



27 October 2020

Carmina

By email to @requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Carmina

I write in response to your two Official Information Act requests made to the University of Otago on 26 and 27 September 2020.

We have decided to grant the following parts of your requests:

1. How many applicants applied to BDS and MBChB for the years 2015-2020 through the alternative category?
2. How many of these applicants were invited to an interview?
3. How many were offered a place?
4. What is the lowest successful GPA for general graduate category applicants for the BDS programme? (Please note that, based on the ready retrievability of relevant data, we have taken the timeframe for this query to be the last five years, and have taken GPA to refer to the GPA used for admission purposes.)

To protect applicant privacy, we will not report precise numbers for groups of students with fewer than five members, and we will only report a banded GPA in relation to question 4. These decisions are made pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.

Although I provide this decision now, the staff involved in admissions to these programmes – who are the best source of this information – have not yet collated the information due to other workload pressures. I am thus advising that we will provide the requested information to you without undue delay. We expect to be able to supply the information requested by Monday, 2 November at the latest.

You also asked, in relation to questions 1 to 3, what your chances are of getting into these programmes with a non-health related Master's degree. We do not believe this to be an Official Information Act request, but insofar as it might be treated as such, I report that we do not hold the information requested.

I advise of your right to seek review of the decisions in this communication via complaint to an Ombudsman. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Kind regards

Chris Stoddart  
Registrar and Secretary to the Council