

Division of Health Sciences Te Wāhanga Matau Mātau

Internationalisation Strategy

2022 - 2025



Preamble

The Division of Health Sciences is recognised for its high standard of graduates and research. With facilities in four New Zealand locations—Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington—the Division delivers programmes in Biomedical Sciences, Dental Technology, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Medical Laboratory Science, Medicine, Nursing, Oral Health, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, and Radiation Therapy. Postgraduate study in health sciences is available in more than 100 fields. The Division's research is world-leading, particularly in areas such as public health, clinical practice, health policy, and health innovation. Our researchers collaborate internationally, and contribute to, and lead, international centres of excellence. The Division is committed to research that improves global health and productivity. The academic and professional staff of the Division are linguistically and culturally diverse. The Division values the large number of international students who choose to study Health Sciences at Otago, including cohorts at Otago with the support of our international partners.

Internationalisation is the process of integrating an international, intercultural, and global dimension into our teaching, research, and work environment. Internationalisation enriches the Division of Health Sciences specifically, and thus the University of Otago broadly, through diversity of languages, cultures, and worldviews. We acknowledge that Covid-19 has changed the environment we live in and subsequently altered the way we approach internationalisation.

Vision

The Division of Health Sciences' vision is to be fully engaged in and committed to internationalisation of the Division's activities. These attitudes will be embedded in our everyday university culture and values and in our relationships with partners and collaborators, staff, and students. We will undertake research and teaching that supports the needs of local, national, and global communities

Mission

The Division of Health Sciences will model and promote sustainable, positive, and effective culture and values of internationalisation based on a partnership approach to cross-boundary relationship-building at student, staff, and institutional levels.



Strategic Goals

Division of Health Sciences International Strategy 2022-2025	
Goals	
1. Produce outcomes that reflect an ongoing commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi	
2. Commit to the Pacific Region	
3. Being a global citizen	
4. Provide a culture where international students and staff are welcomed, respected and valued	
5. Ensure an outstanding international student experience	
6. Increase in the internationalisation of the curriculum	
7. Increase staff international engagement	
8. Increase student international engagement	
9. Increase student involvement in internationalisation	



Goals

1. Produce outcomes that reflect an ongoing commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- Ensure current MOU/MOA with iwi partners are met within the division.
- Ensure all programmes within the Division are inclusive of decolonised and anti-racism content as tools to advocate for Indigenous health equity.
- Continue to build and sustain key relationships with Māori stakeholders.
- Effectively promote success of Māori projects.

Priority: Regular reporting and Engagement accountability frameworks to the ADM HS Committee

2. Commit to the Pacific Region

- Support the implementation of the Pacific Strategic Framework, in particular building and strengthening relationships, collaborations and networks with Pacific Island countries
- Promote and support engagement in functional relationships with Pacific Island countries
- Explore opportunities for equal partnerships in health research, teaching, and support

Priority: Engagement with Health Sciences' Va'a O Tautai and the Associate Dean Pacific.

3. Being a global citizen:

- Teach and promote intercultural competence for all staff and students
- Increase awareness of the importance and benefits of increased internationalisation
- Work collaboratively with Va'a o Tautai to support the Division's staff and students in strengthening their Pacific cultural competencies
- Ensure reciprocity and respect with partnerships and collaborations
- Be receptive and responsive to the priorities and needs of the communities with whom it has a relationship

Priority: Identify opportunities to strengthen existing and foster new relationships within the Pacific Region.



4. Provide a culture where international students and staff are welcomed, respected, and valued:

- Understand why internationalisation is important
- Celebrate our staff and students being culturally and linguistically diverse, treat them with respect and value them as individuals by avoiding discrimination, stereotyping, and generalisation

Priority: Encourage all staff to be positive and proactive role models and be intolerant of behaviours that demean, stereotype or prejudice international staff and students

5. Ensure an outstanding international student experience:

- Ensure staff and students have appropriate intercultural orientation and competency
- Promote the awareness of the benefits of having international students and break down stereotyping from staff and students
- Provide mechanisms to identify and support international students with challenges that may be culturally based
- Provide high quality academic and pastoral support for all international students

Priority: Ensure that students have a first-rate Otago experience.

6. Increase Internationalisation of the curriculum:

- Develop curricula that provide opportunities for international partnerships and collaborations (e.g., student exchange/ student abroad, sharing online resources)
- Develop curricula that include international perspectives
- Support the development of curricula aligned with the University's Pacific strategic goals
- Perform curricula modifications to ensure recognition of learning acquired internationally (portability/ credit mobility)
- Explore the development of collaborative joint degrees with international partners

Priority: Continue to support ongoing opportunities and existing relationships between schools/faculties and their international collaborators



7. Increase staff international engagement:

- Identify, develop, and consolidate international partnerships and collaborations
- Support existing and develop new articulation agreements with international partners
- Encourage the appointment a staff representative within each school/faculty of the Division who will be proactive in internationalisation and a member of the Health Sciences Internationalisation Committee
- Work collaboratively with the Division of External Engagement - International Office to identify strategic university partnerships and collaborations
- Work collaboratively with the Health Sciences schools/faculties to identify opportunities to improve staff and student mobility

Priority: Maintain internationalisation staff representatives in each school/faculty, who will provide clear communication between the Associate Dean International for Health Sciences and the respective school/faculty or Dean.

8. Increase student international engagement:

- Involve representatives from OUSA through committee membership and other student groups in implementing and developing the Division's internationalisation strategy and goals
- Seek input and ideas from student representatives as to how internationalisation can be integrated more into the curriculum
- Encourage appointment within each school/faculty of an international student representative to work closely with the staff representative to provide an international student voice

Priority: Ensure the International student voice is represented.

9. Increase the numbers of undergraduate and postgraduate international students:

- Identify, promote, and develop programmes that have the potential to be offered internationally and in particular the Pacific
- Progress programmes attractive to international students, including Master's (Coursework), collaborative joint degrees and wholly distance-learning programmes
- Advocate for scholarships for international students

Priority: Facilitate Distance Education to be provided wholly online and reduce barriers to advancing knowledge, particularly in the Pacific Region

Alignment with other documents:

[University of Otago, Internationalisation Framework](#)

[University of Otago, Pacific Strategic Framework](#)

[University of Otago, Māori Strategic Framework](#)

[University of Otago, Vision 2040](#)

Strategic framework for students with English as an additional language (working title)

[Division of Health Sciences Strategic Plan](#)

[Division of Health Sciences Teaching and Learning Plan](#)

[ENZ International Education Strategic Plan](#)

[NZQA Education \(Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners\) Code of Practice 2021](#)



To be reviewed August 2025

