Section: Five

Accommodation
Making Your Choice

Choosing somewhere to live is one of the most important decisions you make when starting university.

The Student Accommodation Centre has accommodation advisers available to talk to you Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm, or you can talk to a schools’ liaison officer.

You can also check out your accommodation options on our website:

www.otago.ac.nz/about/accommodation

Leaving home is a big step, but when you come to the University of Otago, there are plenty of choices to make that transition easy and fun!
Residential Colleges

For out-of-town first-year students, the popular choices are the 14 undergraduate residential colleges.

All of the colleges are located within walking distance of the campus and, while each has its own unique culture, they all share the core value of providing fully-supervised, quality, safe accommodation.

With over 3,400 beds available, college life is an important part of the experience for many students leaving home for the first time. Graduates who have experienced life in our residential colleges talk about the friends they made, the wonderful support in that first year away from home and the high standards of care offered.

Staff at the colleges, including senior students, provide support and guidance to help first-year students adapt to university life. The colleges all provide regular tutorials, computer facilities and broadband access, and nearly all offer wireless internet.

All of the colleges are fully catered – that’s three meals a day – and the standard of meals is extremely high.

Colleges have their own Students’ Clubs, which organise a calendar of cultural and sporting events throughout the year. Many of these events are intercollegial. Colleges also have a variety of recreational facilities and those without their own gym or workout room have access to the Unipol gym.

There is slight variation in the cost of residential colleges, but most are approximately $345.00 a week for the 38-week academic year.

Locals

The Locals programme is designed to give first-year students who are not living in a residential college the opportunity to experience the social, academic and orientation support provided to those living in colleges.

Applying for Residential Colleges

You can apply online from 1 August each year at:

www.otago.ac.nz/about/accommodation/application

When completing this application, take the time to complete each section fully as any inaccuracies may cause delays in sending it on to your first choice of college.

You will receive an instant confirmation from the Student Accommodation Centre on receipt of your application.

To be considered in the first round of offers for a place next year, your application and confidential reference form must be received at the Student Accommodation Centre no later than 30 September. Applications received after this date will still be considered as places become available.

During October, you will be emailed and you will either be offered a place in one of the colleges, or you will be advised that your application is on a waiting list. This list is reviewed regularly between October and when university starts in February.

For more information contact the friendly staff at the Student Accommodation Centre or schools’ liaison officers.

The accommodation application is not your registration for study, which you must also complete to enrol at the University of Otago (see page 22 for enrolment information).
Colleges at a Glance

Otago offers a unique range of residential options. Here’s what you’ll find, at a glance:

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Aquinas is renowned for its friendly “family” atmosphere and emphasis on academic achievement. This is the place to be if you want to have an awesome and successful time at University.

One of the smaller colleges at Otago, Aquinas has a supportive and warm culture that will help you to reach your potential. Scott and his team are dedicated to your well-being and ensure that every new resident is personally welcomed into the college.

Recently renovated, Aquinas boasts stunning facilities and attractive bedrooms with high quality furnishings. The peaceful surroundings mean there is little street or city noise to disturb your sleep or study. You can choose to live on a mixed- or single-sex floor, on an alcohol-free floor, or in a twin-share or single room. Aquinas cares about healthy lifestyles and serves fresh, healthy food every day. Multiple dietary needs are also catered for, including halal.

Aquinas places huge importance on the academic success of its residents. You will be supported and encouraged to achieve your academic potential. As well as regular tutorials tailored to your course you will receive individual mentoring sessions with returning residents and the in-house academic co-ordinator.

If you like to work out, the college gym and the full-size indoor basketball court are available for your use. Or, alternatively, you can relax with friends over a game of pool or table tennis. In winter the Common Room, with its comfy leather couches, is the place to be. Curl up in front of the fire with your study notes and enjoy the view from the panoramic windows.

Take the hourly shuttle back and forth to campus. Just five minutes each way, the shuttle is super convenient at the end of a long day. Alternatively, stroll down to the local Gardens shopping precinct and walk to uni via the beautiful Botanic Garden.

For more about Aquinas check us out on Facebook.

CONTACT:
Scott Walker
Aquinas College
74 Gladstone Road
PO Box 6196
Dunedin 9059
Tel 03 479 5562
Email aquinas@otago.ac.nz
If you’re coming to University to work hard and to do your best then, as they say at Arana, “step into the zone”. Arana places high expectations on residents to succeed and pulls out all the stops with its powerful learning support programme. Life here is all about getting “match fit”.

It’s a college driven by passion and commitment to traditional college life delivered in a modern co-educational college. Established in 1943, only the best of tradition survives. You don’t have to dress for dinner as we have a more informal culture, but your academic progress will be tracked, you will have the best tutors and you will live in a non-threatening environment with great facilities and great food.

Arana House, the focal point of the college, is a gracious 1880s’ home, which has been converted into modern communal facilities. Residents live in apartments, villas or college bedrooms. It’s a compact complex with attractive outdoor living spaces and just three minutes’ walk to campus. The majority of residents are first-year students who enjoy the company of a small group of mature and postgraduate students.

Staff at Arana function as a high-performance team full of enthusiasm and energy; nothing’s a problem. Jamie Gilbertson, Warden of Arana, is very clear about the culture at Arana. “Our approach is based on very straight talking with young people about their needs and their issues. We have great organised events – many are legendary, but they don’t happen every five minutes: this is not Disneyland.”

Healthy lifestyles are encouraged. There are no soft-drink vending machines, the stairs are used not the lifts, there’s a gym and table-tennis room and there’s a huge emphasis on healthy food and on managing alcohol in moderation.

There’s a WW II poster in Jamie Gilbertson’s office, which reads “Keep Calm and Carry On”. There are also two teddy bears on the arm of a chair, and just outside the door a clothing rack full of fur coats. Delve a little deeper and you find the fur coats are very popular and can’t quite fit into the dress-up room as it’s bursting at the seams. At Arana, in this community of scholars, everything is designed to make your stay the best it can be.
From the central courtyard, tree- and fern-flanked pathways lead off to various Edwardian villas and more contemporary accommodation buildings that are all north facing. A striking Māori carving, Te Korowai O Tane (Cloak of Tane) dominates the serenity. This artistic expression of the cloak of knowledge is a steadfast symbol of the pursuit of learning that Carrington residents have always embraced.

The culture at Carrington College is shaped by a desire for balance and restraint. The community prides itself on its academic focus and outstanding results. Respect for each other’s rights is acknowledged and well practised.

Carrington’s Warden, Peter Walker is a firm believer in setting high standards. “This is their home. I believe the higher the standards we set for students the more they appreciate it, and they do.”

Part of the Carrington ‘package’ is to encourage intellectual and personal independence as students adjust to tertiary study. This is achieved by pitching academic support in such a way to provide accurate information, a range of choices and resources to assist learning in a competitive university environment.

Carringtonians find that those who have come before them have left their mark with traditions that continue to enhance their own quality of living. Leisure and social activities are well structured and complement the academic focus. Regular musical events are highlights of the Carrington calendar.

There’s a sun-bathed astro-turf court in the middle of the gardens and a small gym on-site. The college is equipped with modern study stations and computer facilities.

The dining room, which has a wonderful range of indoor and outdoor dining locations, is the central meeting point of the community. It’s a great space for residents to catch up with each other and ‘swap notes’ about their day.

With beautiful surroundings, superb food, and extensive academic and personal support Carrington aims to provide the best environment for students to excel and achieve their goals.
As Otago’s only purpose-built residential college to be opened this millennium, City College has a 21st century history – here residents are creating traditions rather than following them.

The most striking tradition to take hold is the residents’ annual Art Show, which has become the source of the college’s stunning permanent art collection, lending vibrant colour to almost every room you enter.

That vibrancy extends to the diverse community of residents; it’s a multi-institutional mix with students studying at both the University and at Otago Polytechnic. Formerly the College also took many students from the College of Education. Since the latter merged with the University, teacher trainees continue to be welcomed here.

Many Polytech students are from Otago and Southland and it’s common to find their “northern” counterparts receiving extended southern hospitality during break times. City College is big on friendship.

Joy Crawford has been Head of City College since it opened and has always fostered an inclusive community. “This is a modern college with normal everyday kids. Our culture is based on 21st century values where everyone is encouraged to show consideration and compassion for others. There’s an emphasis on individual freedom without limiting the freedom of others.”

Close to campus, City College’s modern architectural design creates a distinctive and irregular skyline, reminiscent of Dunedin’s terraced houses. There’s a bright and sunny feel to the complex, and the internal courtyard, with its attractive garden, is popular for outdoor dining and studying in the sun.

Internally, rooms are grouped together in apartment-style accommodation with four to six residents sharing a lounge and snack-making facilities – a great introduction to flatting. Inter-stairwell groups form to challenge each other in college events. Community spirit thrives at City College where there is a very proactive promotion of healthy lifestyles and safe fun.

It’s a college that mirrors others with its full calendar of sporting and cultural events, plus great studying and recreational facilities including a gym. The library is a welcome addition in recent years.

In this supportive and non-threatening environment, personal safety and security are always at the forefront. At night-time it is a gated complex with after-hours electronic entry for residents.

City College has created a tradition of embracing the best of the 21st century.

CONTACT:
Joy Crawford
City College
911 Cumberland Street
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Email city.college@otago.ac.nz
We want you to succeed academically and to enjoy your first year at Otago, and that will most likely happen when you are able to relax and enjoy the place in which you live. Cumberland is a close-knit community – residents often say that the college quickly “feels like home”.

The main entrance to the college is inviting and the 1916 architecture gives the college a stately, yet warm atmosphere. Physically it is a labyrinth of surprises: TV rooms, study spaces and a computer suite, doors that open to the beautifully restored formal “Green Room”, and the sun-bathed tennis court. With the heart of the campus less than 500 metres away, Unipol nearby and the main shopping centre of Dunedin just a four-minute walk, Cumberland College is well positioned for its residents.

Not too big, not too small, Cumberland is a college where students with a variety of interests can succeed. Our staff will support you as you aim to achieve your goals, and with 327 beds in the college, you are sure to find like-minded people and new friends for life.

There are small but significant factors that make Cumberland different. Residents are grouped in clusters according to their course of study: one floor might house Health Science students, the next floor Commerce students, and yet another those studying Arts subjects. We aim to have residential assistants on most floors with an understanding of the courses their residents are studying. There is still plenty of mixing between floors, but the specific flooring really works at examination time when everyone has their head down and people can work together within their floors in study groups.

Cumberland also has a busy activity calendar, strengthened through the recent arrival of our new full-time residential assistant leader. There are rivalries with other colleges and there are plenty of individual and team events competed for, as well as college sports teams to be a part of.

The staff team at Cumberland are experienced and passionate about what they do. They are here to serve and to help residents succeed and have a memorable year.
The Court

The Court is a 104-strong residential community comprising 26 houses located near the heart of the University.

Essentially, it is a collegiate community with staff support and supervision, meals provided, weekly cleaning, social activities and tutorials offered. However, it offers its residents a greater degree of independence than the traditional colleges, as each house has its own kitchen, lounge and bathroom, making the living experience somewhere between a college and flatting. Court residents enjoy the support of a collegiate environment, along with the freedom of living in their own house.

The houses range in size from two to six bedrooms. There is a central outdoor courtyard, which is a popular place for barbecues in the summer. The HUB building offers student facilities and draws residents to its Sky TV room, communal lounge and tutorial room. The Residential Manager lives on-site, as do four residential assistants whose accommodation is connected to the HUB.

The Court has strong links to the residential colleges. It also has a range of social activities and holds formal dinners.

The Court attracts applicants from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences, who study a variety of courses. Residents are, where possible, housed according to their course of study. This means for example, Health Science students may be placed together, and likewise Law students or Commerce students may be housed as a group. Every year’s intake is different but every year a great community develops.

A key part of the Residential Manager’s role is to support students as they transition towards greater independence and responsibility. The Court community is built on the values of honesty and fairness.

All meals are provided. Breakfast supplies are delivered to the houses weekly and residents have access to the Gazebo Lounge located centrally on campus for lunch and dinner. The Gazebo Lounge is a great addition to the Court experience; residents can relax there, use the place to study and watch the big screen TV, as well as have access to wi-fi.

The Court offers the best of both worlds; all the advantages of a residential college but with the independence that comes from a shared living environment. Three quarters of residents end up flatting together the next year – they get to know each other so well at the Court. They have a wonderful year.

CONTACT:
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109 St David Street
Dunedin 9016
Tel 03 479 5100
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Email accommodation@otago.ac.nz
There’s a vibrancy that reflects from the walls. Two Otis Frizzell prints wink at you; both with their loud statement BEHAVE. The artistic irony is that while there are rules at Hayward it never feels that way. Life in this small residential college is about learning to make your own choices, about growing your independence in a supportive family environment.

Many who choose Hayward do so because it is small, you can’t slip between the cracks here, not with Pauline Donovan’s strong focus on pastoral care. The Head of Hayward says that the college motto “Community and Integrity” isn’t just for show; it’s at the heart of the Hayward culture.

“There’s a great balance here of serious study and good fun. We don’t go overboard but there is huge enthusiasm for doing fun things together. Great friendships develop and everyone’s really respectful of each other.”

Students love the convenience of Hayward. They have everything right on their doorstep: from city shopping, entertainment, fast food, recreation and, of course, the University campus. In its former life Hayward was a maternity hospital, so most bedrooms are larger than average size. It’s been refurbished with a modern finish and students appreciate the quality feel of their home. Cruising up and down in the spacious lifts is a fast way to connect with mates who are all in the one building. There’s a very well equipped gym for workouts and TV rooms for relaxation. The games room gets the most popularity votes and enjoys a high traffic flow en route to the dining room, which is open 24/7.

Each of the five accommodation floors is home to two residential assistants who provide another layer of support. They also team up with the college’s Student Committee to help organise the varied social, sporting and cultural programme that includes inter-floor “Shield” competitions.

The building has been no stranger to new life entering the world: at Hayward College you enter a new world that offers a rewarding life for your first-year experience.
Set among magnificent trees, lawns and expansive gardens, the Knox College tower block stands as one of Dunedin’s outstanding historic buildings.

Adjacent to the Dunedin Botanic Garden, the college is a relaxing 15-minute walk to the University campus alongside the Water of Leith. In our newly strengthened and completely refurbished complex we will welcome about 180 new residents, who join returning students and our pastoral support staff, to form a tightly-knit community of 262.

A foundation of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Knox also stands within the historic tradition of university colleges that envisaged a culture of learning which unified all of life. Our traditions, which some regard as quirky, but which we hold with affection, are intended to incorporate us into this integrated vision of university life. Our goal is that Knox be a place where residents’ lives are expanded in a convivial community characterised by personal development, scholarship and community service.

Knox College is committed to seeing every resident achieve their academic best. We offer a robust tutorial system, supported by the University’s Student Learning Centre and enhanced by contributions from visiting speakers and members of our Senior Common Room – a fellowship of postgraduate scholars and leading academics committed to the well-being of the college and its residents. If you want inspiration or help from interesting scholars, Knox is the place to come.

We encourage a range of extra-curricular activities and celebrate the many interests and skills that residents contribute to our life together. There are clubs for debating, poetry, film and drama, choirs, an orchestra and jazz and rock bands. The long-established sporting and cultural competitions against Selwyn College are always vigorously supported by every resident.

The magnificent dining hall is the heart of many College activities, and residents are nourished more than three times a day by the outstanding fare provided by the college’s professional team. On Sundays we dress for a formal dinner and music of many genres is provided by talented residents.

We also celebrate an ethos of service whereby every resident will find some involvement for the community beyond the college. Dunedin provides a great range of opportunities for volunteering. Our Rolls of Honour and trophy cabinets serve to remind us that for over 100 years Knox has been home to people who have subsequently offered noteworthy service in scholarship, the professions, public and community life.

Underlying this collegial vision, and reflecting the college’s Presbyterian provenance, weekly worship, for those who wish, is held in the beautiful Ross Chapel. As a place of hospitality we welcome people of all denominations and convictions. Our hope is to be a place of mutual encounter where every resident will leave knowing that their lives have been enriched.

CONTACT:
Rev Dr Selwyn Yeoman
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Tel 03 473 0107
Email master@knoxcollege.ac.nz
St Margaret’s has an air of graciousness in keeping with its 103-year-old history; everything about it feels solid. This is a traditional independent college for independent-minded students.

St Margaret’s grounds are full of colour and perfume, with native trees and beautiful flower gardens. Inside, the rich interior furnishings are offset by a growing collection of impressive New Zealand art. There’s a real sense of warmth here from the moment you open the front door.

Reverend Dr Peter Norris has been the popular Master at St Margaret’s for over 25 years. An academic, Dr Norris’s identity has almost become synonymous with that of St Margaret’s. He has a genuine interest in students. At the start of the year he meets with all students on a one-to-one basis, and during the year organises ongoing academic assistance when it’s needed.

Sometimes spoken of as “the quiet college”, St Margaret’s attracts high achievers who appreciate the supportive study environment. Tutorials are held in many first- and second-year papers including Law and all first-year Health Science papers. A third of residents are returning students who take up mentor roles, providing another rich layer of academic support. Plus there’s wireless internet.

Dr Norris fosters a culture that encourages personal growth. “At St Margaret’s our scholars become citizens. Formality has its place but it doesn’t dominate. We have fun but it is always based on courtesy and consideration for others.”

There’s a strong tradition of involvement in Community Service projects, which have included working with Habitat for Humanity, Friendlink, Orokonui Ecosanctuary and Te Araiteuru Marae.

At St Margaret’s you can be stimulated by more than just your own studies: at formal Sunday dinners you mix and chat informally with academic guests; academic breakfasts and arts/science breakfasts provide an opportunity to debate issues in other disciplines; language groups meet casually over organised suppers. The traditional annual calendar of student-organised and inter-college events includes a ball, a skiing trip and the opportunity to participate in social and competitive sports teams.

St Margaret’s also boasts generous music facilities with four pianos, an electronic keyboard, a music room for private practice and Sibelius music software for music composition. Then there’s the choir – often 70 members strong.

Plenty of food for the soul, and kitchen chefs whose own offerings are praised at every sitting. As Dr Norris states, “At St Margaret’s we have everything to lift the spirits.”
Looking out for each other

www.salmondcollege.ac.nz

The first thing that strikes you when you arrive at Salmond is the magnificent spacious grounds and peaceful setting. This is a true oasis on the fringe of the main campus, an ideal place to live and study.

Purpose-built as a university residential college, everything about Salmond’s living space works. This medium-sized community, 238 residents in individual rooms all under the one roof, is spoilt with generous facilities and a huge sense of space. The dining room caters for everyone in one sitting, the common room is expansive plus there are smaller common rooms on every floor. Tutorial rooms are modern and roomy. An ensuited residential wing offers mature students the opportunity to also apply for Salmond College.

Salmond is a supportive “family” community where everyone is encouraged to “look out” for each other. The College is full of happy everyday kids from all over New Zealand and the world and it is a joy to see how they develop confidence through the year and grow as individuals. The family concept is fully encouraged: residents do things together, treat each other with respect and as adults, and look after each other really well.

A strong emphasis is also placed on the academic side. Salmond encourages a supportive study environment with great study facilities and a comprehensive range of tutorials.

However, you can also count on Salmond making its share of the noise when they pitch themselves against other colleges in a wide range of inter-college sporting and cultural events. And the Students’ Association is very active organising many great social activities throughout the year. The chefs put fun on the menu with formal dinners, theme nights and special occasions - they have a legendary sense of adventure as well as a reputation for serving up fantastic food.

Then there are the extras at Salmond: the chapel with its stunning stained-glass windows which is also the music room, there’s a library stocked with recreational reading, a tennis court, a large free car-parking area that borders 10 acres of bush with walking tracks and a well-equipped workout gym.

Salmond College offers a peaceful and spacious environment aiming for an academic, sporting, social and culturally balanced lifestyle.

Contact:
Maurie Jackways or Richard Hewitt
Salmond College
19 Knox Street
Dunedin 9010
Tel 03 473 0750
Email administration@salmondcollege.ac.nz
A COMMUNITY OF LEADERS EMBRACING THE SELWYN EXPERIENCE
www.selwyn.ac.nz

Once a Selwynite always a Selwynite; such is the fierce loyalty that Selwyn breeds in its alumni. In the heart of the campus, the University’s oldest college was opened in 1893 and is steeped in tradition.

Selwyn is a true community of scholars and the Selwyn Experience, which provides an educational experience centred on, but far broader than, academic study, aims to produce leaders who will make a disproportionate difference for good in the world.

There’s a feel of Cambridge here as you stand in the quadrangle and look through English gardens towards the imposing 19th century building. Yet old and new come together at Selwyn, which boasts comprehensive and up-to-date IT capabilities.

Participation and success are top of the agenda at Selwyn. Residents are very competitive both academically and in sporting and cultural endeavours. This is a college of leaders; students who go on to excel in all walks of life. They are outgoing individuals, all-rounders, and the number of Rhodes Scholars on Selwyn’s proud honours list suggests they always have been.

As Otago’s oldest fully-catered college, residents form a tight-knit community based on a deep sense of inclusivity, respect and mutual care. Everyone eats together at one sitting in the impressive oak-panelled dining room.

The College has a suite of tutorial rooms to accommodate the in-house tutorials. The “Catacombs” and “The Shed” are two generous-sized social spaces. There is a musicians’ room and it’s the only college to have a squash court. There is also a tennis court.

A good proportion of Selwynites spend two years in the College with returning and ex-students contributing to the strong sense of community. There’s long-standing rivalry between Selwyn and Knox as each year they compete in sporting and cultural competitions, plus unique traditions, like the Leith Run and the Selwyn Ballet, which are enthusiastically promoted by residents.

The strong welfare focus is testament to the calibre of the Welfare Team. They are all senior and postgraduate students committed to supporting the personal and academic well-being and development of Selwyn residents.

Selwyn College is privileged to nurture the leaders of tomorrow in a caring and supportive community. Residents form a strong bond with the College with most becoming active members of the Ex-Resident Association and then the Alumni after graduation.
When you leave home it’s hard to imagine that you could be welcomed into a new family who would make you feel completely at ease. That’s the Studholme experience; a medium-size residential college, small enough for everyone to know each other’s names. No matter what your background or personality, there’s a place at Studholme for you.

On the University’s doorstep and only five-minutes’ walk to lectures, Studholme is hidden behind mature trees with amazing grounds that open onto a large outdoor garden. On warm days it’s popular for al fresco dining or just for soaking up the sun. In winter a blazing open fire draws residents into the common room with its sinking couches, wide-screen Sky and table-tennis and pool tables.

There’s a distinct relaxed and friendly feel here akin to the big smile that always greets you when you meet Ziggy Lesa, the Head of Studholme and his staff. Studholme helps foster the core family values of respect, love, tolerance and responsibility. This is what forms the fabric of the Studholme culture.

“Our strength at Studholme is our medium size; it’s vibrant, personal and very family orientated. Each student becomes part of our wider family and is treated as such.”

The original villa provides the cosy recreation area, indoor training gym and bedrooms upstairs. Most residents live in the central accommodation block but there are also a number of five-to-eight bedroom houses, which have their own lounge and kitchen facilities. Academic support is here for the taking. Study rooms and a computer suite are always in use and regular study groups are encouraged.

At Studholme fun is never far away. Long-standing traditions of inter-college tournaments punctuate the year. Whether it’s the annual Battle of the Bands with Arana, a basketball championship at Aquinas or a debating competition with St Margaret’s and Salmond, the competitive spirit is alive and well.

As with most families the kitchen is where the heart is and Studholme’s food is awesome.
“Te Rangi Hiroa embodies all the qualities that we want for our students here at the college – a real desire to achieve academically, deep empathy, and an enquiring mind to lead you into an exciting future,” says Warden Ashley Day.

While the values are traditional, the facilities are ultra modern in this newly renovated college, which is located only five minutes from the University and three minutes from the heart of the city shopping centre.

There are 126 en suite rooms, almost all with queen-sized beds and a kitchenette for maximum convenience and privacy. Each suite is freshly decorated and has a study area, wi-fi and ample storage space. There is also a female-only wing and alcohol-free accommodation options.

At Te Rangi Hiroa you’ll develop lifelong friendships in a supportive environment that will soon feel like your home away from home. There’s a multi-use theatre for movie nights and a large common room with everything you would expect and more – including Sky TV, a piano for musical interludes and a spacious, sunny rooftop terrace with spectacular city views.

The rec room features a small gym as well as the usual games, and the light, spacious dining hall offers a full dining-room service that caters for all dietary requirements.

The study facilities are also excellent and include a computer room with a multi-purpose printer and a large, modern study centre for group work or tutorials, which are an important part of the college’s academic support programme.

While this is a new college, it comes with experienced leadership – Ashley has been warden of three colleges over the past 18 years and is excited to be part of establishing Te Rangi Hiroa.

The college proudly celebrates its association with its namesake and his people. Your experience at Te Rangi Hiroa College will be greatly enriched by his legacy.
Groups of five-to-seven residents make their home in one of the 28 apartment-style units all grouped together under treetops in a bushy garden landscape. Toroa provides three meals a day for all residents – with breakfast food delivered for residents to make breakfast at their own convenience in their own units, and lunch and dinner provided seven days a week in the University Union building, located a comfortable stroll from Toroa.

Toroa has “Manawa” as its big communal heart. This central meeting place brings residents together and functions as a social hub that rivals any other residential college. Toroa’s social calendar reads like a year-long festival of arts, sports and leisure activities, and the Toroa College Ball is legendary.

Life at Toroa is all about success and development, both academic and personal. The extensive academic and pastoral support programme, and the dedicated Toroa staff team, help ensure everyone feels comfortable and can achieve their goals.

Toroa offers the opportunity to experience shared community living and collaborative learning experiences, and the relaxed environment allows you the space to be yourself. All the buildings at Toroa have wireless access, there’s a music room, computer suite, pool table, communal bikes and lots more to help you relax and feel at home.

Head of Toroa, Christina Watson-Mills, says that being one of Otago’s smaller colleges, the Toroa culture has a relaxed and homely feel. “It’s a community where strong friendships, respect and support for each other come naturally.”

Company is never far away, but if you want to spend time on your own, you can, and the staff who live on-site are always there when you need them.

With a strong emphasis on personal achievement and the friendliest staff, Toroa takes you one step closer to life after college.

It’s not just a residential college – it’s Toroa. The Toroa experience is all about the community, it’s what makes Toroa College a great place to live and study.
University College

UniCol is Otago’s largest residential college with more than 500 residents and it’s the sheer size of this community that shapes its culture. At UniCol you will always find a friend, you will always find others studying what you are studying and you will always meet those who share the same interests as you.

Your first circle will be those on your floor. “Floor Missions” have become something of a tradition at UniCol and can be as simple as enjoying a barbecue in the internal courtyard or as challenging as taking part in the 48-hour-film competition. Then, sports teams and special interest clubs connect you with more new friends. Plus you get to know fellow classmates when you’re brought together in structured tutorials, which cater for the broad spectrum of residents’ chosen fields of study.

There’s no typical UniCol student because there is simply every type of student here. It’s a diverse, cosmopolitan and lively living environment where academic success is publicly recognised and celebrated.

UniCol is also defined as the college in the heart of the campus. Lectures are just a bowl of cereal away, the Allen Hall Theatre is right on your doorstep, and the library and Union are just a stroll from the main entrance. Even though everything’s right outside the door there’s always so much on offer inside that residents can become very home-loving creatures.

The main common room has a country lodge feel with its sunken conversation pit centred around a log fire. A wide-screen TV and pool tables keep this space vibrant, and there’s the Detour Café that’s open in the evenings for late-night coffee and carbohydrate fixes. Thirty-five other common rooms can be found throughout the two tower blocks, the adjoining Annexe and the Forth Street Mews.

UniCol staff take an active part in the life of the community. College Master Chris Addington says, “Our staff are dedicated to those who call University College home. We provide a balance of academic support, social and recreational activities while realising that we have a diverse and cosmopolitan community. It is a privilege working in a college which hums with such positive energy.”

UniCol is the big college with a big reputation for a rewarding first-year experience.
There are many alternatives to living in one of the colleges. There are flats within walking distance, private boarding and homestay. The Dunedin community welcomes students and many families enjoy sharing their homes with students from other parts of New Zealand and around the world.

**Flatting**

After the first year of study, many students move into flats. Dunedin has a wide range of rental accommodation – from studio rooms to multi-unit purpose-built complexes. The Student Accommodation Centre provides an up-to-date flat list that covers one-bedroom to eight-bedroom flats. They also offer a service where flatmates can advertise to fill vacancies in their flat and they provide sample budgets for flatting, a list of students looking for flatmates, flat agreements between flatmates, and helpful hints for flatting life.

**Hospitality Programme**

During February the Student Accommodation Centre runs a hospitality programme. As part of this programme, students looking for flats, or who have vacancies in flats, can attend “Speed Flatting”. This is a fun event that provides the opportunity for students to make connections with other students and check if they would be compatible as flatmates. If you are intending to find your own accommodation, you should plan to arrive in Dunedin up to 10 days before classes begin to take advantage of this service. It is recommended that you book temporary accommodation before you arrive. Visit the Student Accommodation Centre for more information and personal service.

**Student Tenancy Accommodation Rating Scheme (STARS)**

www.housingstars.co.nz

The STARS website is a tool for rating and recognising good quality student properties, allowing students to make informed decisions about what sort of home they rent. The STARS ratings are based on information provided by landlords on fire safety, security, insulation, heating and ventilation. You should ask landlords about the STARS rating for any property you are interested in renting.

**Homestay**

Homestay is an option that allows students to concentrate on their studies while also offering them the opportunity to join in a family lifestyle. Students are provided with breakfast and dinner Monday to Friday and three meals a day at the weekend. The student’s bedroom is private and is furnished with a study desk, heater and bedroom furniture. Students are given a key to the host’s home so they can be as independent as they wish.

You can arrange homestay accommodation by contacting:

University of Otago Foundation Studies
Tel 03 479 5710
Fax 03 479 5251
Email uolcfy.accommodation@otago.ac.nz

**Temporary Accommodation**

We recommend that you book temporary accommodation before you arrive in Dunedin. A list of temporary accommodation can be found on our website www.otago.ac.nz/about/accommodation/

**Postgraduate**

Several of the residential colleges provide accommodation for a number of postgraduate students. The University of Otago has New Zealand’s only residential college – Abbey College – specifically for postgraduate students. This accommodation is located within a few minutes’ walk of all University facilities.

Many senior students, especially those with partners or families, prefer to rent houses or flats near shops or schools. Although there is some accommodation suitable for couples or families close to the campus, affordable accommodation is available in the suburbs, often only a short 10-minute drive or bus trip from the main campus. The Student Accommodation Centre provides lists of suitable houses and flats.

**Accommodation for People with Disabilities**

The University of Otago is committed to assisting people with disabilities, with many of our colleges particularly suitable for people who use wheelchairs.

A number of University flats have been modified to meet the needs of students with physical disabilities and some secure properties are available for students who use guide dogs.

The Student Accommodation Centre can help you with further details but it is important to register an interest during August and September if you require accommodation for the following year.

**International Students**

International students already studying in New Zealand schools can apply for colleges using the same application process as New Zealand students.

International students who want to study in New Zealand, and have applied for an academic offer to study at the University of Otago, will receive information and international application forms for accommodation.

Non-resident international students can also apply online at www.otago.ac.nz

The University of Otago welcomes all international students to Dunedin. International students accepted for a college can look forward to being active in the social, cultural and recreational programmes provided.

For further information about accommodation options at the University of Otago contact

Student Accommodation Centre
109 St David Street
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Tel 03 479 5100
Fax 03 479 8249
Email accommodation@otago.ac.nz