

4 September 2024

Arthur Campbell

By email: [fyi-request-27958-58cc9607@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27958-58cc9607@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Arthur

I refer to your request for information dated 7 August 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

*"I am making an OIA request for the mark and grade distributions of all 300-level and 400-level LAWS papers offered by the University of Otago in Semester 1 2024.*

*If this information is available I would also like to request the total number of students enrolled in an LLB at otago and the number of students enrolled in another degree as well as an LLB for each type of degree which Law students are also enrolled in.*

*Additionally, if this information is also available and not too onerous to gather I would like to request the number of students, enrolled in an LLB, enrolled in different majors. (e.g. X number of students enrolled in a BCom majoring in Finance and an LLB)."*

Subject to the following general comment, please see below our response to your request.

- All of the data we have provided is correct as at 28 August 2024.
- 1. **Mark and grade distributions of all 300- and 400-level LAWS papers offered by the University of Otago in Semester 1 2024**
- Please refer to **page one** of the attached spreadsheet.
- We note that no 300-level LAWS papers were offered in Semester 1 2024 (300-level papers are Summer School, Semester 2, or Full-Year only).
- The mark and grade distributions for the Semester 1 2024 LAWS407, LAWS447 and LAWS498 papers have not been finalised yet as the final grades for some students have not been confirmed. On that basis, we decline providing the mark and grade distributions for these papers pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the University as at today's date. We would be happy to consider a new request from you at a later date if you still wish to receive this information.
- On occasions where fewer than five students have failed a paper (i.e., received a grade of 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. As there were fewer than ten active enrolments in the Semester 1 2024 LAWS450 and LAWS480 papers, we have withheld the mark and grade distributions for these papers to protect students' 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 and grades) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- In the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers or received an Aegrotat Pass or Compensation Pass (not grades or marks) are excluded from the data.

**2. Total number of students enrolled in the LLB at the University of Otago and the number of students enrolled in another degree as well as the LLB, broken down by major subject**

- Please refer to **page two** of the attached spreadsheet.
- With regards to the breakdowns we have provided, we note that some students may be counted twice in the tables where they are enrolled in more than one additional programme to the LLB, or they are enrolled in more than one major for their additional programme. For example, an LLB student also studying a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Commerce would be counted twice in the table (once in the row for the Bachelor of Arts, and once in the row for the Bachelor of Commerce), but will be counted once in the total provided at the bottom of the table. If an LLB student also studying a Bachelor of Science was doing a double major in Genetics and Psychology, they would be counted twice in the table (once in the row for Genetics, and once in the row for Psychology), but will be counted once in the totals provided at the bottom of the table.

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