



26 September 2023

By email: fyi-request-24154-3a0cba99@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Alex,

I refer to your information request dated 15 September 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested mark and grade distributions for the 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 CHTH224, CHTH324, RELS244 and RELS344 papers offered by the University of Otago.

Subject to the following comments, please see attached the information you have requested:

- we note that RELS244 and RELS344 are new papers at the University of Otago and are being offered for the first time this year during Pre-Christmas Summer School, therefore there are no results for these papers over any years. Accordingly, we decline this part of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information requested does not exist.
- on occasions where fewer than five students have failed a paper (i.e., received a grade of Fail D or Fail E), we have determined that it is necessary to withhold the marks and specific grades for these students to protect their privacy and wellbeing. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e., their marks) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- in addition to RELS244 and RELS344 being offered for the first time this year, please note that the CHTH224 and CHTH324 papers were not offered each year. Therefore, we have only provided mark and grade breakdowns for the years that the papers were offered. In this case, CHTH224 and CHTH324 were only offered in the 2019 and 2021. We note that CHTH224 and CHTH324 are also being offered this year during Pre-Christmas Summer School.
- on occasions where fewer than ten students are enrolled in a paper, we determine that it is necessary to withhold the mark and grade distributions for these papers. As there were fewer than ten enrolments in the 2019 CHTH324 paper, we have withheld the mark and grade distribution for this paper to protect students' privacy and wellbeing. We consider that withholding this information is necessary to protect against the identity of these students being determined or inferred, and their personal information (i.e., their marks and grades) could be disclosed. We therefore withhold this information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
- in the attached grade and mark distributions, we note that students who withdrew from the papers are excluded from the data.

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.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Pearson
Official Information Act Administrator
Office of the Registrar