



[REDACTED]

21 December 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00385

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 23 November in which you requested the following:

Your request:

- 1) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the academic year (AY) 2019/20 were EU students?*
- 2) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the AY 2019/20 were international students from non-EU countries?*
- 3) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the AY 2020/21 were EU students?*
- 4) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the AY 2020/21 were international students from non-EU countries?*
- 5) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the AY 2021/22 were international students?*
- 6) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the AY 2021/22 were international students from EU countries?*
- 7) *What proportion of UKRI-funded students commencing studies from the AY 2021/22 were international students from non-EU countries?*

Our response:

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

Data on UKRI-funded students commencing studies from academic years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 is provided at Annex 1. This data identifies studentship starts grouped by nationality for the UK, EU and other international.

The information provided relates to nationality only, as UKRI does not hold information relating to a students' domicile status, or their eligibility to be treated as a home student. In some instances, non-UK nationals are eligible to be treated as home students, for example where they have settled status, pre-settled status, or indefinite leave to remain in the UK. UKRI does not ask Research Organisations (ROs) to report this information.

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,


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

Annex 1 - Freedom of Information request: FOI2022/00385

UKRI-funded students with UK, EU or other nationalities commencing studies by academic year

National Grouping	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022	
	Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion	Count	Proportion
EU	1130	20%	1070	19%	775	15%
Other International	305	5%	260	5%	950	18%
UK	4125	72%	3990	71%	3245	62%
Not Disclosed	135	2%	270	5%	295	6%
Total	5695	100%	5590	100%	5265	100%

Background information

1. Counts in each category have been rounded to the nearest multiple of five and their respective percentage proportion rounded to whole values, in accordance with UKRI policy. Due to this, the proportions may not add up to 100%.
2. Data on student nationality has been extracted from UKRI's main studentship data, which is submitted and maintained by the ROs through which students are funded, in line with our reporting standards. Nationalities that were not reported by ROs are indicated as "Not Disclosed". (Data extracted 07/12/2022).
3. The "UK" national grouping includes the UK, as well as Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey and Gibraltar. The "EU" group is made up of the 27 countries that were EU nations at the time of analysis. All other nations are defined as "Other International".
4. Nationality should not be confused with domicile, or eligibility to be treated as a home student. UKRI do not hold information relating to a students' domicile status, or their eligibility to be treated as a home student. As noted above, UKRI does not ask ROs to report information on the domicile status of students.
5. Academic years (AYs) are taken to run from 1 August to 31 July in the following year.

Specific notes on the data provided

6. UKRI's National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) provided one-off funding for an additional ~1000 students starting in academic year 2019/20. Figures for 2019/20 are therefore slightly higher than other AYs due to this additional funding.
7. In October 2020, UKRI made changes to [EU and international eligibility for UKRI funded studentships from academic year 2021/22](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-030221-Guidance-International-Eligibility-Implementation-training-grant-holders-V2.pdf)¹ onwards. Previously, international and EU students who did not meet UK residency requirements were eligible for fees-only awards. The new policy now offers international students a full UKRI studentship, which covers a student stipend and home-level fees.
8. A small number of students had more than one studentship record starting on the same date in an academic year. These were treated as duplicates and only one counted for each instance.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-030221-Guidance-International-Eligibility-Implementation-training-grant-holders-V2.pdf>