

9 December 2024

By email: fyi-request-29211-0ac91822@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sam

I refer to your information request dated 15 November 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested mark and grade distributions for the following papers offered by the University in 2024:

- ASIA201
- GENE315
- GEOL274
- LING230
- NEUR303
- PHIL222
- PHPE201
- PHSL344
- RELS225
- TOUR304
- TOUR306

You have also requested the mark and grade distribution for the last time RELS344 was offered by the University of Otago.

We respond below to part of your request but need to extend the due date for responding to the remainder of your request.

Extension for papers ASIA201, LING230, PHSL344, TOUR304:

The Act requires that we advise you of our decision on your request no later than 20 working days after the date your request was received. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to meet that time limit. We are therefore writing to notify you, pursuant to section 15A of the Act, of an extension of the time to make our decision in respect of your request, by a further 20 working days (to 3 February 2025). Please note that “working days” is as defined in the Act and excludes public holidays and the period between 25 December – 15 January.

This extension is necessary to allow for internal consultations to collate the requested data and make a decision on your request. We note that your request was made before 22 November 2024, when Semester 2 and Full Year examinations results are made available to students (see <https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/examinations/examination-scripts-and-results>). We thank you for your patience and will endeavour to provide our response sooner if possible.

If you are not satisfied with our extension of time, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Response for papers GENE315, GEOL274, NEUR303, PHIL222, PHPE201, RELS225, TOUR306:

Subject to the following comments, please see **attached** the information you have requested:

- the data is correct as at 26 November 2024.
- 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) being disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- please note that not all papers were offered in 2024, therefore we have only provided mark and grade breakdowns for the papers that were offered. Specifically, GEOL274, NEUR303 and RELS225 were not offered in 2024.
- students who withdrew from the papers or received an Aegrotat Pass (not a grade or mark) are excluded from the data.

Response for paper RELS344:

Subject to the following comments, please see **attached** the information you have requested:

- The last time RELS344 was offered by the University was in 2023, therefore we have provided the mark and grade distribution for this paper from 2023.
- the data is correct as at 26 November 2024.
- 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) being disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- students who withdrew from the paper 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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