



28 July 2023

By email: fyi-request-23316-7d83805f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Joseph

I refer to your information request dated 29 June 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the 2023 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programmes via the Graduate category.

Please see below our responses to each of your questions.

- 1. One entry on this [fyi] website said, “There is no fixed number of positions available for applicants to the MB ChB via the Graduate category”. Is this to mean that as long as requirements such as a pass in the HSFY papers, a minimum GPA of 5.0 and, UCAT thresholds are met, an individual will be offered a seat?**

This is not what that statement means. While there is not a fixed number of places available specifically for MB ChB applicants via the Graduate category, the number of places is limited, and eligibility does not guarantee selection. Selection is competitive and is made on the basis of a number of criteria, and primarily weighted academic score. Further information on the MB ChB Graduate category is available online at the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) and the [Regulations for the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery](#).

- i. If not, how many seats are realistically available for 2024 entry considering the increase in seats?**

Approximately 70% of candidates come from the Health Sciences First Year category, 20% come from the Graduate category, and 10% come from the Alternative. However, and as noted above, actual numbers are cohort dependent and there is no exact fixed number of places available for each category. This breakdown is expected to remain the same with the increase in places for the MB ChB programme.

- 2. What was the average and minimum GPA for both Medicine and Dentistry students accepted via the Graduate pathway to study in 2023? I.e., they applied in 2022.**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below tables which show the average and minimum weighted GPA scores to receive offers to the 2023 MB ChB and BDS programmes via the Graduate category, broken down by sub-category:

- It is the University’s standard practice to not report on information where it relates to fewer than five individuals and we consider that such disclosure could affect an individual’s privacy and wellbeing. Where the numbers are low, there is a risk that the identity of these individuals could be determined/inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. Accordingly, as there were fewer than 5 applicants to receive offers to the 2023 BDS

programme via the Graduate Rural, Graduate Socio-economic Equity and Graduate Refugee sub-categories, we have withheld the minimum and average weighted GPA scores – pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

		2023 MB ChB programme	
Category	Sub-category	Minimum weighted GPA score to receive offer	Average weighted GPA score to receive offer
Graduate	General	8.43	9.09
	Māori	4.45	6.15
	Indigenous Pacific	4.60	5.76
	Rural	4.84	7.24
	Socio-economic Equity	4.43	5.25
	Refugee	4.95	5.82

		2023 BDS programme	
Category	Sub-category	Minimum weighted GPA score to receive offer	Average weighted GPA score to receive offer
Graduate	General	8.63	9.11
	Māori	4.45	5.80
	Indigenous Pacific	4.55	5.83
	Rural	<5	<5
	Socio-economic Equity	<5	<5
	Refugee	<5	<5

3. What were the UCAT thresholds for 2023 students (applied in 2022 to study in 2023)? Is it possible to get this expressed as value as well as percentile? I.e., bottom 20th percentile (460/900) for Verbal Reasoning as an example.

The BDS UCAT criteria are set annually by the University's Dental Admissions Committee. Where UCAT is used as a threshold for admission, the thresholds for entry to the 2023 BDS programme (for applicants applying in 2022) were as follows:

- Verbal Reasoning: threshold set at the bottom 22nd percentile. The minimum score accepted was 520.
- Decision Making: score of 630 or above met the threshold. The minimum score accepted was 630.
- Scores for Situational Judgement, Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning were not considered.

The MB ChB UCAT criteria are set annually by the University's Medical Admissions Committee. Where UCAT is used as a threshold for admission, the thresholds for entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme (for applicants applying in 2022) were as follows:

- Verbal Reasoning: threshold set at or above the 20th percentile. The minimum score accepted was 520.
- Situational Judgement: threshold set at or above the lowest 10th percentile. The minimum score accepted was 458.
- Scores for Decision Making, Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning were not considered.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

In the above cases, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. If you are not satisfied with our response to your information 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



Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar

