

1 November 2024

By email: fyi-request-28459-6d156434@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe RC

I refer to your request for information dated 20 September 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested:

"I am writing to request information regarding the destinations offered through the GoGlobal exchange program and the students accepted. Please provide for the past 10 years the following information.

- 1. The number of applications received per exchange destination.*
- 2. The number of places at each exchange destination.*
- 3. A gender and ethnicity breakdown of students accepted to and rejected from the GoGlobal program.*
- 4. A gender and ethnicity breakdown of students accepted to and rejected from their first choice of exchange destination."*

I also note our email correspondence of 26 September 2024, in which you clarified your request to be for the following information:

I am largely interested in the most popular exchange destinations currently. If it is simpler to provide, please provide me with, for the most recent exchange semester, how many applications were received and how many slots were available for each exchange destination, and if possible, a gender breakdown.

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

- The data we have provided is correct as at 21 October 2024.
- The University measures and records its exchange data based on exchange semester places, rather than head count. Students going on exchange for a full academic year are counted as 2 semester places, students going on exchange for one semester are counted as 1 semester place, and students going on short-term exchanges (less than one quarter/10 weeks study) are counted as 0.5 semester places. Students going on exchange are required to study full-time. To provide breakdowns by individual student headcount rather than semester places would require substantial collation and research, and is therefore declined pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act.
- Eligibility criteria for the University of Otago Global Student Exchange programme is available on the University's website: [Otago Global Student Exchange: Eligibility Criteria](#). Generally, students who meet the eligibility criteria are accepted for their preferred exchange destination, however there may be cases where that is not possible (e.g., if the exchange partner can only accommodate a certain number of Otago students).

- Further information on the University's Global Student Exchange programme, including the list of partner institutions, the types of financial assistance available, and how to apply, is available on the University's website: [Otago Global Student Exchange](#).

1. Total number of applications received

Subject to the following comments, please see **attached** the information you have requested. We note that this information is on page one of the attached spreadsheet.

- The data indicates the estimated interest in each exchange partner institution, based on what University of Otago students have chosen as their first option of destination on their application, in semester places.
- Students who did not meet the eligibility criteria are included in the data.
- A student's first option may not necessarily be where they end up going on exchange.
- Applications for some institutions can close earlier than the standard timeframe for applications for exchange. Therefore, depending on when a student applies for exchange, some exchange partner institutions may not be available for selection at the time of application.
- The gender breakdown we have provided is in semester places and based on information provided by students at the time of application.

2. Number of semester places on exchange

Subject to the following comments, please see **attached** the information you have requested. We note that this information is on page two of the attached spreadsheet.

- The first table we have provided relates to the total number of semester places on exchange in Semester 1 and Semester 2 in 2024, broken down by host country.
- The second table we have provided relates to the total number of semester places on exchange in 2024, broken down by partner institution.
- Partner institutions that did not have any University of Otago students on exchange in 2024 are excluded from the tables. As noted earlier in our response, the full list of partner institutions is available on the University's website: [Otago Global Student Exchange List of Partner Institutions](#).

3. Number of semester places available at each exchange partner

Subject to the following comments, please see **attached** the information you have requested. We note that this information is on page three of the attached spreadsheet.

- The University only holds this information for the 2025 and 2026 academic years. Therefore, we decline providing this information for 2024 pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the requested information is not held. In the interests of completeness, we have provided the information for the 2025 and 2026 academic years, noting that the number of places negotiated each year remains relatively stable.
- While this data represents the number of places negotiated with each exchange partner institution, some institutions welcome more students than what is negotiated. Therefore, the number of students who actually go on exchange to each partner institution may be higher than the number of negotiated places.

I trust that this information is 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



Kelsey Kennard
Policy Analyst
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council