated annually; information that is intended for future publication is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act by virtue of Section 22 of the Act.

(3) Internal correspondence

Any internal correspondence between the management board concerning:

- (a) Allegations of industrial espionage or IP theft linked to China;
- (b) the conduct of the university's local branch of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association;
- (c) complaints by the Embassy or its associated Consulates about the contents of academic lectures.

(4) Written correspondence between Chinese Embassy and the university

Any written correspondence between the university and the UK Embassy of the People's Republic of China, and/or its Consulates-General in Manchester, Edinburgh and/or Belfast, regarding:

- (a) demonstrations by Hong Kong students on campus;
- (b) the conduct of the university's local branch of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association;
- (c) complaints by the Embassy or its associated Consulates about the contents of academic lectures.

The College is refusing the third and fourth parts of your request because it is unreasonably burdensome. The Freedom of Information Act created a right to access information to enable scrutiny of public authorities in the public interest. Section 14(1) of the Act aims to protect public authorities by allowing them to refuse any requests which have the potential to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption and are therefore deemed vexatious. While we appreciate that your request was made in good faith and was not intended to cause disruption, we are entitled to consider whether a request has a value or serious purpose in terms of the objective public interest in the information sought and to weigh that against the burden that would be placed on the organisation by having to produce that information. The public interest being the public good, not what is of interest to groups of or individual members of the public. You have not specified a time-period for this part of your request, but from the rest of the request, we are presuming that you would want to search our records for the past three years. There is no one person or department that might correspond about the matters specified, we would therefore have to approach a numerous

individuals and departments and ask each to search their records for any such correspondence. This would be burdensome on the College. We are not able to identify sufficient public interest value in the information you have requested that would justify the College devoting resources to producing the information. The request appears to be speculative, rather than seeking to access specific recorded information held by the College. If you have reason to believe that there might have been any such correspondence, please provide further details so we could consider a more focussed search. However, please note that there are various FOI exemptions that could apply if the College had entered into such correspondence, such as those relating to the effective conduct of public affairs, the protection of international relations and protecting personal information.