

23 September 2024

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

Tēnā koe John,

I refer to your information request dated 5 September 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

Could you please provide the number of students enrolled in First Year Health Sciences at the end of each month for the year? If this data is not available on a monthly basis, quarterly figures would be helpful.

Additionally, could you provide the number of students who ranked each health profession (e.g., Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy) as their first, second, and third choice when selecting their preferred professions?

Subject to the following comments, please see below the information you have requested.

Number of students enrolled in the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) programme

- the data is correct as at 18 September 2024.
- we note that HSFY cohorts are generally calculated at three points during the year based on meeting all of the following criteria:
 - students are enrolled in the HSFY programme, AND
 - are enrolled in all the prescribed papers, AND
 - are not enrolled in another undergraduate programme.
- we note that the University only began calculating the 31 August figure from 2021 onwards. Therefore, we are unable to provide you with this figure for 2020. As the 2024 academic year is still ongoing, the 31 December 2024 figure is yet to be calculated.

Year	Enrolments in Health Sciences First Year as at		
	30 April	31 August	31 December
2020	1,326	-	1,012
2021	1,390	988	987
2022	1,354	884	884
2023	1,240	919	919
2024	1,227	905	-

Number of students who ranked each Health Sciences professional programme as their first, second and third choice when selecting preferred professions

- the University of Otago does not have a system of ranking preferred Health Sciences professional programmes during the application process. Students can apply for one programme, or apply for multiple programmes, but there is no system for ranking which of these programmes is “preferred”. 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.

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



Jo Pearson
Official Information Act Administrator
Office of the Registrar