



University
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Admissions Statistics 2026

BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND BACHELOR OF SURGERY (MB ChB)

APRIL 2026

Admission Statistics 2026

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)

Overview

This report provides historical summary statistics on admissions to the **2026 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)** programme and statistics for the previous four years: **2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025**.

Admission to the MB ChB programme is highly competitive, as illustrated in the table below. The number of places available to domestic students is capped by the New Zealand Government, and the number places available to international students is capped by the University.

Total number of applications & admissions to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme					
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Applications	1,003	928	960	943	1,141
Admissions	293	289	322	338	347

Admissions Policy for Health Sciences Professional Programmes

Working towards a more a culturally competent and equitable health workforce is a major priority for both the University of Otago and the Division of Health Sciences, of which the Faculty of Medicine is a part. A workforce that represents the communities it serves will improve health outcomes for all. The [Admissions Policy for Health Sciences Professional Programmes](#) promotes and facilitates equity for students from underrepresented priority groups: Māori, Pacific, rural, socioeconomic and refugee background. Other similar policies have existed in the admission years included in this report.

Guidelines for admission

Detailed information is available on the University of Otago's website about entry requirements for all Health Sciences professional programmes: [Guidelines for Admission](#). We encourage you to familiarise yourself with these guidelines if you are considering an application to second-year Medicine (the MB ChB programme) or any other Health Sciences professional programme. We also suggest reading the [Helpful Information](#) section below, before reading the tables in this report.

The information in this report is historical and not indicative of outcomes in future years. Outcomes will change from year to year reflecting changes in the admissions requirements and the attributes of the cohort of applicants in any year.

What is provided in this report?

The information and data contained in this report is for the 2022-2026 intake years for the MB ChB programme (second-year Medicine):

- ✓ [Number of applications](#)
- ✓ [Number of offers](#)
- ✓ [Range of academic scores of applicants to receive offers of admission](#)
- ✓ [Number of admissions](#)

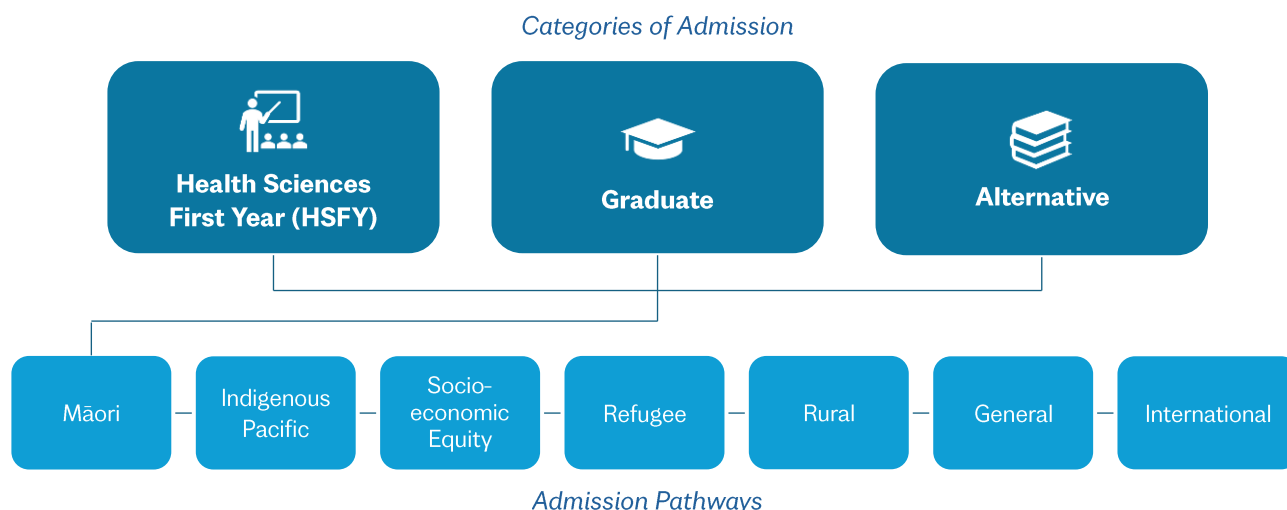
Looking for something else?

For any other information contact our AskOtago service via university@otago.ac.nz which can answer questions or arrange appointments with [Student Development](#) advisers.

Helpful Information

Admission categories and pathways

As outlined in the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) there are three **categories of admission** to the MB ChB programme and six **admission pathways** for domestic students within each of the three categories:



International students

International students are students who require a student visa to study in New Zealand and are non-domestic students under the University's fee-paying categories. The total number of places for international students in the MB ChB programme is limited.

The University has agreements with overseas governments or other universities to prioritise places for international students, subject to those applicants meeting the relevant minimum academic requirements for admission via the Health Sciences First Year (HSFY) pathway. This is a standard practice amongst universities globally. International students meeting minimum academic requirements and eligible for admission under an agreement are given priority over other HSFY International students until the number of places provided for in agreements are filled. Remaining places are then offered to other HSFY International students on a competitive basis.

Data limitations

The number of applications and admissions is sourced from the University's student management system, whereas average academic scores are sourced from other records. We endeavour to ensure the information in this report is accurate, however known data limitations exist, including for example:

- Applicants may apply under multiple admission pathways. An applicant admitted under the Māori pathway may also have been eligible to be admitted under the Rural pathway but will not be considered or counted towards admissions under the Rural pathway. This may cause discrepancies between reported numbers of applications, offers and admissions.
- Applicants gaining an offer of admission to the MB ChB programme via the Graduate or Alternative categories may be required to pass prescribed papers before being admitted to second year classes. This may cause discrepancies between reported numbers of offers and admissions.

Privacy

It is the University's standard practice not to provide information where it relates to fewer than five individuals. Where the numbers are very low, there is a risk that the identity of individuals could be determined or inferred, and that their personal information could be disclosed. Accordingly, where there are fewer than five individuals in a particular dataset, we have withheld the data and indicated using "<5" ("fewer than five"). We have also used "NA" ("not applicable") where no offers were made.

Academic scores



The **Health Sciences First Year (HSFY)** category uses 'average academic scores', which are calculated using a student's top seven paper scores across the year. This calculation can include one of the approved optional eighth papers if it is one of a student's top seven scores.



The **Graduate** category uses 'weighted GPA scores', which are calculated from the grades achieved in the qualifying degree, which is usually the first degree awarded to the applicant.



Alternative category assessments are holistic, and while academic record is an assessed factor, a formal score calculation is not made. Accordingly, there are no minimum scores for entry to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category, including via the admission pathways.

Waiting list scores

Applicants may be offered a place from a waiting list any time right up to the time MB ChB programme classes begin. In 2024 and 2025 data on average academic scores to gain an offer of admission included non-waiting list and waiting list scores (if and where subsequent waiting list offers were made).



*The University defines "first-round" offers as offers of admission not received from the waiting list, or "**non-waiting list**" offers.*

Admission statistics for 2027

Admissions statistics for the 2027 MB ChB programme are expected to be finalised when all admissions processes are completed, which is usually at the end of March in the year of admission (i.e. March 2027) and will be published at a later date.

Published grades for papers

Anonymised statistical academic results data for papers offered by the University are published on our website at [Paper results](#) in accordance with the University's [Proactive Release Policy for Academic Results](#).



*The University does not publish grade distributions for **individual assessments** (e.g. progress tests). These form a subset of the overall anonymised statistical academic results data for completed papers.*

Number of applications

2022-2026 MB ChB programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



Number of applications to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (HSFY)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	67	50	62	58	72
Indigenous Pacific	30	26	30	37	24
Socio-economic Equity	15	22	16	11	18
Refugee	14	14	14	13	19
Rural	81	34	40	60	67
General	307	269	307	317	379
International	24	23	67	43	79

Graduate category broken down by pathway



Number of applications to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Graduate)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	34	30	26	16	22
Indigenous Pacific	20	29	21	13	14
Socio-economic Equity	8	18	6	13	9
Refugee	12	12	10	17	12
Rural	41	25	27	21	25
General	247	269	235	220	284
International	9	12	10	9	16

Alternative category broken down by pathway



Number of applications to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Alternative)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	<5	6	<5	8	7
Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5	<5	6	<5
Refugee	<5	6	<5	5	5
Rural	6	7	<5	8	<5
General	102	105	94	95	105

Note: the Alternative category is available only to domestic applicants, and there is no socio-economic pathway under the Alternative category.

Number of offers

2022-2026 MB ChB programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (HSFY)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	52	36	51	53	66
Indigenous Pacific	13	14	17	20	10
Socio-economic Equity	5	10	6	<5	11
Refugee	7	7	13	10	15
Rural	40	24	28	35	32
General	104	132	138	132	118
International	16	10	33	32	34

Graduate category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Graduate)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	20	17	15	8	16
Indigenous Pacific	6	11	7	<5	<5
Socio-economic Equity	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	9	6	5	10	<5
Rural	17	17	17	14	11
General	36	39	49	32	51
International	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

Alternative category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Alternative)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5	<5	5	<5
Refugee	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Rural	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
General	12	14	17	14	18

Note: the Alternative category is available only to domestic applicants, and there is no socio-economic pathway under the Alternative category.

Average academic scores to receive an offer

2022-2026 MB ChB programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



	Range of average academic scores (minimum-maximum) to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (HSFY)				
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	69.14 – 98.71	70.29 – 97.00	65.29 – 96.57	65.71 – 95.43	65.29 – 97.14
Indigenous Pacific	69.57 – 88.29	67.43 – 82.71	65.43 – 91.00	65.71 – 92.86	65.14 – 96.29
Socioeconomic Equity	73.29 – 91.57	71.57 – 92.00	71.57 – 90.43	<5	66.43 – 95.86
Refugee	74.71 – 92.71	73.86 – 92.86	71.43 – 95.29	70.29 – 91.29	69.29 – 96.71
Rural	86.00 – 97.86	78.29 – 97.14	79.71 – 97.29	66.14 – 97.29	86.43 – 98.14
General	93.00 – 99.14	89.43 – 98.43	89.57 – 98.71 (95.43*)	89.29 – 99.00 (90.86*)	93.14 – 99.00
International**	72.71 – 95.29	80.43 – 92.29	84.29 – 97.00	69.43 – 94.71	80.29 – 97.29

*Non-waiting list minimum score

**Excludes scores for offers under international agreements (see 'International students', p3)

Graduate category broken down by pathway



	Range of weighted GPA scores (minimum-maximum) to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Graduate)				
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	4.51 – 8.13	4.45 – 7.93	4.63 – 8.03	5.98 – 7.28	5.10 – 7.33
Indigenous Pacific	4.83 – 6.20	4.60 – 6.95	4.68 – 5.86	<5	<5
Socioeconomic Equity	<5	4.43 – 6.10	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	5.58 – 7.91	4.95 – 6.94	<5	5.38 – 8.74	<5
Rural	7.13 – 9.54	5.77 – 8.75	5.78 – 8.73	5.02 – 7.53 (7.15*)	6.23 – 9.04
General	8.59 – 9.70	8.43 – 9.91	8.13 – 9.65 (8.90*)	8.15 – 9.78 (8.66*)	8.12 – 10.33
International	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

*Non-waiting list minimum score



Reminder! *Alternative category assessments are holistic, and while academic record is an assessed factor, a formal score calculation is not made. Accordingly, no minimum scores for entry to the MB ChB programme via the Alternative category are published.*

Number of admissions

2022-2026 MB ChB programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission accepted to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (HSFY)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	43	32	44	46	59
Indigenous Pacific	10	11	15	16	9
Socio-economic Equity	<5	9	<5	<5	11
Refugee	6	7	10	9	13
Rural	38	23	25	35	27
General	91	115	119	126	110
International	12	5	20	25	25

Graduate category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission accepted to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Graduate)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	16	13	10	7	13
Indigenous Pacific	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Socio-economic Equity	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	5	6	5	9	<5
Rural	13	12	10	8	9
General	31	26	31	25	41
International	N/A	<5	N/A	N/A	N/A

Alternative category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission accepted to the 2022-2026 MB ChB programme (Alternative)					
Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Rural	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
General	12	12	14	13	16

Note: the Alternative category is available only to domestic applicants, and there is no socio-economic pathway under the Alternative category.

Disclaimer

The University of Otago makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in this report. However the matters covered are historical, are subject to regular review, and no warranty or representation can be provided regarding the accuracy of such information or its continuing applicability. The University does not accept liability for any losses or damage arising directly or indirectly from reliance on the information.

In the event of inconsistency between information in this report and the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#), the [Medicine: Guidelines for Admission](#) shall prevail.