

Our ref: FOI-24-0044

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 February 2024, in which you requested the following information from the University of Sussex.

Request

1. From 2015 to 2023, the numbers of University of Sussex degrees (including all Bachelor and Master) conferred every year at the Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute, Zhejiang Gongshang University (Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute in short). Please provide this information in aggregated numbers by different programmes.
2. Lists of education programmes, research projects, and research grants that are currently operational at Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute, either participated by Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute students and staff or sponsored by the Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute and the University of Sussex.
3. University of Sussex policies and governance structure which oversee the operations, including student experience and research, at the Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute. Please provide relevant policy documents and/or relevant administrative staff role specifications where applicable.
4. From 2015 to 2023, donations, grants, and research fundings received by the University of Sussex and its affiliated entities from the Zhejiang Gongshang University and/or any affiliated individuals, companies, or relevant Chinese official agencies.

Response

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

1. Please see the table below for the number of University of Sussex degrees awarded for the requested time period:

Academic Year / Course	Degrees Awarded
2021/22	91
H3032T - Robotics and Autonomous Systems (MSC)	47
H3033T - Artificial Intelligence and Adaptive Systems (MSC)	44
2022/23	98
H3032T - Robotics and Autonomous Systems (MSC)	49
H3033T - Artificial Intelligence and Adaptive Systems (MSC)	49
2023/24	101
H3032T - Robotics and Autonomous Systems (MSC)	50
H3033T - Artificial Intelligence and Adaptive Systems (MSC)	51
TOTAL	290

Please note that no Bachelor's degrees have yet been awarded, as the first undergraduate cohort will graduate in Summer 2024.

2. The four degree programmes which are operational at the Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute are:

BSc Communication Engineering

BSc Robotics Engineering

MSc Robotics and Autonomous Systems

MSc Artificial Intelligence and Adaptive Systems

include research undertaken for dissertations in the BSc or MSc

As the current degree courses are Undergraduate and Masters (i.e. Taught Postgraduate), whilst research may be undertaken for dissertations, no research projects or research grants are currently operational.

3. Please see attached document detailing the governance structure at the Sussex Artificial Intelligence Institute.

Within the attached document please note that some information has been removed as the information requested is personal data (in other words, it is information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual) and accordingly it is being withheld under section 40(2) of the Act.

The University is not obliged to provide information that is the personal data of another person if releasing it would contravene any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 2018 ("the DPA").

You can find out more about Section 40(2) by reading an extract from the Act and some guidance points considered when applying this exemption, in the form of a Guidance Note attached to this letter.

4. For the period requested the University has not received any donations, grants or research fundings.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you may request a review, but this must be within 40 days of receiving this response. In the first instance please write to Alexandra Elliott, the Head of Information Management and Compliance, at the address below. Full details of our Freedom of Information internal review procedure are at:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/policies/information/foi/procedure>.

If you need to contact us about your request, please quote your reference number FOI-24-0044.

Yours sincerely,

Information Management Team

Division of the General Counsel, Governance and Compliance

Guidance Note

Explanation of FOIA – Section 40(2) – Information Relating to Third Parties

You will find additional information about Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act provided below. An extract from the legislation, as well as some of the guidance used when applying it is included.

Section 40: Personal Information.

- (2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if –
- (a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1), and
 - (b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.

(3A) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act –

- (a) would contravene any of the data protection principles, or
- (b) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(3B) The second condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene Article 21 of the GDPR (general processing: right to object to processing).

(4A) The third condition is that –

- (a) on a request under Article 15(1) of the GDPR (general processing: right of access by the data subject) for access to personal data, the information would be withheld in reliance on provision made by or under section 15, 16 or 26 of, or Schedule 2, 3 or 4 to, the Data Protection Act 2018, or
- (b) on a request under section 45(1)(b) of that Act (law enforcement processing: right of access by the data subject), the information would be withheld in reliance on subsection (4) of that section.

(5A) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1).

(5B) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to other information if or to the extent that any of the following applies –

- (a) giving a member of the public the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) –
 - (i) would (apart from this Act) contravene any of the data protection principles, or
 - (ii) would do so if the exemptions in section 24(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (manual unstructured data held by public authorities) were disregarded;
- (b) giving a member of the public the confirmation or denial that would have to be given to comply with section 1(1)(a) would (apart from this Act) contravene Article 21 of the GDPR (general processing: right to object to processing);
- (c) on a request under Article 15(1) of the GDPR (general processing: right of access by the data subject) for confirmation of whether personal data is being processed, the information would be withheld in reliance on a provision listed in subsection (4A)(a);
- (d) on a request under section 45(1)(a) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (law enforcement processing: right of access by the data subject), the information would be withheld in reliance on subsection (4) of that section.

Guidance

Section 40(2) of the Act applies to requests for personal data of someone else (a third party). Personal data of a third party is exempt under Section 40(2) if its disclosure to a member of the public would contravene one or more of the data protection principles, and such a request must be refused.

The six data protection principles are as follows:

1. Lawfulness, fairness and transparency
2. Purpose limitation
3. Data minimisation
4. Accuracy
5. Storage limitation
6. Integrity and confidentiality (security)

In most cases, personal data will be exempt if disclosure would be 'unfair'. Disclosure of personal data relating to a third party will often breach the fair processing principle if there was a legitimate expectation by a third party that this information would remain confidential, or there was otherwise an expectation of privacy.

The Section 40(2) exemption is absolute and is not subject to the public interest test outlined in the Act.

The Information Commissioner has issued guidance on this exemption which is available at: <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1213/personal-information-section-40-and-regulation-13-foia-and-eir-guidance.pdf>

You can find the full text of the relevant legislation at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/40>) and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted/data.htm>