



**Te Pūkenga**

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28 August 2025

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Request under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 4 August 2025, requesting information from Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Otago Polytechnic).

Within your email you set out that your interest lies in Nepalese international ākonga (students) across New Zealand and more specifically in Dunedin, and request the following:

*... the total number of Nepalese students enrolled at the Otago Polytechnic over the last three academic years (2022–2024).*

This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

#### **The decision**

Unfortunately, we do not record Nepalese as a distinct ethnicity for our ākonga enrolled with Otago Polytechnic. However, we are providing you with a headcount based on recorded citizenship in the table below, which you may still find helpful.

Otago Polytechnic has campuses at Auckland, Central Otago, and Dunedin as well as distance learners within New Zealand. As you require the information to inform [REDACTED], we have provided the total headcount enrolled at Otago Polytechnic as requested, as well as the total headcount at our Dunedin main campus only. These figures include international ākonga and ākonga who are permanent residents.

Providing the exact headcount for 2023 at our Dunedin main campus yields a result of less than four. Therefore, we have withheld the exact number with reliance on section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Providing the exact number of international ākonga versus permanent residents for each of these three years at our Dunedin main campus would yield results of less than four. Therefore, with reliance on section 9(2)(a) of the OIA we have not provided this extra breakdown. However, we can advise that the total number of international ākonga at our Dunedin main campus over this three-year period was <4.

It is important to note that all ākonga at Otago Polytechnic who identify as Nepalese may not be captured within the figures below, as some ākonga who identify as Nepalese may have citizenship of different countries, including New Zealand.

Ākonga enrolled at Otago Polytechnic who are Nepalese citizens		
Calendar year	Headcount: all locations	Headcount: Dunedin – Main campus only
2022	24	4
2023	57	<4
2024	92	5

Regarding the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we do not believe the need to withhold this information is outweighed by the public interest in its release.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore  
Tumuaki | Chief Executive