



University of Otago

# Pacificana

## Support for Pacific students



**Talofa lava, kia orana, malo ni,  
malo e lelei, fakaalofa lahi atu,  
bula vinaka, halo ola keta,  
mauri, fakatalofa atu and  
warm Pacific greetings.**

Welcome to the University of Otago  
Aotearoa's first university  
and the first choice for more than  
**21,000 students.**

Whether you're following a family tradition or leading the way for others – university will be a new experience for you.

At Otago, we value everyone. Alongside our wider Pacific community, we are here to look out for you, to ensure you study hard, enjoy life and succeed in ways that will enrich your own life and the lives of your family and community for years to come.

You have what it takes to succeed, and Otago has what it takes to help you get there – *we look forward to welcoming you.*



Highest possible  
international  
quality rating



Dedicated on-campus  
support services



225 undergraduate  
and postgraduate  
programmes



15 residential colleges  
offer a vibrant and  
supportive campus  
community

# The University of Otago is ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world.

(QS World University Rankings)

**1,365**

Pacific students enrolled in 2022.

**175**

Pacific first-year students awarded scholarships.

**Our Pacific Islands Centre**

is dedicated to supporting our Pacific students.

**256**

Pacific graduates in 2022.

**71**

with postgraduate qualifications.

**#1**

in Aotearoa for Pacific student qualification completions.\*

Figures from University of Otago Annual Report 2022  
\*TEC Educational Performance Indicators



86% of first-year students come from outside Dunedin

**95%**

95% of graduates go directly into work or on to further study



State-of-the-art libraries, lecture theatres, research labs and facilities



Aotearoa's top university for educational performance\*

# Welcome

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The University of Otago is New Zealand's first university and remains its finest, founded by early Scottish settlers to Dunedin in 1869, with a deep commitment to working closely with iwi. Our wings are shaped by the Pacific region in which we live. If you imagine the map of the world with the Pacific Ocean in the middle, you notice two things. First, the Pacific Ocean is massive, and second, New Zealand sits right in the middle – giving us an excellent launching pad to make a difference in this part of the world.

Over the last few decades, the University of Otago has become a powerful force in the Pacific. We are committed to being good neighbours to our other Pacific Island nations. We will continue to collaborate with them through education and research to tackle the challenges we face in this region.

For many years the University of Otago has welcomed students from the Pacific Islands, and many graduates have provided notable leadership and service in their own countries (including several Prime Ministers). Increasingly, Pacific students born in New Zealand are also choosing the University of Otago for their education.

The University's commitment to Pacific aspirations is articulated in its Pacific Strategic Framework (2022–2030), which marks a significant milestone in the University's longstanding engagement with local, national and regional Pacific communities. The Framework is ambitious in scope and sets targets to support the development of activities that promote improved rates of access, retention and completion among students of indigenous Pacific descent.

On behalf of everyone at the University of Otago, I would like to offer a very warm welcome to Pacific students. We are delighted to have you here, and will do all we can to make your time at Otago fruitful and enjoyable.

## **Professor Helen Nicholson**

Vice-Chancellor (Acting)

# Warm Pacific greetings

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The University of Otago has had a long relationship with people of the Pacific who, whether Island-born or New Zealand-born, are high achievers.

The Pacific Islands Centre endeavours to ensure that all students are welcomed and see the Centre as an extension of home, as an extension of the vā (sacred space) – a home away from home. The Centre achieves this by providing academic, pastoral, social and spiritual guidance for all Pacific students.

Pacific student numbers continue to grow at Otago, with more than 1,300 Pacific students enrolled in 2022.

We provide the cultural link for students and their parents/families to the University's teaching and research community. This continues to be well supported by the diverse Pacific communities across Aotearoa, who choose the University of Otago as the tertiary destination for their family member.

Our staff are passionate and committed to providing ongoing holistic support to Pacific students, through understanding the issues and challenges they face. The Pacific Islands Centre is committed to doing all we can to contribute to their experiences and their academic success here at Otago.

The Pacific Islands Centre is waiting for your journey to academic success to start at the University of Otago.



## **Tagiilima Feleti**

Pacific Islands Centre Manager



# Supporting your journey to Otago

Living away from home and going to university is very different to secondary school, which is why we offer a lot of support to help you prepare for the change.

# Who can I talk to?

There will always be someone you can talk to about Otago. We are committed to our students and community.

## Pacific Students' Transition Officers

Tameti and Scotty's roles are to support Pacific students' transition to university life on campus, and make their journey to Otago successful. Support includes assisting with StudyLink applications, finding accommodation, quality pastoral care and regular check-ins. They visit secondary schools to equip students with knowledge for them to make informed decisions for their future at Otago.



**Tameti Teweti**  
03 479 8029  
[tameti.teweti@otago.ac.nz](mailto:tameti.teweti@otago.ac.nz)



**Scotty Opeteia**  
03 479 8996  
[scotty.opetaia@otago.ac.nz](mailto:scotty.opetaia@otago.ac.nz)

## Pacific Liaison Officers – Schools' Liaison

Therese, Kiti and Amber are the Pacific Liaison Officers within the Schools' Liaison team, based in Auckland. Our schools' liaison officers are experts on everything Otago. They visit secondary schools throughout the country to provide information and advice about the opportunities for living and learning at Otago.



**Therese Lam**  
09 373 9709  
[therese.lam@otago.ac.nz](mailto:therese.lam@otago.ac.nz)



**Kitiona Pasene**  
09 373 9703  
[kitiona.pasene@otago.ac.nz](mailto:kitiona.pasene@otago.ac.nz)



**Amber Russell**  
09 373 9715  
[amber.russell@otago.ac.nz](mailto:amber.russell@otago.ac.nz)

# Programmes for school students

There are a number of outreach programmes and events to support your journey to university, including opportunities to travel to Dunedin and experience life at Otago.

## Hands-On at Otago

Hands-On at Otago is a week-long summer camp held annually in January.

The Pacific Islands Centre offers scholarships for Pacific secondary students entering Year 12 or 13 who wish to participate in the programme. The scholarship covers all costs – including travel to and from Dunedin – for a fun week developing knowledge, skills and passion for tertiary study.

[otago.ac.nz/hands-on-at-otago](http://otago.ac.nz/hands-on-at-otago)



## Pacific On-Campus Experience

The Pacific On-Campus Experience (POCE) programme coincides with Dunedin Tertiary Open Days in May every year.

POCE is a fully funded scholarship that provides an amazing opportunity for senior secondary school students of Pacific descent to sample living and learning at the University of Otago.

Students from around the country are sponsored to come to Dunedin for three days to experience life in a residential college, attend various programmes (including the Open Days), meet the Pacific Islands Centre staff, and start planning their academic journey.

[otago.ac.nz/poce](http://otago.ac.nz/poce)

"I made the decision to study at Otago after participating in the Pacific On-Campus Experience. I was attracted by the facilities, student services and the city of Dunedin. The lifestyle looked enjoyable and I believed this would be the best place for tertiary study."

**Matt Manukuo**

Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies)

# Transition and orientation

When you arrive at Otago, our preparation programmes and events will help you settle into university life.

Run the week before the first semester, Orientation (O-week) features events that will help you settle into university life. Get familiar with the campus, enjoy a full schedule of gigs and events, and ensure that by the time classes start, you're ready to get going.

[otago.ac.nz/oweeek](https://otago.ac.nz/oweeek)

Sign up to a club or society – there are loads of cultural, sporting and academic options to choose from.

[ousa.org.nz/clubsandsocs](https://ousa.org.nz/clubsandsocs)

Another great way to meet people and get to know Dunedin is through community volunteering. Many colleges have their own volunteering programmes, but be sure to check out UniCrew as well to find out what opportunities are available.

[unicrewotago.org](https://unicrewotago.org)



## Kickstart 101: Preparation programme for Pacific students

Kickstart 101 is a free university preparation programme for Pacific students prior to their first year of tertiary study. It is a mix of lectures, workshops and social activities designed to help new students hit the ground running. 18 points to kickstart your degree!

- Learn degree-level study skills and habits.
- Discover what university is all about and how it works.
- Experience life at Otago and become familiar with campus facilities.
- Make friends with like-minded students.
- Meet our amazing Pacific support staff who are here for you every step of the way.

### When and where?

Two weeks of distance learning from 8–19 January, followed by four weeks on campus from 22 January–16 February 2024. Free on-campus accommodation at one of our residential colleges and meals are provided.

[otago.ac.nz/kickstart101](https://otago.ac.nz/kickstart101)

# Scholarships

The University of Otago offers a number of scholarships for students who have indigenous Pacific ancestry.

## University of Otago Pacific Peoples' Entrance Scholarships

Standard value of \$14,000 for first-year Pacific students over two years. For exceptional candidates, this scholarship can be awarded at a higher value, and for up to three years. Applications for all entrance scholarships generally open 1 July and close 15 August.

[otago.ac.nz/entrance-scholarships](http://otago.ac.nz/entrance-scholarships)

## University of Otago Māori and Pacific Islands Study Grants

\$3,000 for Māori and Pacific students progressing to their fourth year of study. Applications are open year-round and close on 1 November for study commencing the following year.

## Division of Humanities Pacific Bridging Scholarships

\$10,000 plus tuition fees for indigenous Pacific students with a bachelor's degree intending to proceed to their first year of taught postgraduate study in Humanities. Applications are open year-round and close on 3 November for study commencing the following year.

## University of Otago Pacific Islands Masters' Research Scholarships

\$16,000 plus tuition fees for indigenous Pacific students to undertake a research master's degree. Applicants can apply at any time.

## University of Otago Pacific Islands Doctoral Scholarships

\$30,696 per annum plus tuition fees for three years for indigenous Pacific students to undertake a PhD. Applicants can apply at any time. Also open to international students.

## School of Biomedical Sciences Pacific Peoples' Postgraduate Scholarship

\$7,500 tuition fee waiver for one Pacific Islands student to study full-time for a BSc Hons, BBiomedSci Hons, PGDipSci or first-year MSc within the BMS. Applications close 15 February.

## The Newick and Springford Scholarship

\$10,000 to support students, particularly of Māori and Pasifika descent, studying Medicine or Dentistry in their third, fourth or fifth year who show aptitude and financial need during their studies. Applications close 1 March.

[otago.ac.nz/scholarships](http://otago.ac.nz/scholarships)

## Other scholarships

There are many scholarships available from a wide range of sources. To find out more, visit [givME](http://givME), the GenNZ website that provides information on more than 4,000 scholarships and awards.

[generosity.org.nz/giv-me](http://generosity.org.nz/giv-me)

The New Zealand Government also offers scholarships through the New Zealand Aid programme to citizens of Pacific countries. To check if you are eligible to apply, visit:

[nzscholarships.govt.nz](http://nzscholarships.govt.nz)



**Ana Teofilo**

Polynesia, Micronesia & Melanesia

*Moana Frangipanis. A contemporary and iconic frangipani motif within the Pacific that can be recognised anywhere around the world.*



# International Office

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The International Office runs a welcome desk and orientation programme at the start of each semester to provide all international students with a thorough introduction to Dunedin and the University. Staff are available year round, on a confidential basis, to help international students with advice and information on issues such as:

- pre-arrival information
- family support
- homesickness
- academic issues
- general health and wellbeing
- medical and travel insurance
- student visa requirements
- flatting and accommodation
- student exchange
- employment during study
- cultural adjustment.

[otago.ac.nz/international](http://otago.ac.nz/international)

"Dunedin is a great place, and it offers far more than just an academic experience. By studying at Otago, you're immersed into a new culture and set amongst world-class experts in their fields. You'll make lifelong friends, learn to balance your personal and academic life and test your resilience.

"I am currently studying for a PhD, focused on a serious, neglected infectious disease in the Pacific called Scrub Typhus. Three University of Otago researchers conducted the first ever study in this field in the 1970s - fifty years later, I will be going back as an Otago graduate, researcher and indigenous ni-Vanuatu to build on their work and foundations.

"My master's work was focused on the Free Meds study that became a critical factor in the 2023 New Zealand Government Budget scrapping the \$5 prescription co-payment. Another part of my master's work was examining

sleep after trauma and disaster. The work centred on re-establishing sleep patterns for indigenous ni-Vanuatu children after a disaster and I went on to develop a mental health model based on the tree of life concept.

"I never envisioned a career in research. Progressing from a postgraduate certificate to my PhD was an "accidental" pathway, but I am thoroughly enjoying the journey so far. The support I had from the teams at the Pacific Islands Centre and Va'a O Tautai was invaluable. Mentorship is critical to your development and growth - the world needs Pacific and indigenous leaders who can take the baton and pass it successfully to the next generation."

## **Leinasei (Leina) Isno**

**PhD candidate, Master of Health Sciences,  
Postgraduate Diploma in Rehabilitation**





# Support for Pacific students

One of the benefits of studying away from home is learning to take responsibility for yourself. This can be challenging, especially when coming from a family-based, community-oriented environment. So don't be afraid to ask for help from any of our support services – they are here to ensure you study hard, enjoy life and succeed during your time at Otago.

# The Pacific Islands Centre

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Otago's Pacific Islands Centre is a little bit of the Pacific right in the middle of campus. It's a welcoming environment with study rooms, computers and kitchen facilities – all designed to help Pacific students make the most of their time at university.

Many students have just left their parents for the first time and need someone to help them with things they've never had to deal with before. They use the Centre for advice on anything from academic assistance, scholarships, accommodation issues, legal matters, immigration, airfares and places to worship – or just to have a chat.

The Centre also helps with fellowships, information about church groups, Pacific Islands community networks, advocacy, career advice and lots more.

## Course advice and planning

The Pacific Islands Centre offers career planning and course guidance to ensure you are studying the right subjects to achieve your goals, and offers direction to existing services. Course advice is available as many times as needed throughout a student's time at Otago.

## Cultural, health and pastoral support

If a listening ear is what you need, then Tagiilima Feleti, the Pacific Islands Centre Manager, is only too happy to provide it. He is also able to put you in contact with community elders and ministers who can provide care and support.

Otago has a very inexpensive Student Health and Counselling Centre, which is there to help students mentally and physically so they can make the most of their Otago experience.

And of course, the Pacific Islands Centre is a great place to meet other students who are in exactly the same situation as you.





## Orientation

A special Pacific orientation programme is held at the beginning of semester 1. Organised by the Pacific Islands Centre, the programme helps newcomers find their feet and learn what support is available to them.

Orientation runs for a whole week and students are provided with information from academic departments to places of worship.

Orientation week ends with the annual University of Otago Pacific Welcome, a formal event where students, parents and staff come together to celebrate and worship before the start of the academic year.

## POPO: The Pacific Orientation Programme at Otago

POPO is an 11-week support programme for Pacific students studying the Pathway Health Sciences course at Otago.

The programme helps students engage with available support services and prepare for Health Sciences First Year or other health-related programmes.

This gives them the best possible chance to succeed at university. POPO nurtures the aspirations of students, helping them to “capture the moment” for success.

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

## Talanoa with our matua

As Pacific Islanders, our strength comes with our value of being together, praying together, growing up together and living together – that is our point of difference.

However, there is a time when we must allow our fanau to leave home to ensure they are exposed to great opportunities, gain an education and return home successfully to continue to build warm, safe and happy families and communities.

The Pacific Islands Centre understands this, and it is the fundamental value that encapsulates all its services. Staff are available to meet with parents and communities to plan a pathway for our fanau and to answer any questions. You are an important part of our fanau’s journey, and we look forward to working with you to ensure our success as a community.



# Academic mentoring

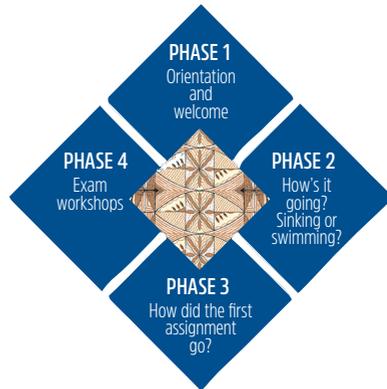
Academic mentoring means studying smart and getting the most out of university. All Pacific students, especially first-years, are encouraged to engage in mentoring.

Soon after orientation, there are several welcome events for Pacific students to meet support groups within their academic divisions, and an academic mentoring evening where tutorials and mentoring details are confirmed. Specialised orientation programmes are also run for each academic division.

The Pacific Islands Centre and support staff in the academic divisions co-ordinate the Taimane Academic Mentoring Programme: meeting with students 1:1, providing advice on welfare and academic issues, or directing them to the appropriate support services.

Students are contacted four times during their first semester to ensure they are settling in and coping well with their studies.

- Students are allocated an academic mentor to help guide them with their subjects, courses and career aspirations.



- Final-year students will be mentored by our graduates in the workforce to help them find their perfect job.
- Mentoring is available to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

**Kristy Walker**  
Tutorials and Academic  
Pastoral Support  
Co-ordinator



Kristy sits within the Pacific Islands Centre on campus in Dunedin. She supports undergraduate and postgraduate students during their time at Otago, and co-ordinates supplementary tutorials and postgraduate workshops.

03 479 4160  
kristy.walker@otago.ac.nz  
pacific.tutorials@otago.ac.nz

**Viola Huch**  
Haoura Connector Pacific



Viola sits within the Pacific Islands Centre on campus in Dunedin. One of only two haoura connectors at New Zealand universities, Viola's role focuses on connecting Pacific students to support services that are both on and off campus. Her goal is to work alongside students to find that "wrap-around" support to help them have a positive journey during their time at Otago.

03 479 8278  
viola.huch@otago.ac.nz

# Extra study help

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Need a hand with your studies? The Pacific Islands Centre can help to arrange additional tutorials and establish study groups.

## Supplementary tutorials

These tutorials are free and taught by tutors from the relevant academic departments. The schedule is made available shortly after the main lecture timetable is finalised.

## Study nights

Supervised study nights are held weekly at the Pacific Islands Centre. Any Pacific student may attend if they wish. Study nights run Monday–Thursday from 5–9pm in the Pacific Islands Centre tutorial rooms. Supervisors are present to assist with study and academic help.



# Academic support staff

There is strong support for Pacific students within the four academic divisions.

## Le Moana Action Group

Le Moana Action Group – which co-ordinates all the support services on campus for Pacific students – includes staff from the Pacific Islands Centre and support officers from all academic divisions.

At monthly meetings, the group discusses best practice and shares information to ensure no Pacific student falls through the cracks. The group also meets regularly with the Directors of Student Success, Student and Academic Services, and the Pacific Development Office, as well as the Associate Deans (Pacific) within each academic division.



## Health Sciences

The Pacific Islands Research and Student Support Unit (PIRSSU), Va'a o Tautai – Centre for Pacific Health looks after approximately 500 Pacific students studying in the Division of Health Sciences.

We offer excellent support for Pacific students in health professional and allied health programmes, nurture successful research careers, and offer quality pastoral care in an inclusive cultural environment. We look forward to welcoming you to our Pacific community in Health Sciences.

### Grettel Williams Programme Co-ordinator (Mentoring)



"I am of Samoan descent and was born and raised in Hawke's Bay. I have a Bachelor of Science, a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health, and recently completed a Master of Public Health from Otago. My journey at PIRSSU began in 2018 as the Academic Administrator in the Centre for Pacific Health. I feel blessed to have now taken on a mentoring role where I am responsible for co-ordinating the POPO mentoring and outreach programmes that ensure our students are well-supported in all avenues of their journey. I am here to work directly with you. To help, guide and walk alongside you throughout your studies here at Otago."

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

### Garrett George Programme Co-ordinator (Academic)



"I was born and raised in Kea'au, on the Big Island of Hawaii. I started my voyage at PIRSSU in March 2021, co-ordinating the academic programmes and monitoring the progress of Pacific students within the Division. I have a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Manoa in Oahu, Hawaii. Previously, I was teaching English to kindergarteners in Tokyo, Japan. I am excited to work alongside you and support you in your journey at Otago."

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

## Humanities

### Dr Michelle Schaaf

Associate Dean Pacific – School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies

"I am of Samoan and Tongan descent, living and working in Otago. I hold multiple roles within the University – Senior Lecturer in Te Tumu School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies, Co-ordinator of Te Tumu's Master of Indigenous Studies programme, and the Associate Dean Pacific for the Division of Humanities. In 2011, I became the first Te Tumu staff member to graduate with an Otago doctorate in Pacific studies, with my thesis *Pacific participation in Aotearoa/Niu Sila netball: Body image, family, church, culture, education and physical education.*"



### Sia Lei-Mata'afa

Pacific Islands Student Support Officer

"I am of Samoan decent, I was born and raised in Dunedin and have a Bachelor of Teaching (Primary endorsed). I am blessed to have joined the Division of Humanities in 2021 as the Pacific Islands Student Support Officer. I am excited to be supporting and encouraging all Pacific Humanities students as I have traversed the same path. I am here to work alongside you, to guide, support and assist you in your journey to success here at Otago."



[pacificsupport.humanities@otago.ac.nz](mailto:pacificsupport.humanities@otago.ac.nz)

## Sciences

### Losana Taungapeau-Ikahihiro

Pacific Islands Student Support Facilitator

"I am a first-generation New Zealand-born Tongan, born and raised in Ōtepoti Dunedin. I have a Bachelor of Teaching (endorsed in Primary Education). I am humbled to join the Division of Sciences (2022) as the Pacific Student and Community Support Facilitator. A significant part of my role is to support, encourage, care for, nurture and help navigate our first and second-year Pacific Science students at Otago to ensure success. I am passionate about education, culture and most importantly, working for and alongside our Pasifika learners, people and communities."



[losana.taungapeau@otago.ac.nz](mailto:losana.taungapeau@otago.ac.nz)

## Otago Business School

### **Esmay Lemalu-Eteuati** Associate Dean Pacific and Pacific Islands Academic Adviser

"I am of Samoan heritage, and have lived and worked in New Zealand and Samoa. An Otago graduate, I am here to help guide, grow, nurture and provide support to all Pacific students studying at the Otago Business School."

[esmay.eteuati@otago.ac.nz](mailto:esmay.eteuati@otago.ac.nz)



### **Faleviena Faiva** Pacific Student Support Facilitator

"I am of Tongan heritage. I have a Humanities and Commerce degree from the University of Otago and I'm currently completing a postgraduate degree in International Business. I'm one of the Pacific Student Support Facilitators responsible for all first-year Pacific students in the division."

[viena.faiva@otago.ac.nz](mailto:viena.faiva@otago.ac.nz)



### **Jekope Ramala Maiono** Pacific Student Support Facilitator

"Of Fijian heritage, I'm a University of Otago Commerce graduate and currently studying for a PhD. I work part-time in the Dean's Office at the Otago Business School as the Pacific Student Support Facilitator responsible for all second-year Pacific students in the division."

[jekope.maiono@otago.ac.nz](mailto:jekope.maiono@otago.ac.nz)



### **Antonio Seiuli** Pacific Student Support Facilitator

"I'm of Samoan descent and am also known by my Samoan chiefly titles of Masoe and/or Puipuiifatu. My role at Otago Business School is to co-ordinate and lead our Pacific outreach programmes. I work closely and collaboratively with Pacific students' families and communities to help strengthen engagement with the Otago Business School."

[antonio.seiuli@otago.ac.nz](mailto:antonio.seiuli@otago.ac.nz)





"I chose to study at Otago because I was privileged to receive the University of Otago Pacific People's Entrance Scholarship. And because my dad allowed me to (Tongan girl problems).

"To study Law at Otago, you have to choose another area of study - at least for your first year - so I decided to do a double-degree in Law and Pacific Islands Studies. I'm fascinated by the law and my goal was to use a legal background to assist my Pacific community.

"The Pacific Islands Centre was really helpful as an undergrad; I'm very grateful for the extra tutorials they provided ... and the extra bread and milk I took home.

"If you're thinking about Otago, take a leap of faith and come down to Dunedin! The experience is life-changing and you'll make friends who become family.

"Since graduating, I've been studying for a Master of Indigenous Studies. My focus area is exploring the history and development of UOPISA (University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association) and its contribution to the success of Pacific students at Otago.

"Alongside my master's, I'm working part-time as a solicitor at Anderson Lloyd. In the near future, I aspire to use my combined qualifications to give legal aid and achieve a greater good for my Pacific community."

### **Elisepa Taukolo**

**Studying for a Master of Indigenous Studies  
Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts  
Solicitor, Anderson Lloyd**

# Student support

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We have a range of services to ensure that Otago is a safe place to live while you reach your full potential.

## Campus Watch

The Campus Watch teams are out and about 24/7, ensuring that our campus is a safe and friendly place to live and study.

[otago.ac.nz/campus-watch](http://otago.ac.nz/campus-watch)  
0800 479 5000

## Career Development Centre

The Career Development Centre runs interactive career workshops, co-ordinates employer presentations and career fairs, and has a wide range of useful online career resources. Career advisers are available for one-to-one discussions.

[otago.ac.nz/careers](http://otago.ac.nz/careers)

## Chaplains

The chaplaincy team offer pastoral care, spiritual support and a confidential listening ear to all students.

[otago.ac.nz/chaplain](http://otago.ac.nz/chaplain)

## Childcare on campus

The Otago University Childcare Association operates five childcare centres – including a bilingual centre – for children from birth to five years. Twenty hours' ECE is available for all three- and four-year olds and WINZ subsidies also provide financial assistance.

[otago.ac.nz/childcare](http://otago.ac.nz/childcare)

## Code of Student Conduct

This set of common-sense rules prohibits behaviour likely to endanger safety.

[otago.ac.nz/code-of-conduct](http://otago.ac.nz/code-of-conduct)

## Computer services

Otago provides a range of IT services to students: 24-hour wireless study spaces with printers and computers, email, free Office 365 and a student desktop that's accessible anywhere. IT questions can be answered in person, or online via form or live chat.

[blogs.otago.ac.nz/studentit](http://blogs.otago.ac.nz/studentit)

## Course advice

It can be hard deciding which subject to study, or what qualification will help you achieve your goals. Otago's course advice experts can help you map out your study plans with confidence. Course advice is available as many times as needed throughout your time at Otago.

[otago.ac.nz/course-advice](http://otago.ac.nz/course-advice)

## Disability Information and Support

Disability Information and Support provides learning support, advice, advocacy and information to students with disabilities, impairments, medical conditions or injuries that may impact on their study.

The support we provide is varied and may include: access to specialised equipment, quiet study rooms, note-taking, tutoring, reformatting of course materials, and alternative examination arrangements.

[otago.ac.nz/disabilities](http://otago.ac.nz/disabilities)

## Internships

A variety of internships or summer research positions are available, usually in the third year of study. Internships contribute to learning by providing real-world work or research skills, enhancing post-study employability.

[otago.ac.nz/careers/skills/opportunities](https://otago.ac.nz/careers/skills/opportunities)

## Libraries

Our nine libraries, located across four campuses, offer an outstanding range of information services and resources, access to Wi-Fi, and warm comfortable facilities suitable for individual study or group learning.

[otago.ac.nz/library](https://otago.ac.nz/library)

## Otago University Students' Association (OUSA)

OUSA represents students' interests within the University and provides a wide range of services, events and support. Its services include welfare and advocacy, student representation, sport and recreation, and of course, social activities which begin with orientation at the start of semester 1 and continue throughout the year.

[ousa.org.nz](https://ousa.org.nz)

## Recreation

Unipol Recreation Services and the OUSA Clubs and Societies Centre team provide a comprehensive programme to ensure students maintain a healthy, balanced and fun lifestyle. There are more than 170 sporting, cultural, political and religious clubs and societies to choose from, as well as recreational opportunities on and off campus including courses, trips, group fitness classes and social sport. Entry into Unipol is free with a current student ID card.

[otago.ac.nz/recreation](https://otago.ac.nz/recreation)

## Student Health Services

Embracing inclusivity and manaakitanga, Student Health Services engages with all students and the diverse University community to support health and wellbeing – enabling students to reach their full potential and thrive during their Otago experience. We are centrally located on campus and provide urgent and routine mental health, nursing and GP appointments daily.

[otago.ac.nz/studenthealth](https://otago.ac.nz/studenthealth)

## Student Learning Development

The Higher Education Development Centre provides one-to-one consultations, workshops, peer learning and support programmes, and online resources to help you develop your study skills.

[otago.ac.nz/sld](https://otago.ac.nz/sld)

## Te Whare Tāwharau

Te Whare Tāwharau is a sexual violence support and prevention centre, providing a place of shelter, free and confidential support, and education to reduce the impact of sexual violence within our campus communities.

[otago.ac.nz/te-whare-tawharau](https://otago.ac.nz/te-whare-tawharau)

## Volunteering

The Social Impact Studio offers volunteer opportunities and leadership programmes that allow students to channel their creativity, vision and insight into projects that create positive change. Opportunities include mentoring young people, helping in the community, empowering young learners through literacy programmes, and taking part in global citizenship projects.

[otago.ac.nz/volunteer](https://otago.ac.nz/volunteer)

# Pacific student groups

The Pacific Islands Centre helps to organise several student groups who offer mentoring, and moral and cultural support.

## Students' associations

- Biomedical Otago Pacific Students' Association (BOPSA)
- Otago Cook Islands Students' Association (OCISA)
- Otago Fijian Students' Association (OFISA)
- Otago Kiribati Islands Students' Association (OKISA)
- Otago Melanesian Islands Students' Association (OMISA)
- Otago Niuean Students' Association (ONSA)
- Otago Samoan Students' Association (OSSA)
- Otago Tongan Students' Association (OTSA)
- University of Otago Pacific Islands Students' Association (UOPISA)

## Academic Division associations

There are several specialist groups for students on particular courses:

- The Division of Health Sciences helps to organise the Pacific Islands Health Professional Students' Association (PIHPSA).
- The Science Students' Pacific Islands Association (SSPIA) organises a student welcome within the Division of Sciences, as well as gatherings and mentoring events to help students settle in to their studies.
- The Pacific Islands Law Students' Association (PILSA) organises an annual guest lecture and runs support programmes during the year.
- Humanities Otago Pacific Students' Association (HOPSA) provides support and meet and greet gatherings.
- The Otago Pacific Island Commerce Students' Association (OPICSA) helps students stay connected and navigate their way through their academic journey. They are based in the Pacific Room on the ground floor of the Otago Business School.

## Pacific postgraduate annual event

There is an annual Pacific Voices symposium where students present abstracts of their research projects to an invited audience of academic staff and peers; these are published in the *Pacific Voices* booklet available online.

[otago.ac.nz/pacific-postgrad](http://otago.ac.nz/pacific-postgrad)



"My three years of undergraduate study at Otago were all great in their own way – being in a residential college was a lot of fun in my first year, and I really enjoyed all the papers I took. My favourite thing was probably heading to Unipol at the end of the day to play pickup basketball.

"Seeing how real science is done was an invaluable experience and I enjoyed learning the fundamentals from experts in their fields. It was also rewarding to meet and work with like-minded students in my lectures and labs.

"It's comforting to know that the Pacific Islands Centre is there to support and promote Pasifika students. They do a great job of celebrating your success and I

appreciated the personal connection, such as checking on us individually during the lockdowns to make sure we were safe and well.

"Since graduating, I've been involved in a collaboration with the National University of Samoa to develop a lab experiment for their physics students. This year, I've returned to Otago for further study towards my goal of a physics PhD, and I'm excited to get some practical research experience in the coming years."

## **Ben Ripley**

**Studying for a Master of Science  
Bachelor of Science with Honours (Physics)**



# Pacific peoples and the University

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Education is recognised as a key for ensuring the strong future of Pacific people. The University of Otago is proud to play a part in assisting all Pacific people to excel.

Our Pacific students study across all subjects at the University and have gone on to careers in various government ministries, religious roles, health, education, law, diplomacy and much more.





There are approximately 1,300 students with Pacific heritage, both New Zealand- and Island-born, currently studying at Otago. This includes students from Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Tokelau Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Hawaii, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands. Pacific students also come here from Australia, Singapore, Dubai and the USA.

## Te Tumu School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies

Otago offers students the opportunity to learn about their own history and culture through papers and degrees offered at Te Tumu.

The BA in Pacific Islands Studies is taught across several programmes such as Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Geography and Media Studies. The degree examines contemporary issues of importance to Pacific peoples within their broad cultural context.

Staff at Te Tumu come from a variety of academic and cultural backgrounds, and include members who identify as Māori, Pacific and Pākehā. Te Tumu has a strong commitment to Pacific communities and aims to put into practice the language and inclusive cultural values that it teaches and researches.

Pacific issues are also addressed in subjects across the University including Law, Politics, Health, Sciences and Music.



## Dunedin's Pacific community

There is a long-established Pacific community in Dunedin which contributes to the pastoral care of our students.

Dunedin's Pacific families welcome our young Pacific students to the city. They offer pastoral care – providing meals, advice and company to those who need their support.

These families may provide accommodation to young students when they first arrive in Dunedin, or offer places for visiting relatives to stay.

Above and left: Dunedin's Pacific community came out to celebrate their culture and heritage at the inaugural Moana Nui Festival in 2021 [Photo: Dunedin NZ].

# Key events for Pacific students

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## January

- Summer School.
- Pacific Kickstart 101.
- Hands-On at Otago.
- Otago University Advanced School Sciences Academy (OUASSA).

## February

- Pacific orientation.
- Pacific welcome – the Vice-Chancellor welcomes students and parents.
- Pacific first-year students' orientation programme.
- Taimane semester 1 first phase: Students learn when tutorials will start and what support is available.
- The Pacific Orientation Programme at Otago (POPO) for pathway Health Sciences students.
- FOFOA orientation.
- Preliminary lectures.

## March

- Lectures start.
- Academic divisional welcome.
- Taimane semester 1 second phase: How's it going? Sinking or swimming?

## April

- Taimane semester 1 third phase: How did the first assignment go?
- Mid-semester break.

## May

- Vakavinavinaka – Pacific graduation celebrations for graduands and their families.
- Graduation ceremonies.
- Taimane semester 1 fourth phase: Exam workshops.
- Vice-Chancellor's scholarship events.

## June

- Exams and holidays.

## July

- Semester 2 re-orientation.
- Lectures start.
- Taimane semester 2 first phase: Students learn when tutorials will start and what support is available.

## August

- Tutorials.
- Careers evening.
- Vakavinavinaka – Pacific graduation celebrations for graduands and their families.
- Graduation ceremonies.
- Taimane semester 2 second phase: How's it going? Sinking or swimming?
- Scholarship applications open.

## September

- Pacific week including Fiefia Cultural Night – all student associations perform.
- Taimane semester 2 third phase: How did the first assignment go?

## October

- Pacific Voices Symposium for Pacific postgraduate students.
- Taimane semester 2 fourth phase: Exam workshops.

## November

- Exams and holidays.

## December

- Vakavinavinaka – Pacific graduation celebrations for graduands and their families.
- Graduation ceremonies.
- Deadline for enrolment for the following year.

"I received the University of Otago Pacific Peoples' Entrance scholarship which was a great opportunity for me – it gave me the extra push I needed to embark on studying away from home. I am now a proud Otago graduate, alongside my two sisters.

"The Pacific on Campus Experience (POCE) is something I will always be grateful to the Pacific Islands Centre for. Being welcomed by mentors and staff, and experiencing Otago made the environment feel safe.

"My biggest expectation of coming to Otago was to get out of my comfort zone. I learnt a lot of social skills and made lifelong friends moving to Dunedin. My expectations have far exceeded just studying at the University of Otago.

"I practised social work for a year and a half in the Dunedin community and gained a lot of knowledge and valuable

experience. Earlier this year, I decided to take a break due to early indications of burnout. I then started my journey at Va'a o Tautai – Centre for Pacific Health at the University of Otago. This 'break' has allowed me to refocus and recharge in preparation for when I eventually return to practicing social work again.

"I am so amazed by the work the team at the Pacific Islands Centre have done and continue to do. Thank you, Pacific Islands Centre, for your never-ending support and push for our Pacific students to reach their full potential."

## Milo Matagi Tomasi

Bachelor of Social Work with Honours  
Pacific Health Academic Administrator,  
Va' O Tautai – Centre for Pacific Health





# Otago life

The University of Otago ranks first in New Zealand for helping students succeed in their studies.

You'll enjoy our world-class teaching, facilities, support and a unique student lifestyle.





© credit: Shutterstock

# Moving to Dunedin

Dunedin is a true student city. During semester time, our students make up 20 per cent of Dunedin's population, creating a community and atmosphere that's unique to Otago.

Dunedin has everything that's on offer in larger cities. It's a friendly, uncrowded and safe place to live.

The city has a strong cultural focus. Music, the arts, fashion, museums and libraries are among the best in the country. New Zealand's only covered stadium is also right on our doorstep – hosting international sport and music events throughout the year.

Although surrounded by hills, Dunedin is mostly flat and easily accessible. You don't need a car to get around – it's a 10-minute walk from campus to the town centre and there's a good public transport system.

No other city in the country offers the same opportunities to get out and explore; Dunedin is perfect for surfing, kayaking and mountain biking. And the ski fields of Queenstown and Wanaka are only a few hours' drive away.

## What's the weather like?

Despite being the country's southernmost university, Dunedin's weather is milder than you might think. Daily highs are typically 18–22°C in summer and 10–12°C in winter. Dunedin also has considerably less rainfall than most New Zealand centres.

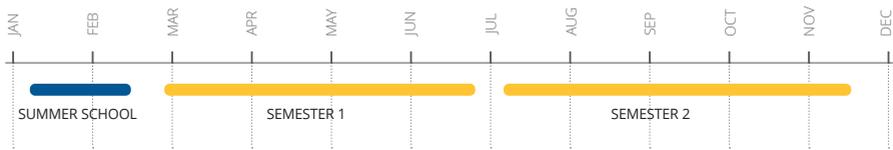
## Getting here

There are regular direct and connecting flights into Dunedin from all over New Zealand. Bus routes connect Dunedin to all of the South Island. And you can drive here from anywhere in the South Island within a day.





# The university year



Here's a general guide of what's going on in students' lives during the university year.

## February

- > Semester 1 begins. This is when you finalise your course of study, pay your fees and get your student ID card.
- > Orientation is packed with gigs, sports days, a market day and other activities.
- > An academic orientation programme helps prepare students for the year.

## March

- > Anxieties around courses and workload, finances and health, and homesickness may set in. There are people available in the colleges and on campus to offer help and support.

## April

- > This is a busy time for assignments and assessments. Most students go home for the first time at mid-semester break.

## May

- > The lead-up to exams can be an anxious time. Staff in the colleges and support services are on hand to help.

## June

- > Mid-year exams are followed by a two-week break.

## July

- > Semester 2 is winter in Dunedin. New courses start and by now students are settled and used to the routine of university life.

## August

- > One-week mid-semester break.

## September

- > Students complete their last assessments and begin studying for the final exams.

## October/November

- > End-of-year exams start in mid-October and finish in early November. Once students complete their last exam, the summer break begins!

## December/January

- > Exam results come out at the beginning of December each year, and Summer School starts in early January – it is generally attended by returning students rather than first-years.



"It feels good to be a student at Otago. The community and culture in Dunedin are tight-knit and everyone is friendly. Many of the experiences I had as a first-year student were memorable – everything was new and exciting and I was happy to get stuck into the lifestyle.

"The services, resources and facilities at the Pacific Islands Centre are open to use at any time. I attended events and was encouraged seeing and hearing from other established Pacific students at Otago.

"I enjoyed my Communication papers because what we were taught is applicable to the world today. Our classes provided a great space for discussion and I gained an understanding of different perspectives and ideas from other students, ultimately helping my learning.

"I have a lot of goals. I hope to become a visual presenter for media outlets. Through interviews or writing articles, I want to be able to tell Pacific people's stories in a unique way.

"I believe that whatever career path you choose, your goals should intertwine with that career, as that is where you will be most happy. Fakaauae lahi."

**Matt Manukuo**

**Bachelor of Arts (Communication Studies)**



## Where will I live?

As more than 86% of our first-year students come from outside Dunedin, we place great importance on providing high-quality, safe and supervised living in our residential colleges.

The colleges are all situated on or within walking distance of the University campus. They are fully catered, have a mix of male and female students, and range in size from 125 to more than 500 beds.

Professional, experienced college leaders and staff take a real interest in the wellbeing of their residents. They are further supported by senior residents who mentor and guide students through their first year of university. The colleges provide tutorials and study spaces, and work hard to develop their residents as scholars and good community members through academic, cultural, sporting, volunteering and social programmes.



96% of students provide a positive assessment of their colleges.

You can apply online for a place in a residential college from 1 August each year. Applications should be made before the end of September for consideration in the first round of offers.

[otago.ac.nz/colleges](http://otago.ac.nz/colleges)



Our residential colleges accommodate around 4,000 students.

Other accommodation options include private boarding or flatting. The Pacific Islands Centre works with the University's Student Accommodation Centre to help students find appropriate accommodation. They can also arrange temporary accommodation with a member of the Pacific community for students settling into the city.

### Fofoa Accommodation Award

The Fofoa Accommodation Award pays for half of the annual rent for a room in one of five flats managed by the Pacific Islands Centre.

“Fofoa” in Polynesian languages means to nurture or to incubate, and the aim of the award is to help our students transition to studying at University and living away from home.

Applications open in September.

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

# What will it cost?

## Study fees

Most domestic students who are new to tertiary education will be eligible for one year of fees-free study. For more information, and to find out how to check your eligibility, visit:

[otago.ac.nz/fees-free](https://otago.ac.nz/fees-free)

After your first year, programme fees range from approximately \$6,000 to \$17,000 depending on what degree and papers you choose to study.

## Student loans and allowances

A student loan can help to finance study. It's made up of three parts – compulsory fees, course-related costs and living costs. There are certain criteria students need to meet to get a student loan. A student loan has to be paid back.

The student allowance is a weekly payment that can help students with their living expenses while they study full-time. There are certain criteria they need to meet to qualify. A student allowance does not have to be paid back.

[studylink.govt.nz](https://studylink.govt.nz)

## Is university worth it?

Yes! Statistics show us that graduates generally earn the best salaries. They also have increased job opportunities – a degree is evidence of being hard-working and adaptable.

And university helps people grow; influencing every aspect of their lives and affecting the way they may bring up and educate their own family.

Going to university is not a guaranteed door to success – but it's a path that will lead you in the right direction.



## Living costs

	Residential college	Flating	Studio room
Annual accommodation fee	\$18,696	-	-
Average rent	-	\$10,400	\$13,000
Groceries (40 weeks @ \$100)	-	\$4,200	\$4,200
Electricity/internet (52 weeks @ \$35)	-	\$2,000	-
Personal costs (40 weeks @ \$80)	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,200
Entertainment (40 weeks @ \$55)	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$2,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,096</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>	<b>\$22,600</b>

Please note: Residential college contracts are normally for 38 weeks. Some colleges may charge a higher fee than the fee listed in the table. In addition to the accommodation fee, the residential colleges charge a small amenity fee. Personal costs vary considerably depending on lifestyle. This estimated budget does not include travel costs or any significant personal expenditure items.

# Enrolling at Otago

To enrol at Otago, you'll need to be at least 16 years old by the start of classes, meet English language requirements, and hold one of the following university entrance (UE) qualifications.

## NCEA Level 3

- At least 14 credits in each of three approved subjects.
- Numeracy – 10 credits at Level 1 or higher.
- Literacy – 10 credits at Level 2 or above (five in reading and five in writing).

## International Baccalaureate (IB)

- IB diploma with 24 points minimum.
- Meet literacy and numeracy requirements.

## Cambridge Assessment International Education (Cambridge International)

- At least 120 points on the UCAS Tariff, with a grade of D or better at AS or A level in syllabuses from at least three different syllabus groups, broadly equivalent to the NCEA approved subject list.
- Meet literacy and numeracy requirements.

## Overseas secondary school qualifications

- Australian Secondary School Ranking.
- General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) taken overseas.
- Other overseas qualifications.

## Alternative methods of admission

- Pathway programme: the Foundation Studies Certificate provides a university entrance qualification.
- Special Admission: for students 20 years of age or over.
- Discretionary Entrance: for students under 20 years of age.

Visit our website for further information.

[otago.ac.nz/entrance](http://otago.ac.nz/entrance)

At the beginning of Year 13, check that you are taking sufficient credits and enough approved subjects at Level 3, and that you have the required literacy and numeracy credits. This can save confusion and disappointment when you come to enrol at university.



# Contact us

## Pacific Islands Centre

520 Castle Street  
Dunedin  
03 479 8278  
[pacific@otago.ac.nz](mailto:pacific@otago.ac.nz)

## AskOtago

AskOtago can help with all your questions about studying at Otago. You can find answers instantly with our searchable knowledgebase, or call, email or chat with us.

[ask.otago.ac.nz](http://ask.otago.ac.nz)  
[university@otago.ac.nz](mailto:university@otago.ac.nz)  
0800 80 80 98

## Schools' Liaison

### Auckland office

09 373 9704  
[auckland.liaison@otago.ac.nz](mailto:auckland.liaison@otago.ac.nz)

### Wellington office

04 460 9805  
[wellington.liaison@otago.ac.nz](mailto:wellington.liaison@otago.ac.nz)

### Dunedin office

03 479 8247  
[liaison@otago.ac.nz](mailto:liaison@otago.ac.nz)

## Key dates

### 1 August

Residential college applications open online.

### 15 August

Applications close for most University of Otago entrance scholarships.

### 31 August

Bachelor of Teaching applications due.

### 1 September

Performance audition applications due in Music and Performing Arts.

### 15 September

Applications due for first-year courses in Dental Technology, Oral Health and Radiation Therapy.

### 30 September

Residential college applications due.

### 15 November

Applications due for international students.

### 10 December

Closing date for applications for all new students taking Summer School, semester 1 or full-year papers or courses.



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