

23 August 2024

By email: [fyi-request-27678-fe0e1e8e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27678-fe0e1e8e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Josiah

I refer to your information request dated 17 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

1. *The average grades for all papers offered by the University of Otago in the 2023 academic year.*
2. *If readily available, the distribution of grades for each of these papers.*

I also note our correspondence dating 22 July 2024 – 26 July 2024, in which we clarified that you were interested in receiving:

1. The mark and grade distributions of all 100-, 200- and 300-level papers offered by the University of Otago during the 2023 academic year;
2. The average grade of each 100-, 200- and 300-level paper offered by the University of Otago during the 2023 academic year; and
3. The standard deviation for each 100-, 200- and 300-level paper offered by the University of Otago during the 2023 academic year.

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested. Please note that there are six pages in the attached spreadsheet, one for each paper year level, and one for each set of corresponding average grade and standard deviation data.

- the data is correct as at 7 August 2024.
- on occasions where fewer than five students have failed a paper (i.e. received a grade of Fail, Fail D, Fail E, Failed Compulsory Assessment or Failed Terms), we have determined that it is necessary to withhold the marks and specific grades for these students to protect their privacy and wellbeing. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e. their marks) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- on occasions where fewer than ten students are enrolled in a paper, we determine that it is necessary to withhold the mark and grade distributions for these papers. Accordingly, we have withheld the mark and grade distribution for these papers to protect students' privacy and wellbeing. The papers with fewer than ten enrolments in 2023 and have therefore been withheld are listed in the attached spreadsheet. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e., their marks and grades) could be disclosed pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act).

- we note that the data excludes papers where either a pass or fail result is given (i.e., students do not receive a specific percentage mark or grade.
- in the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers or received an Aegrotat Pass (not a grade or mark) are excluded from the data.

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