

30 July 2024

By email: [fyi-request-27452-a76c2d01@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27452-a76c2d01@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe James

I refer to your request for information dated 1 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

*“Could you please confirm if attendance at two different rural schools summing to 4 years would still meet the Rural Origins guidelines of having undertaken “a minimum of four years of their pre-tertiary education at a school in a rural area of New Zealand”?*

*Also, as you cannot assess whether Tamahere Model Country School, 37 Devine Road, Tamahere 3283 and Waikato Montessori Education Centre, 267 Newell Road, Hillcrest, Hamilton 3283 would be eligible for rural entry into MB ChB in 2025, can you determine whether attendance at these schools would have been considered rural for rural entry into 2023 or 2024 MB ChB? As the rural eligibility criteria has already been put in place for those years.”*

Please see below our response to your request.

## **1. Two different rural schools**

In order to apply in the New Zealand Rural Origins equity group, candidates for admission to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) must:

- Have undertaken a minimum of four years of their pre-tertiary education at a school in a rural area of New Zealand; or
- Have resided in a rural area of New Zealand for a minimum of four consecutive years following the completion of their secondary education; or
- Have undertaken a combination of pre-tertiary education at a school in a rural area of New Zealand and residence in a rural area of New Zealand, for a minimum of four consecutive years.

Applicants who have undertaken a minimum of four years of their pre-tertiary education at two different schools in a rural area of New Zealand would meet the above criteria under the MB ChB programme regulations (if and only both schools were classified as Rural). However, we note that all information provided at the time of application is automatically checked and verified in eVision (the University’s student management system). If the application is found to not be eligible under the Rural equity group, the applicant will be notified, and the application will continue to be processed with this equity group removed.

## **2. Tamahere Model Country School and Waikato Montessori Education Centre**

As you have noted in your request, we do not assess rural eligibility ahead of an application and would not be able to advise for entering the MB ChB programme in 2025 as the eligibility criteria can change year to year. To perform an informal check of the classification of the residential area for your application, please use the GCH (Geographic Classification for Health) New Zealand map

found [here](#). It is important to note that this should be considered as a guide only and may be subject to change each year. The Statistical Area 1s (SA1s) of the residential address and/or the school(s) provided will be checked against the GCH database during the assessment of an application.

Based on the information you have provided, I can confirm that Tamahere Model Country School (37 Devine Road, Tamahere) and Waikato Montessori Education Centre (267 Newell Road, Hillcrest) were classed as Urban for entry to the 2023 and 2024 MB ChB programmes. This may change for entry to the MB ChB programme in future years, and can also depend on the years of attendance at the mentioned schools.

It is also important to note that whether a school is classified as Rural or Urban is not the sole factor in determining whether or not a candidate is eligible under the New Zealand Rural Origins equity group. Provided applicants have selected this equity group as part of their application, each applicant's particular circumstances are considered individual with respect to the requirements listed in the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#), and a determination made taking all factors into account.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

Ngā mihi



Kelsey Kennard  
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council