

20 August 2024

By email: fyi-request-27790-817bfb82@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe S.O

I refer to your request for information dated 23 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

“how the annual Premier and Prince of Wales Prizes are awarded. i.e. entirely based on GPA or average percentage across all papers in a degree.

Based on the response from this I am also requesting the minimum and maximum GPA/percentage to be awarded the Premier Prize in Science and separately the Prince of Wales Prize across 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. This is to maintain anonymity for the prize recipients. For instances, if the prizes are awarded via GPA calculation and the minimum across the years was in 2019 and maximum in 2020 then I request the GPA for 2019 and 2020 but do NOT require which year this was awarded in.”

Please see below our response to your request.

1. How the Premier and Prince of Wales Prizes are awarded

The Prince of Wales Prize is awarded to the most outstanding student completing an undergraduate or honours degree across all Divisions. It is selected from the recipients of the Premier Prize, which is awarded to the top student completing an undergraduate or honours degree in each of Commerce, Health Sciences, Humanities, or Sciences.

A cumulative GPA calculation across the students' entire undergraduate academic programme is used for assessment. The regulations for the Premier Prize also note that “qualities in addition to academic performance may be taken into account in awarding the prize.” This means that excellence in other areas and/or contribution to the community through volunteering or other activities may be taken into account.

2. Minimum and maximum GPA/percentage to be awarded in the Premier Prize in Science and separately the Prince of Wales Prize across 2018 – 2024

Premier Prize in Science:

The lowest GPA to receive the Premier Prize in Science across 2018 – 2023 was 7.7.
The highest GPA to receive the Premier Prize in Science across 2018 – 2023 was 9.0.

Prince of Wales Prize:

The lowest GPA to receive the Prince of Wales Prize across 2018 – 2023 was 8.8.
The highest GPA to receive the Prince of Wales Prize across 2018 – 2023 was 9.0.

We note that the 2024 Premier Prizes and Prince of Wales Prize will not be awarded until December 2024. Therefore, the above information does not include data from 2024.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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