



22 July 2022

By email: fyi-request-19734-0e0c6030@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Stirling

I refer to your Official Information Act (Act) request dated 23 June 2022. You have requested information in relation to the 2021 MAOR102 Semester 2 paper.

We set out our responses to each of your questions below.

The data for class grades: a list of marks, in percentage form of individual students; the highest overall paper mark in percentage form; the median overall paper mark in percentage form

Subject to the comments below, please find attached the information you have requested.

- It is the University's standard practice to not report on marks which relate to fewer than 5 students where 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 students could be determined/inferred, and that their personal information (i.e. their grades) could be revealed. We note that where the mark is AEGROTAT, where there are fewer than 5 students we have indicated this using <5 – to protect the privacy and wellbeing of these students pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- Students who withdrew from the paper are excluded from the data.
- Students who withdrew from the paper or received an AEGROTAT grade are excluded from the calculation of the median grade for the paper.

What method was used for the marking process of the MAOR102 Semester two final exams?

Due to the COVID lockdown, the MAOR102 Semester Two final exam was administered through Blackboard.

Was the marking for the MAOR102 semester two exams programmed or manually marked? If manually marked, were the names of students visible whilst marking took place?

The exam was 100% multi-choice; students inputted their answers through Blackboard, and Blackboard marked those answers. There was no manual marking.

Were there any incidents of individuals receiving a final paper mark for MAOR102 that was subsequently reviewed and changed? If so, why was the mark altered?

There was a data entry error in transferring the data from Blackboard (which was ordered by surname) to an Excel spreadsheet (which was ordered by student ID number). Consequently, there were a few marks where people who had the same surnames had grades incorrectly placed. As soon as Te Tumu were made aware of this, the marks were taken down and corrected. Te Tumu staff checked that every (900+) MAOR102 students' marks were correct before making them available again. This was completed within 24 hours.

Was there any adjustment to the marking process and correct answer allocation after marking was completed?

There was no adjustment to the marking process or changes to answers once marking was complete.

Was advice given by the Health Sciences department, Medical admission board or any other department that is not usually involved in the MAOR102 course on the content and/or structure of the paper? If so, a request for a copy of all available correspondence relating to the advice/requests on changes to the paper structure

Having collated and considered material within scope of your request, I have concluded that the appropriate way in which to make the information available to you is by providing you a summary of their contents in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act. I am satisfied that supplying the correspondence to you would prejudice the interests protected by section 9(2)(a) (privacy of natural persons) and section 9(2)(g)(i) (effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expressions of opinions).

By way of summary of the information held, I advise:

There were no discussions or communications within the scope of your request in relation to the content of MAOR102.

Prior to 2020, MAOR102 assessments were composed of 60% internal + 40% exam. In 2020 when teaching and examinations throughout the University were impacted by Covid-19 measures, the paper assessment structure was temporarily changed to 100% internal assessment. This was the situation for both semesters in 2020.

During the second half of 2020 there were discussions between Health Sciences First Year staff and Te Tumu staff regarding the ongoing assessment process for MAOR102 (such discussions are not unusual for papers which are optional 8th papers for HSFY). Te Tumu and HSFY also met in an in-person meeting. As a result of discussions the method of assessment was changed to 50% internal + 50% exam from Semester One 2021. At the same time the final exam changed from 74 questions to 145 questions. This remains the current assessment structure now.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Kelsey Kennard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar