



[REDACTED]

13 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00367

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received on the 8 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Can you please provide a breakdown of the nationalities of successful applicants for the UKRI Policy internship scheme? Can I have this data since the scheme started? This scheme is organised by NERC.

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

As part of UKRI's postgraduate training portfolio, the UKRI Policy Internship scheme provides an opportunity for UKRI-funded doctoral students to undertake a three-month placement at one of a selected group of influential policy organisations. Further information on the scheme, which is managed by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for all councils, is available [on our website](#)¹.

Data on nationalities reported by successful UKRI Policy Internship applicants is provided at Annex 1, this includes data from 2018 to the most recent competition in 2021 and has been matched against UKRI's main studentship dataset.

Some information has been withheld under Section 40(2) of the FOIA relating to personal data, where data in a category relates to fewer than five individuals. We consider that to disclose information relating to small numbers of individuals would contravene the first Data Protection Principle as defined under Section 86 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and Article 5 of UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) of lawfulness, fairness and transparency. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/find-studentships-and-doctoral-training/get-training-and-development-to-support-your-doctorate/ukri-policy-internships/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

Annex 1 - Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00367

Nationality of successful applicants to the UKRI Policy Internships Scheme 2018-2021

Nationality	Count
Austria	< 5
Belgium	< 5
Bulgaria	< 5
Canada	< 5
China	< 5
Cyprus	< 5
Czech Republic	< 5
Denmark	< 5
Estonia	< 5
France	< 5
Germany	15
Greece	5
Ireland	< 5
Italy	10
Malta	< 5
Netherlands	< 5
New Zealand	< 5
Paraguay	< 5
Poland	< 5
Portugal	< 5
Romania	< 5
Slovenia	< 5
South Africa	< 5
Spain	< 5
United Kingdom	385
Not Disclosed	< 5
Unknown	25
Total	475

Notes:

Information relating to fewer than five individuals is indicated by '< 5', counts of five or more in each category have been rounded to the nearest multiple of five.

Data from UKRI Internship applications has been matched to UKRI's main studentship data (including nationality), which is submitted and maintained by the Research Organisations through which students are funded, in line with our reporting standards. (Data extracted in November and December 2022).

There are no unique identifiers shared by these two data sets, so application records are matched to individual studentship data, using names, grant references and institutions. More than 95% of records were matched, testing indicated few, if any, false positives. Application data that could not be matched is labelled as "Unknown". Nationalities that were not reported by Research Organisations are indicated as "Not Disclosed".

Unsuccessful applicants can apply to the UKRI Policy Internship scheme again in future years; however, each student can only be awarded one internship.