

15 January 2025

By email: fyi-request-28207-24d21f30@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sarah

I refer to your information request dated 27 November 2025 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request the above information again, i do not require verified applications only the gross amount of applications at this point in time.

This followed your earlier information request dated 27 August 2024:

I would like to request the numbers of applications/applicants for MBChB program via HSFY for 2025 (current HSFY students) I would like this post 15th sept (professional program application deadline) with the total number of applications and also broken down into the following subgroups:

General Entry HSFY

International HSFY

Maori HSFY

Pasifika HSFY

Rural HSFY

Refugee HSFY

Socioeconomic HSFY

As previously advised, unfortunately it is not possible at this time to provide the ‘gross’ number of applications for entry to the Otago Medical School medical degree (MB ChB) in 2025. Submissions by applicants, while documents received by the University, must be processed in order to be recognised as verified applications.

While the process for submitting applications for the 2025 MB ChB programme closed on 15 September 2024, the process of verifying applications is continuing. Each category for admission has its own documentation requirements including identity, academic records, ethnicity, rurality and visa eligibility. The source of this documentation is external to the University of Otago, and this information may or may not have been included in an application or verified. The relevant requirements for each application category are further detailed here: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/medicine#entry-requirements>

In addition, an application can move between categories, including to the general category, depending upon the outcome of the verification process. Until the verification process is complete, the University of Otago cannot confirm how many valid applications exist any of the various admission categories.

However, once these processes have concluded, the University has in the past provided information on the number of verified applications considered for entry into a particular programme. In the case of the MB ChB programme, this is usually complete in the first quarter of each year.

We therefore decline your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held. We would be happy to consider a new request from you when the application verification process is completed if you still wish to receive this information.

We hope this information is useful.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Frewen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to Council