What recent graduates say

The Diploma for Graduates endorsed in Information and Communications Technology was previously known as "SHIFT" and supported by the ICT Graduate School (SIGNAL). The programme is a collaboration between the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic.

"After completing my Bachelor of Science, I wasn't sure what career path I wanted to take. The SHIFT programme seemed like a great opportunity to learn something new, enhance my studies and gain job opportunities within the IT sector.

I enjoyed the mix of university papers with industry projects, which helped develop a lot of necessary soft skills. The teaching staff were also extremely knowledgeable, and it was great to have highly skilled people to go to for advice whenever I needed it."

Christine Chambers
Bachelor of Science (Genetics)
Technology graduate, IAG

"The programme allowed me to completely change my career path.

The best aspects were the group projects working on real-life problems and creating solutions for companies. The internship was the cherry on top. I got to work with others in the industry full-time and successfully develop something that has already made an impact on the business."

Will Charlton
Bachelor of Science (Zoology, Ecology)
Software engineer, Jade Software

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POSTGRADUATE

UNIVERSITY *of* OTAGO
Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo
NEW ZEALAND

EFMD EQUIS ACCREDITED

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POSTGRADUATE

UNIVERSITY OTAGO
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Diploma for Graduates (DipGrad) endorsed in

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Shift to a new career in IT

Your pathway to one of the fastest growing areas of employment.

The Diploma for Graduates (DipGrad) endorsed in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allows students with a degree in other areas to acquire the background and fundamental skills needed to enter employment in the ICT sector.

Why study a DipGrad endorsed in ICT?

This one-year industry-focused programme is a pathway to one of the fastest-growing areas of employment.

With a DipGrad endorsed in ICT you will:

- tailor the programme to your interests, background and desired pathway
- develop and apply your ICT knowledge
- establish your ICT portfolio
- gain practical industry experience
- be work-ready and gain the opportunity to grow your personal IT sector network.

Key information

- A one-year industry-focused programme.
- Start November 2021 with a Summer School Jump Start course.
- Industry placements starting in October 2022.
- Flexibility to continue to work while studying: Full-time and part-time options.
- A combination of classroom and lecture-based learning with real-life, value-adding industry projects, internships and industry visits.

Who is this programme suited to?

- Anyone with a degree and a non-technical background (who is currently working or looking to re-enter the workforce) wishing to move into a technical-focused role.
- Recent graduates wanting to enhance their existing qualification with IT skills to improve their employment prospects.
- People with an IT background who wish to gain a new information technology specialisation and expand their industry network.

Teaching style and methods

- Small classes with good student-to-lecturer ratios.
- Topics will be influenced by the student's existing background and their chosen pathway within the programme.
- Students will work in groups for particular topics, supported by their academic advisor and an industry mentor.
- A student-led project in collaboration with a host organisation/institution will also be included.
- Students take part in both studio and placement projects in which they work with various IT companies in Dunedin, and New Zealand-wide, giving them the opportunity to experience a variety of industries and company structures.

Programme structure

We offer a flexible programme structure, and take students' interests and professional backgrounds into account, to ensure each student gets what they want out of the course.

Career opportunities

There are many possible career paths in the ICT sector, and not all require the full technical background that a degree in Computer Science or Information Science would provide.

This programme aims to shift students' skill sets so they can contribute directly in an ICT-related position, and then continue developing their skills and abilities. Most of our graduates find employment in an IT company upon completion of the programme.

Possible pathways:

Web development	General development	System development
Data science	User experience design	Software testing
Network administration	Digital marketing	Robotics and internet of things
Geographic Information Systems	System administration	