

5 September 2024

By email: fyi-request-27820-d9a52936@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

I refer to your information request dated 25 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested the following information with regards to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme at the University of Otago:

*“Total number of applicants for each of the past five years, broken down by:
First Year (General, MAPAS, RRAS)
Graduate (General, MAPAS, RRAS)*

*Total number of offers made for each of the past five years, broken down by:
First Year (General, MAPAS, RRAS)
Graduate (General, MAPAS, RRAS)*

*Total number of acceptances for each of the past five years, broken down by:
First Year (General, MAPAS, RRAS)
Graduate (General, MAPAS, RRAS)*

Breakdown of the applicants, offers, and acceptances by demographic information such as gender and ethnicity for each category (General, MAPAS, RRAS) over the past five years.

Number of students from each region in New Zealand that have applied and been accepted into the program for each of the past five years.

Any other relevant statistics or information that provides insights into the admission process for the Medical program at the University of Otago.”

We also note your subsequent email of 26 July 2024, in which you requested additional information and provided clarification of your initial request:

“The number of students enrolled in each category at the start of the year, and the number of students still enrolled in the course at the end of the year for each of the past five years (2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020).

Furthermore, I realize that I may have used incorrect terminology for the categories in my initial request. Instead of General, MAPAS, RRAS, I intended to refer to the following categories: General, Māori, Pacific, Rural, Refugee, and Socioeconomic.

Please use these revised categories for all relevant data in my request.”

Subject to the following general comments, please see below and attached the information you have requested. Please note there are **five** pages in the attached spreadsheet.

- The data is correct as at 28 August 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 individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the actual number 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. A blank cell indicates there were no individuals to report.
- We have also aggregated some data or not provided totals where there is the chance that such disclosure could affect an individual's privacy and wellbeing. For example, in our table *for HSFY Category – MB ChB Applications by Equity Group and Gender* on the first page of the attached spreadsheet, we are unable to provide totals because doing so would reveal information relating to fewer than five individuals already withheld. Again, there is a risk that the identity of these individuals could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. We are withholding this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Further information on the equity groups can be found within the University's [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage.

1. Applicants, offers and enrolments to the 2020-2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY and Graduate categories by equity group, broken down by gender and ethnicity.

- Please see the **first** and **second** pages in the attached spreadsheet for these datasets.
- Students may identify with up to three ethnicities, therefore the sum of these values may exceed the total number of unique individuals.

2. Applicants, offers and enrolments to the 2020-2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY and Graduate categories by equity group, broken down by New Zealand region.

- Please see the **third** and **fourth** pages in the attached spreadsheet for these datasets.
- The data we have provided on these pages is limited to individuals who provided a New Zealand home address at the time of enrolment. Individuals who provided an address outside of New Zealand (e.g., Australia) are excluded from the data.

3. Number of students enrolled in the 2020-2024 Medicine Second Year (MICN2) of the MB ChB programme at the start and at the end of the year, broken down by category and equity group.

- Please see the **fifth** page in the attached spreadsheet for this dataset.
- As the current academic year is ongoing, the University does not hold the number of enrolments in the MB ChB programme at the end of the 2024 academic year. Therefore, we decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the University.
- Students who withdraw from MICN2 do not necessarily withdraw from the MB ChB programme entirely; most usually return the following year. Therefore, we have also included the number of withdrawals from the entire programme.
- Data is limited to students new to MB ChB in MICN2 (Second Year Medicine).

4. Any other relevant statistics or information that provides insights into the admission process for the Medical program at the University of Otago.

- Please see the below tables which show the minimum and mean academic scores to receive offers to the 2024 MB ChB programme via the HSFY and Graduate categories, broken down by equity group:
 - The HSFY category uses “average academic scores” which are calculated based on the results of an applicant’s best seven papers undertaken during the HSFY programme. The Graduate category uses “weighted GPA score”, which are calculated from the grades achieved in the qualifying degree, which is usually the first degree awarded to the applicant.
 - As noted earlier in our response, the University does not report on information where it relates to fewer than five individuals. Accordingly, where there are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the information 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.

HSFY Category:

Equity Group	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	
	Average Academic Score	
	Minimum	Mean
General	89.57	94.33
Māori	70.43	82.90
Pacific	65.43	77.98
Socioeconomic Equity	71.57	80.64
Refugee	71.43	83.05
Rural	79.71	90.35

Graduate Category:

Equity Group	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	
	Weighted GPA	
	Minimum	Mean
General	8.13	8.86
Māori	4.98	6.15
Pacific	4.68	5.20
Socioeconomic Equity	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	<5
Rural	5.78	7.33

- We note there is a third category of admission for entry to the MB ChB programme - the Alternative category. The purpose of the Alternative category is to attract a range of academically suitable applicants with broad life experiences, skills and perspectives to the programme. This increased diversity will help ensure that each graduating class shall better mirror and understand contemporary New Zealand society, and be best placed to contribute across the full spectrum of community medical needs in New Zealand. Further information on the Alternative category can be found within the University's [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage.
- The University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT) is a requirement of the admission process for Medicine. The score applicants receive is only valid in the year that they apply, which means for that application cycle only. Domestic applicants must have a UCAT result obtained in the year of application and have achieved a score in all five of the UCAT sections at a threshold level determined annually by the Medical Admissions Committee. The UCAT is required for all domestic HSFY students considering applying for Medicine. A UCAT score is not required for applications to Medicine through the Alternative category. The UCAT thresholds determined by the Medical Admissions Committee for entry to the 2025 MB ChB programme are as follows:

- Verbal Reasoning: 20th percentile or higher
- Situational Judgement: 10th percentile or higher
- Scores for Decision Making, Quantitative Reasoning and Abstract Reasoning not considered*

**thresholds for these may domains may be applied at a later date at the discretion of the Medical Admissions Committee*

- Further information on the MB ChB programme (including entry requirements, selection criteria and application/admission processes) are available on the University's website at the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage.

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 and Secretary to the Council