

University of Edinburgh submission of 22 August 2023

PE2009/I: Ensure fair access to Scottish universities for all residents in Scotland and the UK

We write in response to your request for a view from the University of Edinburgh on the issues raised in this petition.

The petition specifically notes information published by University of Edinburgh on admittance of students from Scotland from specific backgrounds, and so we focus on our approach to this in the response below.

We are incredibly proud of our diverse University community and want to ensure that all of our students can flourish at Edinburgh, regardless of their background. Our Undergraduate community is made up of students from Scotland, across the wider UK, and from around the globe. We are regularly in a position where demand from very well qualified applicants exceeds the number of places available. Against this background, our overall Scotland-domiciled undergraduate student population is capped by the Scottish Funding Council, which directly informs the total number of places we can make available to this cohort.

We continue to review our admissions processes to ensure that, where possible, and within the context of the total number of places available, there are students from a range of backgrounds on our respective degree programmes. Our contextual admissions measures aim to ensure that our approach is as fair and robust as possible and are founded on research, institutional modelling and government policy.

As part of our commitment to widening access, we may make offers based on our minimum entry requirements to eligible applicants. We have been pleased to see an increase in demand from widening access applicants in recent years, which is fully in line with our Widening Participation ambitions, aligning with the Scottish Government's Commission for Fair Access. However, in a small number of subjects, the unforeseen scale of the increased demand in the last two admissions cycles, set against the places available, has impacted our ability to make offers to all widening access applicants. For this reason, we are not always able to guarantee widening access offers to all

eligible applicants for our high demand degrees. In these cases, we may have to select between eligible applicants for the offers that are available. Our early view of 2023 entry indicates that we expect to admit Scotland-domiciled students from a range of backgrounds on all programmes.

Further information:

We have published an overview of our approach to the 2023 Admissions Cycle [here](#)

We also publish information in relation to eligibility for widening access offers at Edinburgh [here](#)

Information relating our Admissions Statistics can be found [here](#).