



5 June 2024

By email: fyi-request-26653-6f735294@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Viktoria

I refer to your information request dated 7 May 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme in 2024. You have requested:

"I would like to request the admission statistics for applicants to the 2024 MB ChB intake at the University of Otago.

Could I please be provided with;

- The minimum academic score for all offers, for each of the six categories, split by the entry pathways (HSFY, graduate and alternate),*
- The number of offers made for each of the six categories, for each entry pathway,*
- The median academic score for all offers, for each of the six categories for each entry pathway and,*
- The number of students admitted through each category for each entry pathway."*

Subject to the following comments, please see below the information you have requested.

- The data is correct as at 16 May 2024.
- 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 very low, there is a risk that the identity of these individuals could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. Accordingly, where there are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the actual number or their minimum average academic/weighted GPA scores and indicated using "<5" ("fewer than five"). This is pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Alternative category applicants are required to submit copies of academic transcripts and attend an interview as part of the application process. However, an applicant's academic record (including GPA) or interview score are not on their own determining factors in whether an applicant will be offered a place to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category. Assessment for entry to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category relies on the combined views of a number of assessors, and considers academic aptitude, motivation, life experience, and written communication, as well as attending the interview. Accordingly, there are no minimum acceptance scores for entry to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category (including the equity groups).
- We note that average academic scores across an applicant's best seven papers in the year of application is used for the HSFY category. Weighted GPA scores derived from the grades

achieved in the qualifying degree is used for the Graduate category. Further information on the selection criteria for each category, including scoring, is available on the University website at the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage.

1. The minimum and median average academic scores of those to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category, broken down by equity group:

		MB ChB Programme, 2024	
Category	Equity Group	Minimum average academic score to receive an offer	Median average academic score to receive an offer
HSFY	General	89.57	91.29
	Māori	70.43	82.36
	Indigenous Pacific	65.43	79.00
	Socioeconomic Equity	71.57	80.43
	Refugee	71.43	81.43
	Rural	79.71	91.14

2. The minimum and median weighted GPA scores of those to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the Graduate category, broken down by equity group:

		MB ChB Programme, 2024	
Category	Equity Group	Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer	Median weighted GPA score to receive an offer
Graduate	General	8.13	8.75
	Māori	4.98	5.80
	Indigenous Pacific	4.68	5.05
	Socioeconomic Equity	<5	<5
	Refugee	<5	<5
	Rural	5.78	7.55

3. The number of offers and admissions into the 2024 MB ChB programme, broken down by category (Health Sciences First Year (HSFY), Graduate and Alternative) and equity group:

		MB ChB Programme, 2024	
Category	Equity Group	Offers	Admissions
HSFY	General	138	119
	Māori	48	41
	Indigenous Pacific	17	15
	Socioeconomic Equity	6	<5
	Refugee	13	10
	Rural	28	25

		MB ChB Programme, 2024	
Category	Equity Group	Offers	Admissions
Graduate	General	45	31
	Māori	10	5
	Indigenous Pacific	6	<5
	Socioeconomic Equity	<5	<5
	Refugee	<5	<5
	Rural	15	8

		MB ChB Programme, 2024	
Category	Equity Group	Offers	Admissions
Alternative	General	12	10
	Māori	N/A	N/A
	Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5
	Socioeconomic Equity	N/A	N/A
	Refugee	<5	<5
	Rural	<5	<5

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



Kelsey Kennard
 Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
 Office of the Registrar