



16 April 2021

J Smith

By email : fyi-request-14917-d9b8b8bf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear J Smith

We refer to your information request dated 13 March 2021 made under the Official Information Act (Act) in relation to University residential colleges and Uniflats.

We note our responses below:

1. The number of residential colleges including Uniflat applications received (placed in the top 3 choices in application) and number of the successful applicants in each college

We have interpreted your request to mean the number of applications received for the current year – 2021.

The University's Student Accommodation Centre received 6,160 complete applications for its Residential Colleges (including affiliated colleges) and Uniflats for 2021. Although affiliated colleges are not owned or controlled by the University and are not subject to the Act – we have included the number of applications for affiliated colleges, as applicants can select a mixture of University owned colleges and affiliated colleges in their preferences.

We have 3,539 students in Residential Colleges and 538 students in Uniflats.

The number of students at each of the University owned Residential Colleges are as follows:

Aquinas College	160
Arana College	404
Caroline Freeman College	299
Carrington College	240
Cumberland College	327
Hayward College	174
Studholme College	184
Te Rangi Hiora College	125
Toroa College	152
University College	527

We note that applications for residential college places always exceed the number of available places. Some of these applicants are either not applying to Otago University as their first choice University (and so will decline us when they receive an offer from their preferred choice), or subsequently change their plans for other reasons (e.g. personal reasons, getting a job, not gaining University Entrance, or simply deciding to do something else in 2021).

2. The demographics of the Residential Colleges and Uniflats (including gender, university year and domestics/international student)

Gender

Gender	Residential Colleges (excluding affiliated colleges)	Uniflats
Female	1628	327
Male	963	209
Neutral	5	2

Domestic/International Students

	Residential Colleges (excluding affiliated colleges)	Uniflats
Domestic Students	2554	446
International Students	42	92

University year

We do not have the data you have requested readily available on our student accommodation system. To provide you with a precise breakdown of what University year residents are in - will require our staff to spend several hours to compile. We will have to go into each student's records and determine what year of study they are in. Given the number of students in residential colleges and Uniflats, this could take several hours. We therefore decline this request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that the information requested requires substantial research and collation. However, we note that most of the students in the University owned residential colleges are first year students, and a few returning students who will be in their second year of study.

Most students in Uniflats are second year students and post graduate students. University Flats is not an option to select for first year students during the application process. There are 36 first year student in Uniflats this year, who were selected from the waitlist.

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



Mayhaka Mendis
Manager, Policy and Compliance
Office of the Registrar