



6 March 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

**Re: Access Request No. UW23-10**  
***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) Request for Information***

I am writing regarding your access request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act received by my office. You requested:

**All records of the “adjustment factor” that the engineering faculty at the University of Waterloo assigns to students from all regions for all past admission cycles where it have been implemented, along with an explanation of how it is utilised (*sic*) when evaluating student applications. Time period: from earliest implementation to latest implementation**

**Decision:**

This letter is to advise that the University of Waterloo has conducted a search for responsive records to your request and our response is as follows:

- a) **Adjustment Factor.** There is 1 responsive record that is being released to you in full (see attached Excel Spreadsheet), where you will find 15 years of data, spanning 2008-2022. While adjustment factors were used prior to the 2008 admission cycle, the University’s electronic data base is from 2008 onwards. It should be noted that the legislation [Reg. 460(2)] under the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (the *Act*) does not require that an institution create a record where one does not exist.
- b) **Explanation of How it is Used when Evaluating Student Applications.** Adjustment factors are used to help identify applicants who will benefit most from the co-operative engineering programs offered at the University of Waterloo by helping to predict how successful an applicant is likely to be during the first year of engineering studies. The adjustment factor data depicted in the Excel Spreadsheet is based on statistical analysis of the performance data gathered for all students studying first year engineering over the past six years and average differences are calculated. Adjustment factors are calculated using the difference between students’ secondary school admission averages (Grade 12 required courses, in Ontario these are: Advanced Functions, Calculus and Vectors, Physics, Chemistry, English, and one other 4U or 4M course) and their cumulative averages upon the successful completion of first year engineering.

Adjustment factors are included in the admission score used to assist with the initial sorting and processing of applicants. An applicant’s admission score is calculated using the applicant’s admission average, the applicant’s admission information form score, the applicant’s interview score, the adjustment factor, and any other adjustments applied (e.g., repeat penalties). Although students are ranked by their admission score, all qualified applicants are individually assessed. A higher admission score improves the probability of admission but does not guarantee admission. It is common for qualified applicants from high adjustment factor schools to receive offers of admission to our most competitive programs including Biomedical Engineering and Software Engineering. It is also common for qualified applicants from low adjustment factor schools to receive offers of admission to our most competitive programs with slightly lower admission averages.

It is imperative to note that the adjustment factor is only one of several tools used to assist with the selection of students to University of Waterloo Engineering and to no other faculty at our University. Beyond its use as an internal admissions tool for Waterloo Engineering, we do not believe that it is scientifically valid to draw any conclusions from it regarding the performance of secondary schools or the performance of students in other programs, colleges, or universities.

This decision has been made by Andrea Kelman, Acting University Secretary. You may ask for a review of this decision within 30 days of receiving this letter by writing to: The Information and Privacy Commissioner / Ontario, 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto, ON, M4W 1A8. If you decide to request an appeal of this decision, please provide the Commissioner's office with the following: a copy of this decision letter, a copy of the original request for information you sent to our institution, and a \$25.00 cheque or money order payable to the Minister of Finance.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Winter*

Kathy Winter, Ph.D., C.Psych.  
Privacy Officer  
Secretariat, Needles Hall room 3060  
University of Waterloo  
Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1



Province/Region/Country	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Any Others Not Indicated		19.6	16.8	17.1	17.0	17.0	16.9	17.3	19.4	18.4	17.9	17.3	16.9	14.4	13.9
AB		15.0	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	15.0	13.8	15.3	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.7	15.0	14.2
BC		17.4	17.7	18.3	18.3	18.5	18.0	17.8	19.8	17.1	17.7	16.0	16.6	14.9	13.9
MB		19.2	20.1	21.3	21.6	21.5	21.2	20.9	21.8	16.3	16.1	16.0	18.5	18.9	17.1
NB		15.0	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	19.3	19.3	27.3	26.1	24.5	23.0	20.2	16.9	
NL		15.0	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	18.2	15.6	
NS		18.4	18.8	15.0	17.2	17.1	17.7	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	14.5	13.9	12.8
PEI		15.0	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	22.1	16.0	18.7	14.8	
SK		15.0	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	15.0	19.5	23.0	22.1	22.0	21.5	19.9	19.4	
QC - 12 Year Secondary		15.0	15.2	20.1	20.5	21.3	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9		
QC - CEGEP		10.7	9.9	9.0	8.6	7.5	7.2	6.0	5.2	5.2	5.7	5.4	5.6	5.8	4.9
CDN University								11.9	10.1	9.2	8.7	8.1	6.9	5.3	6.8
Foreign Post Secondary								11.9	11.7	11.0	9.7	11.8	12.2	10.5	9.9
IB Diploma in Canada		15.0	15.2	15.0	15.0	14.9	15.0	11.7	15.3	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.3		
CC/CAT (Canadian College)									16.5	10.8	9.8	16.0	10.2	11.3	
ARE					19.7		19.6	20.0		21.0	20.9	21.0	20.8	18.8	
BGD		22.0	21.6	21.7	23.7	23.0	23.3	22.7	23.7	23.5					
CHN									15.3	16.0	16.0				
EGY										28.2	29.0				
HKG												11.1	9.1	9.6	9.9
IND		14.5	13.0	13.6					17.2			20.0	19.7	18.3	17.2
IDN									12.7	12.5	13.3				
KWT													24.0	20.3	
MYS									12.4						
PAK			20.1	20.7	22.2	21.1	22.1	22.7					21.7		
QAT														18.1	
SAU						21.1	21.5	21.6		23.9	24.1	25.5	24.2	21.2	
SGP									13.1	11.7	13.1				
USA			21.7						22.8	21.8	21.0	19.3			
TTO															18.2

**NOTE:**

Countries are designated using ISO 3166 country codes (Alpha-3 codes). Countries, provinces, and regions not listed use the generic adjustment factor for the year. This adjustment factor is listed as "Any Others Not Indicated". This adjustment factor is also used when an adjustment factor is not provided for a country, province, or region in a particular year.

Name	City	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Any Other Ontario Secondary School	ONTARIO	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	14.8	14.4
A N Myer Secondary School	NIAGARA FALLS															18.2
A Y Jackson Secondary School	NORTH YORK	8.9	8.8	9.0	9.1	9.8	10.9	10.9	8.8	12.8	12.5	12.1	10.9	10.5	9.4	9.3
Abbey Park High School	OAKVILLE							17.7								
Agincourt Collegiate Institute	AGINCOURT						13.3	11.6		11.6	10.7	10.9	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.0
Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute	AGINCOURT	9.9	10.9	12.1	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.3	9.9							
All Saints Catholic High School	KANATA										10.5					
All Saints Catholic Secondary School	WHITBY				10.6	10.6	9.8	10.1								
Ancaster High School	ANCASTER						11.1					21.2	20.7	22.0	21.0	21.4
Appleby College	OAKVILLE	21.1	21.5	21.0					20.2							
Applewood Heights Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA				11.2	11.2										
Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School	AJAX								20.5							
Aurora High School	AURORA	10.0	10.7	9.6	10.2	10.2			12.2							
Barrie North Collegiate	BARRIE						19.1									
Bayview Glen	TORONTO			23.6												
Bayview Secondary School	RICHMOND HILL	13.1	13.1	13.5					12.8							
Bell High School	NEPEAN	11.9	11.3	12.1	10.7	10.7	9.2	8.9		9.1	10.8	11.4	10.7	11.1	11.1	10.7
Bill Crothers Secondary School	UNIONVILLE															10.2
Bishop Allen Academy	ETOBICOKE				19.4	19.4	19.5	19.6								
Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School	GUELPH											22.6	23.3	23.5		
Bishop Paul Francis Reding Secondary School	MILTON							19.0								
Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School	ANCASTER										21.1					
Bluevale Collegiate Institute	WATERLOO												18.7			16.6
Bramalea Secondary School	BRAMALEA	18.2	17.9						19.6							
Brampton Centennial Secondary School	BRAMPTON	19.0	19.5	19.7	18.7	18.7			18.0							
Bur Oak Secondary School	MARKHAM												12.3	12.2	11.3	9.8
Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute	KITCHENER													17.9	16.6	17.0
Canterbury High School	OTTAWA			5.6	8.3	8.7										
Cardinal Carter Cath School	AURORA	18.7	20.0	20.7	20.8	20.8										
Cardinal Newman S S	STONEY CREEK							8.6								
Catholic Central High School	LONDON							20.4								
Centennial Collegiate Vocational Institute	GUELPH								17.7			12.3	12.5	12.5		
Chatham-Kent Secondary School	CHATHAM								11.3							
Chinguacousy Secondary School	BRAMPTON	20.1	19.4	19.2					20.2						18.8	17.8
Clarkson Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA								11.7							
Colonel By Secondary School	GLOUCESTER									11.9	11.0	12.3	12.9	12.5		12.1
Columbia International College of Canada	HAMILTON	11.8	12.0	12.4	12.5	14.9			10.5							11.7

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Name	City	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Any Other Ontario Secondary School	ONTARIO	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	14.8	14.4
Great Lakes College of Toronto	TORONTO	24.3	22.1	23.3					22.5		25.0	25.3	22.8			
Grimsby Secondary School	GRIMSBY									28.3	27.2	27.1	23.6			
Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute	GUELPH		11.4		11.4	11.4	12.1	12.1			10.6					18.5
Haliburton Highlands Secondary School	HALIBURTON		19.0													
Hamilton District Christian High School	ANCASTER									12.5	13.1	12.8	12.3			
Harbord College Institute	TORONTO															18.7
Henry Street High School	WHITBY								24.0							
Hillfield Strathallan College	HAMILTON				18.9	18.9										
Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School	KINGSTON								19.7							
Holy Cross Secondary School	ST CATHARINES	22.8	23.3	22.4	22.5	22.5			21.1							
Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School	OAKVILLE				18.5	18.5	18.0									
Huron Heights Secondary School	KITCHENER															11.6
Huron Park Secondary School	WOODSTOCK								10.3							
Imperial College of Toronto	TORONTO							22.8								
Iroquois Ridge High School	OAKVILLE						18.7	18.0								
J Clarke Richardson Collegiate	AJAX		22.2	21.7	21.3	21.3	19.4	18.9								
Jarvis Collegiate Institute	TORONTO			11.8	10.9	10.9	11.0			21.6	21.3	22.2	23.1			
John F Ross Collegiate Vocational Institute	GUELPH								17.9					11.6	11.3	11.7
John Fraser Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA															10.8
King City Secondary School	KING CITY	10.4			9.8	9.8			9.5							
King's Christian Collegiate	OAKVILLE									25.5	22.3	23.0	22.3	23.2	22.3	21.0
Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute	KINGSTON				9.8	9.8										
Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School	KITCHENER	11.1	12.0	12.6												
L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute	AGINCOURT	10.9	10.0	10.0	10.8	10.8	11.0	10.3	9.7		10.6	9.1	7.9			
Langstaff Secondary School	RICHMOND HILL	17.3							17.6							
Laurelwood Heights Secondary School	WATERLOO							16.5								
Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute	TORONTO			9.2	10.2	14.9					10.8	10.0		12.2	11.9	11.6
Lester B Pearson Collegiate Institute	SCARBOROUGH									20.5	19.5		19.0			
Lisgar Collegiate Institute	OTTAWA						12.5	11.1	12.6	12.0	12.8					
Listowel Dist Secondary School	LISTOWEL								9.3							
London Central Secondary School	LONDON	8.5	8.3	9.2	7.7	11.0		10.4	9.9			11.5	9.7	10.5	9.9	9.3
Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Institute	KINGSTON						20.8	20.8								
Loyola Catholic Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA								18.5							
M M Robinson High School	BURLINGTON								18.8							
Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute	DON MILLS	19.2	19.2	17.9	17.2	17.2						12.8	12.3	12.7	11.4	10.3
Markham District High School	MARKHAM	11.9	11.2	10.4	11.2	11.2	10.9	11.5	13.1	13.7	13.7					

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Name	City	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Any Other Ontario Secondary School	ONTARIO	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	14.8	14.4
Resurrection Catholic Secondary School	KITCHENER	18.1							18.0							
Richmond Green Secondary School	RICHMOND HILL						11.7									9.9
Richmond Hill High School	RICHMOND HILL		12.3	12.1	11.9	11.9	10.3	10.1		12.8	12.3	11.8	12.6	13.1	12.4	11.8
Rick Hansen Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA												14.1	14.0		11.5
Riverdale Collegiate Institute	TORONTO	12.5							12.5						11.0	
Robert Bateman High School	BURLINGTON										20.5	20.8	19.4			
Sandwich Secondary School	WINDSOR		10.4	10.5												
Satec @ W A Porter Collegiate Institute	SCARBOROUGH						10.1	11.9								
Saugeen District High School	PORT ELGIN		10.8													
Senator O'Connor College School	TORONTO	21.5	20.7											23.0	19.9	17.9
Silverthorn Collegiate Institute	ETOBICOKE	11.9										20.0				
Sinclair Secondary School	WHITBY			12.2				11.2			12.8					
Sir John A Macdonald Collegiate Institute	AGINCOURT	13.4	13.0	11.8	10.6	10.6	9.9	10.4	13.0	11.2	10.9	10.7	11.6	12.0	11.7	11.4
Sir Robert Borden High School	NEPEAN	11.4	11.4	10.1	11.3	11.3	11.9						12.8			
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute	SCARBOROUGH										20.9	20.1		20.3		
Sir Wilfrid Laurier High School	ORLEANS	20.0		21.3					18.7							
Sir Winston Churchill C & V I	THUNDER BAY		22.8	33.2			23.9	17.7								
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School	ST CATHARINES							19.4		23.6	23.9	19.9	20.4			
South Huron District High School	EXETER								8.9							
Southern Ontario Collegiate	HAMILTON									25.4	25.9	25.9				
Southwood Secondary School	CAMBRIDGE	10.4	10.5	10.8					10.9							
St Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA		19.3	19.1	18.6	18.6	18.5			12.5		12.8	13.2			
St Andrew's College	AURORA						22.1	21.4								
St Augustine Secondary School	BRAMPTON		18.4		18.6	18.6	18.6		19.8							
St Benedict Catholic Secondary School	CAMBRIDGE	18.3	19.6	19.7	19.1	19.1	20.3	20.5								
St Christopher Cath Secondary School	SARNIA	21.6	22.8	22.5					21.6							
St David Catholic Secondary School	WATERLOO		17.8		18.3	18.3	18.7		17.8		21.8	20.4	19.3	19.9	18.6	19.1
St Francis Xavier Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA							16.8					14.1	14.2		
St Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School	OAKVILLE						18.4	18.8								
St James High School	GUELPH			20.1			19.4									
St John Paul II Catholic Secondary School	SCARBOROUGH	21.7	20.3	20.4	18.9	18.9										
St Johns College	BRANTFORD				20.7	20.7	20.6									
St Joseph Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA		18.6	18.8												
St Louis Adult Learning Centre	KITCHENER									27.1						
St Mary Catholic Secondary School	PICKERING		19.9													
St Michael High School	NIAGARA FALLS									23.3	23.7					



Name	City	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Any Other Ontario Secondary School	ONTARIO	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	14.8	14.4
St Michael's College School	TORONTO		17.6	17.5	17.4	17.4	20.1	20.1								
St Paul High School	NIAGARA FALLS						18.8									
St Peter Catholic Secondary School	PETERBOROUGH								18.9		24.0	22.9	20.4	19.8		
St Peter's Catholic Secondary School	BARRIE															19.0
St Robert Catholic High School	THORNHILL									14.2						
St Theresa Lisieux Catholic High School	RICHMOND HILL						12.3				13.2	13.0	12.9	13.0	11.5	12.0
St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School	BRAMPTON	18.3	18.6													
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School	LONDON								9.7							
St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School	OAKVILLE			19.5	20.4	20.4					26.0	24.7	23.7	23.3	19.8	18.2
Stephen Leacock Collegiate Institute	AGINCOURT	12.4	11.7				12.3	12.5								
Stephen Lewis Secondary School	MISSISSAUGA						11.3	11.3		11.9	11.7	12.4	12.9			8.1
Streetsville Secondary School	STREETSVILLE								12.4		12.0		11.1			
Tanenbaum Chat Wallenberg Campus	DOWNSVIEW								7.4							10.1
The Country Day School	KING CITY															18.4
The Yorkland School	NORTH YORK		10.2													
Thomas A Blakelock High School	OAKVILLE						18.7	20.2								
Thornhill Secondary School	THORNHILL									13.5	13.2	12.0	12.3	11.8	11.6	11.2
Thornlea Secondary School	THORNHILL	11.9	11.4	13.2	12.2	12.2	12.5	12.0	12.5							
Turner Fenton Secondary School	BRAMPTON							16.8		19.4	19.4	18.2	19.0	18.6	18.2	17.2
Unionville High School	UNIONVILLE	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.4	13.7	13.2	13.0	12.3	11.3	10.8	10.2
University of Toronto Schools	TORONTO	9.6	9.5	10.0	9.0	9.0	9.6	10.0	10.6							
Upper Canada College	TORONTO								18.5							19.4
Ursula Franklin Academy	TORONTO												10.2			9.8
Ursuline College The Pines	CHATHAM								9.7							
Vaughan Secondary School	THORNHILL						18.6	19.3		23.9					12.2	
Victoria Park Collegiate Institute	DON MILLS	11.6	12.5	12.0	11.3	12.9	12.3	12.4						13.8		
Vincent Massey Secondary School	WINDSOR				13.3	13.3	12.9				11.3					
Walkerton District Secondary School	WALKERTON								20.7							
Waterloo Collegiate Institute	WATERLOO	11.1	10.9	11.0	11.1	11.1	12.1	12.5	11.8	14.0			14.2	13.9		
West Hill Secondary School	OWEN SOUND							18.5	11.7							
Westdale Secondary School	HAMILTON						19.3	18.9							18.7	18.6
Westlane Secondary School	NIAGARA FALLS												25.4	25.2		
Westmount Secondary School	HAMILTON															16.7
William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute	NORTH YORK	11.3	12.5	12.1	11.8	11.8	12.4	12.9	12.3		13.6	12.4	12.5	12.0	11.5	
Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute	SCARBOROUGH								11.4							
Woburn Collegiate Institute	SCARBOROUGH			12.9	13.0	14.9		12.9						13.2		

Name	City	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Any Other Ontario Secondary School	ONTARIO	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.0	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.3	16.1	16.0	15.9	14.8	14.4
Woodland Christian High School	BRESLAU											19.8	20.3	19.8	20.5	18.7
Woodlands School	MISSISSAUGA			13.4	13.1	13.1	13.4	13.2								
York Memorial Collegiate Institute	TORONTO											11.1	10.9			
York Mills Collegiate Institute	DON MILLS			12.7						13.5	12.3	13.2	13.7	13.9		

**NOTE:**

Ontario secondary schools not listed use the generic adjustment factor for the year. This adjustment factor is listed as "Any Other Ontario Secondary School". This adjustment factor is also used when an adjustment factor is not provided for a school in a particular year.