



12 April 2024

Tēnā koe Mitchell

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2024, requesting information about the University of Canterbury (UC).

On 13 March 2024, you refined your request by confirming that the date range would be the last 5 years.

You also refined your request to the total number of students with student loan, total with student allowance, total with both, and total without student loan or allowance.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

Please see the **Appendix** which provides the number of Student Allowance and Student Loan Fees paid for study at the UC between 1 January 2019 and 29 February 2024, broken down by calendar year.

Please note that other components of Student Loan or assistance (Living Costs, Course Related Costs and administration fees) cannot be linked to a particular education provider in the Ministry's reporting. As such, this data excludes students who may be attending UC and receiving Student Loan assistance not for study fees (for example, only receiving a payment for Living Costs).

The part of your request that asks for the total number of students at the UC that are not receiving a Student Loan was transferred to the UC on 5 April 2024 as the information is believed to be held by the University.

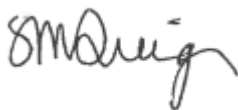
The part of your request that asks for the total number of students at the UC that are not receiving a Student Allowance is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you had requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix

Table: The number of Student Allowance and Student Loan Fees paid for study at the University of Canterbury between 1 January 2019 and 29 February 2024, broken down by calendar year.

Calendar Year	Student Allowance	Student Loan	Distinct Students
2019	3,201	8,961	9,741
2020	3,585	9,318	10,224
2021	3,873	10,158	11,148
2022	3,483	10,077	10,938
2023	3,372	9,999	10,932
2024 (as at 29 February 2024)	2,256	7,911	8,655

Notes:

- This table includes paid Student Allowance and Student Loan Fees only.
- Student Loan Fees are paid to a specific provider.
- Other components of Student Loan assistance (Living Costs, Course Related Costs and administration fees) cannot be linked to a particular education provider therefore these are not included.
- No adjustment has been made to account for Loan Fees repayments or refunds.
- The number for each assistance type is the count of distinct students that have been paid assistance over the specified year.
- A student may have both the Student Allowance and Student Loan Fees paid in the same period.

Confidentiality:

- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.