



University
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Otago for International Students

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www.otago.ac.nz/international

universityofotagointernational



University
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST UNIVERSITY



Auckland

New Zealand (Aotearoa)

North Island



Wellington



Queenstown

South Island



Christchurch



Dunedin
(main campus)

World Map



New Zealand



1st most beautiful country in the world
(Rough Guides 2024)



2nd in the world for Human Freedom
(Fraser Institute Worldwide for Human Freedom 2024)



4th least corrupt in the world
(Transparency International 2024)



4th safest country in the world
(Global Peace Index 2024)



4th most gender-equal country in the world
(2024 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report)



25th most innovative country in the world
(Global Innovation Index 2024)

University of Otago



New Zealand's first university, established 1869



Top 1% of Higher Education Institutions, ranked 2nd in New Zealand and 197th globally, 5+ Stars rating (QS World Rankings 2026, QS Stars Rating 2025)



Top-performing university in New Zealand for student academic performance (Tertiary Education Commission)



5th most beautiful campus in the world (THE Student Voice ranking 2021).



Employers love Otago graduates. 96% of our graduates go directly into work or further study



86% of our students come from outside of Dunedin – from across New Zealand and from over 90 countries.

Undergraduate Programmes

Foundation Studies & Diplomas

Foundation Studies Certificate - 8 months

Leading to university entrance. Four subject streams: Sciences, Business, Arts/Humanities and Health Sciences.

Diplomas – 1 university year

Equivalent to the first year of undergraduate studies, suitable for students who only just miss direct university entrance. Diploma in Arts, Diploma in Commerce, Diploma in Science – direct progression into the second year of the relevant Bachelor degree.

Social Sciences & Humanities

Bachelor of Arts - 3 years

Majors: Anthropology, Asian Studies, Communication Studies, Criminology, Data Science, Economics, Education, English, Environment and Society, European Studies, Film and Media Studies, Gender Studies, Geography, Global Studies, History, Indigenous Studies, Languages and Cultures, Linguistics, Māori Studies, Music, Music Production, Pacific Islands Studies, Philosophy, Politics and Economics, Politics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Tourism,

Bachelor of Laws – 4 years

Competitive entry into the second year of the programme, based on grades in the compulsory first year course.

Bachelor of Teaching – 3 years

Limited places - interview process and selective entry, early deadline.

Bachelor of Social Work - 4 years

Selection process into the third year full professional programme.

Business

Bachelor of Entrepreneurship – 3 years

Bachelor of Commerce - 3 years

Majors: Accounting, Business Analytics, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Finance, HR Management, International Business, Management, Marketing, Philosophy Politics & Economics, Tourism.

Sciences & Engineering

Bachelor of Science - 3 years

Majors: Aquaculture and Fisheries, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Computer Science, Data Science, Ecology, Economics, Environmental Management, Exercise and Sport Science, Food Science, Forensic Analytical Science, Genetics, Geographic Information Systems, Geography, Geology, Human Nutrition, Land Planning and Development, Mathematics, Marine Science, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physical Education Activity and Health, Physics, Physiology, Plant Biotechnology, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Management, Sport Development and Management, Statistics, Surveying Measurement, Zoology

Bachelor of Surveying - 4 years

Limited places, selection process into the second year.

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Sustainable Energy – 4 years (NEW)

Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Software Engineering - 4 years (NEW)

Health Sciences

Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences – 3 years

Drugs and Human Health, Functional Human Biology, Infection & Immunity, Molecular Basis of Health & Disease, Nutrition & Metabolism in Human Health, Reproduction, Genetics & Development

Bachelor of Dental Technology – 3 years

Limited places – selective entry.

Bachelor of Oral Health – 3 years

Limited places – selective entry.

Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science – 3 years

Bachelor of Health Science (Public Health) – 3 years

Health Sciences First Year leading to professional health degrees:

Open entry into 'Health Sciences First Year' (HSFY). Competitive entry into the second year of the professional programmes is based on your grades in Health Sciences First Year, passing the English Diagnostic Test (and for Dentistry an interview; and for Medicine the UCAT result).

- **Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery** (HSFY + 5 years)
- **Bachelor of Dental Surgery** (HSFY + 4 years)
- **Bachelor of Pharmacy** (HSFY + 3 years)
- **Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science** (HSFY + 3 years)
- **Bachelor of Physiotherapy** (HSFY + 3 years)

Postgraduate Programmes

Social Sciences & Humanities

Master of Politics - 12 months (prior subject study required)

Master of International Studies – 12 months

Master of International Development and Planning - 12 months

Master of Planning – 2 years

Master of Peace and Conflict Studies – 12 months

Master of Teaching and Learning - 1 year

Limited places, interview process and selective entry, early deadline.

Master of Arts (coursework) – 12-15 months (prior degree in same subject required)

Majors: Anthropology, Buddhist Studies, Communications Studies, Education, English, Film & Media Studies, Gender Studies, Geography, History, Indigenous Studies, Linguistics, Māori Studies, Music, Philosophy, Philosophy Politics & Economics, Religious Studies, Sociology.

Business

Master of Business Administration (MBA) – 15 months on campus
Limited places – special application process, entrance test, interview.

Master of Sustainable Business - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in Business Analytics - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in Entrepreneurship & Innovation - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in International Business - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in Leadership & Management - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in Marketing - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in Tourism - 12 or 18 months

Master of Business in Accounting and Finance - 12 or 18 months (prior subject study required)

Master of Business in Economics - 12 or 18 months (prior subject study required)

Master of Business in Finance - 12 or 18 months (prior subject study required)

Master of Business in Philosophy, Politics & Economics - 12 or 18 months
(prior subject study required)

Note: Master of Business degrees offer coursework, project or thesis options

Sciences

Master of Sport Development and Management – 12 months
(prior subject study required)

Master of Science (coursework + research) – 2 years
(prior degree in same subject required – supervisor required in advance)

Majors: Anatomy, Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Botany, Chemistry, Cognitive Science, Computer Science, Ecology, Economics, Environmental Management, Environmental Science, Food Science, Genetics, Geographic Information Systems, Geography, Geology, Geophysics, Human Nutrition, Immunology, Marine Science, Mathematics, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physics, Physiology, Plant Biotechnology, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Management, Statistics, Surveying, Sustainable Energy, Toxicology, Wildlife Management, Zoology

Master of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence – 12 - 18 months (coursework + project)

Master of Applied Science in Food and Agriculture – 12 months (coursework + project)

Master of Applied Science in Sustainable Energy – 12 months (coursework + project) – prior science degree. **(NEW)**

Master of Applied Science (coursework + project) – 12 - 18 months (prior degree in same subject)
Advanced Nutrition Practice, Applied Geology, Bioengineering, Computer Science, Environmental Management, Geographic Information Systems, Molecular Biotechnology, Plant Biotechnology, Quantitative Genetics, Statistics, Telecommunications

Health Sciences

Master of Public Health – 2 years
Dunedin campus option recommended for international students.

Master of Nursing Science – 2 years, Christchurch campus only
Designed for non-nursing graduates seeking to gain a nursing qualification.
Limited places, interview process and selective entry, early deadline.

Postgraduate Diploma in Science (leading to Master of Biomedical Sciences) - 1 year (prior subject study required) Majors: Anatomy, Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Physiology

Master of Biomedical Sciences - 1 year (prior subject study required)
Majors: Drugs & Human Health, Functional Human Biology, Infection & Immunity, Molecular Basis of Health and Disease, Nutrition & Metabolism in Human Health, Reproduction, Genetics & Development

DISCLAIMER: This publication is intended as a general guide for international students and includes an overview of a selection of programmes available at the University of Otago. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this prospectus at the time of publication, please always check otago.ac.nz for up-to-date information, including the full range of programmes offered, programme descriptions, degree requirements, entry requirements, tuition fees, living costs, scholarships, and accommodation. The University reserves the right to add, amend or withdraw courses and facilities, to restrict student numbers and to make any other alterations as may be necessary. Published by International Marketing and Recruitment. July, 2025.

Study at Otago

How to Apply



otago.ac.nz/study

1

Select your course or programme

Find your subject and study options on our website: otago.ac.nz/subjects

2

Check entry requirements

Evidence of academic and English language requirements must be included as part of your application: otago.ac.nz/international/future-students. If you do not meet our academic or English language requirements, you may wish to consider enrolling in one of our pathway programmes: otago.ac.nz/pathway

Pathways at Otago

- Foundation Studies Certificates to meet university entrance. Three intakes: February, June, October.
- 'English for Otago' language courses to meet undergraduate or postgraduate English entry requirements. Two intakes: March, October.

3

All applications must be submitted online

Apply directly online using the "Apply Now" button on the top of the programme page. This takes you to the University of Otago admissions application system, called eVision. Check you have the documents required for your application as outlined on the website. You can also choose to apply through an authorised Otago education consultant (agent) in your country: otago.ac.nz/international/agents

4

Submit your application

Once you have completed your application information and uploaded your documents, you need to click the SUBMIT button. You will need to check your eVision portal regularly for any notifications or additional information that may be requested.

5

Accept your offer of place

Successful applications will be issued with an offer of place letter through the eVision portal. To secure your place you will need to click the "Accept" button. Your offer of place letter has other important information covering student visa, insurance, tuition fees and next steps.

Application Timeline

Apply 1 May - 15 November (February intake)

Main application period for most programmes commencing in semester 1 (February).

Special Deadlines

31 May

Postgraduate Dentistry programmes

31 July

Master of Teaching and Learning

Bachelor of Teaching (late applications may be considered)

14 August

Bachelor of Oral Health

Bachelor of Dental Technology

31 August

Master of Nursing Science

Apply 1 May - 30 April (July intake)

Application period for programmes commencing in semester 2 (July).



otago.ac.nz/first-year-students/ready/prepare-for-otago/key-dates-for-new-international-students

Notes:



Scholarships for International Students



[otago.ac.nz/
international-scholarships](https://otago.ac.nz/international-scholarships)

Undergraduate Scholarships

Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships for International Students

NZD\$10,000 for tuition fees. Unlimited offers.

University of Otago Global Scholarships - passport holders: Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Macau, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

NZD \$15,000 for tuition fees. Unlimited offers.

University of Otago International Academic Excellence Scholarships

Up to NZD\$35,000. Applicable to high achieving international students.

Competitive selection.

University of Otago International Partnership Scholarship

Up to NZD\$10,000 for tuition fees. Applicable to international students applying for articulation/transfer degree programmes via an Otago partner institute. Selection process.

University of Otago Entrance Scholarships (NZ Based)

Up to NZD\$45,000. Applicable to international students in New Zealand high schools or foundation programmes. Application period 1 July-15 August only. Competitive selection.

Pathway Scholarships

Minimum NZD\$5,000. Applicable to international students enrolling in the Foundation Studies Certificate or the pathway Diplomas (DipArts, DipCom, DipSc). Application form required for selection.

Postgraduate Scholarships

Vice-Chancellor's Postgraduate Scholarships for coursework Master's or PG Diplomas. Minimum GPA B+. Unlimited offers. NZD\$10,000 for tuition fees.

University of Otago International Master's Research Scholarship

NZD\$18,204 stipend per annum plus a partial tuition fee waiver (capped at the domestic fee rate) for international students enrolling in a research Master's programme.

University of Otago Doctoral Scholarships

For students enrolling in a Doctoral programme. Scholarship value: NZD \$33,624 stipend per annum plus a domestic tuition fees waiver for 36 months.

Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships

Full tertiary scholarships for eligible international students to study at a New Zealand university.
otago.ac.nz/manaaki-scholarships

Accommodation

Campus Housing

Otago’s accommodation provides a ‘home away from home’ with safe, comfortable housing options. Our highly regarded 14 residential colleges are ideal for new undergraduate students (dormitory style private bedrooms, dining hall meals provided, tutorials and pastoral care). Our unique UniFlats houses (with private bedrooms) offer postgraduate students a shared living, ‘flatting’ experience with other international students.



otago.ac.nz/
accommodation/colleges



otago.ac.nz/uniflats



otago.ac.nz/study/fees#international-fees

Tuition Fees for First Year	
Foundation Studies	Approx NZD \$31,500 (USD 18.5k)
Diplomas	Approx NZD \$34,650-37,800 (USD 20-23k)
Bachelors	Approx NZD \$36,750-45,150 (USD 22-27k)
Masters	Approx NZD\$46,200-72,450 (USD 27-43k)
Doctoral	Domestic tuition fee
Living Costs (Minimum INZ requirement)	Approx NZD \$21,000 (USD 12.5K)

Fees for 2026 intakes. Fees are estimated and depend on final paper selection.

Notes:





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