



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Records Management Section  
The University of Edinburgh  
Old College  
South Bridge  
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

Direct Dial 0131 651 4099  
Switchboard 0131 650 1000

recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk  
[www.ed.ac.uk/records-management](http://www.ed.ac.uk/records-management)

8 August 2023

File ref: FOI2023/00498

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00498**

Thank you for your email of 11 July 2023 requesting information about the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA).

The University of Edinburgh is a global university, rooted in Scotland. We are internationally recognised for our research, development and innovation and we have provided world-class teaching to our students for more than 430 years. We are the largest university in Scotland and in 2021/22 our annual revenue was £1.3 billion, of which £331 million was research income. We have just under 50,000 students and over 15,000 staff. We are a founding member of the UK's Russell Group of leading research universities and a member of the League of European Research Universities.

*Edinburgh University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (EUCSSA)*

Edinburgh University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (EUCSSA) is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organization, which organizes, sponsors and supports various social and cultural activities among Chinese students and scholars based at the University of Edinburgh. The association also maintains close connections with the intellectual community in China and other CSSA members across the world, developing programs and links. Its aim is to bring a richer and more successful experience at the University of Edinburgh to Chinese students and those studying or just interested in Chinese language and culture. [Information on EUCSSA](#) can be found on the Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA) website.

EUCSSA is a society supported by the [Edinburgh University Students' Association \(EUSA\)](#) and is not part of the University. Please note [EUSA](#) is a separate legal entity from the University of Edinburgh, and is not a 'Scottish public authority' as defined by the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This means that the University is unable to answer requests for information held by EUSA, and EUSA itself is not subject to the legislation. If you are seeking information from EUSA, contact details and information are available on their website.



The [Chinese Students and Scholars Association in the UK \(CSSA-UK\)](#) states on its website that it has over 100 subsidiary associations throughout the UK. Some are based in Higher Educational institutions such as Imperial College, University College London and London School of Business, whilst others are just based in large cities or towns where there is a concentration of Chinese students. This includes the CSSA in Edinburgh.

### Your information request

You asked for a list of all funding provided to the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) by the University and its subsidiary institutions. Given the information provided above, we have interpreted your request to include EUCSSA.

In order to respond to your request, I contacted the University's [Finance](#) department, [Edinburgh Research Office](#), [School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures](#), the [Confucius Institute for Scotland](#) and [Edinburgh Global](#).

The University holds some information about financial transactions between the Confucius Institute of Scotland and the EUCSSA. This is provided in Table 1 below. Please note that this information was found in a legacy financial system. Please also note that funding is normally provided by the University to EUSA, for example through the annual block grant, rather than to individual EUSA societies

The [Confucius Institute for Scotland](#) in the University of Edinburgh is a national centre to promote educational and cultural ties between Scotland and China.

**Table 1: Details of financial transactions between the Confucius Institute of Scotland and the Edinburgh University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (EUCSSA)**

| Invoice date | Description  | Amount    |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| 2013         | Contribution to EUCCSA   | £850.00   |
| 7 Jul 2014   | Service Charge of 'Poster Art of Modern China' Exhibition  | £1,500.00 |
| 19 Dec 2016  | EUCSSA "Mid Autumn Gala and Singing Contest 2016" Audio Equipment sponsorship                            | £600.00   |
| 3 Nov 2017   | EUCSSA "Mid Autumn Gala and Singing Contest 2017" Audio Equipment Sponsorship                            | £650.00   |
| 26 Oct 2018  | EUCSSA "2018 Freshers' Welcome Gala and Singing Competition" Audio Equipment Sponsorship                 | £600.00   |
| 28 Oct 2019  | Sponsorship to EUCSSA: 2019 Mid-Autumn Festival Gala and the 9 <sup>th</sup> Chinese Singing Competition | £600.00   |

Please note these activities were approved by all funders through the annual budget.

You will see that we have not been able to provide the invoice date and a more specific description for the transaction made in 2013. This is because we do not hold the invoice.

Please note the University's subsidiary companies are separate legal entities from the University. This means that the University is unable to answer requests for information held by these companies. Companies which are wholly-owned by the University and/or other Scottish public authorities are subject to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act

2002 and you may request information from them directly. A list of the University's subsidiary undertakings can be found in the Notes to the financial statements section of our [Annual Report and Accounts](#).

### **Right to review**

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review of this decision by contacting the University's Records Management Section in writing (e.g. by letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape). You should describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. The contact details for the Records Management Section are at the top of this letter. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may use the [Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance on making an appeal](#) to make an appeal to the Commissioner. If you do not have access to the Internet, please let me know and I will provide a copy of the relevant web pages.

### **Privacy notice for information request applicants**

[The University of Edinburgh's request privacy notice](#), which describes how we use the information you have supplied about yourself and your request, is published on the University website.

Yours sincerely



Records Management Section

**If you require this letter in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact the Records Management Section on 0131 651 4099 or email [recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk](mailto:recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk)**