

24 September 2024

By email: [fyi-request-28216-e640726b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28216-e640726b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe John,

I refer to your information request dated 27 August 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

*I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act regarding the distribution of grades for all papers assessed and graded in the first semester of 2024 at the University of Otago.*

*I kindly ask that you provide the number of students who received each grade (A+, A, A-, etc.) for each paper, as well as the total number of students who passed each paper. Additionally, please include the total number of students who sat for each paper.*

*If the grade data for any paper is not yet available, please leave those entries blank while still providing the grade distributions for the others. If possible, I would appreciate a follow-up by the 30th of September with updated information if all grades have not yet been finalized.*

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested. Please note there are three pages in the attached spreadsheet, one for each paper level.

- the data is correct as at 16 September 2024.
- we note that the grade and mark distributions for the following Semester 1, 2024 papers have not been finalised yet as the final grades for some students have not been confirmed. On that basis, 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 as at today's date. We do not currently have a timeframe for when these results will be completed, however we would be happy to consider a new request from you at a later date if you still wish to receive this information:
  - 100-level papers: BSNS111, BSNS113, CELS191, CLAS108, HUSB191, MAOR110, MART112, MATH130, PACI103, STAT110, SURV120
  - 200-level papers: BITC201, CHEM206, CHTH218, ECOL211, EDUC252, EDUC254, MANT222, MANT250, PHCY211, PHSI221
  - 300-level papers: AQFI352, GEOL304, HUMS301, MANT346, MARI301, PLBI301
- 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 enrolments in the following Semester 1, 2024 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:

- 100-level papers: BIBS131, MUSI140
  - 200-level papers: CHTH237, EDCR254, GERM230, GREK211, LATN211, MUSI240, PAST216, PERF202, PHSL251, RELS236
  - 300-level papers: CHTH320, CHTH333, CHTH337, CLAS380, EDCR353, EDPR351, FREN335, GERM331, GLBL303, INFO350, JAPA331, JAPA344, JAPA352, LING342, MUSI340, PAST316, PAST324, PHPE301, PSCI302, RELS336, RELS341, SPAN343
- in the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers or received an Aegrotat Pass (not a grade or mark) are excluded from the data.

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



Jo Pearson  
Official Information Act Administrator  
Office of the Registrar