



21 March 2024

By email: [fyi-request-25865-39f54256@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25865-39f54256@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mar

I refer to your information request dated 24 February 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested information in relation to entry to the University of Otago's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programmes via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) general and Graduate general categories from 2022 – 2024.

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

- The University defines “first-round” offers as those who receive offers on the first date that offers are released, i.e., initial offer release. This is usually on 18 December of the year of application for the HSFY and Graduate categories. For the purposes of this response, we refer to these offers as offers received at “initial offer release”.
1. **Minimum 7-paper average percentage required from HSFY General category applicants, for entry into the 2024 BDS and MB ChB programmes. Please state the minimum average percentage needed for BOTH a “first round offer” and a “final waitlist offer”.**

Please see the below table which shows the minimum average academic scores to receive initial release and waitlist offers to the MB ChB and BDS programme via the HSFY general category in 2024:

	HSFY general category, 2024 entry	
	MB ChB	BDS
<b>Minimum average academic score to receive an offer at initial offer release</b>	95.43	96.29
<b>Minimum average academic score to receive a waitlist offer</b>	89.57	90.14

The [Regulations for the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery \(MB ChB\)](#) state that to be eligible to be selected for admission under the HSFY category an applicant must be enrolled in the HSFY course at the University of Otago and pass all of the papers prescribed for the University of Otago HSFY course, with a minimum mark of 70% in each paper. We note that consideration is currently being given to the lowering of the minimum eligibility grades outlined in the programme regulations. Any amended grade requirements, if approved, would be used in admissions processes that take place in 2024.

The [Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery \(BDS\)](#) state that to be eligible to be selected for admission under the HSFY category an applicant must be enrolled in the HSFY course at the University of Otago and pass all of the papers prescribed for the University of Otago HSFY course,

with an average mark of at least 70 in the applicant’s best seven papers and no mark of less than 65 in the prescribed papers. We note that consideration is currently being given to the lowering of the minimum eligibility grades outlined in the programme regulations. Any amended grade requirements, if approved, would be used in admissions processes that take place in 2024.

**2. The minimum GPA requirements required from General Graduate applicants into the 2022 – 2024 BDS and MB ChB programmes. Similarly, please state the minimum GPA needed for BOTH a “first round offer” and a “final waitlist offer”.**

Subject to the following comment, please see the below tables which shows the minimum weighted GPA scores to receive initial release and waitlist offers to the MB ChB and BDS programmes via the Graduate general category each year from 2022 – 2024:

- We note that in 2023, due to delays in academic results for a significant number of applicants, no offers were made to Graduate general category applicants at the initial offer release.
- We note that in 2022, no offers were made from the waitlist for entry to the 2022 BDS programme via the Graduate general category, therefore we do not hold information on the minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer from the waitlist to the programme.

<b>MB ChB programme, Graduate general category</b>			
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer at initial offer release</b>	9.13	N/A	8.69
<b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive a waitlist offer</b>	8.59	8.43	8.13

<b>BDS programme, Graduate general category</b>			
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive an offer at initial offer release</b>	8.13	N/A	8.52
<b>Minimum weighted GPA score to receive a waitlist offer</b>	N/A	8.63	7.93

The [Regulations for the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery \(MB ChB\)](#) and the [Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery \(BDS\)](#) state that to be eligible to be selected for admission under the Graduate category, an applicant must have completed as their first degree, within three years prior to the date of application, and in the minimum academic time, at least one of the following qualifications awarded by a university in New Zealand: a bachelor’s degree; or an undergraduate bachelor’s honours degree; or a bachelor’s degree, followed without break in study by a postgraduate diploma or postgraduate honours years. The average grade for all papers in the qualifying programme must be at least a weighted grade point average of 5. We note again that consideration is currently being given to the lowering of the minimum eligibility grades outlined in the programme regulations. Any amended grade requirements, if approved, would be used in admissions processes that take place in 2024.

I trust that this information will be 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.

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