



27 February 2024

By email: [fyi-request-25285-fd97ce55@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25285-fd97ce55@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe B.L.

I refer to your information request dated 22 December 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the following programmes at the University of Otago in 2024:

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)
- Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhty)
- Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)
- Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (BMLSc)

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

- The data is correct as at 20 February 2024.
- We have interpreted your request to be for all pathways for admission to each programme via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) category, i.e., all equity group, Single Programme Preference (SPP), international, and general applicants.
- With regards to the information you have requested for the 2024 MB ChB and BDS programmes, the University has not yet confirmed final numbers for either programme. Therefore, information related to the total number of offers made and the minimum average academic scores to receive offers to enter either programme is not known yet and will not be finalised until early March 2024 – as student offers are still ongoing. On that basis, we decline providing this information pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the University as at today's date. We would be happy to consider a new request from you at a later date if you still wish to receive this information.
- 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 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 are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld their minimum average academic scores or indicated using "<5" ("fewer than five") – pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

**1. Minimum average academic score to receive an offer.**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the minimum average academic scores to receive offers to the 2024 BPhty, BPharm and BMLSc programmes via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group, SPP, international, and general applicants:

- The information provided below is based on all offers issued and includes offers that were declined or offers that lapsed.

	Minimum average academic score to receive an offer, HSFY category		
	BPhty	BPharm	BMLSc
<b>General</b>	60.14	57.71	67.86
<b>SPP</b>	61.29	59.00	62.57
<b>Māori &amp; Indigenous Pacific</b>	W/H	W/H	W/H
<b>Māori</b>	61.00	57.43	71.29
<b>Indigenous Pacific</b>	60.29	60.29	60.29
<b>Refugee</b>	71.43	71.43	71.43
<b>Rural</b>	69.57	69.86	76.00
<b>Socioeconomic Equity</b>	67.29	67.29	W/H
<b>International</b>	65.43	65.43	65.43

**2. Minimum average academic score to receive a waitlist offer.**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the minimum average academic scores to receive waitlist offers for the 2024 MB ChB and BDS programmes via the HSFY category:

- By “waitlist offer”, we are referring to applicants who received an offer to be on the waitlist for entry to the MB ChB and BDS programmes in 2024. As noted above, we are unable to provide you with the minimum average academic scores to receive offers from the waitlist to enter the MB ChB and BDS programmes in 2024 as student offers are still ongoing.
- The BPhty, BPharm and BMLSc programmes did not operate waitlists for their 2024 programmes.
- The BDS programme did not have a waitlist for international students for their 2024 programme.

	Minimum average academic score to receive a waitlist offer, HSFY category	
	MB ChB	BDS
<b>General</b>	90.14	74.57
<b>International</b>	84.29	N/A

### 3. The number of offers per each of the categories.

Subject to the following comment, please see the below table which shows the number of applicants to receive offers to the 2024 BPhty, BPharm and BMLSc programmes via the HSFY category, broken down by equity group, SPP, international, and general applicants:

- The information provided below is based on all offers issued and includes offers that were declined or offers that lapsed.

	Number of applicants to receive an offer, HSFY category		
	BPhty	BPharm	BMLSc
<b>General</b>	85	149	101
<b>SPP</b>	81	38	12
<b>Māori &amp; Indigenous Pacific</b>	<5	<5	<5
<b>Māori</b>	31	18	7
<b>Indigenous Pacific</b>	12	15	11
<b>Refugee</b>	8	8	9
<b>Rural</b>	16	20	13
<b>Socioeconomic Equity</b>	5	6	<5
<b>International</b>	34	46	32

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



Kelsey Kennard  
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar