

23 August 2024

By email: [fyi-request-27726-ecdf7bb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27726-ecdf7bb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Aimee

I refer to your request for information dated 19 July 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.

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

- International student applicants to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY or Graduate categories are excluded from the data. We note that international students are not eligible to apply for the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category.
- 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 students could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. Accordingly, where there are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the data, 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. Number of applicants to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY, Graduate and Alternative categories**
- 2. Total number of applicants to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY, Graduate and Alternative categories**
- 3. Number of applicants and the number of applicants to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group**

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the total number of applicants to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY, Graduate and Alternative categories, and the total number of applicants to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY, Graduate and Alternative categories; broken down by equity group:

- Applicants who applied for a specific category or equity group, but were deemed to not be eligible to apply for that category or equity group, are excluded from the data. Applicants who cancelled their application are also excluded from the data.

|                    |               | 2024 MB ChB programme |                  |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|                    |               | Number of applicants  | Number of offers |
| <b>HSFY</b>        | General       | 307                   | 138              |
|                    | Māori         | 58                    | 48               |
|                    | Pacific       | 26                    | 17               |
|                    | Socioeconomic | 11                    | 6                |
|                    | Refugee       | 13                    | 13               |
|                    | Rural         | 39                    | 28               |
| <b>Graduate</b>    | General       | 227                   | 45               |
|                    | Māori         | 16                    | 10               |
|                    | Pacific       | 15                    | 6                |
|                    | Socioeconomic | <5                    | <5               |
|                    | Refugee       | 8                     | <5               |
|                    | Rural         | 18                    | 15               |
| <b>Alternative</b> | General       | 86                    | 12               |
|                    | Māori         | <5                    | 0                |
|                    | Pacific       | <5                    | <5               |
|                    | Socioeconomic | <5                    | 0                |
|                    | Refugee       | <5                    | <5               |
|                    | Rural         | <5                    | <5               |

**4. Minimum average academic score to receive an offer overall to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group**

**5. Median average academic score to accept an offer to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group**

Please see the below table which shows the minimum average academic score to receive an offer, and the median average academic score to accept offers, to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

|             |               | 2024 MB ChB programme                              |  |
|-------------|---------------|--|--|
|             |               | Minimum average academic score to receive an offer | Median average academic score to accept an offer |
| <b>HSFY</b> | General       | 89.57  | 94.86  |
|             | Māori         | 70.43  | 82.71  |
|             | Pacific       | 65.43  | 79.00  |
|             | Socioeconomic | 71.57  | <5   |
|             | Refugee       | 71.43  | 82.79  |
|             | Rural         | 79.71  | 91.22  |

**6. Minimum average academic score to receive a first-round offer to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the minimum average academic score to receive a first-round offer to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

- We note that there were no waitlists for any of the equity groups for entry to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category. Therefore, the minimum average academic score to receive a first round offer for these equity groups is the same as the minimum average academic score to receive an offer overall.

|             |               | 2024 MB ChB programme   |
|-------------|---------------|---|
|             |               | Minimum average academic score to receive a first round offer |
| <b>HSFY</b> | General       | 90.14   |
|             | Māori         | 70.43 (no waitlist)   |
|             | Pacific       | 65.43 (no waitlist)   |
|             | Socioeconomic | 71.57 (no waitlist)   |
|             | Refugee       | 71.43 (no waitlist)   |
|             | Rural         | 79.71 (no waitlist)   |

**7. Median weighted GPA score to accept an offer to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the Graduate category, broken down by equity group**

Please see the below table which shows the median weighted GPA score to accept an offer to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the Graduate category, broken down by equity group:

|                 |               | 2024 MB ChB programme                        |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
|                 |               | Median weighted GPA score to accept an offer |
| <b>Graduate</b> | General       | 8.90   |
|                 | Māori         | 5.67   |
|                 | Pacific       | <5   |
|                 | Socioeconomic | <5   |
|                 | Refugee       | <5   |
|                 | Rural         | 6.30   |

**8. Number of applicants who met the UCAT thresholds for entry to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group**

Subject to the following comments, please see the below table which shows the total number of applicants, and the number of applicants who failed to meet the UCAT **or** HSFY requirements for entry to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group:

- We note that while all applicants are required to sit the UCAT, the UCAT thresholds were only applied to the HSFY General category and HSFY Rural equity group for entry to the 2024 MB ChB programme.
- Applicant eligibility for the MB ChB programme under both the UCAT thresholds and HSFY academic requirements is automatically checked in eVision (the University's student management system) at the same time once applications have closed. If an applicant is not eligible (i.e., they do not meet the UCAT thresholds or the HSFY academic requirements), the reason for this is not specifically noted. Therefore, the University does not hold separate

information on the “number of applicants who met UCAT thresholds” only. On that basis, the below table contains the total number of applicants to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group, and the number of applicants to the 2024 MB ChB programme who failed to meet either the UCAT or HSFY requirements.

|             |               | 2024 MB ChB programme |   |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
|             |               | Number of applicants  | Number of applicants who failed to meet UCAT or HSFY requirements |
| <b>HSFY</b> | General       | 307                   | 72  |
|             | Māori         | 58                    | <5  |
|             | Pacific       | 26                    | 6   |
|             | Socioeconomic | 11                    | <5  |
|             | Refugee       | 13                    | <5  |
|             | Rural         | 39                    | <5  |

I trust that this information will be helpful.

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 and Secretary to the Council