

25 October 2024

By email: [fyi-request-28424-b954f9ea@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28424-b954f9ea@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe M

I refer to your information request dated 18 September 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

*"I'm wondering how BDS interview invites will be determined for the graduate category, for entry into 2025 and beyond (with the recent removal of UCAT).*

*This is quite significant as this is the first year where the UCAT requirement has been removed to determine interview selection for applicants, especially for the graduate category where wouldn't have a finalized 3-year GPA by the time interview invites would be released, thus am wondering how their grades are utilized to determine an interview invite or not."*

As noted in the [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#) webpage, the Dental Admissions Committee may set a minimum academic requirement for applicants to proceed to the interview stage. This will be determined by the Committee on an annual basis. All eligible applicants in the Health Sciences First Year and Graduate categories who meet the standard set each year are invited to interview. Candidates are assessed as suitable for admission based on the interview panel's overall assessment of aptitude for the programme, taking into account motivation, decision-making, and communication skills. Suitable candidates are put forward for final selection – the final determining factor for selection for a Graduate category applicant who has met all admission criteria will be weighted academic score.

We note that for entry to the 2025 BDS programme via the Graduate general category, the interview threshold for applicants with confirmed results was a GPA of 7.0. The interview threshold for applicants with results pending (e.g., awaiting semester 2 2024 exam results) was a GPA of 6.5, recognising that semester 2 results could change the final weighted GPA.

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



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