



30 May 2024

By email: fyi-request-26614-1cb9620f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe S

I refer to your information request dated 3 May 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

"I would like to know if it would be possible to receive the 300-level GPA distribution of students accepted into the Clinical Psychology Honours programme (also referred to as the "Clinical Psychology Training Programme") for 2022 and 2023.

If this is not possible for privacy reasons (or any other concerns), an alternative request would be the combined mean 300-level GPA of all of these students for both 2022 and 2023 (i.e. averaging their 300-level GPAs to produce 1 number for the whole group)."

Please see below our response to your request.

We note that the Department of Psychology calculates average percentage marks, rather than a formal GPA when considering applications to the Clinical Psychology Honours programme. This is because different universities have different grading scales. The Department looks at all 300-level Psychology papers from any university attended, including overseas institutions.

We decline providing you with the 300-level average percentage mark distribution of students accepted into the Clinical Psychology Honours programme for 2022 and 2023, in order to protect the privacy of these individuals. This is pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Where numbers are low, we consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e., their academic scores) could be disclosed.

Despite this refusal, we note that in 2022, the average was 82.69%, and in 2023 it was 83.96%.

It is also important to note that academic grades are only one factor when considering applications to the Clinical Psychology Honours programme. As well as academic excellence, an applicant's personal statement, relevant experience, and confidential referee letters are also considered. There are many applicants with strong academic grades that are not offered an interview, and vice versa.

In case it is helpful, further information on the University's Clinical Psychology Programme is available on the University's website: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/psychology/study/postgraduate/clinicalpsyc/>.

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.

Ngā mihi

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

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar