



University
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Admissions Statistics 2026

BACHELOR OF DENTAL SURGERY (BDS)

APRIL 2026

Admission Statistics 2026

Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS)

Overview

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

Admission to the BDS 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 BDS programme					
Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Applications	530	596	674	889	1,032
Admissions	66	86	90	93	101

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 Dentistry 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 Dentistry (the BDS 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 BDS programme (second-year Dentistry):

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

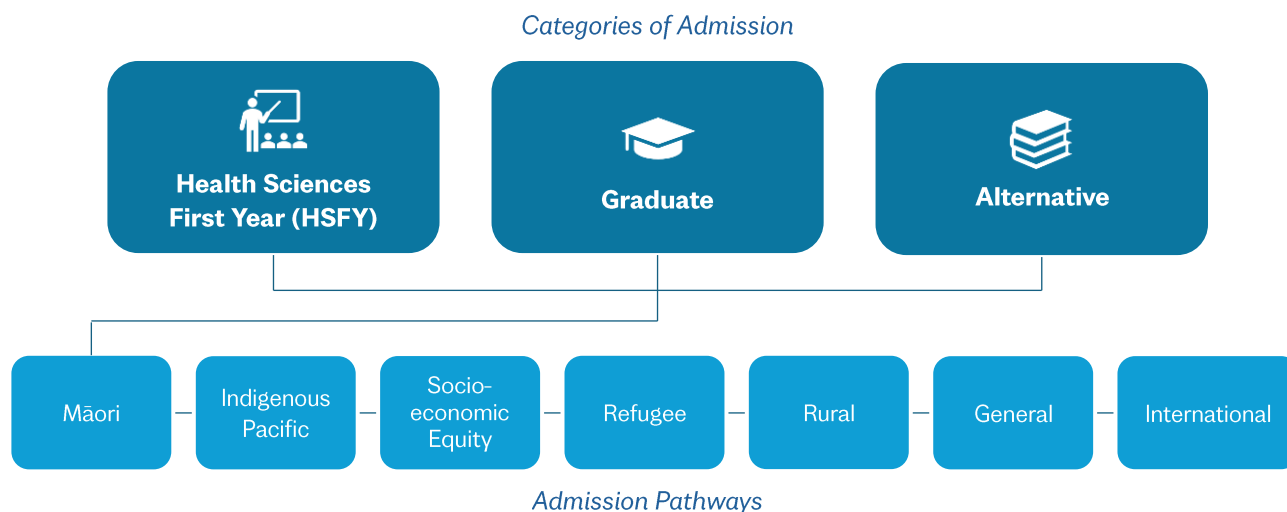
Looking for something else?

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 [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#) there are three **categories of admission** to the BDS programme and six **admission pathways** 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 BDS 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 BDS 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 BDS programme via the Alternative category, including via the admission pathways.

The interview stage

The Dental Admissions Committee may set a minimum academic requirement for applicants in all admissions categories to proceed to the interview stage. This is determined by the Committee on an annual basis. Candidates will be assessed as suitable for admission based on the interview panel's overall assessment of aptitude for the programme, taking into account motivation, decision-making, and communication skills. Suitable candidates will be put forward for final selection. After meeting this threshold, interview performances are not given weight in the further selection process.

The [number of applicants invited for interview](#) for entry to the BDS programme is available from 2024 onwards.

Waiting list scores

Applicants may be offered a place from a waiting list any time right up to the time BDS 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 BDS 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 BDS programme

HSFY admissions category broken down by admissions pathway



Number of applications to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (HSFY)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	33	28	38	48	36
Indigenous Pacific	21	19	25	31	18
Socio-economic Equity	10	14	9	5	10
Refugee	12	12	14	14	19
Rural	38	24	21	41	38
General	197	214	235	278	286
International	24	37	63	39	78

Graduate admissions category broken down by admissions pathway



Number of applications to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (Graduate)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	17	15	16	17	14
Indigenous Pacific	9	18	13	12	10
Socio-economic Equity	4	12	4	14	5
Refugee	9	8	7	16	5
Rural	17	7	14	12	17
General	117	150	146	187	242
International	<5	<5	<5	<5	11

Alternative admissions category broken down by admissions pathway



Number of applications to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (Alternative)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	N/A	<5	N/A	<5	<5
Indigenous Pacific	N/A	<5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	N/A	<5	<5	8
Rural	<5	<5	<5	6	<5
General	28	21	42	90	101
International	9	30	29	94	146

Note: there is no socio-economic pathway under the Alternative category.

Number of applicants invited for interview

2024-2026 BDS programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



Number of applicants invited for interview for entry to the 2024-2026 BDS programme (HSFY)			
Admissions Pathway	2024	2025	2026
Māori	38	40	32
Indigenous Pacific	21	16	9
Socio-economic Equity	7	<5	5
Refugee	12	8	12
Rural	11	25	28
General	114	170	164
International	37	19	35

Graduate category broken down by pathway



Number of applicants invited for interview for entry to the 2024-2026 BDS programme (Graduate)			
Admissions Pathway	2024	2025	2026
Māori	16	13	13
Indigenous Pacific	11	10	6
Socio-economic Equity	<5	9	<5
Refugee	7	10	<5
Rural	<5	10	11
General	70	57	79
International	<5	<5	<5

Alternative category, other admissions pathways combined



Number of applicants invited for interview for entry to the 2024-2026 BDS programme (Alternative)			
Admissions Pathway	2024	2025	2026
Other Admissions Pathways	<5	N/A	<5
General	12	9	12
International	N/A	38	50

Number of offers of admission

2022-2026 BDS programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (HSFY)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	24	18	19	35	24
Indigenous Pacific	6	8	9	9	6
Socio-economic Equity	<5	<5	<5	<5	5
Refugee	6	5	8	8	5
Rural	9	8	9	15	7
General	59	75	61	48	30
International	11	17	35	21	23

Graduate category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (Graduate)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	7	6	9	5	9
Indigenous Pacific	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Socio-economic Equity	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	6	<5	N/A	6	<5
Rural	5	<5	<5	6	7
General	17	20	22	9	15
International	N/A	N/A	<5	<5	<5

Alternative category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (Alternative)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indigenous Pacific	N/A	N/A	<5	N/A	N/A
Refugee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rural	N/A	<5	<5	N/A	<5
General	5	5	6	9	8
International	<5	21	17	37	44

Note: there is no socio-economic pathway under the Alternative category.

Range of academic scores of applicants to receive an offer of admission

2022-2026 BDS programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



	Range of average academic scores (minimum-maximum) to receive an offer of admission to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (HSFY)				
Pathway / Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	70.14 – 96.43	70.29 – 90.43	70.86 – 94.57	69.00 – 95.43 (<5*)	68.71 – 94.57
Indigenous Pacific	72.14 – 88.29	73.43 – 82.71	66.43 – 90.57	75.14 – 92.86 (<5*)	65.14 – 96.29
Socioeconomic Equity	<5	<5	<5	<5	77.86 – 95.86
Refugee	74.71 – 92.71	77.43 – 92.86	75.14 – 95.29	80.71 – 97.86 (<5*)	74.57 – 96.71
Rural	81.43 – 97.14	76.14 – 97.14	81.29 – 96.71	82.57 – 97.86 (91.86*)	89.86 – 96.14 (94.43*)
General	88.71 – 98.71	87.00 – 98.43	90.14 – 98.71	96.14 – 99.00 (97.00*)	97.00 – 98.57 (97.43*)
International	67.14 – 91.57	80.43 – 92.14	73.57 – 96.14	79.86 – 91.00	88.57 – 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 BDS programme (Graduate)				
Pathway / Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	4.99 – 6.20	4.45 – 7.93	4.98 – 8.03	<5	5.43 – 7.33
Indigenous Pacific	<5	4.55 – 6.95	<5	<5	<5
Socioeconomic Equity	<5	4.45 – 6.10	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Rural	<5	<5	<5	<5 (<5*)	6.94 – 9.04
General	8.13 – 9.53	8.63 – 9.91	7.93 – 9.55 (8.60*)	<5 (<5*)	8.85 – 10.43
International	N/A	<5	N/A	<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 BDS programme via the Alternative category are published.*

Number of offers of admission accepted

2022-2026 BDS programme

HSFY category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission accepted to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (HSFY)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	11	8	7	18	16
Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Socio-economic Equity	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	N/A	<5	<5	<5
Rural	<5	<5	<5	5	6
General	24	28	18	11	6
International	6	13	26	8	12

Graduate category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission accepted to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (Graduate)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Indigenous Pacific	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Socio-economic Equity	N/A	N/A	<5	<5	<5
Refugee	<5	N/A	N/A	<5	<5
Rural	N/A	N/A	<5	<5	<5
General	6	6	7	<5	6
International	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Alternative category broken down by pathway



Number of offers of admission accepted to the 2022-2026 BDS programme (Alternative)					
Admissions Pathway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Māori	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indigenous Pacific	N/A	N/A	<5	N/A	N/A
Refugee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rural	N/A	<5	<5	N/A	<5
General	5	5	6	9	6
International	N/A	13	6	25	29

Note: 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 [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#), the [Dentistry: Guidelines for Admission](#) shall prevail.