



11 April 2024

By email: fyi-request-26071-45b9482d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe MA

I refer to your information request dated 9 January 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

"I am requesting further clarification regarding the implications of the 'minimum academic time' rule for students who have transferred to a different degree during their undergraduate study. For example, a student has completed 3 years of a 4-year degree, but decided to transfer to a different 3-year degree, and had only their first year of studies cross-credited - which means that they need to complete the 2nd and 3rd year of the new degree in order to graduate. If the student has been studying full-time throughout the whole period of their university studies (i.e. no leaves/withdrawal), are they still eligible for the graduate entry category?"

To be considered for admission in the Graduate category to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme, applicants, must have completed, in the minimum academic time and within three years of the date of application to the programme, the requirements of a degree awarded by a university in New Zealand. No preference is given to degree qualification or major subject, and the qualifying degree is the first university degree awarded to the applicant. The intent of "minimum academic time" is that an applicant continues to progress their degree and completes their programme without taking a break from study (e.g., withdrawing for a semester or a year). This applies to students studying both full- and part-time.

With regards to your request for confirmation of whether the example you have provided would be considered within the minimum academic time for the purposes of entering the MB ChB programme via the Graduate category, we need to decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is not held by the University. We note that we are not required to generate an opinion or explanation in order to respond to a request for information under the Act. The information you have requested is not held by the University, and therefore the University would need to generate an opinion, or create information, in order to respond. We urge that current and prospective students check their degree plan with a student adviser through [AskOtago](#), in order to receive accurate advice based on their personal circumstances.

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