



**OTAGO**  
**POLYTECHNIC**  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago

# Otago Polytechnic:

Inspiring Capability the World-Over.



**International Students' Quick Guide.**

# Study at Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand.

## Otago Polytechnic – Inspiring Capability the World-Over.

We have a long tradition of producing exceptional graduates who go on to become productive, thoughtful and creative members of their chosen profession.

Otago Polytechnic welcomes students from all over the world to our beautiful campuses in the city of Dunedin and the region of Central Otago. Both of our campuses are located on New Zealand's lower South Island.

Legendary for its awesome landscapes, with lush forests, towering mountains and amazing wildlife, the South Island is an amazing place for outdoor adventures. As a multicultural and diverse society, our friendly people will welcome you. There's plenty to do, like outdoor activities and sport, with arts and culture filling each urban space, you will have lots to see and experience during your studies.

International students choose Otago Polytechnic for their New Zealand Study Experience because of our reputation for providing students with an exceptional and internationally recognised tertiary education. Nationally ranked at the top of our sector, Otago Polytechnic is an acclaimed and highly regarded institute of applied research and technology\*.

International students receive all the support they need to study successfully at Otago Polytechnic, with plenty of opportunities to participate in the social and recreational activities organised on both campuses. By studying in small classes, with lecturers who know you by name, you'll develop lifelong friendships with both New Zealanders and other international students. Your study experience at Otago Polytechnic will be rewarding, challenging and memorable.

As a student at Otago Polytechnic, you'll benefit from an education that emphasises real-world learning with a strong theoretical base. As a graduate, you will be well prepared to succeed and thrive in the global community.

\* Based on Performance Based Research Funding (PBRF) Quality Evaluation announced by the New Zealand Government's Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). See [www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz) for more information.

## Why Choose Otago Polytechnic?

### Qualifications

We offer internationally recognised undergraduate degrees, diplomas, certificates, and post-graduate qualifications in a wide range of subject areas. Academically ranked at the top of our sector in Design, Nursing, Health Studies, Visual Arts and Crafts, Information Technology and Information Services, you'll enjoy and benefit from our outstanding study environment.

### Experience

Internationally, employers want team members who are well educated, adaptable, and ready to contribute to their workplace. All of our programmes focus on developing these real-life skills, and when combined with work experience, our graduates are ready for international career success.

### Guidance

Our academic staff members are experienced in their field, experts in cutting-edge technology, dedicated to research and always available to provide students with all the support and guidance they need to reach their academic goals.

### Support

We will help you make the most of your student experience in New Zealand. With well-resourced recreational facilities, academic support services such as our Learning Centre, assistance with finding the right accommodation, and extensive international student support services, your success is our highest priority.

### Unbeatable Lifestyle

New Zealand has a worldwide reputation for being a welcoming and safe destination, with a friendly and honest populace. As a nation of immigrants, New Zealand's cultural diversity means you will always feel welcome to participate in a range of activities. New Zealand benefits from the best of all worlds – from snow-capped mountains to famous surfing beaches, and sophisticated, modern cities.

> Visit [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com)



*Inset: Top – Otago Polytechnic Dunedin Campus, Bottom – Downtown Dunedin*

## Destination Dunedin: The Student Capital of New Zealand.

As the country's premier centre of learning, Dunedin is home to a tertiary student population of 25,000. These students give the city a special character, contributing to its vibrant and lively atmosphere. Our Dunedin Campus lies in the heart of Dunedin's tertiary environment, surrounded by green parks, student accommodation, and a vibrant café culture.

Nestled amongst rolling green hills, Dunedin sits at the end of a beautiful natural harbour. As the gateway to a variety of recreational opportunities available in the Otago region and the nearby world famous adventure capital city of Queenstown, Dunedin will never bore you!

Enjoying a temperate climate, Dunedin may see the occasional winter snowfall, only to watch it melt away within a few hours. Temperatures in August range from a low of 4°C to an average of 13°C. A Dunedin summer is breezy and warm with February temperatures peaking at the mid to high 20s°C.

> Visit [www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz) and [www.dunedinnz.com](http://www.dunedinnz.com)



*Inset: Cromwell students enjoying the 'Central Otago' environment*

## Central Otago: Your Future Adventures Await.

Central Otago is a place unlike any other in the world. Mountains, rivers, lakes and tussock-covered hills provide a stunning backdrop for commercial activities like tourism and hospitality, horticulture and viticulture, adventure, sport, farming and small businesses. Otago Polytechnic's Central Otago campuses in Cromwell and Wanaka offer programmes and short courses catering to these activities.

Studying in Central Otago means hands-on learning within the industry, small classes and dedicated tutors. There is also plenty of part-time work available in the region – perfect for students who are looking for a head start in their careers.

Central Otago's dry climate means cool winters and hot summers. As New Zealand's only region that comes close to having a continental climate, with four distinct seasons, Central Otago enjoys average summer temperatures in the low 20s°C and winter temperatures hover around 5°C.

> Visit [www.centralotagonz.com](http://www.centralotagonz.com)



## International Student Services: Here to Improve Your Experience.

Our International Student Services are here to make sure that you get the best information and advice when you first enquire and apply to Otago Polytechnic, and ensure that you get individualised support and assistance during your studies.

Helping you with everything from your first enquiry through to your application and enrolment, our International Student Services Team are here for you. Their services include:

- Advising students on the best course of study.
- Assessing student applications, providing students with an 'offer of place' in their chosen programme.
- Providing advice on accommodation options and organising homestay placements.
- Facilitating the payment of your tuition fees and advising on other costs.
- Assisting with your New Zealand Student Visa and Permit applications.
- Organising social and recreational opportunities.
- Ensuring a staff member is available as your emergency contact, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



*Inset: St Clair Beach, Dunedin*

## Your Future Life in New Zealand: The Key Facts.

### Cost of Living

Although living in New Zealand is relatively inexpensive, international students still need to think carefully about the amount of money they will require for the duration of their study. Your 'daily cost of living' is in addition to tuition fees and airfare. The following table gives an idea of the approximate yearly cost of living in Dunedin and Central Otago.

### Approximate Costs in New Zealand:

Item	Amount (New Zealand Dollars)
Accommodation	\$84 – \$224 per week
Food	\$80 – \$100 per week
Books and Materials	\$500 – \$2,000 per year
Transport	\$100 – \$500 per year
Entertainment	\$500 – \$2,000 per year

### Specific Costs in New Zealand:

Item	Amount (New Zealand Dollars)
Movie Ticket	\$16
Big Mac	\$4.45
Television – 28" Widescreen	\$700
Litre of Petrol	\$1.55 (prices fluctuate)
Pair of Jeans	\$80 – \$100
Box of Beer	\$20
2L Bottle of Milk	\$3.25
Loaf of Multigrain Bread	\$3

> See [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for currency conversions.

# Accommodation Options:

## Experience Affordable Accommodation and Lifestyle. We Can Help you Find It!

Both Dunedin and Central Otago are reasonably inexpensive places to live when compared with other cities in the world. Rent is comparatively cheap, and you are likely to share your expenses with other students. In both Dunedin and Central Otago, living close to campus means that your transport costs will be minimal – most essential 'everyday' activities are within walking distance.

There are many different types of accommodation available for international students including Halls of Residence (supervised accommodation), rented apartments and houses (flattening), and 'homestays'.

Many international students choose to live in a 'homestay' for their first year in New Zealand. This is where students get the unique experience of living with a New Zealand family, in their home.

Living in an apartment or house with other people is commonly referred to as 'flattening' in New Zealand. Most international students choose this option during their second or third year of study. When flattening, students share living costs such as electricity, telephone, food, and may have to provide their own furniture for the flat. Other accommodation options include furnished flats and studio (one room) accommodation.

## Dunedin

### Homestay:

This is where you live with a New Zealand family in their home and participate in family life. Homestay costs around \$224NZD per week and includes most meals.



*Inset: One of our welcoming Dunedin homestay families*

### Supervised Accommodation:

Supervised accommodation is a great option. You are guaranteed to meet many people, many of your meals are provided and extra expenses such as electricity and phone rental are generally included. This costs around \$300NZD per week.

#### Options for supervised accommodation include:

City College is located in North Dunedin, in the heart of the student area. You will live in apartment-style accommodation with 'flatmates' and dine in a communal eating area. City College has excellent recreation facilities and study facilities. Visit [www.citycollege.co.nz](http://www.citycollege.co.nz)

Salmond College is an easy 15 minute walk from our Dunedin campus. It has great facilities for study and recreation and a communal eating area for meals. Free study tutorials are also available. Visit [www.salmondcollege.ac.nz](http://www.salmondcollege.ac.nz)

Beaumont House is a cosy private hostel geared towards international students. Only a 20 minute walk to the Polytechnic's Forth Street campus, Beaumont House offers you the choice of single, double or twin share rooms. Cooking facilities are shared. Visit [www.beaumonthouse.net](http://www.beaumonthouse.net)

Gardens College is a private hall of residence for all students in Dunedin. With 25 rooms, some with private ensembles and kitchenettes. Visit [www.gardenscollege.co.nz](http://www.gardenscollege.co.nz)

### Flattening Privately:

There are plenty of properties to rent in Dunedin – they range from top-line trendy apartments, to traditional old villas, to studio rooms.

Unfurnished flats generally cost between \$85-\$115NZD per week and another \$80-\$100NZD in expenses like power, phone and food.

Furnished flats typically cost slightly more – about \$85-\$140NZD per week for rent, and are less common. Your expenses will most likely be the same as in an unfurnished property.

Studio rooms cost from \$120-\$220NZD per week. Often this includes power, heating, local telephone calls and cleaning of the common areas. Higher-priced studios can include ensuite facilities.

## Central Otago

There is a range of accommodation available for students in Central Otago, however we recommend that you organise your accommodation before you arrive.

### Hostel Accommodation:

The Chalets is an unsupervised hostel where you can rent a single room for \$100NZD per week, including electricity. Students are usually placed together, sharing lounge, bathroom and kitchen facilities.

### Flattening Privately:

There are good houses to rent in Central Otago – usually furnished three or four bedroom homes that cost between \$85-\$120NZD per room per week in rent, and \$80-\$100NZD per week in additional expenses.



*Inset: Dunedin and surrounds, Otago Polytechnic classrooms. Credit: Tourism Dunedin*

# FAQs.

## What are the tuition fees?

Tuition fees vary per programme, are due on a yearly basis and are usually between \$13,000 – \$17,000 NZD.

## What is the minimum/maximum age?

There is no maximum age to apply, provided that you are a genuine student. Usually, students entering are at least 18 years of age.

## What is the difference between a university and a polytechnic?

Historically, universities focussed on academic programmes and polytechnics on applied training. Today, there is a lot of overlap between the two. Otago Polytechnic offers degree programmes with an emphasis on student-focussed teaching, and applied learning classes, taught by lecturers with real-world experience. Cross-credits for courses completed at our Polytechnic can sometimes be credited to ongoing University study.

## What do I need for my Study Visa?

Your 'offer of place', which means that you have been accepted to study. This states your course fee, which you must pay and receive a receipt of payment from us. You must submit these two documents, along with our written guarantee (or from another person) that suitable accommodation is available to you, and evidence that you have sufficient funds for living expenses, a return international air ticket, or evidence of sufficient funds to buy one.

For courses longer than 24 months, you'll also need to provide very recent medical and x-ray certificates that are less than 3 months old. If you're over 17, you'll need a police certificate to show that you are of good character, and you may also need to show that you have been screened for tuberculosis.

## How long will my study take?

Undergraduate degrees are 3 years, diplomas are 2 years and certificates are 1 year. Graduate and post-graduate qualifications can take 1-2 years to complete.

## What about International Recognition?

All of our qualifications are recognised internationally and you are able to take your Otago Polytechnic degree and apply to other national and international institutions for post-graduate study.

## How much can I earn as a student?

Those students who are eligible to work while studying will probably get casual jobs in areas like hospitality or other service industries. Your hourly wage will be between \$8-15 NZD.

## What happens when I finish my degree?

Students who have completed their degree in the normal time and have a job offer related to their studies, can obtain a work visa for another 2 years, and may qualify for residence.

## What about applying for New Zealand Permanent Residency?

If you meet the requirements of the current immigration policy in New Zealand it is possible for you to apply for residence at any time. Immigration policy encourages students who have completed their degree in New Zealand to apply for permanent residence.

## How long can I study in New Zealand?

Providing you pass your course and continue to meet the requirements of your student visa, you can continue to extend your visa for as long as you wish. There is no limit on the time you can spend in New Zealand as a student.

## Is there an application fee?

No.

## How long does it take to apply?

We suggest you apply at least four months before your programmes starts, so that you are organised to arrive on time.

## What do I need to include in my application?

Your English Language Test Results: IELTS, TOEFL, or TOIEC and NCEA for applicants from NZ High Schools. We also require certified copies of any academic results you have from your overseas high school, college or university. We may also require a CV (resumé) or a portfolio, dependant on your programme.

## How can I get to Dunedin or Central Otago?

In most cases, you'll be able to catch a connecting flight from Auckland or Christchurch into Dunedin or Queenstown International Airports. One of our staff members will pick you up from the airport, and take you to your accommodation.

# Make It Happen. Apply Now.

## Employment, Immigration and Your Work Rights as a Student.

All international students require a student visa and permit from New Zealand Immigration to enable them to study in New Zealand. International Student Services can assist students with their application.

International students may be granted a Variation of Condition (VOC) on their student permit, so that they can gain employment. Generally, if you are enrolled in a full-time programme, you can apply to work for up to 20 hours per week.

Students can apply to work over the summer holidays if they are enrolled in any programme lasting 12 months or more. Full details of visa and permit requirements, advice on rights to employment while studying, and other requirements, are available through the New Zealand Immigration Service at [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

## Health and Travel Insurance

International students are well looked after in New Zealand. Otago Polytechnic has agreed to observe and be bound by the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students, published by New Zealand's Ministry of Education. Copies of the Code are available from the Ministry's website at [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz)

### Medical and Travel Insurance

International students must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while studying in New Zealand.

### Eligibility for Health Services

Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If they receive medical treatment during their visit, they may be liable for the full costs of that treatment.

Full details on entitlements to publicly funded health services are available through the Ministry of Health at [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz)

### Accident Insurance

The Accident Compensation Corporation provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand, but students may still be liable for all other medical and related costs. Further information can be viewed on the ACC website at [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz)

## English Language Admission Requirements and our Foundation Studies ESOL Programmes.

### English Language Requirements

All courses and programmes at Otago Polytechnic are taught and examined in English. If English is not your first language, you must provide evidence of a satisfactory level of English language proficiency. All academic programmes require an IELTS or TOEFL score, or equivalent, for admission.

### Study English First

Otago Polytechnic offers a wide range of entry options for Foundation and English Language Studies. These programmes are ideal for students who require English Language Instruction prior to starting their academic programme. Our Foundation Studies and Certificates programmes are ideal for students who lack the academic entry criteria for study. Otago Polytechnic aims to provide a study pathway for every international student.

## How to Apply

For academic entry criteria and secondary school graduate qualification equivalencies, go to [www.op.ac.nz/international](http://www.op.ac.nz/international) and download our International Students' Programme Guide and Application Form. We assess each application individually and you must provide certified copies of your most recent academic results and English Language Test results (if applicable).

### Our Academic Year

Otago Polytechnic has two main semesters. Most programmes start in February, however, there is a limited intake in July. We recommend that you apply by October 31st for our February intake and April 30th for our July intake.

## Contact Details

### Otago Polytechnic

Forth Street, Private Bag 1910  
Dunedin 9054, New Zealand

**Telephone:** +64 3 477 3014 (GMT +12 hours)

**Facsimile:** +64 3 471 6870

**Email:** [international@op.ac.nz](mailto:international@op.ac.nz)

**Web:** [www.op.ac.nz](http://www.op.ac.nz)



# Your New Zealand Study Options:



**OTAGO**  
POLYTECHNIC  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago

---

## Postgraduate Studies.

- > Art
- > Design

- > Midwifery
- > Occupational Therapy

---

## Graduate Studies.

- > Art
- > Design
- > Computing
- > Business
- > Tourism

- > Sport
- > Occupational Therapy
- > Midwifery
- > Nursing

---

## Undergraduate Studies.

- > Art
- > Design
- > Computing
- > Business Management
- > Tourism

- > Hospitality
- > Social Services
- > Nursing
- > Midwifery
- > Occupational Therapy

---

## Diploma Studies.

- > Engineering (Civil and Mechanical)
- > Quantity Surveying
- > Construction Management
- > Architectural Draughting
- > Horticulture
- > Viticulture

- > Business
- > Hospitality
- > Sport and Exercise Leadership
- > Outdoor Leadership
- > Tourism
- > Social Services

---

## Certificate Studies.

- > Creative
- > Fashion
- > Computing
- > Electrical Technology
- > Arboriculture
- > Sports Turf Management

- > Horticulture
- > Snowsports Instruction
- > Massage Therapy
- > Business
- > Hospitality
- > Veterinary Nursing

---

## Foundation and English Studies.

- > English PLUS:
  - English and Adventure
  - English and Art
  - English and Sport
  - English and Business

- > English Language Studies (Levels 1 - 5)
- > Foundation Studies: Your Bridge to Academic Study (One Semester to One Year)