

8 October 2024

Taehun Park

By email: [fyi-request-28375-7da0a307@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28375-7da0a307@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Taehun

I refer to your request for information dated 12 September 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

*"I hope this message finds you well. I am an international student interested in applying to the MBChB and BDS programs at your esteemed university as a graduate applicant. I have a few specific questions regarding the entry requirements and assessment criteria that I hope you could help clarify.*

*GPA Requirements: Could you please inform me about the lowest successful GPA for admission to both the MBChB and BDS programs over the past five years? Additionally, it would be helpful to know the lowest GPA that secured a first-round offer for each of these programs during the same period.*

*GPA Calculation for Different Undergraduate Durations: The university guidelines mention that for a three-year undergraduate degree, the GPA calculation weights are as follows: 100-level courses at 0.5, 200-level courses at 1.0, and 300-level courses at 1.5. Could you clarify how the GPA is calculated for applicants who have completed a four-year undergraduate program, such as a Bachelor's in Pharmacy? Specifically, is the first year of study included in the GPA calculation for these applicants?*

*Admission Tests for Postgraduate International Students: Could you provide details on any standardized tests required for postgraduate international applicants to the MBChB and BDS programs, such as the UCAT or GAMSAT? If these tests are required, what are the threshold scores or minimum requirements needed to be considered for admission?"*

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

- It is the University's standard practice to not report on data where it relates to fewer than five individuals and we consider that disclosure of the information 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 data, 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. We have also used "N/A" where no offers were made.

**Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB):**

- Further information on the MB ChB programme, including entry requirements, programme content and selection criteria, is available via the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage on the University website.

Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer:

Please see the below table which shows the minimum weighted GPA scores to receive an offer to the MB ChB programme via the Graduate category for International Students from 2020 – 2024:

|             | <b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer, Graduate International</b> |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2020</b> | <5  |
| <b>2021</b> | N/A   |
| <b>2022</b> | <5  |
| <b>2023</b> | <5  |
| <b>2024</b> | <5  |

We note that there is no waitlist for the Graduate category for international applicants. Therefore, the University does not hold the minimum weighted GPA score for international applicants to receive a “first round” offer to the 2020 - 2024 MB ChB programmes via the Graduate category.

Weighted GPA score calculation:

As noted in the Medicine: Guidelines for Admission, scores for candidates applying via the Graduate category are based on the following:

- Papers are given a weighted academic score and ranked
- Total points scored would be as per the requirement for the relevant degree

In the case of four year degrees, the weighted GPA score would be calculated as follows:

- Best scoring (maximum of) 120 points at 400-level
- Best scoring (maximum of) 120 points at 300-level
- Best scoring of 200-level and 100-level papers to a maximum of 360 points
- Total number of points used to calculate the weighted GPA score must not exceed 480
- With 100-level papers weighted x 0.5, 200-level papers weighted x 0.8, 300-level papers weighted x 1.2, and 400-level papers weighted x 1.5.

We note that the scoring example spreadsheet included in the guidelines contains information on how to calculate an indicative weighted GPA score, including for 3 year, 4 year, and 5 year degrees. Information relating to 4 year degrees is on pages 5 and 6 of the spreadsheet. We note that weighted GPA scores for all candidates are confirmed as part of the application process, and the spreadsheet should be used for example purposes only.

Additional tests:

The MB ChB programme requires that 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. We note that international applicants are not required to sit the UCAT.

We note that any applicants (domestic or international) who are offered a place in the MB ChB programme and are missing the First-Year papers (or their equivalent), will be required to undertake

a prescribed course of study. In these instances, applicants will be advised which papers they must complete, as well as the grades that must be attained in order to be eligible to be admitted to the second year of the MB ChB programme.

**Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS):**

- For information on the BDS programme, including entry requirements, programme content and selection criteria, is available via the [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage on the University website.

Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer:

Please see the below table which shows the minimum weighted GPA scores to receive an offer to the BDS programme via the Graduate category for International Students from 2020 – 2024:

|             | <b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer, Graduate International</b> |
|-------------|---|
| <b>2020</b> | N/A   |
| <b>2021</b> | N/A   |
| <b>2022</b> | N/A   |
| <b>2023</b> | N/A   |
| <b>2024</b> | N/A   |

Despite no international applicants receiving offers to enter the 2020 – 2024 BDS programmes via the Graduate category, we note that there is no waitlist for this category for international students. Therefore, even if applicants did receive offers, the University would not hold the minimum weighted GPA score to receive a “first round” offer to the BDS programme.

Weighted GPA score calculation:

Similar to the MB ChB programme, scores for candidates applying via the Graduate category are based on the following:

- Papers are given a weighted academic score and ranked
- Total points scored would be as per the requirement for the relevant degree

In the case of four year degrees, the weighted GPA score would be calculated as follows:

- Best scoring (maximum of) 120 points at 400-level
- Best scoring (maximum of) 120 points at 300-level
- Best scoring of 200-level and 100-level papers to a maximum of 360 points
- Total number of points used to calculate the weighted GPA score must not exceed 480
- With 100-level papers weighted x 0.5, 200-level papers weighted x 0.8, 300-level papers weighted x 1.2, and 400-level papers weighted x 1.5.

We note that the scoring example spreadsheet included in the guidelines contains information on how to calculate an indicative weighted GPA score, including for 3 year, 4 year, and 5 year degrees. Information relating to 4 year degrees is on pages 5 and 6 of the spreadsheet. We note that

weighted GPA scores for all candidates are confirmed as part of the application process, and the spreadsheet should be used for example purposes only.

Additional tests:

UCAT is no longer required for the BDS programme for any applicant (domestic or international). Applicants applying for entry to the 2025 BDS programme (i.e., applying during the 2024 calendar year), are not required to sit the UCAT examination. We note that successful applicants to the BDS programme via the Graduate category must attend an interview before being considered for final selection. The minimum academic requirement to proceed to the interview stage is determined by the Dental Admissions Committee on an annual basis. Approximately 300 candidates across all admissions categories will be invited to undertake an interview.

We note also that any applicants (domestic or international) who are offered a place in the BDS programme via the Graduate category and are missing the First-Year papers (or their equivalent), will be required to undertake a prescribed course of study. In these instances, applicants will be advised which papers they must complete, as well as the grades that must be attained in order to be eligible to be admitted to the second year of the BDS programme.

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