



26 February 2021

Luis

By email: [fyi-request-14504-83e1c847@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14504-83e1c847@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Luis

I refer to your request for information dated 21 January 2021 made under the Official Information Act (Act). We note our decision below in respect of each part of your request in relation to applications to and admission into the MBChB programme at the University of Otago.

**1. Breakdown of number of HSFY applicants for 2021 to MBChB by admission category**

We set out below the total number of Health Sciences First Year applicants for the 2021 MBChB programme. Please note that for privacy reasons, the University's standard practice is not to report on numbers where those numbers are below 5. Where the numbers are very low, there is a risk that the identity of those individuals can be determined/inferred.

<b>Admission Category</b>	<b>Total number of Health Sciences First Year applicants for 2021 MBChB programme</b>
General	358
International	29
Maori sub-category	66
Indigenous Pacific sub-category	29
Maori and Pacific sub-category	<5
Refugee sub-category	12
Rural sub-category	79
Socio-economic sub-category	16

**2. Breakdown of number of successful HSFY applicants for 2021 to MBChB by admission category**

We have decided to grant your request. However, the University's Medical School has not yet confirmed final numbers for its 2021 MBChB programme. This includes final admission numbers under the general category and each of the sub-categories. There is currently a waitlist which remains open until March 2021. The Medical School will have final data for 2021 available once these numbers have been confirmed. We will provide the information that you have requested once the Medical School has confirmed these numbers.

As noted above, for privacy reasons we will not report on numbers where those numbers are below 5.

**3. Total number of not successful HSFY applicants for 2021 to MBChB where GPA is 90+**

Our response is as per our response to number 2 above.

## Responses to items 4 to 8

You have asked for:

- Minimum GPA of not successful HSFY applicants for 2021 to MBChB where GPA is 90+ without +5 (1st Sem Covid Adjustment)
- Maximum GPA of not successful HSFY applicants for 2021 to MBChB where GPA is 90+ with and without +5 (1st Sem Covid Adjustment)
- Minimum GPA of successful HSFY for each special category applicants for 2021 to MBChB with and without +5 (1st Sem Covid Adjustment)
- Maximum GPA of successful HSFY for each special category applicants for 2021 to MBChB with and without +5 (1st Sem Covid Adjustment)
- Minimum GPA of successful HSFY for general category applicants for 2021 to MBChB with and without +5 (1st Sem Covid Adjustment)

As noted above the University's Medical School has not yet confirmed final numbers for its 2021 MBChB programme. Therefore, we are not yet able to confirm data in relation to the minimum or maximum grade point averages for successful applicants.

However even once this data has been confirmed, it will take a significant amount of time for us to collate the information that you have specifically asked for in parts 4 to 8 of your request. We do not hold separate records of average scores without the 1st semester 5+ grade increase. We would need to manually go through our data to calculate these amounts. Our analysts have estimated that it will take approximately 3 days for them to collate this information.

We could propose a charge (pursuant to clause 15(1A) of the Act) for supplying this work, which would be high given the number of hours required (\$1,634, calculated at \$38 per half hour with the first hour free - based on general guidance available from the Office of the Ombudsman). However, we do not have adequate resources to allow for a member of staff to be working on this for such a long period of time. We accordingly decline your requests listed under parts 4 to 8 pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

Once the final data has been finalised for the 2021 MBChB programme, we are planning on preparing a statistical report, which is likely to include some data on GPA. We would be happy to provide you with a copy of this report when it is finalised.

### **9. Breakdown of number of HSFY applicants with attained UCAT threshold for 2021 to MBChB by admission category**

The following table sets out the total number of HSFY applicants for the 2021 MBChB programme that met the 2021 UCAT threshold set by the Medical Admission Committee - where UCAT is used as a threshold for admission.

We note that there is no UCAT threshold required for the following Mirror on Society sub-categories:

- Maori
- Indigenous Pacific
- Refugee
- Socio-economic

<b>Admission Category</b>	<b>Total number of Health Sciences First Year applicants for 2021 MBChB programme that met the 2021 UCAT threshold</b>
General	168
International	9
Rural sub-category	35

As noted above, we will be in touch with regards to the data for items 2 and 3 of your request, once this data has been confirmed.

We note your right to seek a review of these decisions via a complaint to an Ombudsman. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Mendis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mayhaka Mendis  
Manager, Policy and Compliance  
Office of the Registrar

