



29 November 2022

By email: fyi-request-20799-6aedfcd3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jenny

I refer to your information request dated 8 October 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programmes at the University of Otago for International Students.

We note we contacted you 18 October 2022 to clarify which category of admission you were interested in receiving the information for. Your response of 25 October 2022 confirmed that you were interested in receiving the information for all categories of admission – i.e. the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY), Graduate, and Alternative categories.

Subject to the following comment, please see below our responses to each of your questions.

- International Students are defined as all those students who require a student visa to study in New Zealand. The Dental and Medical Admissions Committees consider applications received from International candidates in the following categories:
 - HSFY category
 - Graduate category
 - Alternative category (BDS only – International applicants are not considered under the Alternative category for MB ChB)

Please see below our responses to each of your questions.

1. Number of International Students who applied for BDS and MB ChB in the past 5 years

Please see the below table which shows the number of International Student applicants to the 2018 - 2022 BDS programmes via the HSFY, Graduate, and Alternative categories.

		Number of International Student applicants				
Programme	Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BDS	HSFY	35	35	49	30	24
	Graduate	5	4	5	7	2
	Alternative	5	9	36	7	8

Please see the below table which shows the number of International Student applicants to the MB ChB programme via the HSFY and Graduate categories. As noted above, International Student applicants are not considered under the Alternative category for MB ChB.

		Number of International Student applicants				
Programme	Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MB ChB	HSFY	33	31	49	28	24
	Graduate	10	8	9	11	9

2. Number of International Students who received and accepted the BDS interview offer in the past 5 years

Please see the below table which shows the number of BDS International Student applicants who undertook an interview from 2018 – 2022 via the HSFY, Graduate, and Alternative categories. Please note that this data excludes applicants who may have been invited to interview but declined it.

		Number of International Student applicants interviewed				
Programme	Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BDS	HSFY	29	22	27	7	19
	Graduate	3	1	0	1	1
	Alternative	2	0	1	0	0

3. Number of International Students who received the final offer for BDS and MB ChB (first round) in the past 5 years

4. Number of waitlisted International Students for BDS and MB ChB in the past 5 years

5. Number of International Students who got the final offer for BDS and MB ChB after being waitlisted in the past 5 years

There have been no waiting lists for International Students to enter the 2018 – 2022 BDS and MB ChB programmes. Accordingly, we decline providing the number of International Students who received first round offers, the number of International Students who were waitlisted, and the number of International Students who received waitlist offers on the basis that the information requested does not exist. This is pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act. However, in case it is helpful, please see the below tables which show the total number of International Students to receive offers to enter the 2018 – 2022 BDS and MB ChB programmes via the HSFY, Graduate, or Alternative (BDS only) categories.

		Number of International Student applicants to receive offers				
Programme	Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MB ChB	HSFY	12	14	15	13	14
	Graduate	1	0	1	0	1

		Number of International Student applicants to receive offers				
Programme	Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BDS	HSFY	16	18	30	15	10
	Graduate	3	0	0	0	0
	Alternative	1	0	9	1	2

Please note that for BDS, not all International Student applicants necessarily receive offers to enter the programme the year immediately after the year in which they were interviewed. For example, COVID-19 border closures meant that some students could not get visas to enter New Zealand for the following year. The University also has partnership agreements with some countries, which means that applicants are interviewed prior to enrolling in Foundation Year, HSFY, or some other prescribed course, rather than being interviewed prior to entering the BDS programme.

6. Number of International Students who got the offer for BDS and MB ChB through the Alternative Category in the past 5 years

Our response is as per our response to questions 3, 4 and 5 above. As noted previously, International applicants are not considered under the Alternative category for MB ChB.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your Official Information Act request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar