

5 March 2025

By email: [fyi-request-29828-fbe561df@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29828-fbe561df@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe SAMCNZ

I refer to your request for information dated 21 January 2025 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme from 2015 – 2024.

Subject to the following comments, please see below our response to your request:

- The data is correct as at 5 March 2025.
- It is the University's standard practice to not report on information where it relates to small numbers of individuals and we consider that such disclosure could affect an individual's privacy and wellbeing. Where the numbers are low, there is a risk that the identity of these individuals 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 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.
- With regards to the information you have requested for 2015 – 2018 – given the resource involved in the supply of this information, we need to fix a charge pursuant to section 15(1A) of the Act. In accordance with general guidance available from the Office of the Ombudsman, we have thus fixed a charge for supply of this information at \$152 (estimate of three hours to produce the information, calculated at \$38 per half hour with the first hour free). Before we proceed further with these parts of your request, please confirm your agreement to pay the charge in full in advance. Otherwise, we hope that the data for 2019 – 2024 is sufficient for your purposes. We would be happy to provide the information for 2025 admissions, if that would be helpful to you. Please let us know if you would like to receive this information, noting that admissions processes for 2025 are still ongoing, but are likely to be confirmed by the end of March 2025.
- We note that the Socioeconomic Equity and Refugee Background equity groups were only introduced from 2020 onwards (indicated as "N/A"). In addition, Alternative category applicants are unable to apply via the Socioeconomic equity group (also indicated as "N/A").

**1. Number of applicants for admission to the second year of the BDS programme by admission category (i.e., Health Sciences First Year; Graduate; and Alternative)**

Please see the below table which shows the number of applicants to the BDS programme from 2018 – 2024, broken down by admission category and equity group:

Category	Equity Group	Number of applicants to the BDS programme					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
HSFY	General	286	223	246	197	214	235
	Māori	38	36	27	33	28	38
	Pacific	24	21	17	20	16	22
	Socioeconomic	N/A	13	11	<5	11	8
	Refugee	N/A	6	10	10	10	12
	Rural	38	31	41	33	21	19
Graduate	General	165	141	167	117	150	146
	Māori	12	7	9	17	15	16
	Pacific	16	8	11	7	17	11
	Socioeconomic	N/A	0	<5	<5	8	<5
	Refugee	N/A	<5	7	9	7	7
	Rural	20	16	20	16	6	12
Alternative	General	17	22	22	28	21	42
	Māori	<5	<5	0	0	<5	0
	Pacific	<5	<5	<5	0	0	<5
	Socioeconomic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Refugee	N/A	0	0	<5	0	<5
	Rural	<5	0	0	<5	<5	<5

2. Number of applicants who were extended initial offers to the second year of the BDS programme on the first day of offers by admission category
3. Number of applicants who were extended initial offers to the second year of the BDS programme on the first day of offers who accepted the offer by admission category
4. Number of applicants to the second year of the BDS programme who accepted a spot on the wait list on the first day of offers by admission category
5. Number of applicants to the second year of the BDS programme who were admitted to the programme off the wait list by admission category

In accordance with section 15(1) of the Act, we have decided to grant your request in part. However, we are still compiling this information and will contact you again to provide it without undue delay. This is subject to the following comments:

- Please note that some information may be withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, for the reasons outlined earlier in our response.
- We would need to fix a charge for any information relating to the period 2015 – 2018, as outlined earlier in our response. Our responses to these questions will cover the period 2019 – 2024, unless we hear from you otherwise with regards to the charge.
- The University of Otago interprets “initial” offers as “first round” offers and offers “off the wait list” as “waitlist offers”.
- Some information may not be provided under section 18(g) of the Act, on the basis that the information is not held by the University. For example, waitlists do not necessarily operate

each year, particularly in the Graduate and Alternative categories. Any instances where the information is not held by the University will be indicated to you.

I trust that 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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