



4 June 2020

K Roe  
By email to [fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Roe

I write in response to your follow up correspondence on the response I provided to you on 27 May 2020.

It is somewhat difficult to ascertain the extent to which this is intended as a further request for official information. Nonetheless, insofar as you seek information about selection processes, I refer you to the Regulations for the MB ChB degree, which are available online at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/courses/qualifications/mbchb.html#regulations> (see section 1 on Admission to the Programme) and to further information about admission to the MB ChB at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/medicine/>

These webpages also contain information which will assist in understanding the *Alternative* category. This category provides for applicants from a wide range of backgrounds (see clause 1(h)(i) in the Regulations previously linked) and so direct GPA-based comparison of applicants is not appropriate or practicable for this category. However, as noted in clause 1(h), selection does include consideration of academic merit.

I acknowledge your comments about diversity in the MB ChB cohort, while respectfully disagreeing with your position. The University is satisfied that its selection processes for the MB ChB appropriately provide for diversity in the experience and age of MB ChB applicants. I also highlight my previous comment, that age is not a criterion that is used in selection for admission to the MB ChB.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stoddart  
Registrar  
University of Otago