

26 March 2026

By email: fyi-request-33861-e0af3c7f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Liam

I refer to your information request dated 26 February 2026 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

I am writing to request the following information on entry into both the BDS and MBChB programmes for 2026

- 1. The minimum grade average for all groups broken down into subcategories via HSFY entrance, as well as split into waitlist and non-waitlist offers.*
- 2. The minimum GPA score for all groups broken down into subcategories via postgraduate entrance, as well as split into waitlist and non-waitlist offers.*
- 3. The total number of applications for all groups split into subcategories both via HSFY entrance and postgraduate entrance into both programmes.*
- 4. The number of applicants to be awarded a spot from waitlist and non-waitlist and how many accepted their offer.*

Please ensure all grade averages are reported at the decimal accuracy that programmes consider

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](#)
- 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.

However, we have provided the range of average academic scores or weighted GPA scores of applicants to receive an offer, and the total number of applications, non-waitlist and waitlist offers and offers accepted to the 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes via the HSFY and Graduate categories, as this information was available and may be useful.

- The Health Sciences First Year (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 Graduate category uses “weighted GPA scores”, which are calculated from the grades achieved in the qualifying degree, which is usually the first degree awarded to the applicant.
- We have provided the range of average academic scores or weighted GPA scores (minimums and maximums, where available) to receive offers of admission.
- The University defines “first-round” offers as offers of admission not received from the waiting list, or “non-waiting list” offers. Where data is held (2024 and 2025 only), we have indicated if waitlist offers were made, and if so, the minimum non-waiting list score to receive an offer 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. We have also used “N/A” where no offers were made.
- The data is correct as at 14 July 2025.

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:

Range of average academic scores to receive an offer of admission 2022-2025 MB ChB programmes, HSFY category				
Minimum – maximum scores				
Pathway / Year	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 weighted GPA scores of applicants to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2025 MB ChB programme via the Graduate category:

	Range of weighted GPA scores to receive an offer of admission 2022-2025 MB ChB programmes, Graduate category			
	Minimum – maximum scores			
Pathway / Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
General	8.59 – 9.70	8.43 – 9.91	8.13 – 9.65 (8.90*)	8.15 – 9.78 (8.66*)
Māori	4.51 – 8.13	4.45 – 7.93	4.63 – 8.03	5.98 – 7.28
Indigenous Pacific	4.83 – 6.20	4.60 – 6.95	4.68 – 5.86	<5
Socio-economic equity	4.78 – 7.84	4.43 – 6.10	<5	<5
Refugee	5.58 – 7.91	4.95 – 6.94	<5	5.38 – 8.74
Rural	7.13 – 9.54	5.77 – 8.75	5.78 – 8.73	5.02 – 7.53 (7.15*)
International	<5	<5	<5	<5

* 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

The range of weighted GPA scores of applicants to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2025 BDS programme via the Graduate category:

Range of weighted GPA scores to receive an offer of admission 2022-2025 BDS programmes, Graduate category				
Minimum – maximum scores				
Pathway / Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
General	8.13 – 9.53	8.63 – 9.91	7.93 – 9.55 (8.60*)	<5 (<5*)
Māori	4.99 – 6.20	4.45 – 7.93	4.98 – 8.03	<5
Indigenous Pacific	<5	4.55 – 6.95	<5	<5
Socio-economic equity	<5	4.45 – 6.10	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	<5	<5	<5
Rural	<5	<5	<5	<5 (<5*)
International	N/A	<5	<5	<5

* Non-waiting list minimum score

The total number of applications to the 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes via the HSFY and Graduate categories:

Total number of applications 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes, HSFY and Graduate categories								
	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	HSFY	Graduate	HSFY	Graduate	HSFY	Graduate	HSFY	Graduate
BDS	297	168	300	203	334	194	401	249
MB ChB	491	354	400	365	458	314	473	292

The total number of non-waitlist and waitlist offers to the 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes via the HSFY category:

Total number of offers 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes, HSFY category						
	2022	2023	2024		2025	
	Offers	Offers	Non-waitlist Offers	Waitlist Offers	Non-waitlist Offers	Waitlist Offers
BDS	106*	117*	67	36	61	21
MB ChB	221*	223*	171	82	195	59

*non-waitlist and waitlist offers combined.

The total number of non-waitlist and waitlist offers to the 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes via the Graduate category:

Total number of offers 2022-2025 BDS and MB ChB programmes, Graduate category						
	2022	2023	2024		2025	
	Offers	Offers	Non-waitlist Offers	Waitlist Offers	Non-waitlist Offers	Waitlist Offers
BDS	39*	38*	28	34	15	<5
MB ChB	92*	95*	65	20	29	22

*non-waitlist and waitlist offers combined.

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.

Kā mihi

Jo Pearson

Jo Pearson
Coordinator Official Information and Compliance