



27 May 2020

S Onel
By email to fyi.org.nz

Dear S Onel

I write in response to your 1 May 2020 request under the Official Information Act for information relating to the use of the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) for admission into the MB ChB at the University of Otago.

For context, I note that UCAT is only used as a threshold for admission for students applying via some pathways into the MB ChB, and in the following we have referenced that group of students to whom UCAT thresholds do apply.

Answers to each of your requests follow:

1) The 2019 UCAT Threshold for each of the 5 sections

For 2019 the University required that students meet a threshold for two of the five sections.

Verbal Reasoning – minimum 20th percentile (i.e. must be in 20th to 100th percentiles)

Situational Judgement – must be in deciles 1 (highest) to 9 (i.e. lowest decile declined)

For 2019 no threshold was set for the Decision Making, Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning sections.

2) Lowest successful applicant's UCAT scores

I take this question to refer to the applicant who was offered a place with the lowest academic score. As applicants are assessed across multiple admission pathways, there is no single successful applicant who can be assessed as having the lowest academic score. On that basis, I need to refuse this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act (the information requested – or in this case, the information required to provide the information requested – is not held). I advise of your right to seek review of this decision via complaint to an Ombudsman.

I note that even if there were a single applicant that could be identified as having the lowest academic score, we expect there would be privacy reasons for not publicly releasing their detailed UCAT results.

3a) Number of applicants who reached the threshold

For those applicants to whom the thresholds applied: 573

3b) Number of applicants who did not reach the threshold

For those applicants to whom the thresholds applied: 94

4) Whether the threshold will be increased in 2020 and 2021 as 2019 was the first year that UCAT was introduced.

There are currently no specific plans to increase or alter thresholds for 2020 or 2021, although raw scores associated with percentile and decile thresholds are likely to change based on cohort performance. The University may, of course, alter thresholds and/or decide to introduce thresholds in the other three UCAT sections in the future, should it deem this appropriate.

Kind regards



Chris Stoddart
Registrar
University of Otago