

12 December 2024

By email: fyi-request-29181-a633c084@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Anon

I refer to your request for information dated 13 November 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

I would like to request the following information under the OIA for the following years:

- *2024, 2023, 2022, 2021: broken down into the sub-categories:*
- *Māori*
- *Indigenous Pacific*
- *Socio-economic Equity*
- *Refugee*
- *Rural*
- *General*

- *The total number of Otago Medical School: MB ChB Alternative ('Other') Category applicants.*
- *The total number of Otago Medical School: MB ChB Alternative ('Other') Category applications considered.*
- *The total number of Otago Medical School: MB ChB Alternative ('Other') Category applicants offered an interview.*
- *The total number of Otago Medical School: MB ChB Alternative ('Other') Category applicants offered a place into the MB ChB ELM2 year from the respective year's interview process.*
- *The total number of Otago Medical School: MB ChB Alternative ('Other') Category applicants who accepted a place.*
- *The total number of Otago Medical School: MB ChB Alternative ('Other') Category applicants who were offered the option of completing a prescribed course before entry into the MB ChB ELM2 year from the respective year's interview process.*

Our response to your request follows.

In the case of admission to the University's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme (MB ChB) via the Alternative category, the number of Māori, Indigenous Pacific, Socio-economic Equity, Refugee and Rural applications often total fewer than five.

It is the University's standard practice to withhold information where it relates to fewer than five individuals, as we consider that such disclosure could affect an individual's privacy and wellbeing. Where the numbers are very low there is a risk that the identity of these students could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed.

We do this under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, and we consider that good reasons exist for withholding this information, not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Accordingly, we have provided below:

- the total number of applicants (please note that deferred applications are not included in this data);
- the total number of applicants invited for an interview;
- the total number of successful interviewees offered admission (please note this excludes those enrolled in prescribed courses of study); and
- the number of accepted offers of admission:

into the MB ChB programme in the years 2019 to 2023 (which includes the years specified in your request).

Number of Alternative Category Applicants for MB ChB Programme				
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
111	118	121	112	113

Number of Alternative Applicants Invited for an Interview for Entry into MB ChB Programme				
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
29	38	27	45	58

Number of Successful Alternative Interviewees Offered a Place in MB ChB Programme				
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
12	11	7	8	16

Number of Accepted Offers into MB ChB Programme				
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
12	10	6	7	14

The same information for the 2024 year had not been fully collated at the time of writing. In accordance with section 15(1) of the Act, we have decided to grant your request for data held for the 2024 year. We will provide that once it has been collated, and without undue delay, unless you wish to clarify your request before we do so.

We hope this information is useful.

If you are not satisfied with our decision on your 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



Bill Frewen
Manager Policy and Compliance