



10 October 2023

By email: fyi-request-24123-a78e78aa@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe SS

I refer to your information request dated 12 September 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

“I would like to know what the minimum GPA for entrance into physiotherapy was for 2023, both for undergraduate and postgraduate entrance.

Please also include the minimum predicted GPA for physiotherapy entrance for 2024, also for undergraduate and postgraduate entrance. Also, what is the predicted GPA scale (i.e., what is the predicted range of GPA, e.g., between 5 – 7.4)?”

Subject to the following general comments, please see below our response to your request.

- The University does not specifically have “undergraduate” or “postgraduate” admissions categories for the Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhty) programme. Accordingly, we have interpreted your request to be for the following categories of admission:
 - Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category: to be considered for admission to the BPhty programme via the HSFY category, an applicant must be enrolled in HSFY at Otago and have passed all the papers prescribed for the programme at first attempt, with a minimum average of 65%. Selection for applicants who meet all criteria for this category is based on average academic score.
 - Two or More Years of University Study category: applicants who are not finalists and have completed two or more years of full-time study at a university in New Zealand can be considered for entry to the BPhty programme via the Two or More Years of University Study category. Selection for applicants who meet all criteria for this category is based on weighted GPA score.
 - Graduate category: to be considered for admission to the BPhty programme via the Graduate category, applicants must have completed, in the minimum academic time and within three years of the date of application, the requirements of a first degree awarded by a university in New Zealand. Selection for applicants who meet all criteria for this category is based on weighted GPA score.
- The BPhty programme allows applicants to apply as Single Programme Preference applicants. Single Programme Preference allows applicants to signal a strong commitment to a particular programme. The Physiotherapy Admissions Committee will firstly select from applicants who applied under Single Programme Preference. Thereafter, if places are still available, the

Admissions Committee will select from the group of applicants that have applied to multiple [Health Sciences Undergraduate Professional Programmes](#).

- Further information on the categories for admission to the BPhty programme, including how academic scores are calculated for each category, are available on the University website at the [Physiotherapy: Guidelines for Admission](#).
- It is the University's standard practice to not report on 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 individuals could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be revealed. Accordingly, where there were fewer than five applicants to receive offers to the BPhty programme via a specific category, we have withheld the minimum average academic scores or minimum weighted GPA scores for these groups – pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

1. The minimum academic scores to receive offers to the 2023 BPhty programme

The minimum average academic score to receive an offer to enter the 2023 BPhty programme via the HSFY category for Single Programme Preference applicants was 65.29. As there were fewer than five applicants to receive offers to the 2023 BPhty programme via the HSFY General category (non-Single Programme Preference), we decline providing the minimum average academic score, pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

The minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer to enter the 2023 BPhty programme via the Two or More Years of University Study category for Single Programme Preference applicants was 4.14. There is no minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer to the 2023 BPhty programme via the Two or More Years of University Study General category (non-Single Programme Preference), as no applicants received offers via this category.

The minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer to enter the 2023 BPhty programme via the Graduate category for Single Programme Preference applicants was 4.13. There is no minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer to the 2023 BPhty programme via the Graduate General category (non-Single Programme Preference), as no applicants received offers via this category.

2. Minimum predicted GPA for BPhty for 2024, including the predicted GPA scale

We decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the University, and there are no reasonable grounds to believe it is held by another agency subject to the Act. No predicted information is available apart from the entrance requirements for the BPhty programme, which is available online at the [Physiotherapy: Guidelines for Admission](#) or the [Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Physiotherapy \(BPhty\)](#). We note that there is no obligation on the University to create information in order to respond to a request.

Information relating to academic scores to receive offers to the 2024 BPhty programme will not be known and therefore will not be unavailable until the end of March 2024 – as student offers are released in December and continue throughout the first few weeks of teaching in Semester 1. We would be happy to consider a new Official Information Act request from you at this time if you still wish to receive the minimum academic scores to receive offers to the 2024 BPhty programme via the HSFY, Two or More Years of University Study, or Graduate categories.

I trust that this information will be helpful.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar