



[REDACTED]

08 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00053

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 8 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I'm in the process of trying to put together some information for students on their chances of getting a full studentship for their PhD, and I was keen to know whether you have any data on the percentage of applicants that receive funding? I did come across this:

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/uk.research.and.innovation.ukri/viz/UKRICompetitiveFundingDecisions2020-21/CompetitiveFundingDecisions&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1634288762450000&usq=AOvVaw1tZuVyiEst-XfnphEvY6IU> but I'm aware that it doesn't refer exclusively to studentships, so probably wouldn't be as helpful for prospective PhD candidates.

I assume that applications for the current cycle are still being processed, so would you be able to supply data for 2021/22?

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold any information relevant to your request.

For further context, as PhD students don't directly apply to UKRI, we do not routinely capture or hold the initial application numbers needed to generate a success rate percentage. UKRI provides funding via training grants such as DTPs (Doctoral Training Partnership) and CDTs (Centre for Doctoral Training). These are awarded to providers who run the recruitment process for students. UKRI does not have consistent data on the number of applications and number of successful applicants, as providers collect application data in differing ways and at differing stages. It may be possible to obtain this information by contacting the Higher Education Institutions directly, although please note that whilst it is likely they will have information on the success rates for their specific application process, they may not hold the extent of the information you are hoping to find.

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.

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,

[Redacted Signature]

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