



Ministry of Defence

Air Command Secretariat
Spitfire Block
Headquarters Air Command
Royal Air Force
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire
HP14 4UE

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

16 July 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 June 2015 requesting the following information:

Could you provide statistics or figures for the number of students who applied for the University Air Squadron Bursary Scheme in the past three years for which you hold figures?

Can you say how many of those applications were successful and the Bursary granted again over the three year period per annum?

Are you able to provide a list of the degree subjects that those awarded bursaries were or are studying? (I believe there is a bias towards medicine/dentistry but perhaps you could clarify that point?)

Can you say how many students applied for the RAF's University Cadetship scheme in the three most recent years for which you hold figures?

Can you say from those applicants for the University Cadetship scheme how many were successful per annum?

Are you able to provide a list of the degree subjects that those awarded bursaries were or are studying?

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held. I will answer each part of your request in turn.

The information that you requested on the number of applications for a University Air Squadron Bursary is shown in the table below.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data has been rounded to the nearest 10, where 0 denotes zero and “~” denotes a number less than or equal to 5.

Year	Number of applications submitted for the University Air Squadron Bursary	Number of successful applications submitted for the University Air Squadron Bursary
Sept 2011-May 2012 *	10	~
Sept 2012-May 2013 *	50	~
Sept 2013-May 2014	60	30

* Successful applications during this period were negligible due to the Strategy Security and Defence Review (SDSR) resulting in very few sponsorships being offered.

There is a range of degree subjects that can be studied by students who are on the University Air Squadron Bursary Scheme. The RAF holds an annual national competition to attract high quality candidates towards a full time career in the RAF. Sponsorship is only offered where there is a requirement for the speciality and training places are available in the forecast year of graduation. While there is some focus on medical and engineering sponsorship we do offer a wide range of available subjects for students to choose from. The full list can be found below;

Medicine, Mechanical Engineering, International Relations, Sports Exercise, Geography, Nuclear Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Biology, Business, Aircraft Engineering and History.

The information you requested on the number of applications for the RAF Cadetship Scheme can be found in the table below.

In accordance with the Data Protection Act and our obligations in relation to the protection of confidentiality when handling personal data, data has been rounded to the nearest 10, where 0 denotes zero and “~” denotes a number less than or equal to 5.

Year	Number of applications for the RAF University Cadetship Scheme	Number of successful applications for the RAF University Cadetship Scheme**
2012	0	20
2013	10	20
2014	~	10

** Data for successful applications for all years provided include returning personnel who were awaiting training opportunities following the SDSR.

Medical cadetships during these periods were upgrade awards to successful bursars; these bursars would have been awarded their bursaries during 2010/2011.

The list of available degree subjects has been provided above. Some information on the subjects studied by students on the Bursary scheme is held. However, not all of the University Air Squadron's record this information as there is no requirement to do so. Therefore, it has been assessed that providing incomplete information will not present an accurate picture and this information has not been provided.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.