



23 January 2024

By email: [fyi-request-25018-03aae4c5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25018-03aae4c5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Thomas

I refer to your information request dated 9 January 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to the 2023 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme at the University of Otago.

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

- It is the University's standard practice to not report on information where it relates to fewer than five individuals and we consider that such disclosure could affect an individual's privacy and wellbeing. Where the numbers are very low, there is a risk that the identity of these individuals could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. Accordingly, where there are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the data and indicated using "<5" ("fewer than five") – this is pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

**1. A breakdown of the number of applicants who applied across the different admission categories – HSFY, Alternative and Graduate – to the relevant programmes.**

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the total number of applications to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY), Graduate and Alternative categories:

- these figures include applicants who may have cancelled their application, and/or applicants who were ineligible to apply via a specific category.
- the data includes domestic and international applicants. Please note that international applicants are not able to apply via the Alternative category.

	Category	Total number of applications
2023 MB ChB programme	HSFY	477
	Graduate	395
	Alternative	124

**2. Total number of accepted applicants into the programme and the accepted number of applicants under each admission category.**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the number of offers made to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the HSFY, Graduate and Alternative categories:

- the date includes domestic and international applicants. Please note that international applicants are not able to apply via the Alternative category.

2023 MB ChB programme	Category	Total number of offers
	HSFY	233
	Graduate	80
	Alternative	23
	<b>Total</b>	336

### 3. Breakdown of HSFY applicants to MB ChB by equity group.

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the total number of applications to the 2023 MB ChB programme, broken down by equity group:

- these figures include applicants who may have cancelled their application, and/or applicants who were ineligible to apply via a certain equity group.
- applicants can be eligible for multiple equity groups, and therefore some applicants may be represented in multiple cells.

2023 MB ChB programme	Category	Equity Group	Total number of applications
	HSFY	Māori	50
		Indigenous Pacific Origins	26
		Socioeconomic	22
		Refugee	14
		Rural	34
		General	268
		International	63

### 4. What was the minimum average academic mark (HSFY 2022) to receive an offer into the MB ChB programme?

Subject to the following comment, see the below table which shows the minimum average academic scores to receive an offer to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

- as applicants can be eligible for multiple equity groups, some applicants will therefore be represented more than once in the below table. This also means that the information reported may not be representative of the lowest grade obtained by applicants offered a place for an application assessed on one equity group exclusively.

2023 MB ChB programme	Category	Equity Group	Minimum average academic score to receive an offer
	HSFY	Māori	70.29
		Indigenous Pacific Origins	67.43
		Socioeconomic	70.29
		Refugee	73.86
		Rural	71.57
		General	89.43
		International	80.43

**5. What was the median academic mark (HSFY 2022) of those students who accepted offers to study in the MB ChB programme in 2023?**

Please see the below table which shows the median average academic scores to enter the 2023 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category (i.e., accept offers), broken down by equity group:

2023 MB ChB programme	Category	Equity Group	Median average academic score to accept offer
	HSFY	Māori	81.14
		Indigenous Pacific Origins	75.00
		Socioeconomic	78.00
		Refugee	82.43
		Rural	91.14
		General	93.00
		International	89.14

**6. Lowest successful first-round offer (average academic mark HSFY 2022) in each HSFY category as in question 3.**

Please see the below table which shows the minimum average academic scores to receive a first-round offer to enter the 2023 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

2023 MB ChB programme	Category	Equity Group	Minimum average academic score to receive a first-round offer
	HSFY	Māori	70.29
		Indigenous Pacific Origins	67.43
		Socioeconomic	71.57
		Refugee	76.57
		Rural	78.29
		General	89.43
		International	81.29

**7. What was the median GPA (university 9-point scale) of those students in the graduate category who accepted offers to study in the MB ChB programme in 2023?**

Please see the below table which shows the median weighted GPA scores to enter the 2023 MB ChB programme via the Graduate category (i.e., accept offers), broken down by equity group:

2023 MB ChB programme	Category	Equity Group	Median weighted GPA score to accept offer
	Graduate	Māori	5.70
		Indigenous Pacific Origins	6.43
		Socioeconomic	5.25
		Refugee	6.09
		Rural	7.22
		General	9.05
		International	<5

**8. Breakdown of how many of the total applicants to the MB ChB programme met the UCAT threshold by the same HSFY categories as in question 3.**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the number of applicants to meet the UCAT thresholds set for entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

- Please note that international applicants were not required to sit the UCAT for entry to the 2023 MB ChB programme. Therefore, we have not reported on data related to the number of international applicants to meet the UCAT threshold.

	Category	Equity Group	Number of applicants to meet the UCAT threshold
<b>2023 MB ChB programme</b>	HSFY	Māori	30
		Indigenous Pacific Origins	8
		Socioeconomic	7
		Refugee	6
		Rural	25
		General	195
		International	N/R

I trust that this information will be helpful.

In the above cases, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi



Kelsey Kennard  
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar