

24 March 2026

By email: fyi-request-33837-115c44ab@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe A

I refer to your information request dated 24 February 2026 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

I would like to request a breakdown of the applications, offers, and admissions into the 2026 MB ChB and BDS programs via the Refugee Sub-Category.

I would also like to know:

The minimum, median, and mean academic scores of those who were offered a place into the programs.

The total number of applicants in the Refugee Sub-Category for 2026 entry (applications submitted in 2025).

The total number of applicants who accepted their offers, and the acceptance rate.

How many applicants were waitlisted or had their offers deferred (if applicable).

How many students enrolled in Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) in 2026 identify as being from a refugee background.

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) and the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programmes:
[BDS Guidelines for Admission](#)
[MB ChB Guidelines for Admission](#)
- As outlined in these Guidelines for Admission, there are three categories of admission to the MB ChB programme: Health Sciences First Year (HSFY); Graduate; and Alternative: and there are six admission pathways within each of the three categories: Māori; Pacific; Socioeconomic; Refugee; Rural and General. Any domestic applicant who does not apply under an equity group has their application processed under the general pathway. If an applicant applies under an equity group but is not actually eligible to apply under that equity group, their application is processed as an application under the general pathway instead. As part of your request did not specify a category of admission, we have provided data for the HSFY category only.
- Information on applications or admissions to the 2026 BDS/MB ChB programmes, 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.

We have however provided the number of applicants, offers and offers accepted to the 2024 and 2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes, and the range of average academic scores to receive an offer to the 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category, as this information was available and may be useful.

- The HSFY category uses “average academic scores”, which are calculated using a student’s top seven paper scores across the year. This calculation can include one of the approved optional eighth papers if it is one of a student’s top seven scores.
- The University has not consistently calculated average or median average academic scores, and we therefore decline this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held. The University has provided the range of average academic scores (minimums and maximums, where available) to receive offers of admission.
- It is the University’s standard practice not to provide 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 disclosed. Accordingly, where there are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the data, and indicated using “<5” (“fewer than five”) under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- The data is correct as at 14 July 2025.

The number of applicants, offers and offers accepted to the 2024 and 2025 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category broken down by subcategory:

Equity Group	Number of applicants, offers and offers accepted to the 2024 and 2025 MB ChB programmes, HSFY category					
	2024			2025		
	Applicants	Offers	Offers Accepted	Applicants	Offers	Offers Accepted
General	307	138	119	317	132	126
Māori	62	51	44	58	53	46
Indigenous Pacific	30	17	15	37	20	16
Socio-economic equity	16	6	<5	11	<5	<5
Refugee	14	13	10	13	10	9
Rural	40	28	25	60	35	35

The number of applicants, offers and offers accepted to the 2024 and 2025 BDS programme via the HSFY category broken down by subcategory:

Equity Group	Number of applicants, offers and offers accepted to the 2024 and 2025 BDS programmes, HSFY category					
	2024			2025		
	Applicants	Offers	Offers Accepted	Applicants	Offers	Offers Accepted
General	235	61	18	279	48	11
Māori	38	19	7	48	35	18
Indigenous Pacific	25	9	<5	31	9	<5
Socio-economic equity	9	<5	<5	5	<5	<5
Refugee	14	8	<5	14	8	<5
Rural	21	9	<5	41	15	5

The range of average academic scores of applicants to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2025 MB ChB programme via the HSFY category:

Pathway / Year	Range of average academic scores to receive an offer of admission 2022-2025 MB ChB programmes, HSFY category			
	Minimum – maximum scores			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
General	93.00 – 99.14	89.43 – 98.43	89.57 – 98.71 (95.43*)	89.29 – 99.00 (90.86*)
Māori	69.14 – 98.71	70.29 – 97.00	65.29 – 97.00	65.71 – 95.43
Indigenous Pacific	69.57 – 88.29	67.43 – 82.71	65.43 – 96.57	65.71 – 92.86
Socio-economic equity	73.29 – 91.57	71.57 – 92.00	71.57 – 91.00	<5
Refugee	74.71 – 92.71	73.86 – 92.86	71.43 – 95.29	70.29 – 91.29
Rural	86.00 – 97.86	78.29 – 97.14	79.71 – 91.29	66.14 – 97.29
International	72.71 – 95.29	80.43 – 92.99	76.29 – 97.00 (84.29*)	69.43 – 94.71

* Non-waiting list minimum score

The range of average academic scores of applicants to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2025 BDS programme via the HSFY category:

Range of average academic scores to receive an offer of admission 2022-2025 BDS programmes, HSFY category				
Minimum – maximum scores				
Pathway / Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
General	88.71 – 98.71	87.00 – 98.00	90.14 – 97.71 (90.14*)	96.14 – 98.86 (97.00*)
Māori	70.14 – 96.43	71.29 – 87.57	70.86 – 88.87	69.00 – 95.43 (<5*)
Indigenous Pacific	72.14 – 88.29	73.43 – 82.71	66.43 – 90.57	75.14 – 92.86 (<5*)
Socio-economic equity	<5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	74.71 – 92.71	77.43 – 92.86	75.14 – 95.29	80.71 – 97.86 (<5*)
Rural	81.43 – 97.14	76.14 – 97.14	81.29 – 96.71	82.57 – 97.86 (91.86*)
International	67.14 – 91.57	72.14 – 92.14	73.57 – 96.14	69.00 – 91.00 (81.43*)

* Non-waiting list minimum score

In the cases above, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

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
Coordinator Official Information and Compliance