



24 February 2021

Supinya Dejnopratt

By email: [fyi-request-14502-6187e9cf@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14502-6187e9cf@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Supinya

I refer to your request for information dated 21 January 2021 made under the Official Information Act (Act). We note our decision below in respect of each part of your request in relation to entry into the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) through the Alternative admission category.

**1. The 2018/2019/2020 UCAT threshold for each of the 5 sections for the Alternative admission category into BDS**

The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) was not used by the University of Otago as an admissions test in 2018 and 2019. The University used the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Science Admission Test (UMAT) during this period.

The University started using UCAT in 2020. The requisite threshold levels determined by the University's Dental Admissions Committee for 2020 remain the same for 2021 admissions.

Where UCAT is used as a threshold for admission, the University requires that students meet the following thresholds:

- Verbal Reasoning – 20<sup>th</sup> percentile and above (scores in the bottom 20% are declined)
- Decision Making – 57<sup>th</sup> percentile and above (scores in the bottom 57% are declined)
- Situational Judgement – Decile 1 – 9 (scores in the bottom 10% are declined)
- No threshold was set for Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning.

**2. How many people have applied and received an interview offer in the Alternative admission category for the BDS programme at Otago in 2020?**

There were 31 applicants for the 2021 BDS programme via the Alternative admission category. 11 of those applicants were invited to interview.

**3. How many Alternative admission category applicants have been accepted into the BDS programme at Otago University in 2020?**

7 applicants have accepted their offer.

**4. The lowest successful GPA for the Alternative admission category applicants for the BDS programme at Otago University**

The University does not record the GPA of BDS Alternative admission category applicants.

To be considered for admission under the Alternative admission category, an applicant must (amongst other requirements) have passed the equivalent of the papers prescribed for the Health Sciences First year course, and have achieved a minimum academic standard to be determined by the Dental Admissions Committee in any papers undertaken at university level (usually a minimum of a B (GPA of

5) (Otago equivalent)).

Places on the BDS programme are limited so offers will be determined by the calibre of student who meet all admissions criteria

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Mendis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a clear surname.

Mayhaka Mendis  
Manager, Policy and Compliance  
Office of the Registrar