



18 June 2021

Bernard

By email: fyi-request-15532-8a306ecf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Bernard

I refer to your request for information dated 23 May 2021 made under the Official Information Act (Act) in relation to admission into the MBChB programme via the Alternative category in “recent years”.

We note our decision below in respect of each part of your request.

1. What was the lowest GPA invited for an interview?

We do not keep records of this as GPA is not a requisite factor for applicants under the Alternative category getting invited for an interview. Accordingly, we decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

2. What was the lowest GPA accepted into Medicine via the alternative pathway?

As stated above, we do not keep records of this as GPA is not a requisite factor for applicants under the Alternative category. Accordingly, we decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

3. How significant is GPA when considering an applicant?

As stated above, GPA is not relevant for applicants under the Alternative category.

4. How many of the previous successful applicants in recent years were Masters/PhD students?

We have decided to grant this part of your request. However, to collate the information you have requested will require substantial collation and research, and staff time. Given this, we would need to fix a charge for supply of the information you have requested pursuant to clause 15(1A) of the Act.

You have requested information for “recent years”. We have interpreted that to mean in the last two years. Having consulted with our analysts, we have estimated it will take a minimum of three hours of staff time to produce the information requested. In accordance with general guidance available from the Office of the Ombudsman, we have thus fixed a charge for supply of this information at \$152 (calculated at \$38 per half hour with the first hour free).

Before we proceed further with this part of your request, please confirm your agreement to pay the charge in full in advance. We will then advise on how to provide this payment. Once payment is received, we expect to be able to provide you with the requested information within 15 working days. Should collation and checking of the information requested take fewer than three hours, we will refund you for unused time at the rate stated above.

We look forward to your response so that we can continue to process this part of your information request.

5. Is work experience essential when considering an applicant from a Masters/PhD background?

No

6. Approximately, how many applicants from the alternative pathway are invited for an interview, and accepted into the course?

Up to 40 applicants per year are interviewed; and approximately 28 applicants (if of acceptable standard) are admitted - but it can be less

7. In previous successful applicants, has a cumulative GPA of below 5 been accepted into Medicine via the alternative category?

As stated above, GPA is not relevant for applicants under the Alternative category.

8. What kind of achievements other than academics are considered in the admission process?

A wide variety, including work history, interests, hobbies, volunteer work

The purpose of the Alternative Category is to attract a range of academically suitable applicants with broad life experiences, skills and perspectives to the medical programme.

9. Of the successful Masters/PhD applicants, how many had work experience prior to applying for Medicine?

This part of your request is very difficult for us to answer as it would require us to look at all applications and accordingly require substantial staff time and resources, Accordingly, we decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

10. Is an applicant with a PhD degree more likely to receive an invitation for an interview than an applicant with a Master's degree?

No, not necessarily. It is a global assessment of all achievements.

11. What is the interview process for the alternative pathway for Medicine like?

It is a 35-minute-long interview. It covers subjects such as:

- Academic achievement
- Other achievements
- Work experience
- Motivation
- Commitment to a career change
- Communication skills
- Knowledge of the New Zealand health system
- Understanding of the profession

We trust that the information provided is helpful.

We note your right to seek a review of these decisions via a complaint to an Ombudsman. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Mendis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Mayhaka Mendis
Manager, Policy and Compliance
Office of the Registrar

