



2 May 2024

By email: fyi-request-26178-899858fa@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe KC

Re: Official Information request – MB ChB Admissions 2024

I refer to your information request dated 20 March 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme in 2024. You have requested:

"I would like to request a breakdown of the applications, offers, and admissions into the 2024 MB ChB program. I would like this to be broken up into the 3 categories and further into each sub-category. I would also like to know the minimum and median weighted GPA of those who were offered a place into the program."

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

- The data is correct as at 30 April 2024.
- 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 applicants in a particular dataset, we have withheld the actual number or their minimum average academic/weighted GPA scores 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. Breakdown of the applications, offers, and admissions into the 2024 MB ChB programme, broken up into the 3 categories and further into each sub-category.

Please see the below table which shows the number of applications, offers, and admissions to the 2024 MB ChB programme, broken down by category (Health Sciences First Year [HSFY], Graduate, Alternative) and equity group:

		MB ChB Programme, 2024		
Category	Equity Group	Applications	Offers	Admissions
HSFY	General	307	137	119
	Māori	58	48	41
	Indigenous Pacific	26	17	15
	Socioeconomic Equity	11	6	<5
	Refugee	13	13	10
	Rural	39	28	25
Graduate	General	227	49	31
	Māori	16	15	10
	Indigenous Pacific	15	7	<5
	Socioeconomic Equity	<5	<5	<5
	Refugee	8	<5	<5
	Rural	18	17	10
Alternative	General	86	17	14
	Māori	<5	<5	<5
	Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5	<5
	Socioeconomic Equity	<5	<5	<5
	Refugee	<5	<5	<5
	Rural	<5	<5	<5

2. Minimum and weighted GPA of those who were offered a place into the programme.

Subject to the following comments, please see the below tables which show the minimum average academic scores and weighted GPA scores to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY and Graduate categories, broken down by equity group:

- Alternative category applicants are required to submit copies of academic transcripts and attend an interview as part of the application process. However, an applicant's academic record (including GPA) or interview score are not on their own determining factors in whether an applicant will be offered a place to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category. Assessment for entry to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category relies on the combined views of a number of assessors, and considers academic aptitude, motivation, life experience, and written communication, as well as attending the interview. Accordingly, there are no minimum acceptance scores for entry to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category (including the equity groups).
- We note that average academic scores across an applicant's best seven papers in the year of application is used for the HSFY category. Weighted GPA scores derived from the grades achieved in the qualifying degree is used for the Graduate category. Further information on the selection criteria for each category, including scoring, is available on the University website at the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage.

		MB ChB Programme, 2024
Category	Equity Group	Minimum average academic score to receive an offer
HSFY	General	89.57
	Māori	70.43
	Indigenous Pacific	65.43
	Socioeconomic Equity	71.57
	Refugee	71.43
	Rural	79.71

		MB ChB Programme, 2024
Category	Equity Group	Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer
Graduate	General	8.13
	Māori	4.98
	Indigenous Pacific	4.68
	Socioeconomic Equity	<5
	Refugee	<5
	Rural	4.58

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