

Request Reference: 3739

FOI Request dated 29/09/2026 –

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information about students who interrupted or withdrew from their studies on mental health grounds. All figures should be counts only; I am not requesting the names of students or any other personal data, and nothing requested here identifies any individual.

For the purposes of this request:

“Interruption” means a temporary suspension of studies, however your institution describes it (intermission, leave of absence, suspension of registration, authorised break in study), after which the student is expected to return.

“Withdrawal” means the permanent ending of a student’s registration before completion of their course, whether initiated by the student or the institution.

“Mental health grounds” means any interruption or withdrawal recorded in your student records system under a reason code, category or free-text reason relating to mental health, mental illness, psychological wellbeing, stress or anxiety, or where a health reason has been recorded as mental rather than physical. If your institution records health reasons without distinguishing mental from physical, please say so and provide the health-reasons figure instead.

“Academic year” means 1 August to 31 July. Figures for 2025/26 may be provided as provisional if your records for that year have not yet been finalised, and should be marked as such.

Question 1. For each of the five academic years 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26, please state:

a) the number of interruptions recorded on mental health grounds;

b) the total number of withdrawals recorded for any reason;

c) the number of withdrawals recorded on mental health grounds.

Question 2. For the mental health figures at 1(a) and 1(c) in each year, please break the numbers down by:

a) undergraduate and postgraduate;

b) home (UK) and international fee status.

Question 3. Of the students who interrupted on mental health grounds in each of the academic years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24, please state how many had resumed their studies by 31 July 2026.

Question 4. Please state the total number of students registered at your institution in each of the five academic years, so that the figures above can be expressed as a rate.

Please provide the answers in the table/spreadsheet format that preserves the year-by-year and category breakdowns.

If the full request would exceed the appropriate limit, please answer questions 1 and 4 in full and then apply your section 16 duty by either (i) answering questions 2 and 3 for the three most recent academic years only,

Response

	Q1a	Q1b	Q1c	Q2a						Q2b				Q3	Q4
Academic Year	Interrupted - Mental Health	Withdrawn - Total	Withdrawn - Mental Health	UG - Interrupted - Mental Health	PGT - Interrupted - Mental Health	PGR - Interrupted - Mental Health	UG - Withdrawn - Mental Health	PGT - Withdrawn - Mental Health	PGR - Withdrawn - Mental Health	Home - Interrupted - Mental Health	International - Interrupted - Mental Health	Home - Withdrawn - Mental Health	International - Withdrawn - Mental Health	Resumed Studies	Total registered students
2021/22	23	1164	45	22	<5	0	36	7	<5	23	0	45	0	17	15073
2022/23	17	636	33	11	3	<5	30	<5	<5	16	<5	33	0	12	15400
2023/24	15	517	17	12	<5	<5	16	<5	0	15	0	17	0	10	15576
2024/25	8	458	20	7	<5	0	14	5	<5	8	0	19	<5	N/A	14713

Please note that data for the 2025/26 academic year is not yet available.

The attached table includes the figures as extracted.

For Questions 1a and 1c, it should be noted that HESA does not record reasons for interruptions of study. In addition, while HESA records reasons for student withdrawals, it does not include a specific withdrawal category for mental health reasons. Instead, there is a broader category of "health reasons".

To identify students within the scope of the request:

- For Question 1a (interruptions/suspensions), the University identified students who were recorded in HESA as having suspended their studies during the relevant academic year and who had declared a mental health condition as a disability.
- For Question 1c (withdrawals), the University identified students who were recorded in HESA as having withdrawn during the relevant academic year, who had declared a mental health condition as a disability, and whose recorded reason for withdrawal was "health reasons".

For interruptions/suspensions, an additional verification step was undertaken. Students meeting the above criteria were matched against on-course student records held within the University's data warehouse for the relevant academic years. Where the recorded reason for suspension was "health reasons", the student was included in the figures provided.

The University does not hold any more specific information that would enable mental health-related interruptions or withdrawals to be identified directly from HESA records.

* Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Please note that under section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (FOIA), the University declines to release data in its raw form in instances where that data could allow for individuals to be identified. Where this is the case, we have adopted the [Higher Education Statistics Agency \(HESA\) rounding methodology](#) for protecting personal data from unauthorised exposure.

In particular, we have applied the following rules to the data provided:

- Where figures are low, we have rounded to the nearest five