



14 January 2021

By email: fyi-request-14221-59f91262@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sergio

We refer to your request under the Official Information Act dated 30 November 2020 in relation to total revenue generated by the University's Health Sciences First Year programme. We respond to each of the parts of your information request below.

- 1) How much revenue is generated annually (both from fees directly paid as well as government funding) by the Health Sciences First Year program.**

The table below sets out the income received for the University's Health Sciences First Year programme (HSFY) in 2019. It includes income received from tuition fees for the seven core HSFY papers plus the Student Achievement Component (SAC) funding (Government funding). It excludes GST.

Income	\$
Tuition fee income excluding GST	\$12,808,836
SAC funding excluding GST	\$18,150,486
Total	\$30,959,323

- 2) Whether there has been internal discussion on the ethics of continuing to run a competitive year-long "gauntlet-style" program which places significant mental health strain on participants, given that recent communication from the University indicates that academic results much above a 70% GPA are unlikely to be correlated with outcomes of HSFY pathway professions such as the MBChB program.**

The University has processes to review and consider the best means of selecting students for limited place, competitive entry programmes. Admission to Health Sciences programmes is very competitive, particularly in some areas such as Medicine. This is an effect of many students competing for few places, and we believe is well understood by students who enter HSFY. The University will continue to look at the best approach to admissions, but the underlying issue of high demand for limited places is likely to continue.

- 3) Based on the average salary of staff at Otago, how many university jobs does this HSFY revenue stream support?**

We have set out below a very simplistic mathematical calculation to respond to your question. However, due to other costs and the highly inter-dependent and inter-related nature of the University, we have not undertaken analysis to definitely determine how many jobs the HSFY revenue stream supports. Therefore, the data provided below should be considered as indicative only.

Total salaries for academic staff in 2019 (as set out in the University's 2019 Annual Report, page 86)
= \$219,873,000

Total number of academic staff in 2019 (as set out in the University's 2019 Annual Report, page 142)
= 1,744

Average salary for academic staff in 2019 = $219,873,000 \div 1,744 = \$126,073.97$

2019 HSFY income = \$30,959,323, excluding GST

2019 HSFY income divided by 2019 "average" salary of academic staff = $30,959,323 \div 126,073.97 = 245.56$

= Approximately 245 jobs

I trust that this information will be helpful.

Yours sincerely



Mayhaka Mendis
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Office of the Registrar