



15 September 2022

By email: fyi-request-20268-f0f62614@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Jenny

I refer to your information request dated 18 August 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982. You have requested information in relation to entry to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programmes for International Students via the “HSFY and postgraduate” pathways.

Subject to the following comment, please see below our response to your request.

- International Students are defined as all those students who require a student visa to study in New Zealand. The Medical and Dental Admissions Committees consider applications received from International candidates in the following categories:
 - University of Otago Health Sciences First Year category (HSFY)
 - Graduate category
 - Alternative category (BDS only – International applicants are not considered under the Alternative category for MB ChB)

Considering this, we note that there is no “postgraduate” category for entry to the MB ChB or BDS programmes. To be considered for admission in the Graduate category, applicants must have completed, normally in the minimum time and within three years of the date of application, the requirements of a degree awarded by a university in New Zealand. To be considered for admission in the Alternative category, applicants must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Hold a degree from a New Zealand university and no longer be eligible under the Graduate category; **or**
- Have completed a degree at an overseas university at a standard of at least NZQF Level 7; **or**
- Hold a master’s or doctoral degree

Further information on the entry requirements, application process and regulations for each programme can be found at their respective Guidelines for Admission:

- MB ChB: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/medicine/>
- BDS: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/dentistry/>

For the purposes of this response, we have provided you with the number of International Student applicants to the MB ChB and BDS programmes over the last 5 years via the HSFY, Graduate and Alternative categories.

The number of International Students who applied for MB ChB in the last five years

Please see the below table which shows the number of International Student applicants to the MB ChB programme over the past five years via the HSFY or Graduate categories. As noted above, International applicants are not considered under the Alternative category for MB ChB.

Programme	Category	Number of International Student applicants				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MB ChB	HSFY	33	31	49	28	24
	Graduate	10	8	9	11	9

The number of International Students who applied for BDS in the last five years

Please see the below table which shows the number of International Student applicants to the BDS programme over the past five years via the HSFY, Graduate or Alternative categories.

Programme	Category	Number of International Student applicants				
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BDS	HSFY	35	35	49	30	24
	Graduate	5	4	5	7	2
	Alternative	5	9	36	7	8

On the Otago official website it says the capacity for International Students in BDS is up to 68 people. Is there any chance they will actually let 68 people in to BDS this year? Or would it be around 10 – 15 like it always has for the past five years?

As you will see in the table above, over the past 5 years the number of International Student applicants to the BDS programmes has only once exceeded the current number of available International Student places to enter the programme, which is 68. The number of places available to International Students is subject to change each year following review by the University Council.

The Dental Admissions Committee has the discretion to admit International Students in light of their ability to succeed in the BDS programme. To be eligible for admission to the BDS programme as an International Student, applicants must have completed all necessary prerequisites at a minimum standard determined on a yearly basis by the Dental Admissions Committee. While there is a certain number of places available each year to enter the BDS programme, International Students must still meet these academic requirements set out by the Dental Admissions Committee.

Yours sincerely



Mayhaka Mendis
Acting Registrar
Office of the Registrar