

22-01 – Law interview and CLT scores (2021 entry)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am making this request regarding the assessment of applicants for undergraduate studies at Downing College, Cambridge.

Would it be possible to know:

- a) Average interview and CLT scores of successful applicants and
- b) The average interview and CLT scores of all candidates for law for 2021 entry?

Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning average interview and CLT scores for applicants for Law 2021 entry. Please find these as follows.

- a) Average interview and CLT scores of successful applicants for Law, 2021 entry
 - Interview: 8.8 average
 - CLT: 7.4 average
- b) Average interview and CLT scores of all candidates for Law, 2021 entry
 - Interview: 6.9 average
 - CLT: 6.8 average

22-02 – British Muslim employees recruited since 2010

1. How many British Muslim employees have you recruited? Please provide figures for every year since 2010.
2. What is the average length of service?
3. How many British Muslims have you employed in communications/media roles since 2010?

Initial Response

Thank you for your FOI request to Downing College concerning our staff recruitment and retention of British Muslims. Unfortunately, we do not have answers to your three questions as even where the question has been asked of applicants/staff, many people choose not to disclose their religion/belief. So we do not hold records to give you accurate figures.

Further Response

Having discussed the relevant record keeping processes with our Head of HR, I can confirm that our original response, based on the view that the College does not hold the data in sufficient detail to answer your questions in a meaningful way, is correct. Please also be aware that Downing is a small community and where numbers of staff are fewer than five, we follow the ICO guidelines and do not provide an exact number in order to respect the personal data and privacy rights of our staff (section 40(2) exemption, personal information).

1. How many British Muslim employees have you recruited? Please provide figures for every year since 2010.
ANS: We do not hold data for the full time period that you specify. For the periods where we do hold applicant data (2018-2021) the answers to question related to religious background are mostly incomplete and so any answer would be inaccurate.

2. What is the average length of service?

ANS: We cannot answer this question for reasons of insufficient/incomplete data as specified above.

3. How many British Muslims have you employed in communications/media roles since 2010?

ANS: Fewer than five people have been employed in communications/media roles since 2010 and due to small numbers we cannot confirm the religious background/beliefs of this group.

22-03 – Law admission statistics for 2022

I hereby submit a freedom of information request. I request answers to the following questions:

- (1) How many applicants were there for admission to Downing to read Law?
- (2) Of the applicants detailed in (1), how many were UK candidates?
- (3) Of these applicants detailed in (1), how many were international candidates?
- (4) How many applicants for admission to Downing to read Law were interviewed?
- (5) Of these applicants detailed in (4), how many were UK candidates?
- (6) Of these applicants detailed in (4), how many were international candidates?
- (7) How many applicants for admission to Downing to read Law were given offers?
- (8) How many applicants for admission to Downing to read Law from the UK were given offers?
- (9) How many applicants for admission to Downing to read Law from outside of the UK were given offers?
- (10) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law were conducted between 8.00 am (GMT) and 6.00 pm (GMT)?
- (11) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law of UK candidates were conducted between 8.00 am (GMT) and 6.00 pm (GMT)?
- (12) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law of international candidates were conducted between 8.00 am (GMT) and 6.00 pm (GMT)?
- (13) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law were conducted between 11.30 pm (GMT) and 4 am (GMT)?
- (14) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law of UK candidates were conducted between 11.00 pm (GMT) and 4.00 am (GMT)?
- (15) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law of international applicants conducted between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm in their home country?
- (16) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law of UK candidates were conducted between 11.00 pm and 4.00 am in their home country?
- (17) How many interviews for admission to Downing to read Law were delayed more than 45 minutes past their scheduled commencement time?

Response

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request to Downing College concerning 2022 Law admissions.

Concerning your FoI request, please be advised that we would not be able to release this detailed 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 data, 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 currently exempt under section 36(2c) of the Act (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs).

22-04 – Students admitted 2019-2021 by institution name and type

I would be grateful if you are able to provide me the following data under the Freedom of Information Act: The number of students admitted to your college, broken down by institution name that they applied from, as well as institution type (e.g. whether it was a secondary comprehensive, selective, Independent/private, sixth form/FE/tertiary, academy etc) for the 2022-2023, 2021-2022, 2020-2021, and 2019-2020 academic years.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning UG admissions by institution name and institution type since 2019.

I can provide you with the following figures for institution type since 2019:

School type	2019	2020	2021
Comprehensive / Academy	30	25	28
EU	8	2	2
Grammar	24	27	33
Independent	37	50	35
Overseas	12	24	19
Tertiary /FE	3	1	4
Sixth Form College	13	13	5
Other	0	0	1
TOTAL	127	142	127

Unfortunately, I cannot provide you with figures for 2022-23 admissions, as the current admissions cycle will not be completed before August at the earliest. I also cannot provide you with a list of the institutions as Downing is a small community and there is a risk that an individual could be identified from a list of school names (section 40(2) exemption, personal information). Please note, you can find additional statistical information for Cambridge University applications at [Application statistics | Undergraduate Study \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/admissions/apply/undergraduate-study)

22-05 – Russian donations and grants

Please can you provide me with any information you have about donations (financial or in kind), research grants/funding and loans to your institution from the companies and individuals listed below, from the start of the 2016-17 academic year until your most recent records:

Companies: Gazprom; Gazprom Neft; Rossiya; Jenn Bank; General Bank; Promsvyazbank; the Black Sea Bank; Sberbank; Aquind; Rosneft; Lukoil; Novatek; Nornickel; Yandex; Polyus; Surgutneftegas.

Individuals: Boris Rotenberg; Igor Rotenberg; Gennady Timchenko; Lubov Chernukhin; Alexander Temerko; Dmitry Leus; Lev Mikheev.

Please provide this data in a spreadsheet detailing: the name of the donor; the amount of money/in kind benefit involved; the date of the transaction; and what the money/in kind benefit will be used for.

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning donations and grants. I can confirm that we have not received any donations (financial or in kind), research grants/funding or loans from the companies or individuals on the list you have provided.

22-06 – Russian donations and funding

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. I would like to request the following information:

(1) For the years 2017 - 2022, I would like to be provided with details on accepted donations (worth over £10,000), gifts (worth over £10,000), grants (worth over £10,000) and funding (worth over £10,000) that have come from Russian individuals, Russian companies, Russian charities, Russian government departments/agencies, and other Russian organisations.

For each donation, gift, grant and funding, I would like the following information:

- Provide the name of the Russian individual/company/charity/government department/agency/organisation that gave the donation/gift/grant/ funding
- The date the university accepted such donation, gift, grant and funding
- The sum and description of the accepted donation, gift, grant and funding
- A description of what the donation, gift, grant and funding was used for

(2) For the years 2017 - 2022, I would like to be provided with details on accepted donations (worth over £10,000), gifts (worth over £10,000), grants (worth over £10,000) and funding (worth over £10,000) that have come from Azerbaijan individuals, Azerbaijan companies, Azerbaijan charities, Azerbaijan government departments/agencies, and other Azerbaijan organisations.

For each donation, gift, grant and funding, I would like the following information:

- Provide the name of the Azerbaijan individual/company/charity/government department/agency/organisation that gave the donation/gift/grant/ funding
- The date the university accepted such donation, gift, grant and funding
- The sum and description of the accepted donation, gift, grant and funding
- A description of what the donation, gift, grant and funding was used for

(3) For the years 2017 - 2022, I would like to be provided with details on accepted donations (worth over £10,000), gifts (worth over £10,000), grants (worth over £10,000) and funding (worth over £10,000) that have come from Kazakhstan individuals, Kazakhstan companies, Kazakhstan charities, Kazakhstan government departments/agencies, and other Kazakhstan organisations.

For each donation, gift, grant and funding, I would like the following information:

- Provide the name of the Kazakhstan individual/company/charity/government department/agency/organisation that gave the donation/gift/grant/ funding
- The date the university accepted such donation, gift, grant and funding
- The sum and description of the accepted donation, gift, grant and funding
- A description of what the donation, gift, grant and funding was used for

Response

Thank you for your FoI request to Downing College concerning donations, grants and funding from Russia, Kazakhstan or Azerbaijan. I can confirm that we have not received any donations, gifts, research grants or funding from these countries, or from any individuals from these countries for the years in question.

22-07 – High Table costs to the College since 2010

How much does High Table cost, i.e., the amount the College has spent on High Table each year? Please provide annual figures since 2010.

Response

Further to your FoI request to Downing College, I can confirm the following costs for High Table based on attendance figures. Please note, we only hold records for the past five academic years.

High Table is broadly covered by Downing College Statute XXXVIII [Statutes and ordinances | Downing College Cambridge](#) which entitles Fellows “to eat in College free of charge for one meal on each day during Term and on days falling outside Term when the kitchens are open for the provision of meals to others”. One caveat when reading these attendance figures, they will include some social guests and Fellows have to pay for their own guests. Regretfully we do not have figures for social guests (just total attendance) so the actual costs borne by the College are somewhat lower than these data might suggest.

Academic year	Dinner charge	High Table attendance	Total
2016/17	£16.40	1148	£18,827.20
2017/18	£17.40	953	£16,582.20
2018/19	£17.90	736	£13,174.40
2019/20	£18.40	581	£10,690.40
2020/21	£18.90	34	£642.60

22-08 – Sponsorship or funding from Chinese organisations

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

1. The amount of money in sponsorship or funding given to your institution from universities, institutions, organisations or companies based in China per year
2. Ideally, I would like a breakdown of the information for each academic year over the last five years (from 2016/2017 to 2020/21)
3. I would also like a breakdown of the funding or sponsorship sources for each academic year
4. If you have data for the 2021/22 academic year you can provide this would also be helpful
5. I would prefer to receive all the information electronically.

Response

Concerning your first question, I can confirm that we cannot find any records of receiving sponsorship or funding from any Chinese companies or organisations over the past five years. We do host the Beihang Summer School in

collaboration with Beihang University where they pay for commercial services. On the course undergraduates from Beihang visit Downing for two weeks and attend English language classes followed by a taught academic course for one week on a range of topics.

22-09 – Number of UK Black students admitted over the past 10 years

During the 10-year period 2008/2017 how many black UK undergraduates were admitted to Downing College?
In the 3years ending November 2021 how many black UK undergraduates were admitted?

Response

Further to your request, which we are answering under the Freedom of Information Act, I can advise figures as follows for students who identify as Black or Black British (African or Caribbean):

Black or Black British students admitted to Downing 2008-2017: 8

Black or Black British students admitted to Downing 2018-2021: 15

22-10 – Employment Practices 2022

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information relating to your employment practices. I would like to know the following:

1. As of April 2022, the exact lowest hourly wage paid by the college to permanent or temporary employees, over the age of 18, who are not trainees or apprentices, not including holiday pay.

ANS: £9.90 per hour

2. As of April 2022, the exact lowest hourly wage paid by the college to casual workers (including those on zero-hour contracts, if applicable), over the age of 18, who are not trainees or apprentices, not including holiday pay.

ANS: £9.50 per hour

3. As of April 2022, the number of workers (employees or casual workers), if any, in the college who are over the age of 18 and paid below £9.50 per hour.

ANS: Zero

4. As of April 2022, 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: 0%

5. The name(s) of any external employment agencies used to provide staff in the two years prior to April 2022.

ANS: We have used the following external employment agencies in the past two years

- Interaction Recruitment
- Select Hospitality
- Nurse Plus

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 April 2022, who were paid below £9.50 per hour.

ANS: We do not hold this information as contracted staff are paid by an agency.