Pacific and Global Health

Serving communities, creating solutions, impacting change

In this major, you will gain a strong understanding of global health issues and their impact on developing countries. With a particular focus on Pacific peoples, you will learn more about our diverse cultures and concepts of well-being, how our health has been impacted by historical and contemporary challenges, and learn and design positive solutions to improve the health and well-being of Pacific peoples.

Learning environment

• Meet and learn first hand from community and global health leaders.
• Learn by participating in various Pacific cultural practices.
• Gain an understanding of holistic approaches to health and well-being.
• Gain global strategies and perspectives on health and well-being, and how we can contribute to global health challenges.
• Meet and learn first-hand from community and global health leaders.
• Learn in an immersive environment where you can apply your knowledge and skills to serve Pacific families and communities.
• Celebrate and encourage diversity and inclusion in the learning environment.

Career opportunities

Graduates will have a strong holistic and global perspective of health and wellbeing, with the skills and knowledge necessary to serve the needs of Pacific people and communities in New Zealand and across the Pacific region.

Robbie Halu-Tafasi
Pacific and Global Health

"As a Pacific Health student, I feel that the University of Otago has provided me with the knowledge to improve my outlook on global health and develop a global perspective. Learning Health Challenges from the "Pacific and Global Health major" has been an exciting journey. It has given me the opportunity to understand the health challenges faced by Pacific peoples and the need to advocate for their voices to be heard.

"I have gained an understanding of the importance of community involvement in health initiatives, and the need for effective communication and collaboration between different stakeholders. This major has equipped me with the skills to effectively serve Pacific communities and to advocate for their rights to access quality healthcare services.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from inspirational teachers and explore aspects that influence health and well-being. I believe this major has prepared me well for my future career.

Rachel Ngan Kee
Public Health

"I chose Pacific and Global Health because I was interested in understanding the broader context of health and health inequalities, and how these issues impact on developed and developing countries. With a particular focus on Pacific peoples, you will learn more about our diverse cultures and concepts of well-being, how our health has been impacted by historical and contemporary challenges, and learn and design positive solutions to improve the health and well-being of Pacific peoples.

Rachel Ngan Kee chose to major in Public Health after being inspired by a paper on health and disease that opened her eyes to the importance of community context in health. "I think having peers and lecturers share their experiences in the health system has opened my eyes to some of the challenges and issues faced in the health sector."

Rachel believes that students are making a difference and have changed the way society views health. "I think having an understanding of how systems, current events, and international issues influence health is important. I believe this major has equipped me with the skills to work in the health sector and advocate for health equity and social justice."

Rachel says the classes are inspiring and have changed her view of health. "I hope to become a family physician in primary care and advocate for health equity and social justice in the health sector."

"I think it's necessary to have a broad understanding of health because it means that you understand the broader context of health and disease, and this major has equipped me with the skills to effectively serve Pacific communities and to advocate for their rights to access quality healthcare services. I believe this major has prepared me well for my future career."

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Rachel Ngan Kee
Public Health
A healthy choice
Health systems in the future will see more initiatives in the community. New health roles will be developed to deliver these initiatives and support individuals to live healthy lives. The major is multidisciplinary, encompassing biological, sociological, cultural, psychological and developmental perspectives.

Why study Community Health Care?
Community Health Care focuses on providing the skills and knowledge required to work in our changing healthcare system and support individuals to live healthy lives. The major is multidisciplinary, encompassing biological, sociological, cultural, psychological and developmental perspectives.

Career opportunities
Graduates will have a sound multidisciplinary understanding of health, well-being and the health system, and will be well equipped to take employment in a variety of community roles within primary and secondary healthcare settings, policy and management roles, or in health and disability services.

How does a degree work?
General three-year bachelor's degrees have a similar structure:
- Three years of full-time study.
- Make-up of at least 30 papers worth 15 points each.
- Your degree must have one major subject.

A general bachelor's degree is flexible, you can make changes and even include papers from other degrees.

For more details, visit: eagac.otago.ac.nz/study/planning/degree-planning

Make a difference in a rewarding career

Which major is right for you?

Community Health Care
Work alongside people living in the community to support their health management and well-being

Why study Community Health Care?
Community Health Care focuses on providing the skills and knowledge required to work in our changing healthcare system and support individuals to live healthy lives. The major is multidisciplinary, encompassing biological, sociological, cultural, psychological and developmental perspectives.

Be part of the change in our healthcare system.
Our preparatory learning experiences enable students to connect with and learn from communities in different health settings, policy and managerial roles, or in health and disability services.

Programme as a whole
Develop and implement public health policy, programmes and regulations. Investigate how resources are allocated to, and used in, different health systems in both the public and private sector.

Primary care co-ordinator
Help people find their way through the care offered by other providers in the community.

Career pathways

Māori Health
Connecting with whānau aspirations for taurau

Why study Māori Health?
Learn how to work together to make Māori and health practice to make a difference for our communities.

Understanding Māori health for the benefit of our communities.
Māori health focuses on making a different Māori health outcomes. You will learn about providing culturally informed health practice, working with Māori individuals, whanau, communities, organisations and populations.

Career opportunities
Graduates majoring in Māori Health may take up roles within the Māori public health, public health and disability services or in health and disability services.

April Oakley
Māori Health

Kia matomato te tipu o te pā harakeke.