

6 May 2026

By email: [fyi-request-34172-99b39aeb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34172-99b39aeb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Steve

I refer to your request for information dated 19 March 2026 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

*I would like to request the number of applicants for MBChB and BDS from the following HSFY categories:*

*Māori  
Resident Indigenous Pacific  
Refugee Background  
Socioeconomic Equity  
Rural (Government-funded places)  
General applicants*

*Please also state how many of these applications were successful. Distinguish between those with <65% and over 65% average in HSFY papers here when stating how many / what proportion of applicants were successful in each category.*

*Finally, I request the total number of spots available from these categories for the 2026 cohorts.*

We advised you on 20 April 2026 of an extension to your request of 20 working days (to 19 May 2026). Our response to your request follows:

Information is available on the University's website about entry requirements for admission to the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programmes:

- [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#)
- [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#)

Anonymised historical summary statistics on admission to the BDS and MB ChB programmes offered by the University are now published on our website:  
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/about/quickstats>.

The published documents indicate the number of applications, the number of applicants invited to interview (BDS only), the number of offers, the range of academic scores of applicants to receive an offer, and the number of admissions to each programme for each year from 2022 to 2026. The data excludes information we would withhold under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy and wellbeing of students.

The further information you have requested is not contained in existing reports held by the University. Detailed statistical analysis of results, such as by particular cohorts, programmes or categories, can only be created by a small team within the University applying specialised and complex skills. On past occasions where we may have provided this information, we did so

because it was incidental to collating and providing the underlying admissions data held. This is no longer the case, as the underlying admissions data is now publicly available.

Accordingly, we decline to provide the further requested information as it would need to be created, and is not held, under section 18(g) of the Act.

We hope this information will be helpful. If you have further questions please consider contacting our AskOtago service: [university@otago.ac.nz](mailto: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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Pearson  
Coordinator Official Information & Compliance