

16 March 2026

By email: fyi-request-33744-2e150392@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Edward

I refer to your information request dated 17 February 2026 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

1. *How many applicants were invited to the 2025 dentistry interviews for the start of 2026?*
2. *Of those interviewed, how many people were from each category (HSFY, Graduate, Alternative)?*
3. *And of those, how many general category applicants received interviews from each category (HSFY, Graduate, Alternative entry)?*
4. *How many interviewed applicants were from equity groups (Māori, Pacific, Socioeconomic Equity, Refugee, and Rural) across the different application category (HSFY, Graduate, Alternative entry)?*
5. *Could you please provide the lowest successful GPA that were selected for interview across the different admission categories (HSFY, Graduate, Alternative entry) for general category applicants?*
6. *Of those invited to interview, what was the lowest successful GPA for each equity group (Māori, Pacific, Socioeconomic Equity, Refugee, and Rural) across the different categories (HSFY, Graduate, Alternative entry)?*
7. *Is there a cap on the number of subcategory candidates (e.g., Māori, Pacific, Rural) who can be admitted or not?*

Subject to the following comments, our response to your request follows.

- Further information is available on the University's website about entry requirements for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme:
[BDS Guidelines for Admission](#)
- Information on applications or admissions to the 2026 BDS programme including by categories of admission or admission pathway, will not be finalised until all admissions processes are completed, which is usually at the end of March in the year of admission (in this case, March 2026). Accordingly, we decline your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held.

Maximum Domestic Places Available

The maximum number of domestic student places available across all admissions categories for the second year of the 2026 BDS programme is 60.

Places are allocated between the Health Science First Year, Graduate and Alternative categories, with as near as possible to 70% of the places being allocated to the Health Science First Year category, and the balance to the Graduate and Alternative categories combined. There are no additional caps or quotas applied to any subcategory groups beyond the overall cap of 60 places.

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](#).

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

Jo Pearson

Jo Pearson
Coordinator Official Information and Compliance