



[REDACTED]

29 July 2020

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00167

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 12 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

To whom it may concern,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request information pertaining to the:

- numbers and figures of PhD Studentship applications made by BAME applicants per year for as far back as the records go.*
- Secondly, I would also like to know precisely how many PhD Studentships have been successfully awarded per year to BAME applicants for as far back as the records go.*

While I am interested in these figures from a general national perspective, I am also keen to learn what these figures are specifically with regards to the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences Doctoral Training Programme as the largest distributor of ESRC funding in the country.

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold some of the information relevant to your request.

Please note that UKRI only hold information regarding students that are funded through UKRI, as such any information supplied below is a reflection of the population of students funded by UKRI, and not the student population as a whole.

For a more comprehensive view of the number of PhD students in the UK, we would recommend engaging with the Higher Education Statistics Authority (HESA) who may be able to provide you with additional information. Although HESA are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, they endeavour to answer any queries received. Please find a link to their contact page below:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/foi>

1. *Numbers and figures of PhD Studentship applications made by BAME applicants per year for as far back as the records go.*

UKRI do not hold this information. UKRI provide block funding for Research Organisations (ROs) but is not involved in the individual funding decisions for each studentship. We hold information about those selected for studentships, but not for the application or award process due to the nature of the funding. This is managed by the individual ROs.

2. Secondly, I would also like to know precisely how many PhD Studentships have been successfully awarded per year to BAME applicants for as far back as the records go.

UKRI has recently published its diversity data for 2014/15 to 2018/19 which may be of relevance to you and can be found here:

<https://www.ukri.org/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-data/>

The following link will provide you with data from 2011/12 onwards:

<https://www.ukri.org/files/rcuk-diversity-headline-narratives-april2017-pdf>

3. While I am interested in these figures from a general national perspective, I am also keen to learn what these figures are specifically with regards to the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences Doctoral Training Programme as the largest distributor of ESRC funding in the country.

The SGSSS Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) was established in 2017. DTPs receive an allocation of studentships and recruit students directly. DTPs report data on the applicant pool on an annual basis but this requirement was introduced in 2018, therefore the number of applications received for 2017 is unknown. Please find below the figures as requested.

	2017		2018		2019	
	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applicants Awarded	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applicants Awarded	Number of Applications Received	Number of Applicants Awarded
BAME		0	20	<5	55	<5
White		40	230	50	335	65
Other		5	<5	0	10	0
Not disclosed		5	10	<5	10	<5
Totals		50	260	50	405	70

Please note that the figures above have been rounded using HESA principles for data protection reasons to prevent the disclosure of personal information about any individual. All figures have been rounded to multiples of 5 and <5 is used for any values between 1-4.

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 or infogovernance@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: <http://www.ico.gov.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,



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