

12 February 2025

By email: fyi-request-29625-d8dc2f86@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Elie

I refer to your request for information dated 19 December 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

“...the number of people who graduated through mbchb by in the year 2023 as well as the total number of students admitted. I want this data split into which equity group they came from (or general if they didn’t qualify/ apply through equity groups). If you could also add the specific years in which they dropped out, it would be appreciated.”

I also note our email correspondence of 20 December 2024, in which you clarified that:

- You were specifically interested in data relating to students who entered the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category.
- The data should be limited to students who entered the MB ChB programme (i.e., Second Year Medicine) in 2019, and would have therefore completed Sixth Year Medicine in 2023.
- The data should include the number of students who withdrew or left the MB ChB programme each year between 2019 – 2023.

You also clarified that *“I am looking for the numbers required to calculate a comparative drop out rate between each of the equity groups including general.”*

Subject to the following general comment, please see below our response to your request.

- The data is correct as at 21 January 2025.

Table 1:

- Table 1 shows the total number of domestic students who entered the MB ChB programme in 2019 via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group.
- We note that the Socioeconomic Equity and Refugee Background equity groups did not exist in 2019 – they were only introduced from 2020 onwards

Equity Group (HSFY)	Number of students admitted to the 2019 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category
General	97
Māori	42
Pacific	19
Rural	39
Total	197

Table 2:

- Table 2 shows the total number of domestic students who completed their MB ChB studies in 2023, limited to just those students who entered the MB ChB programme in 2019 via the HSFY category (broken down by equity group).
- This data includes all students who completed the requirements to be awarded the MB ChB degree, i.e., those who were eligible to graduate.

Equity Group (HSFY)	Number of students who completed their MB ChB studies in 2023 (limited to those students who entered the programme in 2019 via the HSFY category)
General	97
Māori	42
Pacific	12
Rural	36
Total	187

Table 3:

- Table 3 shows the number of domestic students who withdrew from the MB ChB programme between 2019 - 2023, limited to just those students who entered the programme in 2019 via the HSFY category.
- 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 students 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 specific equity group(s) 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.
- Further information on options for MB ChB students, including extra study opportunities, withdrawal, and exit options, are available on the University's website via the following webpage: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/oms/education/mbchb/current-students/resources/policies-guides>.

Year	Number of students who withdrew from the MB ChB programme between 2019 – 2023 (limited to those students who entered the programme in 2019 via the HSFY category)
2019	<5
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0
Total	<5

I trust that this information will be helpful.

In the above case, 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, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard
Policy Analyst
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council