

By e-mail

Our ref: 1112

Mr. Mike Buchanan  
[mb1957@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mb1957@hotmail.co.uk)

20 December 2013

Dear Mr. Buchanan,

I am writing to confirm that the University has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 11 December 2013.

You requested the following:

- Would male postgraduate engineering students who have gender reassignment surgery either before or during their postgraduate courses, be entitled to the £15,000 p.a. grants?

The University's Equality and Diversity Statement states that,

"... all members of staff, students, visitors and applicants for employment or study are treated on the basis of their merits and abilities and that no one suffers discrimination or disadvantage regardless of their race, age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex and sexual orientation."

In the event that the University has an application from a transitioning student or one that has undergone gender reassignment surgery, the University would respond in accordance with the requirement of the Equality Act 2010, underpinned by our Equality and Diversity Statement.

Therefore, if a student had gender reassignment surgery before starting at the University, such a student would be regarded and treated the same way anyone belonging to their presenting gender would. Such a person would be automatically eligible to any provision(s) including any funding(s) the University provides to members of their gender.

If a student is transitioning into a new gender during their time here, the University may require official confirmation of such a person's identity (for the purpose of confirming their gender). The student would be given the option of providing more than one type of official identification, for example a driving licence, passport or birth certificate. A confirmation of their identity would only be required if the person is yet to provide the University with their statement of intent to transition. This is needed to update a student's record which should be changed at a mutually agreed time to reflect their preferred gender and name. If

such a student can provide the required identification document, then he or she would be eligible.

We believe we have provided you with all the information you requested. However, if you are unhappy with the way the University has handled your request, or with the information you have received, you may ask for an internal review. You can do this by sending a letter to:

Secretary to Council  
Brunel University  
UXBRIDGE  
UB8 3PH

or by sending an e-mail to [foirequests@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:foirequests@brunel.ac.uk).

If we are unable to resolve your complaint to your satisfaction, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
SK9 5AF

Sincerely,

Mary F. Liddell  
Information Access Officer