

PGT Application Fees Survey Results

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Introduction

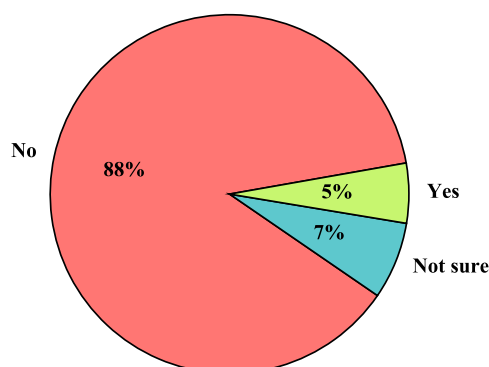
Following the recent introduction of the £80 application fee for all MSc and MRes courses, Imperial College Union has put together a short survey to determine the student opinion on this topic. In this survey, we aimed to find out whether Imperial students agree with the introduction of this fee, if the introduction of the fee would discourage them from applying to an MSc or MRes course at Imperial, and if they would considering applying without an application fee in place (Undergraduate students only).

This survey was advertised in an all-students email on 14th October, running until 21st October, and was responded to by over 2500 students, with 1089 Undergraduate, 564 MSc/MRes, 848 PhD and 42 MBA students taking part. To determine how the introduction of the fee was received by different demographics, we also asked students for their fee status (Home, EU/EEA, International) and whether they are, or have been in the past, the recipients of the Imperial Bursary (Home students only). We also asked students how much, if any, they believe would be an appropriate application fee for these course, to determine whether they disagreed with the fee in principle or the amount.

Disagreement with the introduction of the fee

Overall, the results of the survey suggest that the fee was received overwhelmingly negatively. Almost 90% of students disagreed with the fee introduction, and only 5% of students were in favour of it.

Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (2543 responses)

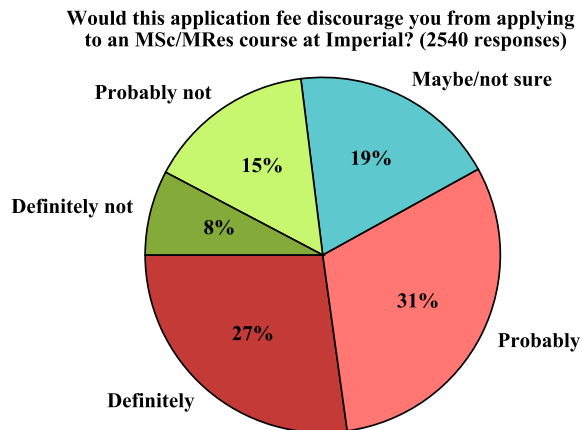


Broken down by degree level, the strongest disagreement was registered with PhD and undergraduate students, with 92% and 90% respectively disagreeing with the fee. Masters students were more likely to agree with the fee introduction; 83% of MSc/MRes students opposed the fee, and even though there already exists an application fee of £135 for MBA courses, more than two thirds of those students were still opposed to the introduction of the MSc/MRes application fee.

The largest opposition to the application fee was among Home students (93%), followed by EU/EEA (88%) students. Even though International students were the group most likely to support the fee, 82% still opposed it. Interestingly, Imperial Bursary recipients were exactly as likely to oppose the fee introduction as those Home students who have never received the bursary.

Deterrent effect of the fee

The application fee is expected to reduce the number of people applying to MSc or MRes courses. Over half of the students surveyed (58%) agreed that the application fee would definitely or probably discourage them from applying, with additional 19% unsure of how the fee would affect their decision to apply.

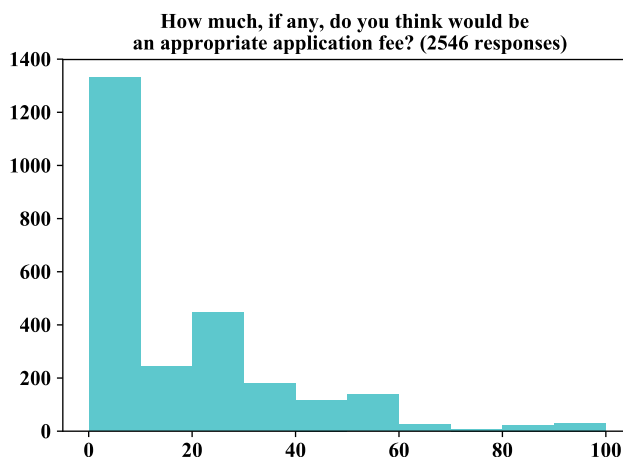


It can be argued that the majority of respondents would not apply to an MSc/MRes course at Imperial anyway; after all, the majority of our current students are probably not planning to apply for a Masters course at all. However, current undergraduate students who indicated that they would consider applying to an MSc/MRes course at Imperial if there was no fee were even more likely to say the fee would discourage them from applying, with 59% stating it would probably or definitely discourage them, and 21% being unsure.

Crucially, Home students who were recipients of the Imperial bursary were significantly more likely to be discouraged by the application fee than those who did not receive the bursary, with 67% bursary recipients answering definitely or probably, compared to 61% of those who did not receive the bursary.

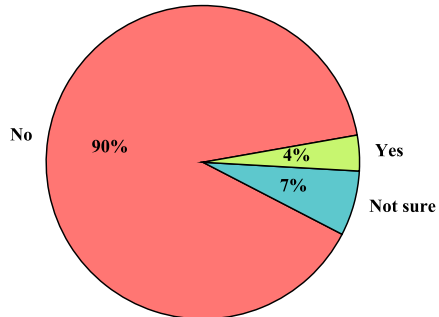
How much students think an application fee should be

Just over half of the students who took part in the survey believe that an appropriate fee is no fee, setting the value to £0. The other half chose a non-zero value for the fee, with the most answers in the £20-29 region. The modal non-zero answer was £20, and the mean non-zero answer was £29. Only a small number (58 students) believed the application fee should be £100 or higher.

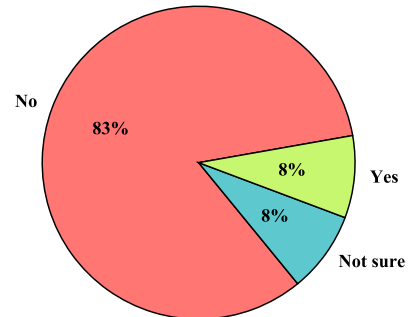


All data

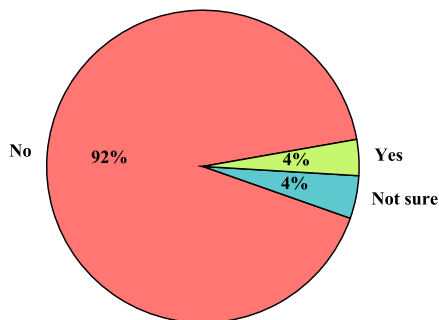
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (Undergraduate, 1089 responses)



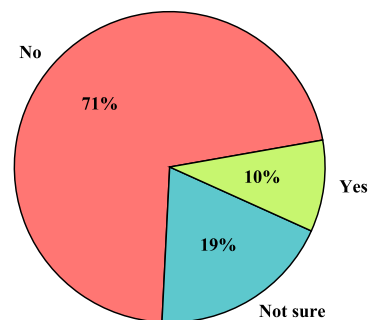
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (MSc/MRes, 848 responses)



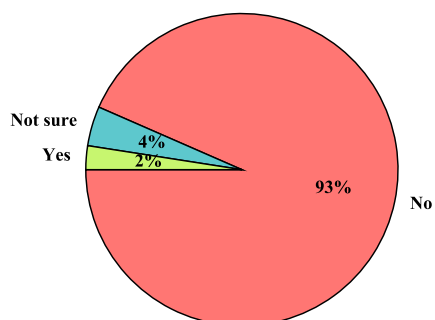
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (PhD, 564 responses)



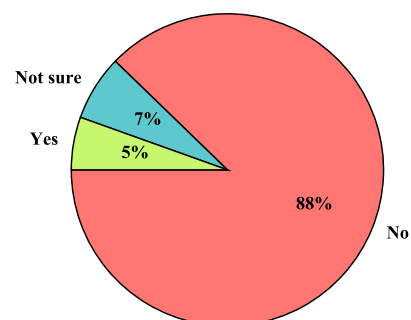
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (MBA, 42 responses)



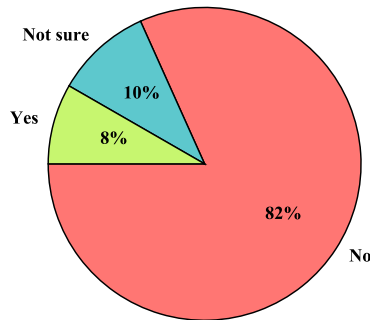
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (Home, 976 responses)



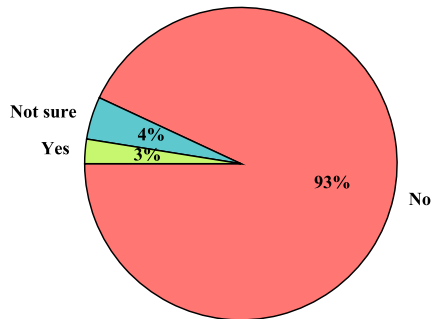
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (EU/EEA, 604 responses)



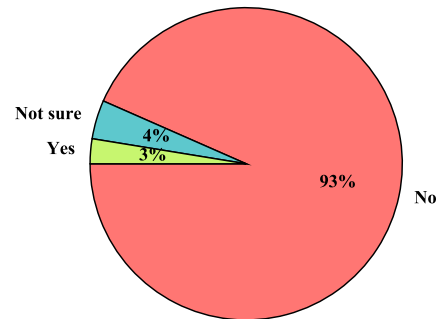
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (International, 963 responses)



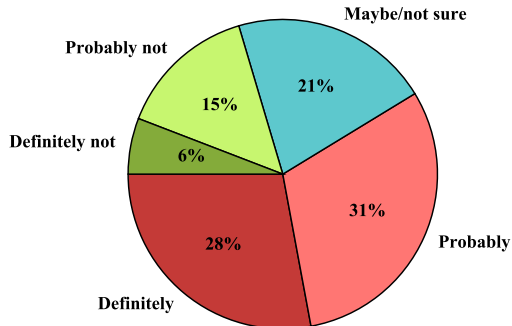
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (Bursary: Yes; 317 responses)



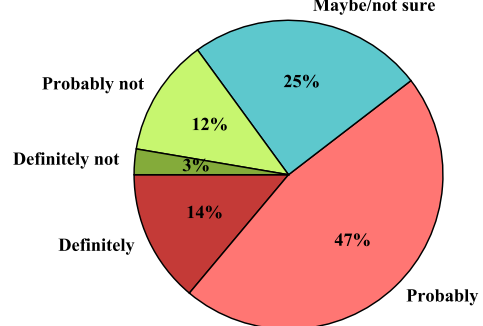
Do you agree with the introduction of the £80 MSc/MRes application fee? (Bursary: No; 622 responses)



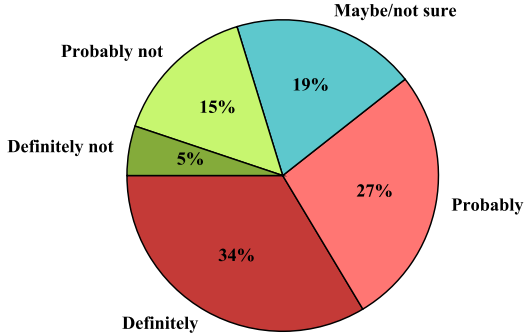
Would this application fee discourage you from applying to an MSc/MRes course at Imperial? (Consider applying: Yes; 838 responses)



Would this application fee discourage you from applying to an MSc/MRes course at Imperial? (Consider applying: Maybe; 187 responses)



Would this application fee discourage you from applying to an MSc/MRes course at Imperial? (Bursary: No; 622 responses)



Would this application fee discourage you from applying to an MSc/MRes course at Imperial? (Bursary: Yes; 317 responses)

