

22 October 2024

By email: [fyi-request-28696-4f96506c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28696-4f96506c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe TK

I refer to your information request dated 8 October 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I would like to request a breakdown of applicant numbers to Health Science Professional Programs commencing in 2025. The request follows below.*

*1. Number of applications to Medicine (MBChB); Dentistry (BDS); Physiotherapy (BPhty); Pharmacy (BPharmSc). This should be broken into the following subcategories:*

- a) Māori*
- b) Indigenous Pacific*
- c) Socioeconomic Equity*
- d) Refugee*
- e) Rural*
- f) General*

*I am aware that individuals may apply under multiple subcategories. In such case, I would request that the applicant be considered under ONLY ONE subcategory – placed in order of the list above. For clarification, consider the following examples:*

- i. Suppose an individual applying through Māori, rural and socioeconomic subcategories. They should be reported ONLY as applying via the Māori subcategory (from order above)*
- ii. Suppose an individual applying through the socioeconomic and rural subcategories. They should be reported ONLY as applying via the socioeconomic subcategory (from order above)*

*Finally, I am requesting only applicants from the 2024 domestic HSFY pool.*

Unfortunately, it is not possible at this time to provide the number of verified applications for entry to the Otago Medical School medical degree (MB ChB) in 2025, for any of the various admission categories.

While the process for submitting applications for the 2025 MB ChB programme closed on 15 September 2024, the process of verifying applications is continuing. Each category for admission has its own documentation requirements including identity, academic records, ethnicity, rurality and visa eligibility. The source of this documentation is external to the University of Otago, and this information may or may not have been included in an application or verified. The relevant requirements for each application category are further detailed here: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/medicine#entry-requirements>

In addition, an application can move between categories, including to the general category, depending upon the outcome of the verification process. Until the verification process is complete, the University of Otago cannot confirm how many valid applications exist any of the various admission categories.

We therefore decline your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held. We would be happy to consider a new request from you when the application verification process is completed if you still wish to receive this information.

We hope this information is useful.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Frewen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Frewen  
Manager Policy and Compliance