

Mr John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer

20 September 2017

Ref: FOI/August 2017/ Ben Parker

By email to ben@younggreens.org.uk

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Dear Mr Parker

Your request for information received on 22 August 2017 has been dealt with under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked:

Q1. For the academic years 2015 – 2016, 2012 – 2013 and 2009 – 2010, please publish a breakdown of the number of overseas students (those who aren't British nationals) and EU students:

- a. on placement courses (both full and part time)
- b. on industrial/Professional placements
- c. completing work experience to obtain qualifications
- d. who qualified

I understand the term “placement courses” to refer to a period of work experience sandwiched between academic years of study/industrial (“Professional Placements”) or work experience to obtain a professional qualification.

The figures should therefore include students on all types of work experience – both “thin and thick sandwiches” and work experience to obtain qualifications. This should include all technical, professional, vocational and or STEM courses your university offers.

University Response

Unfortunately, we cannot provide the information you have requested for the following reasons:

In terms of the data for 2012/13 and 2009/10 our current management system for monitoring placement activity has only been in place for the last 3 academic years and we have not retained legacy data so we simply do not hold records for activity previous to this date.

For the 2015/16 academic year whilst our database for managing placements provides an indication as to whether a student holds a Tier 4 visa so will capture most relevant overseas students it will not give an indication of non-British EU citizens as they do not require a Tier 4 visa. Therefore, we are writing to advise you that it has been necessary to refuse this part of the request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

We estimate that compliance with your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit established by section 12 of the Freedom of information Act 2000; this is currently set at £450 (or 18 hours work) by virtue of the [1] Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. Our estimate has considered the time it would take to determine whether we hold the information and then to locate, retrieve and extract it. We estimate that to determine whether we hold the requested information, and then to locate, retrieve, and extract that information would take longer than 18 hours to complete.

This is mainly due to the fact that we had circa 19,000 students enrolled at the University during 2015/16. To check if each of those students undertook placement activity from the placements management system and then match it to our general students records system to see if they were a non-British EU or overseas student, and whether they eventually graduated would likely take at least 5 minutes per student. That is 1,583 hours to complete at a conservative estimate, so above the 18 hour threshold. So in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, (the Act), this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

I trust this satisfies your request sufficiently. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you have the right to complain about the University's response to your request for information. If you have such a complaint, you may contact Mrs Teresa Kelly, Clerk to the Board of Governors, Middlesex University, Hendon campus, London NW4 4BT, tel: 020 8411 6018, t.kelly@mdx.ac.uk within 40 days of the date of this letter for a review of the University's decision. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome of that complaint, you may seek further recourse by lodging an appeal with the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

John Gilchrist
Freedom of Information Officer