

Education New Zealand  
Manapou ki te Ao  
Level 5, Lambton House  
160 Lambton Quay  
PO Box 12041  
Wellington 6144  
New Zealand

P: +64 4 472 0788  
E: [info@enz.govt.nz](mailto:info@enz.govt.nz)

[www.enz.govt.nz](http://www.enz.govt.nz)  
[www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz](http://www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz)

19 January 2024

Daniel Song  
[fyi-request-25296-097becda@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25296-097becda@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Daniel

### **Official Information Act 1982 request – statistics on Prime Minister’s Scholarships for Asia and Latin America for the previous four years**

I refer to your official information act request (OIA), received by Education New Zealand (ENZ) from the Ministry of Education on 4 January 2024;

*I am writing to request statistical data regarding Prime Minister’s Scholarships for Asia and Latin America (the Scholarship) administered by Education New Zealand Manapou ki te Ao (ENZ).*

*I would like to request the information available for the most recent 4 years on:*

- 1. The number of applicants for the Scholarship in each year.*
- 2. The number of applicants granted the Scholarship in each year.*
- 3. The university grade point average of the applicants granted the Scholarship at the time of their applications.*

The Prime Minister’s Scholarship for Asia and Latin America (PMSA/LA) are awarded to groups and individuals. ENZ records the number of groups that apply and are awarded scholarships. The number of individual participants within the successful groups is also recorded but not the number of applicants who applied in groups. Given the nature of group applications, the total number of scholars awarded the scholarship is often higher than the total number of applicants.

Please note that due to the border restrictions in effect from March 2020 to August 2022, there was no PMSA/LA awarded for travel in 2020 and 2021 so no information exists for those years. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under the following section of the OIA;

- Section 18(e) - that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The below information relates to the 2022 and 2023 calendar years.

I will answer each of your questions in turn below.

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1. *The number of applicants for the Scholarship in each year.*

Year	Number of applicants across Group and Individual
2022	205
2023	341

2. *The number of applicants granted the Scholarship in each year.*

Year	Number of awardees across Group and Individual
2022	360
2023*	197

\*Please note that the data for 2023 is as at 11 January 2024 and is not finalised yet as not all the awardees for the successful Group submissions have registered yet. Group scholarships are taken up throughout the year. An organizer needs to advertise and select scholars for any given programme and it is only then that they register as participants to ENZ through our system.

3. *The university grade point average of the applicants granted the Scholarship at the time of their applications.*

ENZ does not request the university grade point average during the PMSA/LA application process. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under the following section of the OIA;

- Section 18(e) - that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where possible. We do not publish requesters' personal information. Please contact us if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely



Di Solomon  
General Manager  
Government Relations