

21 November 2024

By email: fyi-request-28888-e7f4efb0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Maea

I refer to your request for information dated 23 October 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

1. *“How many māori students are enrolled in the LAWS101 course?”*
2. *The average grade for any examinations so far in the year.*
3. *Are there any students transferring from another university for the second year of the LLB course to Otago that is currently enrolled?”*

Please see below our response to your request.

1. How many Māori students are enrolled in the LAWS101 course?

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the total number of students enrolled in the LAWS101 paper in 2024, including those students who have self-identified as Māori:

- The data includes students who withdrew from the LAWS101 paper during the 2024 academic year.
- Ethnicity data held by the University of Otago is based on information that is self-reported by students. Students can report multiple ethnicities.

2024 LAWS101 Paper	
Total number of students enrolled in 2024	Number of students enrolled in 2024 with a self-reported Māori ethnicity
500	93

2. The average grade for any examinations so far in the year

Unfortunately, we do not hold the information you have requested. LAWS101 is a full year paper, with two three-hour examinations held at the end of Semester 2. As the examinations for 2024 have only just taken place (24 October and 5 November respectively), marking is still underway, and individual student results have not been confirmed yet. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with the “average grade for any examinations so far in the year”, as this information has not been confirmed yet. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, because the information is not held.

3. Are there any students transferring from another university for the second year of the LLB course to Otago that is currently enrolled?

The Faculty of Law admits a small number of very good applicants who have passed The Legal System (or equivalent first year Law paper) at another New Zealand university. These applicants are considered on the basis of their Legal System mark, provided they have met all other admissions criteria (e.g., B- average required in non-LAWS papers). Further information on the Bachelor of Laws programme at the University of Otago, including entry into second year and entrance requirements, are available on the University's website:

- <https://www.otago.ac.nz/law/study/the-bachelor-of-laws-llb>
- <https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/llb#regulations-for-the-degree-of-bachelor-of-laws--llb->

As admissions processes for entry into second year law in 2025 are still ongoing, we are unable to provide any information on the number of students who may be transferring from another New Zealand university to the University of Otago. For the 2024 second year law cohort, six applicants from other New Zealand universities received offers to enrol in the programme at the University of Otago, and <5 of these applicants accepted their offers. We decline providing the actual number of applicants who accepted their offers pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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
Policy Analyst
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council