

16 September 2014

S.J. Regan

By email: fyi-request-1923-62687926@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear S.J. Regan,

RE: Request for information Under the Official Information Act 1982

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the *Act*) to Victoria University of Wellington (*Victoria*) for the following information:

"Can you please provide me with the required pass rates (averaged over Laws 121, Laws 122 and Laws 123) for entry into 200-level Laws courses for students entering through the Maori Admissions Process and those who did not enter through the Maori Admissions Process. I understand that 10% of the annual intake is reserved for those entering through the Maori Admissions Process but my request is what average mark over the three 100-level courses this required. And, similarly, on the other hand, what average mark was required for those who did not enter 200-level Laws courses. Figures for 2005-2013 would be particularly helpful if figures are available that far back."

Selection criteria for 200- level LAWS

There are 300 places available in each of LAWS 211, 212, 213 and 214. Entry into these 200-level LAWS courses for returning 200-level LAWS students and first time applicants is via one of the three categories.

Priority of entry is given to returning 200-level LAWS students who satisfy the criteria at Category 1 below, followed by first-time applicants who satisfy the criteria at Category 2 below, any remaining places are filled via Category 3.

Category 1

Returning 200-level LAWS students who have passed more than 50% of all previous 200-level LAWS points (at Victoria or any other New Zealand University) in respect of which they have received a grade (i.e. a passing grade, or any failing grade).

Category 2

First-time applicants who have a B+ grade point average (5.5 or better) over LAWS 121, 122 and 123 (or LAWS 101 at Victoria prior to 2003, or its equivalent at any other New Zealand University), and have passed at least 70 non-law points (or 120 points, including the equivalent of LAWS 121, 122 and 123) by 10 December (in exceptional circumstances a later date may be approved, but in no case later than 31 December).

If there are more applicants in Category 2 than there are places available, students in Category 2 are ranked and selected according to their LAWS grade point average. In calculating the grade point average for Category 2 applicants, the student's highest LAWS passing grades are taken into account; previous lower passing grades, and any failing grades, are not taken into account.

If there is a need to determine cut-off points (i.e. between accepted, waitlisted and declined applicants), specific marks in 100-level LAWS courses may be taken into account.

Category 3

If there is space remaining after Categories 1 and 2 above have been considered, the remaining spaces are filled by ranking all other applicants (i.e. all remaining returning 200-level LAWS students and all remaining first-time applicants) by grade point average, and selecting according to that ranking.

To determine cut-off points (i.e. between accepted, waitlisted and declined applicants), specific marks in 100-level LAWS courses may be taken into account.

The ranking process for Category 3 is undertaken on the following basis:

- (i) returning 200-level LAWS students are ranked on the basis of all of their LAWS grades, i.e. 100- and 200-level LAWS courses;
- (ii) first-time applicants are considered on the basis of their 100-level LAWS grades. First-time applicants must have completed at least 70 non-law points, or have an exemption from that requirement.

In calculating the grade point average for Category 3, only the best 100-level LAWS passing grades are taken into account (i.e. 100-level LAWS failing grades are not taken into account), but all 200-level LAWS grades (excluding LAWS 298 or 299 grades), including 200-level LAWS failing grades, are taken into account.

Entry via Maori Admissions Process

Ten percent of places in each 200-level LAWS course are reserved for students applying under the Maori Admissions Process (*MAP*). Applicants applying through MAP must have met the prerequisite requirements for entry into 200-level LAWS courses, being, passes in

LAWS 121, 122 and 123 and in at least 70 non-LAWS points. Successful applicants are selected following an interview with the MAP panel. The MAP panel comprises members of Maori community, the Law Faculty and Maori legal practitioners.

I trust the above information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Tuck', written in a cursive style.

Karla Tuck
Legal Counsel