

Exchange Fact Sheet 2025

The University of Otago

Nau mai, haere mai ki Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka – a globally recognised university nestled among the natural beauty of New Zealand’s spectacular South Island. The University of Otago is Aotearoa New Zealand’s first university, founded in 1869, and is the top university in the country for educational performance (TEC Educational Performance Indicators). Our Dunedin campus is recognised as one of the world’s most-beautiful campuses, with impressive historic and modern architecture, situated just a short walk from the main city centre.

Dunedin is Australasia’s only true student city, offering an unmatched student experience with over 20,000 students living, working, and studying in Dunedin, creating an energy and atmosphere you will only find at Otago. Experience a true “kiwi” student lifestyle in the lively neighbourhoods surrounding campus, living as a community in Uniflats, self-catering flats. Otago is ranked #1 in the country for international student learning, with high student satisfaction rates, and world-class research-led teaching. For the adventure seeking student, experience the duality of study and travel that is highly appealing and accessible in Otago. Join our community of international students from more than 100 countries!



DUNEDIN is a small yet lively city on New Zealand’s South Island, recognised for its striking natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. Enveloped by gorgeous natural scenery, between the mountains, the harbour and the sea, with plenty to see and explore. Adventure is on Dunedin’s doorstep, with the beauty of all four seasons prompting an abundance of opportunities, from surfing, to skiing, to mountain biking - with the South Island travelable within a day. No other city in New Zealand has the same range, quality and accessibility of leisure activities. Spend your weekends hitting New Zealand’s top ski fields in Central Otago, and return home to the country’s wildlife capital, with rare creatures such as the Yellow-Eyed Penguin decorating Dunedin’s coast.

More information:

otago.ac.nz
otago.ac.nz/student-exchange
otago.ac.nz/international
[International Mobility and Partnerships Team](#)
[Study Abroad and Exchange Guide](#)
exchange@otago.ac.nz

Otago videos:

[360° Campus Video](#)
[Study Abroad at the University of Otago UniFlats](#)
[Student Accommodation at Otago](#)
[Pride in Identity](#)
[A place of many firsts](#)



Exchange Information

Campus

Exchange students attend courses offered at the Dunedin campus only.

Academic year

The academic year is divided into two main teaching periods (semesters), and a Summer School. Summer School:

January to February

Semester 1: February to June

Semester 2: July to November

Key dates: otago.ac.nz/news/events/keydates Minimum

duration: Summer School (January–February) Maximum

duration: two semesters



Course load

- Exchange students are required to maintain a full-time student status while at Otago.
- Minimum course load: 54 points per semester (three papers).
- Maximum course load: 72 points per semester (four papers).
- Entry to any course (except 100-level) is based on relevant academic background.

Explore courses

Otago offers flexible study options with over 140 subjects to choose from! There is no limit on the number of students accepted to a particular course, entry to any course is based on relevant academic background.

[Academics – information for exchange students](#)

[Full list of courses offered at Otago](#)

[Division of Humanities](#)

[Otago Business School](#)

[Division of Sciences](#)

[Summer School at Otago](#)

[Study options when English is a second language](#)

[Discover Aotearoa/New Zealand: A selection of New Zealand and Pacific-focused courses](#)

[Discover Aotearoa/New Zealand: Fieldwork courses](#)

[School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies](#)

[Study climate change and sustainability](#)

[English, Linguistics and Writing](#)

[Philosophy, Politics and Economic](#)

[Physical Education, Sport and Exercise Sciences](#)

[Study Psychology](#)

Restricted programmes

Medicine, Dentistry, Psychiatry, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Pharmacy or any other clinical course are not open to exchange students. Some Otago courses such as MBA, Wildlife Management and Master of Science Communication are restricted in admissions.

Academic requirements

Normally students are required to have a minimum B average grade (70%) in order to gain admission to the University of Otago.

English proficiency

Students are required to meet the [English language requirements](#) to study at the University of Otago. For the exchange nominees Otago will accept the Otago English Language Proficiency Statement completed by the Exchange/ Study Abroad Adviser at the home institution.

Mandatory insurance

- Studentsafe-University is Otago's recommended insurance policy.
- This is a comprehensive travel and health insurance.
- Registration is automatic.
- Alternative insurance policies must be assessed up to six weeks before you start at Otago.

Visa

All exchange students must obtain a student visa prior to their arrival in New Zealand.

Examination

Students must sit their final exams while still on the Otago campus. Further information: otago.ac.nz/exams

Transcripts

As global higher education moves towards more sustainable practices, the University of Otago has transitioned to electronic transcript sharing via My eQuals.

Otago on Social Media

facebook.com/otagouniversity

facebook.com/OtagoInternationalOffice

facebook.com/OtagoGlobalStudentExchange

instagram.com/universityofotago/

instagram.com/universityofotagointernational/

instagram.com/otagoexchange/



Nomination and Application

Nomination deadline

- 1 October (for Summer School and February start)
- 1 March (for July start)

Early nominations are preferred; late nominations may be accepted. Please contact the Otago Exchange Adviser on individual cases.

Nomination system

The home institution should send exchange nominations by completing the [2025 Exchange Nomination Form](#).

The University of Otago will email the application instructions directly to the nominated student.

Exchange application timeline



Semester 1	From 1 Aug - 1 Oct	From August	By 31 October	4-6 weeks	As soon as possible
Semester 2	From 1 Jan - 1 Mar	From February	By 31 March	4-6 weeks	As soon as possible



Accommodation

University Flats

The University of Otago is renowned for its residential campus environment and you are encouraged to apply for accommodation in one of our University Flats (Uni Flats). All Uni Flats are located within an easy walk of the University campus and main shopping centre. Students share the cleaning and cooking duties and usually shop together for food. The residential fee includes the cost of your room, electricity, internet, bed linen, community events and the services of the Uni Flats team. All Uni Flats are fully furnished, including a basic kitchen setup.

otago.ac.nz/uniflats

In order to be considered for accommodation with Uni Flats you must first register and then apply online through the Student Accommodation Centre:

[Apply for University Flats accommodation](#)

Cost of Living

Please see [Otago Living Costs](#) for detailed information.

