



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

22 March 2024

File ref: FOI2024/00134

[REDACTED]

Sent by email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00134

Thank you for your email of 25 February 2024 requesting information about the partnership between the University of Edinburgh and ZJU and Donghua University.

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 2022/23 our annual revenue was £1.4 billion, of which £340 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.

International range of activities

The University operates on an international stage and this is reflected in all areas of university life. The institution has a range of framework agreements with leading universities, ministries and governments throughout the world. We collaborate daily with national and international colleagues - jointly researching, teaching, organising conferences and providing seminars. We also offer a growing number of jointly awarded PhD degree programmes in partnership with universities within the UK and beyond. This extensive range of national and international activities is reflected fully in the ZJU-UoE Institute and the Shanghai International College of Fashion and Innovation.

Zhejiang University

Established in 2016, the Zhejiang University - University of Edinburgh Institute (ZJE) is the University's flagship overseas institution for education and scientific research. Based at the international campus of ZJU in Haining, Zhejiang Province, China. A £1 billion investment providing purpose-built, state-of-the-art research, teaching and accommodation and recreation facilities. The Zhejiang University-University of Edinburgh Institute (ZJU-UoE Institute) is a collaboration in the field of Biomedical

Sciences. Further information [about the ZJU-UoE Institute](#) can be found on the University website

Donghua University

Shanghai International College of Fashion and Innovation (SCF) was created in 2014 as the Joint Institute between Edinburgh College of Art and Donghua University, Shanghai. The Joint Institute centres around two programmes: fashion innovation and interior design. Students and graduates from SCF are ideally positioned to benefit from both the creative approaches pioneered in the UK art and design HE sector, and the traditions of production and design prioritised in China. These values were recognised in 2020 when, in collaboration with Donghua Edinburgh Centre for Creative Industries, SCF won the China Britain Business Award for teaching innovation with the judging panel commenting on the novel approach to cross-cultural education, offering students in both countries the opportunity to engage and expand their own creative visions. Further [information about the SCF](#) can be found on the University website.

Your request

Degrees (Question 1)

You asked for the number of University of Edinburgh (UoE) degrees conferred each year at the ZJU-UoE Institute and Shanghai International College of Fashion and Innovation (SCF). You asked for this information from 2015 to 2023, and for the information to be broken down by programme. I have interpreted this to refer to academic years 2015/16 to 2022/23

Please find in table 1 below information for students graduating with University of Edinburgh awards at the ZJU-UoE Institute from 2015/16 to 2022/23.

Please note, that where programmes have zero graduates, it is because the programmes did not yet have a cohort of final year students. Where fields are marked as N/a, it is because these programmes did not yet exist in these years.

Please note, all students on dual award programmes enter as dual ZJU and UoE students. However, it may be the case that dependent on performance and other factors, that they receive an award from only one institution. The figures in table 1 below reflect students who either received an award from UoE and ZJU, or solely from UoE.

Table 1: Students graduating with University of Edinburgh awards at the ZJU-UoE Institute, 2015/16 to 2022/23

Year	Award type				
	Dual-award BMS UG	Dual-award BMI UG	Dual-award PhD (4yr)	UoE-award PhD (4Yr)	UoE-award MScR (1yr)
2015/16	0	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
2016/17	0				
2017/18	0	0	0		
2018/19	0	0	0		

2019/20	17	0	0		
2020/21	59	0	0	0	0
2021/22	54	25	<5	0	9
2022/23	65	26	<5	0	23

You will see that I have not provided the exact number where the number is fewer than five. This is because disclosing these low numbers could enable individuals to be identified. This would breach the data protection principles set out in data protection legislation. The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) does not require us to provide this sort of information as it is exempt under section 38(1)(b).

Please note it does not matter who makes the request under FOISA, if we disclose information to one person, we are expected to disclose it to all. While you may not be able to identify individuals from the information you have requested, others, for example students and staff at the ZJU-UoE Institute may be able to do so.

The University does not confer degrees at the SCF. Therefore, we do not hold the requested information in relation to SCF degrees. SFC degrees are conferred solely by Donghua University.

Programmes, research projects, research grants (Question 2)

You asked for a list of education programmes, research projects, and research grants that are currently operational at ZJU-UoE Institute and the SCF, either participated by ZJU-UoE Institute and SCF students and staff or sponsored by the ZJU-UoE Institute, SCF and UoE.

Programmes

Donghua University offers two programmes at SCF; Fashion Interior Design and Fashion Innovation. Further [information on the programmes](#) can be found on the SCF website.

Information about [programmes at the ZJU-UoE Institute](#) is available on the University website.

Research projects, research grants

I have interpreted 'research projects' to refer to funded projects. Information on [research projects awarded grants at the ZJU-UoE Institute](#) from 2017 to 2020 can be found on the University of Edinburgh's website. [Information in English on research projects awarded grants](#) from 2021 to 2023 at the ZJU-UoE Institute can be found on the ZJU-UoE website.

There are no active research projects or research grants at the SCF.

Policies and governance structure (Question 3)

You asked for UoE policies and governance structure which oversee the operations, including student experience and research, at the ZJU-UoE Institute and SCF. You asked for policy documents and/or relevant administrative staff role specifications where applicable.

Governance of the ZJU-UoE Institute results from a cooperation agreement between the UoE and ZJU. Under the terms of the agreement, governance is carried out by the Joint Management Committee (JMC), consisting of representatives from both UoE and ZJU. The JMC is the highest authority of the Institute and has responsibility for budget, educational strategy, rules and regulations. The agreement states that certain UoE policies will apply to specific circumstances but these are not unique to the ZJU-UoE Institute.

Student experience and research at the SCF is overseen by Donghua University, not the University of Edinburgh. As such, we do not hold the requested information.

For context, there is an agreement between UoE and Donghua University whereby SCF students can apply to join third year at UoE, but they must apply through UCAS and achieve all UoE requirements. In the event they are successful in their application they then transfer to UoE and are then UoE students only.

Donations, grants, and research funding (Question 4)

Finally, you asked for information about donations, grants, and research funding received by UoE and its affiliated entities from the Zhejiang University, Donghua University and/or any affiliated individuals, companies, or relevant Chinese official agencies from 2015 to 2023.

Major prospective sources of income for the University, such as donations and research funding, always undergo a rigorous due diligence process. Until the end of 2021, donations went before the Ethical Fundraising Advisory Group. The Income Due Diligence Group (IDDG) now considers and advises on whether the source and purposes of all income relating to philanthropic and contractual business, industrial and international government sources are ethically acceptable. [More information on the IDDG](#) can be found on the University's Governance and Strategic Planning website.

While the University holds information about donations, grants and research funding we have received from individuals and organisations we are unable to search this information by individuals or companies that may be affiliated with Zhejiang University, Donghua University or relevant Chinese official agencies. This is because the University works with many organisations and we cannot assess whether each one meets your definition of an organisation that is affiliated with Zhejiang University, Donghua University or relevant Chinese official agencies. Therefore, we have conducted a search for donations, grants and research funding received from Donghua University or Zhejiang University.

The University of Edinburgh has not received any donations, grants, and research funding from either Donghua University or Zhejiang University in the requested time period.

Technical exemption

Please note that as information about programmes and research projects awarded grants at ZJU-UoE Institute and programmes at the SCF are available to you online, it is technically exempt from the University's obligation to answer requests for information

under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The information is exempt under section 25(1) of this Act, because it is available to you by another route. This exemption is a technical matter only and does not affect your ability to obtain the information on-line.

If you do not have access to the Internet or would prefer to receive information in hard copy please let me know and I will arrange for printouts from the appropriate web pages to be sent to you.

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