

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: INFORMATION REQUEST DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2024

REF: FOI-00875

Further to your request for information please see our response below.

REQUEST 1

From 2015 to 2023, the numbers of Birmingham City University degrees (including all Bachelor and Master) conferred every year at the Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art, Wuhan Textile University. Please provide this information in aggregated numbers by different programmes.

RESPONSE

This information can be obtained from the Aggregate Offshore Return from HESA.

Information regarding student numbers is collated and submitted to the Higher Education Statistical Agency ('HESA'). This information can be accessed publicly on the HESA website, see the following website link: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis> In addition to information available publicly on the HESA website, HESA can provide custom extracts and reports regarding data on student numbers. A custom request is likely to be chargeable. HESA will be able to advise you on what information is publicly available and what information would carry a fee. Under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act we do not have to provide information which is otherwise reasonably accessible, this is the case even if it is only accessible on payment of a fee.

Information up to the academic year of 21/22 is currently available from HESA. Information for the academic year of 22/23 and 23/24 will be available for future publication once returns for these academic years have been verified. Therefore your request should be directed to HESA. They will advise you on what can be accessed free of charge and or what reports or information would be chargeable. Please see the following links for more information and HESA contact details:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis>

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/contact>

With regards to the 2023/24 data, we do not provide in-year data as it is commercially sensitive. Data for the 2023/24 academic year will be available for future publication from HESA, once the figures have been submitted, finalised and verified. Any data which is intended for future publication but that has not yet been published, is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information you have requested will be accessible when it is published in January 2025 and therefore it is reasonable to wait for this publication date to allow the data to be collected, finalised and appropriately verified.

REQUEST 2

Lists of education programmes, research projects, and research grants that are currently operational at Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art, either participated by Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art students and staff or sponsored by the Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art and the Birmingham City University.

RESPONSE

Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art is a separate legal entity and joint institute. Such information is not solely held by BCU and is therefore not covered by the scope of the request. We are unable to confirm on the research projects and research grants currently operational at Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art as they are a separate organisation to BCU.

Information on Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art can be found on the BCU website at the following link: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/bifca>

The courses available at Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art are available on the website at: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/bifca/courses-available>

REQUEST 3

Birmingham City University policies and governance structure which oversee the operations, including student experience and research, at the Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art. Please provide relevant policy documents and/or relevant administrative staff role specifications where applicable.

RESPONSE

Students at BIFCA would be bound by the policies and procedures as set out on the Student Contract page of the website, this is publicly accessible at the following link: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/student-contract>

Please see the attached extract of the Operations Manual for the WTU partnership for BIFCA.

A more recent version of the Operations Manual for the WTU partnership for BIFCA has been written, however, this is currently still a draft. In relation to any data intended for publication but that has not yet been published, is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It is reasonable to wait for this publication to allow the data to be collected, finalised and appropriately verified.

The current University Academic Governance structure is attached.

The Academic Partnerships Handbook 1st Edition is attached, however, please note that this is out of date and is being reviewed.

The University's policy on the development and approval of joint and dual awards is attached, however, please note that this is due to be reviewed.

Please see the attached PDF to view the administrative job description for staff at Birmingham Institute of Fashion and Creative Art.

REQUEST 4

From 2015 to 2023, donations, grants, and research fundings received by the Birmingham City University and its affiliated entities from the Wuhan Textile University and/or any affiliated individuals, companies, or relevant Chinese official agencies.

RESPONSE

Nil return.

Please note that we cannot confirm on affiliates of WTU as we may not be aware that they are affiliates.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be made to the Head of Legal Services at FreedomOfInformation@bcu.ac.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please see <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/> for details of their procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.