

4 August 2025

By email: fyi-request-31523-90e705b0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe C.R.

I refer to your information request dated 9 July 2025 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

- 1. The number of students from each residential college to enter into the MBChb and BDS programmes general entry via HSFY for all the classes commencing from 2020 through to 2025.*
- 2. The lowest, highest and average grades for first round initial offers to general applicants for the MBChb and BDS programmes via HSFY, for all the classes commencing from 2020 through to 2025.*
- 3. The lowest, highest and average grades for general applicants accepted from waitlist offers to the MBChb and BDS programmes via HSFY general entry, for all the classes commencing from 2020 through to 2025.*
- 4. The number of students remaining enrolled in First Year Health Science, as of the date the application is processed (most recent date possible please).*

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

- Further information is available on the University's website about entry requirements for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programmes:
[BDS Guidelines for Admission](#)
[MB ChB Guidelines for Admission](#)
- The data is correct as at 4 August 2025.
- It is the University's standard practice to not report on information where it relates to fewer than five individuals and 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. 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.

1. The number of students from each residential college to commence the 2025 MB ChB and BDS programmes via Health Sciences First Year (HSFY), all subcategories:

- Please note that providing data by Residential College for any particular Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) subcategory of entry (ie General, Māori, Indigenous Pacific, Rural, Socioeconomic equity and Refugee) is likely to indicate fewer than five students in many cases, which for reasons stated earlier we withhold. Accordingly, we have instead provided information for all HSFY subcategories combined.
- Further, this part of your request also involved substantial research and collation within the meaning of section 18(f) of the Act and neither extending the time limit nor determining a charge would enable the request to be met, as it would involve significant diversion of staff resources. Accordingly, we have limited our response to data for admissions to BDS and MB ChB from the HSFY category by Residential College for the 2025 year only.
- The table below shows the number of admissions to the MB ChB and BDS programmes via the HSFY category by Residential College or 'Other' (students in flats or elsewhere) in 2025:

Number of students from each Residential College to commence MB ChB and BDS in 2025 via HSFY all subcategories		
Residential College	MB ChB	BDS
192 Castle College	9	N/A
Caroline Freeman College	N/A	<5
Carrington College	35	5
Cumberland College	N/A	<5
Hayward College	N/A	<5
Knox College	11	<5
Salmond College	5	<5
Selwyn College	N/A	<5
St Margaret's College	32	6
Studholme College	N/A	<5
Te Rangihīroa College	27	<5
Toroa College	9	N/A
University College	7	<5
Other	125	11
Total	260	49

2. The lowest, highest and average grades for first round initial offers to general applicants for the MBChb and BDS programmes via HSFY, for all the classes commencing from 2020 through to 2025.

3. The lowest, highest and average grades for general applicants accepted from waitlist offers to the MBChb and BDS programmes via HSFY general entry, for all the classes commencing from 2020 through to 2025.

- This part of your request involved substantial research and collation within the meaning of section 18(f) of the Act and neither extending the time limit nor determining a charge would enable the request to be met. Accordingly, we have limited our response to the data for the

years 2022-2025 only rather than 2020-2025. Further, data available for the 2022-2023 minimum average academic scores is not separated by non-waitlist and waitlist offers.

- The University defines “first-round” offers as those who do not receive offers from the waitlist. For the purposes of this response, we refer to these offers as “non-waitlist offers.”
- The university has not consistently calculated average or median average academic scores, and we decline this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held. We have however provided both minimum and maximum average academic scores.

Minimum and maximum average academic scores to receive an offer 2022-2025 MB ChB programme, HSFY general category										
Programme	2022		2023		2024			2025		
	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Non-Waitlist Minimum Score	Waitlist Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Non-Waitlist Minimum Score	Waitlist Minimum Score	Maximum Score
MB ChB	93.00*	99.14	89.43*	98.43	95.43	89.57	98.71	90.86	89.29	99.00
BDS	88.71*	98.71	87.00*	98	90.14	90.14	97.71	97.00	96.14	98.86

*non-waitlist and waitlist offers combined.

4. The number of students remaining enrolled in First Year Health Science, as of the date the application is processed (most recent date possible please).

- As of 31 July 2025 there are 1,080 students enrolled in HSFY in semester 2.

We hope this information will be helpful. If you have further questions please consider contacting our AskOtago service: university@otago.ac.nz, or to book an appointment with a Student Development adviser see: [Request an appointment](#).

In the cases above, 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.

Yours sincerely

Jo Pearson

Jo Pearson
Official Information Act Administrator
Office of the Registrar