



20 April 2019

By email to [fyi-request-9918-f0599247@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9918-f0599247@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe E Richardt

I provide the following response to your information requests about the availability of places for Māori and Pacific students in the MB ChB and BDS programmes at the University of Otago. I have summarised your requests in italics below.

*How many places were made available for Māori and Pacific students in the MB ChB and BDS programmes under the Graduate and Alternative categories from 2015-2018?*

There is no fixed quota for Māori and Pacific students in these categories. However, we can provide information on places offered (noting that places offered are not necessarily places taken up).

Places Offered (BDS)	Category	2015	2016	2017	2018
Māori	Graduate	0	3	4	2
	Alternative	1	1	0	0
Pacific	Graduate	1	4	1	5
	Alternative	0	0	0	1

Places Offered (MB ChB)	Category	2015	2016	2017	2018
Māori	Graduate	2	16	15	12
	Alternative	3	2	4	0
Pacific	Graduate	2	5	5	7
	Alternative	3	0	1	2

*What were the lowest and highest GPA scores required for Māori and Pacific candidates to be offered (i) an interview and (ii) a place in the MB ChB and BDS programmes under the Graduate and Alternative categories from 2015-2018?*

All students, including Māori and Pacific students, are required to meet minimum academic standards for admission to the MB ChB or BDS, as detailed in the relevant Programme Regulations in the University Calendar (see <https://www.otago.ac.nz/about/official-documents/calendar/index.html>).

Subject to the explanations following, GPA data for Māori and Pacific candidates who were successful in gaining an interview and/or a place are provided.

- Alternative category applications are assessed based on a range of factors, such as previous relevant professional experience in a health-related field. Academic achievement is part of this assessment, but due to the variety of applicant circumstances and qualifications, a formal GPA is not calculated.
- There is no interview process for Graduate applicants to the MB ChB programme.
- Due to privacy considerations, and pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act, only the minimum ('Low') GPA score is presented and, for offers of place, only for groups with at least 3 individuals. Groups below this threshold are indicated with a '-'. I note your right to seek review of this decision via complaint to an ombudsman.

<b>Interview Offered (BDS Graduate Category)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Māori	Low GPA	N/A	5.2	3.06	3.74
Pacific	Low GPA	2.98	4.85	3.85	4.44

<b>Places Offered (BDS Graduate Category)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Māori	Low GPA	N/A	5.2	4.77	-
Pacific	Low GPA	-	5.08	-	4.44

<b>Places Offered (MB ChB Graduate Category)</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Māori	Low GPA	-	4.96	4.55	4.46
Pacific	Low GPA	-	4.85	4.23	4.82

*What were the lowest and highest UMAT scores required for Māori and Pacific candidates to be offered a place in the MB ChB and BDS programmes under the Graduate and Alternative categories from 2015-2018?*

Māori and Pacific applicants were required to take UMAT during the years in question. However, there is no required threshold score, and the overall UMAT score was not a contributing factor in the assessment process. Instead, as per the University's affirmative action programme, factors such as academic achievement, community engagement and commitment to Māori and/or Pacific health were assessed to determine an application's outcome.

Ngā mihi



Chris Stoddart  
Registrar