

21-01 – A100 interview numbers and BMAT scores

I would like to know how many people have been interviewed for medicine at Downing College, as well as the average, highest and lowest BMAT scores for each section.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning A100 interviews and BMAT scores for, I presume, the 2021 admissions cycle.

The information you have requested is part of the ongoing admissions cycle that is not expected to finish before August at the earliest. Downing considers that the disclosure of statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process which form a fundamental part of our mission as an educational institution. Therefore, we believe this information is exempt under section 36(2c) (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs). Statistical information about previous admissions cycles is published by the University for all the Colleges at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics> which may be of interest.

21-02 – Covid-19 and Formal Dinners

Under the FOI Act 2000 I am writing to request the following information.

- The number of formal hall sittings & formal dinners that have taken place in your college since March 23, 2020.
- The menu for the most recent formal hall or dinner.
- The risk assessment for the first formal hall or dinner in each month between March 23, 2020 and January 1, 2021.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College. I can confirm that there have been no Formal Hall dinners since March 23rd 2020, so there is no further information I can provide to you.

21-03 – Student intermissions 2018-2020

Over the past 2 academic years (from 2018/2019 to 2019/2020), please could you provide me with the following information:

1. a. The total number of intermissions by students, who had at the time of intermission matriculated (including those on year abroad) but had not yet graduated.

b. If the number for any of the following categories surpasses 5, please in addition to the above provide the breakdown of student intermissions between undergraduate and postgraduate levels of study.
2. a. From this total number, the number of intermissions for which the primary reason for intermission was due to mental health issues.

b. If the number for each category surpasses 5, please in addition to the above provide the breakdown of this number between undergraduate and postgraduate levels of study.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning student intermissions. I can provide the following figures for these two academic years. Most reasons for intermitting were broadly down to medical reasons and any detail beyond this is not usually specified.

Undergraduate intermissions:

- 2018/19 and 2019/20: 16 total

Postgraduate intermissions:

Please note, the numbers are taken from CamSIS, the central student record system, but this does not include those postgraduate courses (e.g. PGCE) where a student does not apply via the central system.

- 2018/19 and 2019/20: 33 total

21-04 – Maitland Robinson Library – missing books

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Downing College about the Maitland Robinson Library:

1. How many books have been reported missing by undergraduates, postgraduates, staff and Fellows (or anyone else who is able to borrow books from the library), for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Please break this information down by year.

We do not believe there is a significant problem with missing library books. Books can sometimes be missing as they are misplaced, and therefore a book is only declared as finally lost if library staff cannot locate it for three years. Library staff undertake regular stocktaking, and for 2017 eleven books were declared as missing and in 2018 this figure was eight. I cannot provide you with a figure for 2019, as due to extensive Library renovations there was no stocktaking, and also for 2020 due to the pandemic.

2. How many of these books were reported stolen and how many were reported lost?

We do not have a category for reporting stolen books, but in 2017 two books were declared as lost and in 2018 it was one book. This library treats a book as newly lost after it has been apparently missing over the duration of three years. It is declared 'lost' when it is still missing after three years.

3. From which subjects were the most missing books each year?

2017: four books were newly missing from MML (Modern & Medieval Languages) areas; three books from the combined area of Natural Sciences with Medical & Veterinary Sciences Tripos; also a single book was missing from each of these tripos areas: English, Classics, Law, Social & Political Sciences.

2018: three History tripos books were newly missing; also a single book from each of these tripos areas: History of Art, Land Economy, Social & Political Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Archaeology.

4. What was the total amount of money that the library or Downing College received for missing books for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020? Please break this information down by year.

The Library doesn't have a figure directly allocated for this. Missing or lost books are not seen as a source of remuneration for the Library.

5. a) Did Downing College or the Maitland Robinson Library need to cover the cost of any of the books if they were not replaced or paid for by the students/staff/Fellows? Please specify where the money to replace these books comes from, and whether it is the library or the college that pays for this.

Students, staff or Fellows are not invited to replace missing or lost books themselves (unless it is fully agreed by the student that they have lost a book and a charge is made on the student's bill). If books are found to be genuinely lost, it is at the discretion of the College Librarian who does the acquisitions to acquire alternative or new copies of missing books, and the College Librarian uses the acquisitions budget of the library to acquire books.

b) If Downing College or the Maitland Robinson Library had to pay for any of the lost/stolen books, what did this cost amount to?

There is no separate accounting for additional copies of missing books or seemingly lost books.

6. What was the most expensive book that had to be replaced either by Downing College, the Maitland Robinson Library or by a student?

Since 2017: *Commercial Real Estate Analysis and Investments* by David M Geltner and Norman G Miller. This book could only be replaced second-hand at close to double its original retail price, including postage.

21-05 – Student counselling

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the following:

1. The number of students in your college currently receiving counselling.
2. The number of students in your college waiting to receive counselling.
3. The expected amount of time a student would wait before receiving counselling at the current date.
4. The number of students in your college receiving counselling this time last year.
5. Details of any additional measures your college have implanted/staff you have hired to meet increased demands.

Response

Thank you for your request to Downing College concerning student counselling. We do not hold the information to answer your questions 1 to 4 as students often self-refer, so we are not necessarily aware of cases. As you may be aware, students can arrange their own counselling sessions at <https://www.counselling.cam.ac.uk/cbccouns/downing>. May I suggest that you contact the University Counselling service who may be able to provide you with figures.

Concerning your last question, Downing has recently appointed Ms Kate Daniels as the Head of Wellbeing. This role has responsibility for supporting the wellbeing of all Downing students. In addition to direct engagement with individual students on their welfare and wellbeing issues, the post holder will have oversight of strategic planning and implementation of courses, programmes and activities in collaboration with others (such as the College Nurses, Chaplain and Tutors) with pastoral responsibilities. Going forward, the post holder will oversee a programme of welfare-focused activity and structured support throughout the calendar year for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

21-06 – Students allowed to return to Downing during the Pandemic

I am writing to you on behalf of *The Cambridge Tab* under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Downing College:

1. The number of undergraduates and postgraduates at Downing College who have been allowed to return to college accommodation since the UK's third national lockdown legally came into force on 6 January
ANS: 109 students have returned: 34 Postgraduates; 75 undergraduates
2. The number of undergraduates and postgraduates who have returned to college accommodation since 6 January who fall into each of the following categories set out by the Vice-Chancellor (or 'Other'):
ANS: Note, before returning to College, students were required to make an application through a College online application process.
 - a. Clinical Medical, clinical Veterinary, and PGCE students: **20**
 - b. Students without access to appropriate study spaces or facilities: **35**
 - c. Students who need to be in Cambridge for specific reasons, including health or safety reasons: **39**
 - d. International students who were unable to change their return travel plans: **9**
 - e. Other: **6**
3. The number of undergraduates and postgraduates at Downing College who stayed in college accommodation for the duration of the Christmas break
ANS: It was agreed that 86 students in total would remain in College accommodation for the Christmas break: 31 Postgraduates; 55 Undergraduates. However a number of these students subsequently decided to leave College during this break.

21-07 - Economics applicants L100 for 2021 entry

21-09 - BMAT scores and interview scores for offer holders A100, 2021 entry

21-11 - Admission stats for the Engineering (H100) and Chemical Engineering (H810)

21-12 - MML application statistics for 2021 entry

21-13 - H100 applicants for 2021 entry

21-15 - Admission stats for Medicine A100 2021 entry

21-20 - The average interview scores of all candidates - 2021 entry

For these requests the same response was provided to them all:

The information you have requested is part of the ongoing admissions cycle that is not expected to finish before August at the earliest. Downing considers that the disclosure of statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process which form a fundamental part of our mission as an educational institution. Therefore, we believe this information is exempt under section 36(2c) (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs). Statistical information about previous admissions cycles is published by the University for all the Colleges at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics> which may be of interest for your second question.

21-08 – Degree status and outstanding payments

I'm requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- The number of students at Downing College, University of Cambridge who have not yet received their degree certificate or had their degree award verified in the academic years 2018-2019 and 2019-20 due to an outstanding academic balance (tuition fees, reassessment fees, library fines, or other academic fees, e.g. field trips).
- Please can you provide the data broken down by academic year (i.e. 2018/19 and 2019/20), fee status of student (home or international), and degree level of student (undergraduate, postgraduate).

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning degree awards not conferred due to any outstanding College balances. I can confirm that we did not prevent any students from graduating in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 academic years due to any outstanding College bills.

21-10 – Varsity Investigations - Divestment and the CU Endowment Fund

I am writing on behalf of Varsity News concerning your College's investment in the Cambridge University Endowment Fund. I am currently conducting an investigation into the funds investment strategies and issues of transparency and divestment that surround it. As an investor in the fund I was hoping that you might be able to answer the following questions:

- 1 - Some colleges have raised concerns over issues of transparency within the CUEF, how much information can the college access on the investments made by the Fund and how much of this is available to students and the wider college body?
- 2 - Do you believe that the CUEF needs to improve its transparency?
- 3 - What is the size of the college's investment in the CUEF?
- 4 - Is the college committed to the divestment of the CUEF, why adopt this particular policy?
- 5 - Can you comment on the investment practices of the CUEF are compatible with the colleges overall strategy and divestment commitments

6 - In the interests of transparency Varsity has been trying to obtain a copy of the CUEF Annual Review Report. However, we have been informed that this is only available to investors. As an investor in the CUEF would you be able to provide us with a copy of the Annual Review Report or provide any information as to its contents?

Response

Thank you for your enquiry that we are answering under Freedom of Information legislation. Please be advised that Downing does not have any investments in CUEF so we cannot help you any further with your questions.

21-14 – College investments

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Could you please provide:

- (1) A list of companies which the College holds stocks and shares in, specifying how many shares are held and the approximate value of the shareholding.
- (2) A list of exchange traded funds, private equity funds, mutual funds, index funds, commodities, hedge funds, and bonds that the college has investments in, including the approximate value of each.
- (3) In the case of any indirectly held or fund-based investments a breakdown of the companies invested in through the fund, including the percentage of the total fund made up by each holding.
- (4) A list of properties that the college has investments, including the approximate value of each.
- (5) A list of any other investments the college holds, including the approximate value of each.

Response

Please be advised that the College has engaged the services of an investment manager (Partners Capital) whose terms of business include a requirement that the College must not disclose any information in relation to their business or other matters of a confidential nature of which it may be made aware during the period of engagement. Furthermore, that requirement is binding on the College and the disclosure of information would constitute a breach of confidence and be actionable by the investment manager. The information is therefore exempt under section 41 (Information provided in confidence) of the Freedom of Information Act.

General information regarding our investments can be found in our Annual Report and Accounts (p.36-37). For the overall composition of our Investment Portfolio please see pages 48-49.

https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/annualreport_2020_interactive.pdf

21-16 – Incentives to defer College entry

Please send information on any incentives offered to applicants to defer or cancel their university entry for the current (2020-21) or next (2021-22) academic year.

Please provide information on what the incentive was, how many applicants it was offered to, and how many took up the offer. Please also provide the date on which any incentive was first offered.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning incentives for applicants to defer or cancel University entry. Answering only on behalf of Downing College, I can confirm that we have not offered any incentives to applicants to defer or cancel entry to this College.

21-17 – College redundancies

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning College redundancies. Please find the answers to your questions below.

- (1) The total number of non-academic staff on full-time and part-time contracts employed by the College as of the 26th of February 2020. [185](#)
- (2) The total number of non-academic staff on full-time and part-time contracts employed by the College as of the 26th February 2021. [150](#)
- (3) The total number of non-academic staff on full-time and part-time contracts made redundant by the College in the year prior to 26th February 2021 broken down by department. [20 \(Housekeeping 13, Catering 6, Conference Services 1\)](#). [These exclude voluntary redundancy.](#)
- (4) The total number of non-academic redundancy notices made by the College in the year prior to 26th February 2021, broken down by department. [21 \(Housekeeping 13, Catering 7, Conference Services 1\)](#). [One of these stayed.](#)
- (5) The total number of non-academic staff that have taken voluntary redundancy in the year prior to 26th February 2021, broken down by department [5 \(Housekeeping 3, Catering 2\)](#)
- (6) The total number of non-academic staff on fixed-term contracts whose contracts have expired in the year prior to 26th February 2021 which have not been renewed by the College, broken down by department. [Zero](#)
- (7) The total number of non-academic staff employed by the College on full-time and part-time contracts, that the College plans to make redundant between the 26th February and 26th April 2021, broken down by department. [Zero.](#)

21-18 – Number of BAME undergrads applied / admitted since 2019

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please can you send:

- 1) The number and percentage of undergraduate students who applied to study at the College in the academic year 2019 - 20 who are BAME:
 - a) By ethnicity breakdown e.g. 71 Black, 34 Asian
- 2) The number and percentage of undergraduate students admitted to study at the College in the academic year 2019 - 20 who are BAME:
 - a) By ethnicity breakdown e.g. 71 Black, 34 Asian
 - b) By fee status (e.g. Home or International)
- 3) The number and percentage of undergraduate students who applied to study at the College in the academic year 2020 - 21 who are BAME:
 - a) By ethnicity breakdown e.g. 71 Black, 34 Asian
- 4) The number and percentage of undergraduate students admitted to study at the College in the academic year 2020 - 21 who are BAME:
 - a) By ethnicity breakdown e.g. 71 Black, 34 Asian
 - b) By fee status (e.g. Home or International)

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning the number of BAME undergraduates applied / admitted to Downing in 2019 and 2020. I can provide you with this information in the following table. Unfortunately, we only have figures for the number of home students who applied and were admitted and not the number of International students who applied, but I can confirm 17 international students were admitted in 2019 and 24 in 2020.

Home undergraduate students applied and admitted 2019 and 2020

	Applied	%Applied	Admitted	% Admitted		Applied	%Applied	Admitted	% Admitted
	2019	2019	2019	2019		2020	2020	2020	2020
Asian	74	15%	13	12%		129	18%	16	14%
Black / Mixed	38	8%	10	9%		63	9%	17	14%
Other	36	7%	5	4%		47	7%	11	9%
Info refused	0	0%	3	3%		0	0%	0	0%
Unknown	21	4%	0	0%		30	4%	0	0%
White	332	66%	79	72%		435	62%	74	63%
Total	501	100%	110	100%		706	100%	118	100%

21-19 – Employment practices and conditions

Thank you for your FOI enquiry to Downing College concerning employment practices. I have answered your question below.

1. As of February 26th 2021, the exact lowest hourly wage (excluding benefits) paid by the college to workers (employees or casual workers), over the age of 18, who are not trainees or apprentices, not including holiday pay.
ANS: £8.72 per hour

2. As of February 26th 2021, the number of workers (employees or casual workers), if any, in the college in non-academic/administrative positions who are over the age of 18 and paid below £9.50 per hour.
ANS: 64 workers including active casuels

3. As of February 26th 2021, the percentage of workers (employees or casual workers) in the college in non-academic/administrative positions who are over the age of 18 and paid below £9.50 per hour.
ANS: 36% of the workforce including active casuels

4. The name(s) of any external employment agencies used to provide staff in the two years prior to January 2021.
ANS: We have used the following external employment agencies in the past two years:

- Interaction Recruitment
- Select Hospitality
- Blue Arrow
- Office Angels
- Aspire
- Nurse Plus

5. If the college uses any external employment agencies to provide staff, the number of contracted staff who worked 2 or more hours a day, in any day of the week, for 12 or more consecutive weeks, in the year prior to February 1st 2020.

ANS: Following the COVID lockdown guidelines we are working remotely and do not have access to this information.

6. If the college uses any external employment agencies to provide staff, the number of contracted staff who worked 2 or more hours a day, in any day of the week, for 12 or more consecutive weeks, in the year prior to February 1st 2020, who were paid below £9.50 per hour.

ANS: As above

7. The total number of staff who earned over £50,000 in the most recent financial year

ANS: Nine staff

8. The total number of staff who earned over £80,000 in the most recent financial year.

ANS: Two staff

21-21 – Fees: cash payments made to the College in the past five years

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.

1) Please state the total amount of fees your college accepted in cash (i.e., deposit of banknotes) in each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to date. This should include tuition fees, accommodation fees, course fees, and any other fees for which there is a centrally held financial record.

2) If you hold this information centrally and in machine readable form, please provide a breakdown of this total by the nationality of the students that made the payments, in terms of the total sum of cash payments, and the number of students of each nationality that paid in this manner. Please provide this information for each of the last five financial years, and the current financial year to date.

3) Please provide a copy of your college's internal guidance issued to staff on accepting fee payments in cash.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning student fees (or bills) paid in cash (banknotes) over the past five years plus the current year. These amounts (mostly covering accommodation and catering bills) were made by students who were at Downing at this time and don't include tuition fees which are received indirectly by Downing.

Please note, personal data is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act and as Downing is a small community there is the danger that individuals could be identified if we were to provide a breakdown of individual payments by nationality. Downing became a cashless College in 2019, so we don't have any guidance regarding cash payments.

The answers to your questions are as follows:

Year	College bill cash payments	Nationality
2015/16	£13,368.57	8 students: Chinese, UK, French, German, Greek and Spanish
2016/17	£3,416.10	6 students: Australian, Chinese, Indonesian, UK, French, and Italian
2017/18	£4,818.00	4 students: Chinese and Malaysian
2018/19	£7,210.50	5 students: Chinese, Cypriot, Indian and UK
2019/20	£0.00	n/a

2020/21	£0.00	n/a
TOTAL	£28,813.17	

21-22 – Student inter-household mixing and visitors - COVID policies

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning our COVID policies for students and inter-house mixing during the Michaelmas term 2020. We have provided answers your question below.

Could you please provide me with:

- a) your College's visitor and inter-household mixing policies from the beginning of Michaelmas 2020; and/or, more specifically, COVID-related document(s) which contain details of mixing between student households and the permissibility of external guests in the period between the start of term and the enactment of the November national lockdown;
- i) if the policy or policies changed at any point between the start of term and the enactment of the November national lockdown, please enclose all relevant documents;

ANS: Downing policy was in line with national guidance with inter-household mixing permitted. The only place it was published was on the College website. The text below was published on September 17th 2020 and then updated on 5th November 2020.

#StaySafeDowningCollege

We are determined that Downing College will be a safe and secure environment.

The safety of the College, its students, and staff is best assured when all members of the community work together in a spirit of shared concern.

The Collegiate University has developed a clear and comprehensive approach to managing the risks associated with COVID-19. You should familiarise yourself with all of the measures and expectations that are involved.

The University and Colleges expect all students to abide by these key principles:

- *Minimise the risks of virus transmission in all aspects of your life.*
- *Limit contact with other people not in your household.*
- *Observe social distancing practices when you go out, keeping at least 2 metres apart wherever possible and taking other precautions, such as wearing a face covering, if it is not possible to stay 2 metres apart.*
- *Sanitise or wash your hands regularly.*
- *Do not leave home if you, or anyone you live with, has symptoms (if you do have symptoms please call the Porters immediately, who will be able to advise you.)*

Committed to Community Wellbeing

In acknowledgement of our commitment to each other and to the wider community, the College Fellowship, staff and current residents have all signed up to the College's Community Agreement .

All students will receive an email together with a set of documents relating to site safety, which must be read and acknowledged online prior to visiting the College. These are:

- *A letter from the Senior Tutor and Dean to Students coming into residence.*
- *The College Community Agreement.*
- *The Risk Assessment for visitors to the College.*
- *The Risk Assessment for students in residence. (residential students only)*
- *The Residential Housekeeping Protocol. (residential students only)*

Working together and playing together Household Groups in the College environment

Residential students will be living in College in Household Groups. Non-resident students will also be effectively living in households either by themselves or with others.

When in College buildings and grounds, and around the University and City in general, it is essential that you follow the current regulations on how Household Groups should, and should not, interact.

The Collegiate University guidance on gathering in social groups can be read [here](#).

- *Within your Household, you do not need to observe social distance or wear a face covering. However, you should have a discussion with other members of your Household to ascertain everyone's feelings regarding the COVID situation and the degree of risk, with the parameters set by law, that they are prepared to accept. The College would strongly recommend following COVID-safe practices as far as practical, even within the Household spaces. You may find that extra cleaning or 'Household rules' make some people feel more secure than they might do otherwise.*
- *The current University advice does not support the formation of 'support bubbles' to extend residential student Household Groups. This decision has been taken in order to avoid potential conflict or social pressure within the Household Group to 'bubble' with a particular friend or partner of a Group member. Residential Household Groups are not permitted to form 'bubbles' without permission from the Senior Tutor.*
- *When meeting others not in your Household Group under any circumstances, COVID-safe behaviour is required.*
- *You may meet people not in your Household group in a group of up to six people from different households. Social distancing must be observed at all times.*

Guests in College

- *College members are permitted to bring guests into College as long as COVID-safe rules are followed.*
- *If you are meeting in your Household space, you should agree, in advance, with other members of your Household which guests will come and when they will visit. No student should be put in the position of arriving home to find a guest in their Household whom they were not expecting.*
- *The maximum number of people in the Household space at any one time, including guests, cannot exceed 6. This is a legal requirement.*
- *The only exception to this rule is when the Household comprises more than 6 people in which case, all Household members can be together.*
- *As soon as a guest is in the Household space, the total number of people gathered can be no more than 6.*
- *Overnight guests should be agreed in advance with other members of the Household Group and the guest and host must follow normal College guest rules, including signing in the guest.*

b) your College's proposed 'roadmap' out of lockdown; and/or, more specifically, document(s) which contain details of the proposed visitor and inter-household mixing;

ANS: Our Roadmap is published on our website:

https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/college_roadmap_during_covid-19_v8.2.pdf It does not specifically mention inter-household mixing though.

c) the weekly breakdown of positive COVID cases in your College for the first 5 weeks of Michaelmas term.

ANS: Figures for positive cases were as follows:

Wk1: 9

Wk2: 17

Wk3: 3

Wk4: 0

Wk5: 1

21-23 – H100 Engineering Admissions Statistics 2019-2021

Under the FOIA, I request the following statistics about home applicants to H100 Engineering at Downing College:

- The distribution of ENGAA and interview scores of all applicants to the college
- The distribution of ENGAA and interview scores of offer holders
- The distribution of ENGAA and interview scores of unsuccessful applicants

I request this data for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 entry UCAS cycles. I wish for the distributions to include the mean, median, minimum, maximum, lower quartile and upper quartile of scores. If you are unable to provide some of this information, please include an explanation.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning H100 Engineering Admissions Statistics 2019-2021. I can provide you with data for 2019 and 2020, but not for 2021 as we are still completing the current admissions round. Also, I can only provide limited data for successful candidates due to the small number of offer holders.

Please be advised that in 2019 there were 59 home applications to study H100 Engineering and 40 students were interviewed (two interviews each). Eight of the interviewees were subsequently offered a place at Downing. The scores are as follows:

- Unsuccessful applicants
 - interview scores range: 2 – 6.5; average interview score: 3.5; median: 4; lower quartile: 2; upper quartile: 4 - 6.5
 - ENGAA1 scores range: 0 – 8.4, average score 3.7, median: 3.6; lower quartile: 0 – 2.7; upper quartile: 4.8 – 8.4
 - ENGAA2 scores range: 0 - 13, average score 6.2, median: 6; lower quartile: 0 – 4; upper quartile: 9 - 13
- Successful applicants
 - average interview score: 7.1; median: 8
 - average ENGAA1 score: 6.6; median: 7
 - average ENGAA2 score: 10.9; median: 11

In 2020 there were 77 home applications to study H100 Engineering and 48 students were interviewed (four interviews each). Seven of the interviewees were subsequently offered a place to study at Downing. The scores were as follows:

- Unsuccessful applicants
 - interview scores range: 2 – 8; average interview score: 4.8; median: 5; lower quartile: 2 – 4; upper quartile: 5.5 - 8
 - ENGAA1 scores range: 1 – 7; average score 3.7; median: 3.9; lower quartile: 1– 3; upper quartile: 4 - 7
 - ENGAA2 scores range: 1 – 7.6; average score 3.9; median: 4; lower quartile: 1 – 2.6; upper quartile: 5.5 – 7.6
- Successful applicants
 - Average interview score: 6.5; median: 7
 - average ENGAA1 score: 6; median: 6
 - average ENGAA2 score: 6.1; median: 6.5

21-24 – A100 interview numbers and BMAT scores (2017-2021) overseas students

I would like to request for the BMAT scores, interview scores (if applicable), academic grades (A level, IB, etc.) and the application outcome (offered/rejected/pooled and offered/pooled and rejected) of all of the overseas fee status applicants for the past 5 years (2017-2021 intake).

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning A100 overseas fee status applicants for the past five years. Please note, I am including applicants from the EU and I can provide you with data for 2017 to 2020, but not for 2021 as we are still completing the current admissions round. Also, I can only provide you with the range of scores in order to ensure anonymity due to the small number of candidates.

Most but not all candidates had four interviews, and BMAT scores combine scores for BMAT 1, 2 and 3. The requirement for medicine is A*A*A at A Level and at IB overall score of 42 points with 7, 7, 6 at HL (we would expect Chemistry to be A* or 7HL as this is essential).

2017

Five unsuccessful candidates interviewed, scores for 17 interviews range: 3 – 7

15 BMAT scores range: 3 – 7.1

Four successful candidates, scores for 16 interviews range: 6.5 – 9

12 BMAT scores range: 3 – 8.8

2018

17 unsuccessful candidates interviewed, scores for 49 interviews range: 3 - 9

51 BMAT scores range: 2 – 7.2

Four successful candidates, scores for 10 interviews range: 6.5 - 9

12 BMAT scores range: 2.5 – 7.7

2019

Eight unsuccessful candidates interviewed, scores for 25 interviews range: 1 – 7.5

21 BMAT scores range: 2 – 7.6

There were only two successful candidates so I cannot provide scores due to the very low number.

2020

There were nine overseas applicants (including the EU) three were interviewed and of the nine interviews scores ranged from 4-7; the nine BMAT scores ranged from 2.5 – 6.6. There were no successful candidates.

21-25 – Serious incident statistics

I am requesting information pertaining to all serious incident investigations involving the health, wellbeing or welfare of one or more students - a 'serious incident' being an adverse event, with significant harmful or potentially harmful consequences, and/or where the effectiveness of the university response is likely to have a significant impact on the health, wellbeing or welfare of a student, their family and/or the community.

The need for a serious incident report is specifically recognised in UUK's Suicide-Safer Universities (2018) guidance.

It would be most useful, if your reply could be comprehensive. The key factor in all cases is that the University conducted a serious incident investigation. It is not limited to serious incident investigations following the death of a student, or a student suicide, or conducted after a mental health incident (such as attempted suicide, near misses, parasuicide, and non-suicidal self-injury), and whether in University owned property or not. Additionally, if you have records regarding students who were no longer registered with the University, but where you still carried out such an investigation, that information would also be of interest.

If you could provide the relevant numbers, subdivided according to any of the above and/or other categories, that would be extremely helpful.

So, for each of the academic periods 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21:

a) How many serious incident investigations has Downing College conducted?

- b) How many serious incident reports were produced?
- c) How many serious incidents involved a fatality?
- d) How many serious incident reports and/or their findings has Downing College shared with other institutions?
- e) How many serious incident reports and/or their findings have other institutions shared with you?

In the case of (d) and (e), please specify the different types of institution that were involved in the sharing e.g., other university, UUK, NHS, PHE, Mental Health Trust, OfS, DfE, etc.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning student serious incident statistics since 2018.

Following the guidance provided by the Information Commissioner's Office when reporting small numbers I can confirm that for each of your questions a) to e) we have 0-5 serious incidents (as you define them) on record aggregated for each year since 2018. As Downing is a small community there is a risk that an individual case could be identified (section 40(2) exemption, personal information) if any specific numbers were published.

21-26 – Investments and number of shares in extractive companies

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Could you please provide the approximate value and number of shares or any other forms of direct investment, if any, currently held in each of the following companies by the College?

- a) BHP
- b) Anglo-American
- c) Glencore
- d) Freeport McMoRan
- e) Rio Tinto
- f) Vale S.A.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning investments in extraction companies. I can confirm that we have no shares or direct investments in any of the companies you have listed. For further information concerning our investments, please see our Annual Report and Accounts (p.31-33 and 36-38) and in particular our statements regarding ethical investments (p.33).

https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/annualreport_accounts_2020_interactive.pdf

21-27 – College Counselling Provision

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning student counselling provision. We have answered your questions below.

This is a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Could you please provide the following information:

In this FOI, when describing an 'external Counselling provider', this refers to any Counsellor who is not hired through the University's Counselling Service.

1 - How many Counsellors does the College hire from an external Counselling provider to provide counselling or therapy for students during full term time?

ANS: zero

2 - The name of the agency or company which the College is hiring Counsellors from.

ANS: n/a

3 - The hours of counselling the college hires external counsellors for during a week of full term.

ANS: n/a

4 - The skills or qualifications each of the College's counsellors have and to what level?

ANS: n/a

5 - Does the College provide any other therapy or mental health support further to Counselling for students in the college for example nurses, therapists etc? Please list any.

ANS: Yes, the College has two qualified Registered Nurses, they have many years of experience in student health matters and are able to help with a wide range of medical and psychological difficulties and always have time to listen.

Furthermore, Downing has recently appointed Ms Kate Daniels as the Head of Wellbeing. This role has responsibility for supporting the wellbeing of all Downing students. In addition to direct engagement with individual students on their welfare and wellbeing issues, the post holder will have oversight of strategic planning and implementation of courses, programmes and activities in collaboration with others (such as the College Nurses, Chaplain and Tutors) with pastoral responsibilities. Going forward, the post holder will oversee a programme of welfare-focused activity and structured support throughout the calendar year for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Finally, many students are referred to external counsellors & therapists via Tutors, College Nurses or their GP. College and/or the University can assist with reasonable costs if required.

For further details concerning student emotional support and well-being, please see our website:

<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/students/welfare/emotional-support-and-well-being>

6 - The skills or qualifications any of these employees hold and to what level.

ANS: as above

7 - How many Counsellors does the college hire through the University's Counselling Service?

ANS: We have two University counsellors working in College when permitted with the current COVID regulations, or working remotely, each week.

21-28 – Student mental health support

Please may Downing College release the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act, to the Cambridge Tab.

For the following questions please could Downing College answer separately for the financial years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021:

1. How much money did Downing College contribute to the University Counselling service?
2. How much money did Downing College spend on in-college mental health services eg college counselling, mental health talks (excluding funds given to JCR/MCRs)

In addition:

Does Downing College have any (emergency) mental health funds that students can access?

If so:

3. What is the maximum amount of money a student can withdraw from the (emergency) mental health funds?

4. How many students received support from Downing College's (emergency) mental health funds in 2019?
5. How many students received support from Downing College's (emergency) mental health funds in 2020?

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning expenditure on mental health services. Concerning your first two questions I can provide answers as follows:

1) How much money did Downing College contribute to the University Counselling service?

2019-20: £49,388

2020-21: £53,727

2) How much money did Downing College spend on in-college mental health services e.g. College counselling, mental health talks (excluding funds given to JCR/MCRs)?

2019-20: £1,466

2020-21 (to date): £5,632

Concerning your last questions 3-5, Downing do not have emergency mental health funds as we have provision to cover these costs if there is a need using funds allocated as a result of unexpected/unplanned financial difficulties.

21-29 – Summer courses/schools income

Please could you tell me, since the start of the 2015-16 academic year, the amount of money, if any, received by the college from each of the following companies:

- Oxford Summer Courses
- Oxford Royale Academy
- Oxford Scholastica Academy
- Cambridge Summer Institute
- Immerse Education
- ISSOS International
- Cambridge Summer Academy (Foundation for International
- Education/CBL International
- Cambridge Dream

Please provide a brief outline of the nature of the payment in each instance (for accommodation, staff services, and so on). You don't need to break down the total payment for each company into different parts - I'm happy to receive just a description.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning summer courses/schools income. I can confirm that none of the organisations you have listed below have held events at Downing.

21-30 – Student evictions from accommodation

I would like to make an FOI into the following:

1. How many students were evicted from university accommodation during the current academic year to date?
2. As much detail over the individual evictions as possible, including the date of evictions and reason for eviction.

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning student evictions from accommodation during the current academic year. I am pleased to report that we have not made any evictions at this College.

21-31 – Q800 Classics 2021 Entry Admission Statistics

I am writing to request that the College release the following information concerning the Q800 Classics (3 year) course for 2021 entry:

- (i) the number of applicants it received
- (ii) how many offers were made by the College
- (iii) how many applicants were not given an offer from Downing but were pooled
- (iv) how many of those pooled applicants were given offers by other colleges

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning Q800 Classics entry admission statistics for the current admissions cycle.

The information you have requested is part of the ongoing admissions cycle that is not expected to finish before August at the earliest. Downing considers that the disclosure of statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process which form a fundamental part of our mission as an educational institution. Therefore, we believe this information is exempt under section 36(2c) (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs). Please be aware, statistical information about previous admissions cycles is published by the University for all the colleges at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>.

21-32 – International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism

When did Downing College officially adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism?

Response

Further to your enquiry to Downing College, which we are answering under the Freedom of Information Act, I can confirm that we have no record of the College formally adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism.

21-33 – Notice to Quits for College-owned or College-managed accommodation

I would like to make an FOI into the following:

1. How many students have been served with Notice to Quits (NTQs) for college-owned or college-managed accommodation before the end of tenancy in the 2020/2021 academic year to date?
Can I please get as much detail as possible on these NTQs, including the outcome (eg whether students vacated the property within the expiry date), the reason for the NTQs and date of issue.
2. How many students who were served with NTQs were subsequently evicted from college-owned or college-managed accommodation before the end of tenancy in the 2020/2021 academic year to date?
Can I please get as much detail as possible on those evictions, including the means by which the evictions were physically effected, the reasons for the evictions, when the tenants were required to leave, whether

the recipients made applications for relief to the Court, and if so, how many such applications were made and what were the outcomes.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning issuing Notice to Quit (NTQ) for College-owned or College-managed accommodation before the end of the student tenancy in the current academic year. I am pleased to report that we have not issued any NTQs to students in this academic year.

21-34 – List of Downing's insurance policies and providers

I am sending this freedom of information to you as the designated Information Officer: could you please list the insurance policies that Downing College holds, as well as the name of the insurance provider for each?

Response

Thank you for your FoI enquiry to Downing College concerning our insurance policies and insurance providers. However, as arrangements made with our providers are renegotiated and renewed regularly and are commercially sensitive, I cannot provide you with any further details and therefore I decline to answer your request under section 43 of the Act (commercial interests).

21-35 – AMES interview marks for 2021 entry

Please can you let me know the average interview marks for this year's entry, 2021, for AMES at Downing College and the marks for the students that have been offered a place please?

Response

Concerning your request made under the FOI Act, please be advised that I would not be able to release the information to you at this time as it is still part of the ongoing admissions cycle that is not expected to finish before August at the earliest. Downing considers that the disclosure of statistics, such as interview marks, made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process which form a fundamental part of our mission as an educational institution. Therefore, we believe this information is exempt under section 36(2c) of the Act (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs). Some statistics and information from this and previous admissions cycles is published by the University for all the colleges at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/statistics>.

21-36 – Student Accommodation 2020/21

Please would you please be able to list all of your college's halls of residence, and the total number of students in each of these halls for the 2021/22 Academic Year.

If possible, would you please also be able to list the room types and their cost for the Academic Year at each of your halls of residence.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning student accommodation. I believe that everything you require to answer your questions can be found in our Accommodation Handbook: https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/accommodation_handbook_2021.pdf (including a list of residences and the number of rooms in Appendix 7) and on our website at: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/current->

Downing College Cambridge - Freedom of Information Disclosure Log 2021

[students/accommodation](#). For a full list of our fees and charges, including residence charges, please see our web page: <https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/current-students/finances-bursaries-and-awards/fees-and-charges>.