

Otago Medical School: MB ChB Admission Statistics 2021

1. About this Report

This report provides summary statistics on admissions to the MB ChB (Medicine) programme in 2021 as well as trend information for the last five years.

Admission to Medicine is highly competitive and this is reflected in the very high academic scores of successful candidates under the 'General' category, for which there are many more applications than available places.

Consistent with the *Mirror on Society Policy*, the University is committed to increasing the enrolment of Māori students, and students from equity groups (Indigenous Pacific, Socio-economic Equity, Refugee and Rural). This approach recognises the more challenging pathway many students in these groups have faced prior to applying for Medicine, enhances the educational experience of all students admitted in an MB ChB cohort, and is – crucially – focused on improving the capabilities and diversity of the New Zealand medical workforce to ensure better health outcomes for all New Zealanders.

The University is incredibly proud of the achievements and success of its diverse cohort of medical students and graduates.

Order of selection

Applicants may apply under multiple sub-categories. Sub-category applications are considered for selection in sequence as follows:

- Māori
- Indigenous Pacific
- Socio-economic Equity
- Refugee
- Rural
- General

This means, for example, that a student admitted under the Māori sub-category, may also have been eligible to be admitted under the Rural category, but will not be considered or subsequently counted towards admissions under that category.

Due to this, in this report applications are recorded as the total applications under each sub-category, as well as the applications considered under each sub-category (which excludes those already accepted under a previous sub-category in the sequence shown above).

Note that all applicants are eligible to be considered under the 'General' sub-category, but in the report, 'General' applicants are considered as those who did not apply under any other sub-category.

Privacy

For privacy and student wellbeing reasons, outcomes for groups with fewer than five individuals are reported as "<5" (fewer than five), and academic scores are not provided for such groups (reported as "W/H" (withheld)).

2. Admissions into the 2021 MB ChB class (all applicants)

Table 1. MB ChB Admissions 2021: All Applicants

	Applicants	Offers	Admitted ¹
Domestic ²	1081	326	282
International ³	45	13	8

3. MB ChB Admissions 2021 (by admission categories)

Health Sciences First Year Category

Health Sciences First Year admission is based upon performance in Health Sciences First Year (HSFY). A mean academic score (normally out of 100⁴) is calculated based on performance across the applicant's best seven papers in the HSFY year. Initial offers are made, and a waitlist established for where offers are declined. Applicants are required to complete a University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT). The Medical Admission Committee determines threshold requirements in various sections of the test.⁵ There are no set numbers of available places, but approximately 70% of candidates are selected through the HSFY category.

Table 2. MB ChB Admissions 2021: Health Sciences First Year Category

	All Applications ⁶	Applications Considered ⁶	All Offers (includes waitlist) ⁶	Minimum Academic Score (all offers) ⁴	Admitted ⁶
General	356	356	109	95.14	99
Māori	67	67	46	70.00	39
Indigenous Pacific	27	26	11	71.00	11
Socio-economic Equity	25	16	11	70.86	7
Refugee	13	12	9	77.14	8
Rural	87	79	41	87.86	38
All Domestic HSFY	575	556	227	70.00	202
International	28	28	13	78.29	8

¹ Includes a small number of students deferred from previous years commencing in 2021.

² 282 domestic places are funded and available each year.

³ By resolution of the University Council, up to 20 international places were available for 2021.

⁴ In 2020 a 5 mark grade increase was applied to papers in the first semester due to COVID disruptions. This was taken into account in calculations, which could therefore exceed 100.

⁵ In 2021 applicants for general admission were required to be above the bottom 10th percentile for situational judgement and above the bottom 20th percentile for verbal reasoning to be selected. Thresholds were not determined for some applicants due to a review indicating possible cultural bias from the test.

⁶ Students can apply under multiple sub-categories – see comment in Section 1 of this report.

Graduate Category

Graduate admission is based upon performance across a completed degree. A Grade Point Average (GPA), weighted towards higher-level papers, is calculated for selection. Initial offers are made, and a waitlist established for where offers are declined. Applicants are required to complete a University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT). The Medical Admission Committee determines threshold requirements in various sections of the test.⁷ There are no set numbers of available places, but approximately 20% of candidates are selected through the Graduate category.

Table 3. MB ChB Admissions 2021: Graduate Category

	All Applications ⁸	Applications Considered ⁸	All Offers (includes waitlist) ^{8,9}	Minimum Academic Score (all offers)	Admitted ^{8,9}
General	286	286	50	8.13	35
Māori	15	15	9	4.54	8
Indigenous Pacific	19	18	<5	W/H	<5
Socio-economic Equity	2	2	<5	W/H	<5
Refugee	8	8	6	6.00	5
Rural	42	40	11	7.92	11
All Domestic Graduate	372	369	82	4.54	64
International	11	11	0	NA	0

Alternative Category

Alternative admission is for those no longer qualified for admission under the other categories, and who may bring broad life experiences, skills and perspectives to the medical programme. Alternative admission is not available to international applicants. Selection is based upon academic preparedness, motivation and life experience, and includes an interview. Successful applicants may be admitted directly into the class, or may be required to complete further study before being admitted into a later cohort. There are no set numbers of available places, but approximately 10% of candidates are selected through the Alternative category.

Table 4. MB ChB Admissions 2021: Alternative Category

	All Applications ⁸	Applications Considered ⁸	Interviews ^{8,9}	Offers ^{8,9}	Admitted ^{8,9}
General	104	104	16	10	9
Other sub-category ¹⁰	16	16	6	<5	<5
Rural	13	11	7	<5	<5
All Alternative	133	131	29	17	16

⁷ In 2021 applicants for general admission were required to be above the bottom 10th percentile for situational judgement and above the bottom 20th percentile for verbal reasoning to be selected. Thresholds were not determined for some applicants due to a review indicating possible cultural bias from the test.

⁸ Students can apply under multiple sub-categories – see comment in Section 1 of this report.

⁹ The Graduate and Alternative categories allow for offers conditional on further study – these are not recorded as offers or admissions above, but will be included under these categories in subsequent year reports for applicants who meet conditions.

¹⁰ Due to low numbers, other sub-categories are reported together. This includes for the Alternative Category: Māori; Indigenous Pacific; and Refugee (note: there is no Socio-economic Equity sub-category for Alternative admission).

4. MB ChB Enrolment Trend Information 2017 - 2021 (admission to second year only)

Table 5. Student Numbers by Admission Category (Commencing Class)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
HSFY	198	197	197	199	202
Graduate	68	65	64	63	64
Alternative	15	20	21	20	16
Total Domestic	281	282	282	282	282
International	10	10	8	10	8

Table 6. Student Numbers by Sub-Category (Commencing Class; Domestic Only)¹¹

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
General	159	152	145	138	143
Māori	58	54	56	65	50
Indigenous Pacific	18	22	28	25	16
Socio-economic Equity ¹²	-	-	-	11	8
Refugee ¹²	-	-	-	<5	13
Rural	46	54	53	41	52

Table 7. HSFY Admission Academic Score Information (Commencing Class)¹¹

	2017 ¹³	2018 ¹³	2019 ¹³	2020	2021 ¹⁴
<i>Minimum score:</i>					
General	79.90	80.23	80.96	92.71	95.14
Māori	69.57	68.00	68.14	66.71	70.00
Indigenous Pacific	65.86	65.57	66.14	66.00	71.00
Socio-economic Equity ¹²	-	-	-	67.00	70.86
Refugee ¹²	-	-	-	W/H	77.14
Rural	76.96	76.34	75.91	87.71	87.86
<i>Median score:</i>					
General	82.96	83.25	83.18	94.93	97.86
Māori	78.29	78.86	82.14	80.29	88.57
Indigenous Pacific	74.43	81.14	72.57	75.86	86.29
Socio-economic Equity ¹²	-	-	-	78.43	86.29
Refugee ¹²	-	-	-	W/H	87.93
Rural	81.58	80.00	80.59	92.29	95.22

¹¹ Students can apply under multiple sub-categories – see comment in Section 1 of this report.

¹² Socio-economic Equity and Refugee sub-categories introduced from 2020.

¹³ Academic scores in 2017-2019 are based upon a combined Undergraduate Medical Admissions Test (UMAT; 33% of score) and calculated mean academic HSFY score (67%); these scores are not directly comparable with post-2019 admission scores.

¹⁴ In 2020 a 5 mark grade increase was applied to papers in the first semester due to COVID-19 disruptions. This should be taken into account when comparing against other years.

Table 8. Graduate Admission GPA Information (Commencing Class) ¹⁵

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Minimum GPA:</i>					
General	7.14	7.22	8.14	8.13	8.13
Māori	4.55	4.13	4.42	4.92	4.54
Indigenous Pacific	4.63	4.94	4.74	4.89	5.05
Socio-economic Equity ¹⁶	-	-	-	-	7.10
Refugee ¹⁷	-	-	-	W/H	6.00
Rural	6.06	6.57	7.05	7.32	7.92
<i>Median GPA:</i>					
General	7.72	8.23	8.40	8.47	8.90
Māori	5.28	5.08	5.27	6.54	5.64
Indigenous Pacific	5.20	5.56	5.18	5.18	5.62
Socio-economic Equity ¹⁶	-	-	-	-	7.10
Refugee ¹⁷	-	-	-	W/H	6.33
Rural	7.34	7.67	7.74	8.06	8.28

¹⁵ Students can apply under multiple sub-categories – see comment in Section 1 of this report.

¹⁶ Socio-economic Equity sub-category introduced for Graduate Admission from 2020.

¹⁷ Refugee sub-category introduced from 2020.