



4 April 2024

By email: fyi-request-25883-e0b80f1e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe SS

I refer to your information request dated 26 February 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to admission to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme with Advanced Standing.

Please see below our response to your request.

1. Number of domestic students who received an offer from 2019 – 2024:

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the number of domestic students to receive an offer to the BDS programme via Advanced Standing from 2019 – 2024:

- the years provided relate to the year an applicant entered the programme, for example, "2024" refers to students who applied for the BDS programme in 2023 and would have begun their studies in the programme in 2024.
- we note that there are no guaranteed places for entry to the BDS programme via Advanced Standing. This is a very competitive category for which the University receives a large number of applications and offers to successful domestic category applicants are dependent on there being a space in the third year of the BDS programme. Confirmation of whether there is a space available is usually not known until the results of special examinations are finalised in early February the year of entry. If there are no spaces available, there will be no places offered for admission to the third year of the BDS programme via Advanced Standing.
- please note that for privacy and student wellbeing reasons, the University's standard practice is not to report on numbers where those numbers relate to fewer than five individuals. Where the numbers are very low, there is a risk that identity of those individuals can be determined/inferred. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. As there were zero or fewer than five applicants to receive offers each year to the BDS programme with Advanced Standing, we have grouped the number of applicants to receive offers together.

Number of domestic applicants to receive offers to the BDS programme via Advanced Standing	
2019	0
2020	0
2021	6
2022	
2023	
2024	

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar