

20 December 2024

By email: fyi-request-29322-c6be9a1b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe H.G.

I refer to your request for information dated 26 November 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I reviewed with interest the following OIA request:

<https://apc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffyi.org.nz%2Frequest%2F28406%2Fresponse%2F112100%2Fattach%2F2%2FRC%2520OIA%2520Response.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Coia%40otago.ac.nz%7Ca1f9189747654ca481ca08dd0d9991ce%7C0225efc578fe4928b1579ef24809e9ba%7C0%7C0%7C638681675606188268%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFoljoiTWVpbCIsldUlljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AUGOs2vfJLDCsWl4LJRQvzco7Fn2PCLgMj4njCjzbw%3D&reserved=0>. I would like to follow up on question 8 of this request - 'does the selection process consider demographics for admissions, if so, which aspects and to what extent'. As such, could you please respond to the following questions?

Does the selection process for interviews and places in the clinical psychology programme take demographics into account when making selections (formally or informally)?

If so, please advise which demographics are taken into account, e.g. gender identity, sexuality, ethnicity, age.

If demographics are taken into account, please also how demographics are used when making selection decisions. For instance - is someone more likely to be selected for an interview and/or place in the programme if they are male rather than female, homosexual rather than heterosexual, Māori rather than Pākehā, or middle-aged rather than a new graduate, etc?

Please also advise whether applicants with postgraduate degrees are more likely to be selected for interviews and/or places in the programme than those with undergraduate degrees only.

Our response to your request follows.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Psychology (PGDipCIPs) programme normally extends over three years of full-time University study. The number of students accepted each year into the programme is limited by the number of practical clinical placements available, and therefore has been limited to 10-12 students per year in recent years.

Prospective information on admission to the Clinical Psychology programme is available through the University's website: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/pgdipclps>. This includes the Regulations for admission to the programme, which state: *Candidates will be selected on the basis of their academic record, personal suitability and professional attributes*. Applicants' age, ethnicity, and gender are recorded. The Clinical Psychology Admissions Committee is very aware of the advantages of having a diverse mental health workforce and takes this information into account when considering admissions.

We decline to provide further demographic information for students admitted to the Clinical Psychology programme to protect the privacy and wellbeing of these individuals', under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Where cohorts and class sizes are small, we consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these individuals being determined or inferred, and their personal information being disclosed. We consider that good reasons exist for withholding the information, and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Contact details for enquiries regarding admission to the Clinical Psychology programme are also available at the website address above.

We hope this information will be helpful.

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



Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance