



12 April 2024

By email: fyi-request-26095-510b6b60@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe R.S.

I refer to your information request dated 14 March 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

Please clarify the meaning of completing a degree in the 'minimum academic time' for the graduate pathway into medicine. Please refer to the following example:

Year 1: A student completes semester 1 of a BASci and does not pursue it any further. They completed no study in semester 2.

Year 2: The student begins health science first-year programme and is pursuing a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with no past papers from the BASci transferring over.

Year 3-4: The student completes all degree requirements for the Bachelor of Biomedical Science from papers taken in years 2-4.

Will the student have completed the Bachelor of Biomedical Science degree in the 'minimum academic timeframe', and will the BASci study be included in the timeframe if no papers from that programme are transferred to the BBiomedSci?

Please see below our response to your request.

To be considered for admission in the Graduate category to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) programme, applicants must have completed, in the minimum academic time and within three years of the date of application to the programme, the requirements of a degree awarded by a university in New Zealand. No preference is given to degree qualification or major subject, and the qualifying degree is the first university degree awarded to the applicant. The intent of "minimum academic time" is that an applicant continues to progress their degree and completes their programme without taking a break from study (e.g., withdrawing for a semester or a year). This applies to students studying both full- and part-time.

With regards to your request for confirmation of whether the example you have provided would be considered within the minimum academic time for the purposes of entering the MB ChB programme via the Graduate category, we need to decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is not held by the University. We note that we are not required to generate an opinion or explanation in order to respond to a request for information under the Act. The information you have requested is not held by the University, and therefore the University would need to generate an opinion, or create information, in order to respond to this part of your request.

We urge that current and prospective students check their degree plan with a student adviser through [AskOtago](#), in order to receive accurate advice based on their personal circumstances.

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 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