



21 December 2023

By email: fyi-request-24712-6af79509@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Brooke

I refer to your information request dated 19 November 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have enquired as to whether Whitikahu School (763 Whitikahu Road, Whitikahu 3792) is considered rural for the purposes of entry to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme at the University of Otago in 2022 or 2023 via the New Zealand Rural Origins sub-category.

As noted previously, rural eligibility is not assessed ahead of an application as the eligibility criteria can change year to year. An application is automatically checked by the information entered in eVision (the University's student management system), as it requires the verification of the information provided at the time of application. If the application is found to not be eligible under the Rural sub-category, the applicant will be notified and the application will continue to be processed with this sub-category removed.

To perform an informal check of the classification of the residential area provided in your application, please use the GCH (Geographic Classification for Health) New Zealand Map found [here](#). It is important to note that this should be considered as a guide only and may be subject to change each year. The Statistical Area 1s (SA1s) of the residential address and/or the school(s) provided will be checked against the GCH database during the assessment of your application.

I note that you advised in your previous request that your years of attendance at Whitikahu School were 2011 – 2018. Based on the information you have provided, I can confirm that Whitikahu School was classed as Rural for entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme (i.e., applying in 2022 for entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme). This may change for entry to the MB ChB programme in future years. Unfortunately, we are unable to confirm whether Whitikahu School was classed as Rural or Urban for entry to the 2022 MB ChB programme.

It is important to note that whether a school is classified as Rural or Urban is not the sole factor in determining whether or not a candidate is eligible under the New Zealand Rural Origins sub-category. Provided applicants have selected this sub-category as part of their application, each applicant's particular circumstances are considered individually with respect to the requirements listed in the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#), and a determination made taking all factors into account.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar