

Dean's Determination of the Application of Selection Criteria – FMHS 2026

This document presents the Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences Dean's Determination for how selection criteria, including but not limited to the weighting of GPA, MMI and the Clinical Selection Test (if required) will be applied in assessing the merit of applicants for the 2026 intake of clinical programmes. This document should be read in conjunction with the [FMHS 2026 Programme Limitations for Clinical Programmes](#) that sets out numbers of places and selection criteria for each programme.

General Admissions

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) – First Year Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on the four core courses (BIOSCI 107, CHEM 110, POPLHLTH 111 and MEDSCI 142)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)
- UCAT score

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) – Graduate Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on all courses assigned to the qualifying programme (most recent, successfully completed Bachelor's, PGDip, Hons, Masters or PhD degree)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)
- UCAT score

Bachelor of Optometry – Undergraduate Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on the seven core courses (CHEM 110, BIOSCI 107, POPLHLTH 111, MEDSCI 142, BIOSCI 101, BIOSCI 106, PHYSICS 160, or, if applying from the University of Otago: CHEM 191, CELS 191, PHSI 191, BIOSC 192, HUBS 191, HUBS 192, POPH 192)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)

Bachelor of Optometry – Graduate Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on the last two years of full-time study (105 points or more across Semester One and Two)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)

Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Hons) – Undergraduate Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- (CHEM 110, BIOSCI 107, POPLHLTH 111, MEDSCI 142, BIOSCI 101, BIOSCI 106, PHYSICS 160, or, if applying from the University of Otago: CHEM 191, CELS 191, PHSI 191, BIOSC 192, HUBS 191, HUBS 192, POPH 192)

- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)

Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Hons) – Graduate Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on the last two years of full-time study (105 points or more across Semester One and Two)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)

Bachelor of Pharmacy – First Year Entry

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on the four core courses (BIOSCI 107, CHEM 110, POPLHLTH 111 and MEDSCI 142, or, if applying from the University of Otago, the seven core courses: CHEM 191, CELS 191, PHSI 191, BIOSC 192, HUBS 191, HUBS 192, POPH 192)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)

Bachelor of Pharmacy – Alternative Admissions

Selection criteria for 2026 entry include:

- GPA calculated on the last two years of full-time study (105 points or more across Semester One and Two)
- [Multiple Mini Interview \(MMI\) Score](#)

Weightings

The weightings for 2026 of each criterion for each of the four clinical programmes are presented below:

Programme	Criterion and Weighting		
	GPA	MMI	UCAT
MBChB	60%	25%	15%
Optometry	50%	50%	-
Medical Imaging (Hons)	50%	50%	-
Pharmacy	50%	50%	-

MMI

The interview component of the admissions process is comprised of 8 Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) stations. Each station has one interviewer and takes 8 minutes to complete. **7** of these stations are assessed and have the following format: 2 minutes for the applicant to read and think over the given scenario and then 6 minutes to discuss that scenario with the interviewer. Each station is marked out of 30 and the final MMI score is a total of all the individual station marks. The remaining one station is used as an administrative station for ID verification and meeting the requirements of the Children's Act (2014).

MMI scores are modified using a "fair score" process that seeks to take into account the variability in difficulty of scenarios applicants are asked to discuss with the interviewer AND the harshness of the interviewer.

The MMI raw scores (marks) will be fitted to the many-facet Rasch measurement model. Unlike standard Rasch measurement, the many facet model can account for multiple facets instead of just two (candidate and item in our case). The facets used in our model are:

- Candidates
- Raters/Interviewers
- Scenarios
- Qualities/Items

The analysis was implemented using JM Linacre's Facets computer programme for many-facet Rasch measurement. The same software has been used by the MPD since at least 2016.

UCAT

Only the MBChB programme uses the [UCAT-ANZ](#) as part of its admissions criteria. The UCAT-ANZ is weighted 15% in the final rankings. All applicants (excluding International Graduate and International Pathway applicants) must have a current UCAT-ANZ result and achieve a score in all four of the UCAT-ANZ sections:

1. Verbal Reasoning
2. Decision Making
3. Quantitative Reasoning
4. Situational Judgement

Since the number of questions and the answer format varies between the four subtests, the raw marks from each section are converted to scale scores that share a common range from 300 to 900. The [UCAT-ANZ website](#) provides further detail on the test format, and the scoring and marking of the five sections.

For selection into the MBChB programme, the scale scores for each of the four sections are combined to give a final score.

MAPAS Admissions

The Faculty's Māori and Pacific Admissions Scheme (MAPAS) for the clinical programmes uses all of the same data points related to student performance (e.g. GPA, CST, course grades) that are used in the General Admissions process to select candidates as well as additional information held by the MAPAS programme (e.g. a MAPAS interview, personal circumstances). Rather than ranking students by a single data point (e.g. GPA), each data point is considered separately to help predict a candidate's potential success in the clinical programmes and as a future health professional. Eligibility for interview and final decision-making on acceptance considers all aspects of the MAPAS student's performance holistically.

All MAPAS candidates participate in the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) run by the Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences as part of the General Admissions process. MAPAS candidates then take part in a second 5-station MMI (the MAPAS Speciality Interviews) run by the MAPAS programme that focuses on the programmes' key indicators of success for Medicine, Pharmacy, Optometry and Medical Imaging under MAPAS. To be eligible for a MAPAS Specialty Interview for MBChB, BPharm, BOptom and BMedImag (Hons), applicants must have met the programme entry requirements. Applicants must also have verified Indigenous New Zealand Māori or Pacific whakapapa/ancestry. A MAPAS Admissions Panel comprised of senior Māori and Pacific academics with knowledge of these

clinical programmes reviews all MAPAS applications and determines whether an applicant is offered a MAPAS Specialty Interview based on an applicant's academic record (as above).

At the end of the application and interview process, data from both interviews and the other indicators of student performance are then reviewed by the MAPAS Admissions Panel to make the final recommendations on which students to admit to these programmes.

Regional & Rural Admissions Scheme (RRAS)

The Rural Regional Admission Scheme (RRAS) is designed to encourage students to train and return to their rural area to work and utilise their education and skills. Evidence shows that students identifying with regional or rural backgrounds are more likely to work outside urban areas.

In order to qualify as a regional/rural student, applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Five years or more of primary education (Years 1-8) spent in a school within the defined geographical boundaries, or
2. Three years or more of secondary education (Years 9-13) which is located within the defined geographical boundaries

A regional/rural area is defined as

- Rural = Medium urban area, medium urban accessibility, low urban accessibility, remote, very remote
- Regional = Large urban area, high urban accessibility
- Urban = Major urban area

Applicants must indicate their desire to be considered under this scheme by selecting the appropriate box on their online application form and also arranging for their regional/rural educational institution to provide a letter confirming their attendance.

RRAS applicants are assessed and ranked in the same way as applicants in the General Admission category, however, they are ranked separately against other RRAS applicants.

Undergraduate Targeted Admissions Scheme (UTAS)

UTAS is the University's Undergraduate Targeted Admission Schemes for eligible applicants who are Māori, Pacific, disabled, or from low socioeconomic or refugee backgrounds. UTAS reserves a number of places in our undergraduate programmes for applicants who have met the University Entrance (UE) standard but have not met the guaranteed entry score for the programme of their choice.

In the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Māori and Pacific students are admitted through the MAPAS (as above) or through the General Admissions category.

UTAS students are expected to meet the same high academic standards as all other undergraduate students at the University.

In FMHS, UTAS is available to eligible:

- Applicants with disabilities

- Applicants from low socio-economic backgrounds (for the purposes of UTAS, school leavers* from decile 1-3 schools)
- Applicants who have themselves or whose parents/primary guardian(s) have been granted refuge in New Zealand. This includes applicants from the Afghan Emergency Resettlement Category (AERC).

UTAS applicants are assessed and ranked in the same way as applicants in the General Admission category, however, they are ranked separately. Applicants in each UTAS category are ranked against other applicants in the same category.

Number of UTAS Seats Available

	MBChB	Optometry	Medical Imaging (Hons)	Pharmacy
Students with disabilities	2	1	1	1
Students from refugee backgrounds	1	1	1	1
Students from low socio-economic background	6	2	1	2

If there are insufficient applicants to fill the seats available in one UTAS category, these seats may be reallocated to another UTAS category. E.g., For MBChB, if there are only four valid applicants for the Low Socio-economic Background category, the remaining place may be reassigned to the Disabilities or Refugee Background applicant pool. If there are no further applicants in any of the UTAS categories, the seats would go back to the General pool.

International Admissions

First Year/Undergraduate international applicants are assessed and ranked in the same way as those applicants in the General Admission category, however, they are ranked separately against other international First Year/Undergraduate applicants.

International Pathway students are undergraduate applicants who undertake First Year Health Sciences (Bachelor of Health Sciences) but already hold a conditional offer for year 2 MBChB, and have often undertaken a prior Foundation Year. They are assessed separately from all other applicants. These applicants are required to achieve a GPA of 6.0 (no fails) across all First Year courses to meet the conditions of their offer and proceed to Year 2 MBChB. They are not required to sit the UCAT. They are required to sit and achieve a pass mark in the MMI.

International Graduate applicants are assessed separately from all other applicants. This is due to the fact that these applicants are often overseas and were therefore unable to attend the MMI when it was held in person.

Applicants who meet the entry requirements, include the minimum GPA/GPE for the programme are invited to a panel interview held by two senior staff members. These interviews are arranged on an as-needed basis and are held throughout the year.

International Graduate applicants are not required to sit the UCAT-ANZ. As such, ranking for the programme is based only on their GPA/GPE and interview score. The International Manager and the

Programme Director/Head of Admissions consider the applicants and make a recommendation to the relevant Admissions Subcommittee regarding which applicants should be offered a place.

Details for creating final ranked lists for admissions decisions

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)

Final ranking of applicants for admission to MBChB uses z scores to rank applicants.

The specific formula for calculating an applicant's ranking score is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\text{applicant's GPA} - \text{mean GPA}) / \text{Std Dev GPA}) \times 0.6 \\ & + \\ & ((\text{applicant's MMI score} - \text{mean MMI score}) / \text{Std Dev MMI score}) \times 0.25 \\ & + \\ & ((\text{applicant's UCAT-ANZ score} - \text{mean UCAT-ANZ score}) / \text{Std Dev UCAT-ANZ score}) \times 0.15 \end{aligned}$$

In each admission category, the First Year and Graduate applicant data is analysed together to calculate the mean and standard deviation of the admissions category. The following groups are analysed together:

- General entry First Years + General entry Graduates + UTAS First Years + UTAS Graduates¹
- RRAS First Years + RRAS Graduates
- Disability First Years + Disability Graduates
- Refugee Background First Years + Refugee Background Graduates
- Low Socioeconomic Background First Years²

Each of the above groups is then sorted based on their ranking score to determine an ordered list of highest to lowest ranking. Offers are made to applicants in order until the places in each category are filled.

Bachelor of Optometry

The specific formula for calculating an applicant's ranking score is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{applicant's GPA} / 9) \times 100 \\ & + \\ & (\text{applicant's MMI score} / 210^3) \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

Applicants are ranked together in the following groups:

- General Undergraduates + General Graduates
- RRAS Undergraduates + RRAS Graduates
- Disability Undergraduates + Disability Graduates
- Refugee Background Undergraduates + Refugee Background Graduates
- Low Socioeconomic Background Undergraduates⁴

Offers are made to applicants in order until the places in each category are filled.

¹ See "Consideration of UTAS Applicants in the General Entry Pool"

² Low Socioeconomic Background is only applicable for First Year entry.

³ The maximum MMI score obtainable for that year.

⁴ Low Socioeconomic Background is only applicable for First Year entry.

Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Hons)

The specific formula for calculating an applicant's ranking score is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{applicant's GPA})/9) \times 100 \\ & + \\ & (\text{applicant's MMI score}/210^5) \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

Applicants are ranked together in the following groups:

- General Undergraduates + General Graduates
- RRAS Undergraduates + RRAS Graduates
- Disability Undergraduates + Disability Graduates
- Refugee Background Undergraduates + Refugee Background Graduates
- Low Socioeconomic Background Undergraduates⁶

Offers are made to applicants in order until the places in each category are filled.

Bachelor of Pharmacy – First Year Entry

The specific formula for calculating an applicant's ranking score is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{applicant's GPA})/9) \times 100 \\ & + \\ & (\text{applicant's MMI score}/210^7) \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

Applicants are ranked together in the following groups:

- General First Years + General Alternative Admissions
- RRAS First Years + RRAS Alternative Admissions
- Disability First Years + Disability Alternative Admissions
- Refugee Background First Years + Refugee Background Alternative Admissions
- Low Socioeconomic Background First Years⁸

Offers are made to applicants in order until the places in each category are filled.

⁵ The maximum MMI score obtainable for that year.

⁶ Low Socioeconomic Background is only applicable for First Year entry.

⁷ The maximum MMI score obtainable for that year.

⁸ Low Socioeconomic Background is only applicable for First Year entry.