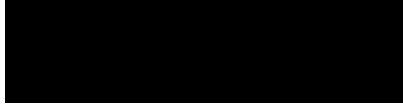





1 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request for information that was transferred to the Ministry of Education by the Tertiary Education Commission on 2 February 2021. You have asked for the following information:

- *the same subject specific discipline data on the gender, ethnicity, and domestic/international status of tertiary students (Bachelors, Honours, Masters, and PhD) prior to 2003 and for 2020. I have access to 2003-2019 data through Education Counts*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Information on the predominant field of study of tertiary graduates is not available prior to 2003, as to create this information the Ministry uses an algorithm that looks at all the papers a student has completed and then logs the most common discipline as their predominant field of study. As it takes at least three years to complete a university degree, the algorithm requires three years' worth of data before it will process it and create the information you have requested. The first year that predominant field of study data is able to be generated using this approach is 2003. Further to this, the 2020 data is not yet available. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist. I can advise however that the 2020 data will become available around June 2021.

You may also like to request graduate data from universities directly, although you should note that their methodologies for determining the discipline of study of graduates likely differs from that used by the Ministry.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Katrina Sutich  
**Group Manager**  
**Te Ara Kaimanawa**

OIA: 1249664

National Office, Mātauranga House, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington 6011

PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140. Phone: +64 4 463 8000 Fax: +64 4 463 8001