

# University of Otago



# EXCHANGE FACT SHEET 2020-2021

## THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Welcome to the University of Otago – an internationally recognised university located among the natural beauty of New Zealand's spectacular South Island.

As a student at New Zealand's oldest university, you will become part of a unique educational experience. Otago's attractive campus is a mixture of historic and modern buildings located in the centre of Dunedin. The campus is a short walk from the city's central shopping and services.

Our 21,000 students make up one sixth of Dunedin's population, creating an energy and atmosphere that you'll only find at Otago. The town and the University campus developed together, so Dunedin is one of just a handful of places worldwide where education is the main activity of the city.

Otago students rate its campus lifestyle as one of its strongest attractions. Students live as a community immediately around the campus area in student residential colleges or self-catering flats.

Join our community of 3,000 international students from over 100 countries!



**DUNEDIN** is a small city between the mountains, the harbour and the sea – that means there's heaps to do and it's easy to get to. Experience the distinctive beauty of each of Dunedin's four seasons. The temperate climate brings warm summers and mild winters with some frost and very occasional snowfalls. No other city in New Zealand has the same range, quality and accessibility of leisure activities. Ride the best waves in the world, take on mighty mountain biking tracks, paddle-board, kayak or sail on the harbour, or head to Central Otago for a weekend on New Zealand's top ski fields.



### More information

Main website: [otago.ac.nz](https://otago.ac.nz)

International Office: [otago.ac.nz/international](https://otago.ac.nz/international)

Exchange website: [otago.ac.nz/student-exchange](https://otago.ac.nz/student-exchange)

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjVlddAy5cU&t=22s>

Study Abroad and Exchange Guide 2020:

[otago.ac.nz/international/otago716582.pdf](https://otago.ac.nz/international/otago716582.pdf)

### Courier address

International Office

Clocktower Building

University of Otago Leith Street

Dunedin 9016, New Zealand

[exchange@otago.ac.nz](mailto:exchange@otago.ac.nz)

# 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](https://otago.ac.nz/news/events/keydates)

Minimum duration: Summer School (January)

Maximum duration: two semesters + Summer School



## 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).
- Recommended course load: 54–72 points per semester (three or four papers).
- An Otago Academic Adviser will only approve a programme of five papers per semester in exceptional circumstances.
- Entry to any course (except 100-level) is based on relevant academic background.

## Explore courses

[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](#)

[Law courses](#)

## 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

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

## English proficiency

Students must be competent in the use and understanding of written and spoken English. Information on minimum entry requirements for international students is available at:

[English language requirements](#)

We will accept the Otago English Language Proficiency Statement completed by your office.

## Mandatory insurance

- Studentsafe-University is Otago's recommended insurance policy.
- This is a comprehensive travel and health insurance.
- Registration is automatic.
- Alternative insurance policies may 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](https://otago.ac.nz/exams)

## Transcripts

Official grades are available to students online as soon as grades are released. Transcripts for exchange students are sent to the host institution at the end of their study period at Otago. Transcripts are usually posted in:

March (Summer School); July (Semester 1);  
December (Semester 2).

## Prepare for Otago

A free course for new exchange students is run in February. The course covers study, language and cultural skills. A limited number of places are available. Students are encouraged to apply early.





## NOMINATION AND APPLICATION

### Nomination deadline

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

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

### Nomination system

Email the completed Otago Student Nomination Template to the Otago Exchange Adviser. Please use this form for your exchange and study abroad nominations.

The column "Assistance required from the Disabilities Office at Otago" is for us to ensure a student who may need special assistance at Otago will receive the appropriate information.

### Exchange application timeline



## 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](https://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](#)

