

9 September 2024

By email: fyi-request-28029-b6529c78@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe E,

I refer to your information request dated 13 August 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

1. *Average grades for LAWS201, LAWS202, LAWS203, LAWS204 in 2023*
2. *The cut-off grade to get invited to LLB Honours*
3. *The number of students were invited -> accepted to the honours programme after 2nd year*
4. *The number of students in this year's 2nd year cohort*
5. *Also could you please confirm that the same basis that only the top 10% of the cohort will be invited will remain the same for this year?*

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

- the data is correct as at 14 August 2024
1. The mark and grade distribution for the 2023 LAWS201, LAWS202, LAWS203, LAWS204 papers offered by the University of Otago are attached. Please note that:
 - a. on occasions where fewer than five students have failed a paper (i.e. received a grade of Fail D, Fail E, Failed Compulsory Assessment or Failed Terms), we have determined that it is necessary to withhold the marks and specific grades for these students to protect their privacy and wellbeing. 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 marks) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
 - b. in the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers are excluded from the data.
 2. An average of at least a B+ across the four 200-level LAWS papers was required to be invited to the 2024 Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LLB Honours) programme.
 3. 27 students were invited to the 2024 LLB Honours programme. 26 students accepted their invitation to the 2024 LLB Honours programme.
 4. The number of students in the second-year cohort of the 2024 LLB programme is 281. This number includes students new to the programme only. Excluded are students repeating papers, and students in the third or fourth year of the LLB programme but enrolled in a second-year paper.
 5. It is correct that approximately 10% of students studying in the 2024 LLB programme will be invited into the 2025 LLB Honours programme.

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 black ink that reads "Jo Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Pearson
Official Information Act Administrator
Office of the Registrar