



University  
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Discover a lifetime of careers in

**ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES, LAW**  
**TE MAHI TOI ME TE MARAU Ā-IWI,  
TURE**



# IMAGINING THE FUTURE

When you study Arts and Social Sciences at university, you're really studying society and human behaviour. Analysing differing experiences and viewpoints helps us figure out ways to tackle the big issues facing our world today, from inequality and sustainability to communication and crime.

## A FLEXIBLE FUTURE

One of the core advantages of studying Arts and Social Sciences subjects is that they help you develop a diverse skill set. Rather than preparing you for just one career, you'll graduate with the flexibility to adapt to different jobs and industries as they evolve, in all corners of the world.



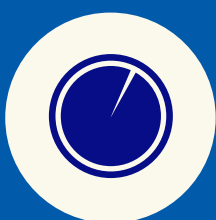
**“Over half the world’s professional leaders are Social Sciences and Arts graduates.”**

**(British Council)**



## **FUTURE-FOCUSED RESEARCH**

Our academics already have an eye on the future, conducting research that impacts equality, the environment, health, socioeconomic growth and more. Studying with us gives you the opportunity to tap into these research networks and learn from experts.



Ranked in the top 200 universities in the world. (QS World University Rankings)



Awarded 5 Stars Plus – the highest possible rating for teaching and research. (QS Stars)



#1 New Zealand university for educational performance. (Tertiary Education Commission)



# WHY STUDY ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES?

## HE AHA E AKO AĪ MŌ TE TOI ME TE MARAU Ā-IWI?

Arts and Social Sciences degrees have long been the foundation of university education, shaping leaders, entrepreneurs and cultural innovators. Some of the world's biggest organisations have been led by Arts and Social Sciences graduates, including Susan Wojcicki (YouTube), Richard Plepler (HBO), Brian Moynihan (Bank of America), Howard Schultz (Starbucks), and Andrea Jung (Avon).

### Arts

Arts subjects explore how people create meaning – through language, culture, ideas, and creative expression.

#### How you'll study

- Reading comprehensively and critically.
- Interpreting literary texts, historical events and ideas.
- Building arguments.
- Writing essays and analytical pieces.
- Emphasis on discussion and multiple interpretations.

#### Skills you'll build

- Critical and creative thinking.
- Communication and persuasive writing.
- Cultural and historical understanding.
- Ethical reasoning.
- Close analysis of complex material.

### Social Sciences

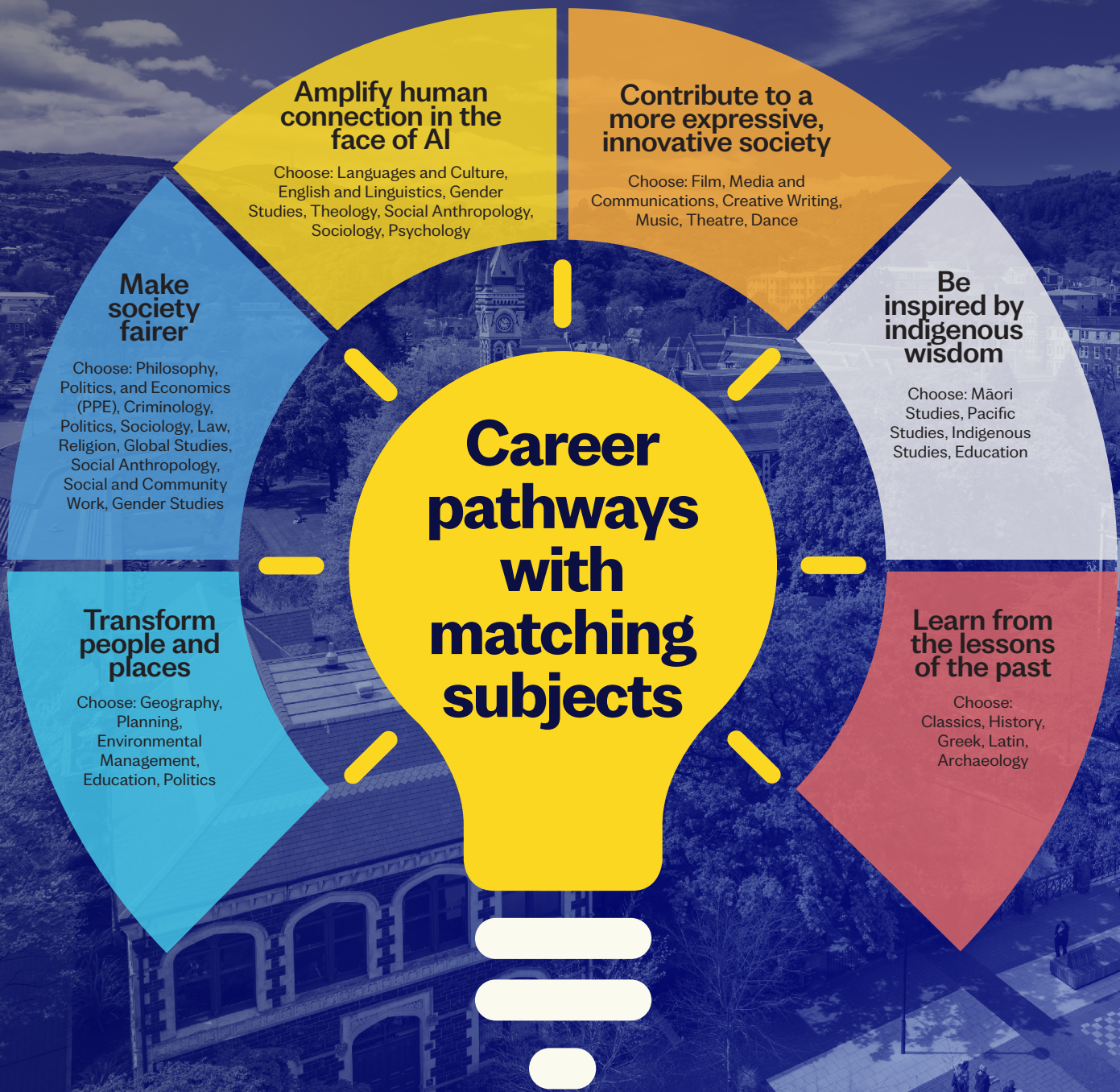
Social Sciences aim to explain and interpret human behaviour, social structures, and societal change.

#### How you'll study

- Using research methods (surveys, interviews, observation, experiments, statistics).
- Analysing data and identifying trends.
- Engaging with theories of how societies work.
- Writing reports, literature reviews, and research papers.

#### Skills you'll build

- Analytical and research skills.
- Data interpretation.
- Understanding of social systems and behaviour.
- Applying theory to real-world problems like education programmes, public policy, and urban planning.
- Evidence-based reasoning.



**REMEMBER, OTAGO DEGREES ARE FLEXIBLE.**

You can always change your area of study if you decide it isn't right for you.

# ARTS TOI

A way of taking on the world through ideas, culture, and creativity.

Arts subjects explore how people create meaning through language, stories, ideas, belief systems, and creative expression. Across cultures and history, humans have asked questions about identity, ethics, knowledge, and imagination. Arts disciplines investigate these questions through literature, languages, philosophy, history, performance, and visual culture.

Studying Arts develops your ability to interpret complex ideas, analyse different perspectives, and communicate clearly. You'll learn to read closely, think critically, and express arguments with confidence.

At Otago, Arts subjects also engage with contemporary issues, including media, technology, culture, and global change. These skills are valued across many professions where communication, creativity, and thoughtful analysis are essential.

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Otago's BA is the most flexible degree structure in New Zealand. You can combine Arts subjects with Social Sciences, Sciences, or Business. Many students choose to complete a double major that brings together complementary areas of study.



Three years  
full-time



## Made up of 20 papers.

Each paper is worth 18 points (credits). 360 points is the minimum total required for a degree.

## One paper takes around 10 hours of study each week.

You usually study three to four different papers in each of the first and second semesters.


## You must have at least one major subject and can also include a minor subject.


The 360-point BA must include at least 180 points (10 papers) above 100-level, with 72 points (four papers) of these being above 200-level.


## Sample degree structure

This example is for a double major in History and Philosophy.

<b>YEAR 1</b>	HIST 100	PHIL 100	PHIL 100	MAOR 100	MAOR 100	PHIL 200*	
<b>YEAR 2</b>	HIST 200	HIST 200	HIST 200 (or elective)	PHIL 200	PHIL 200	PHIL 300	HIST 200*
<b>YEAR 3</b>	HIST 300	HIST 300	HIST 300	HIST 300 (or elective)	PHIL 300	PHIL 300	PHIL 300

 Arts major subject

 Arts major subject

 Subjects either from Arts or from other degrees

\*Must meet paper prerequisites

“My first job out of university was as a research assistant working with a team of historians at Te Tari Whakatau / The Office of Treaty Settlements and Takutai Moana. Since moving to Melbourne in 2023, I’ve found work as a policy officer. The skills I’ve gained studying and practicing history continue to serve me well in this field of work – whether it’s the ability to swiftly gather and synthesise a range of information, or put together a structured argument in a clear way.”

### Tom Rawcliffe

**Bachelor of Arts with Honours (History)**  
Senior Policy Officer, Department of Premier and Cabinet (Victoria)



# SOCIAL SCIENCES

## MARAU Ā-IWI

A way of taking on the world through evidence, systems, and human behaviour.

Social Sciences explore how societies function and change. These subjects investigate how people interact, how institutions develop, and how social systems shape everyday life.

Students learn to gather evidence, analyse data, and apply theory to real-world challenges. Social scientists study issues such as inequality, education, crime, migration, environmental sustainability, and global political change.

At Otago, Social Sciences combine research skills with critical thinking. You'll learn how to understand

social systems and apply research-based knowledge to practical problems affecting communities and societies.

Social Sciences work closely with Arts disciplines. While Social Sciences analyse patterns and systems, Arts subjects explore the cultural and historical meanings behind them. Studying both areas helps you understand not only how societies work, but also why people think, believe, and create as they do.

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Otago's flexible BA structure makes it easy to combine Social Sciences with Arts subjects through double majors or complementary papers. This allows students to explore both cultural perspectives and evidence-based approaches to understanding the world.



Three years  
full-time



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## Sample degree structure

This example is for a double major in Anthropology and Politics.

<b>YEAR 1</b>	ANTH 100	POLS 100	POLS 100	GLBL 100	GLBL 100	POLS 200* (S2)	
<b>YEAR 2</b>	ANTH 200	ANTH 200	ANTH 200 (or elective)	POLS 200	POLS 200	POLS 300 (S2)	ANTH 200*
<b>YEAR 3</b>	ANTH 300	ANTH 300	ANTH 300	ANTH 300 (or elective)	POLS 300	POLS 300	POLS 300

 Social Sciences major subject

 Social Sciences major subject

 Subjects either from Social Sciences or other degrees

\*Must meet paper prerequisites

“I’ve always loved writing and stories. Anthropology felt like finding – for the first time – the perfect blend of personal and analytical exploration, where people and experiences sat at the heart of the content but placed in the context of bigger movements of power and structure. I got to learn about the world and myself, and I’ve never found that space in a discipline before.”

### Cuba Rust

Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Anthropology)



# LAW TURE

A Law degree gives you the rigorous training needed for a profession that shapes society and drives change.

It's intellectually challenging, highly respected, and provides a deep understanding of how rules, decisions, and institutions influence people's lives.

Law is a comprehensive degree in its own right, and students are drawn to it for many reasons: a desire to advocate, curiosity about how society is organised, or an interest in tackling complex issues from multiple angles. Many graduates move into legal practice, while others apply legal expertise across sectors such as government, business, health, policy, and the community.

Many students choose to build on this by completing a double degree (also called a conjoint degree). Pairing Law with disciplines from Arts, Social Sciences, Music, Science,

Commerce, and Health Sciences allows students to develop expertise in areas like public policy, environmental issues, public health, business, technology, or the creative industries. These combinations reflect the diverse ways legal knowledge intersects with real-world problems.

Whatever path you take, Law equips you with a powerful way of thinking and a foundation that opens doors – to the legal profession and far beyond.

It prepares you not just for a career, but for making a meaningful impact.

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/law](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/law)

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You don't need specific school subjects to study Law, but strong language and analytical skills are a big advantage.



Four years  
full-time

## First-year Law

In your first year, you must take LAWS 101 The Legal System. You'll need to take an additional four to six non-Law papers at 100-level. These should include papers from your second preference subject so you can continue in another degree if you don't gain admission to second-year Law.

## Second-year Law

Entry into second-year Law is limited to approximately 300 places. Selection is based predominantly on the grade you achieve in LAWS 101. You must also achieve a B- average in your four highest-performing, non-Law papers. Some students will re-take LAWS 101 to gain entry to second-year Law.

## Double degrees

Many Law students do two degrees. Your first and second years will be the same as those doing only a Law degree but you will also have to meet the paper requirements of your second degree.

## Sample double degree structure

This example is for an LLB and BA, with a major in Criminology and a minor in English.

<b>YEAR 1</b>	LAWS 101*	CRIM 100	CRIM 100	ENGL 100	ENGL 100	MAOR 100				
<b>YEAR 2</b>	LAWS 201*	LAWS 202*	LAWS 203*	LAWS 200*						
<b>YEAR 3</b>	LAWS 301*	LAWS 303	LAWS 304	LAWS 300	CRIM 200	CRIM 200	CRIM 200	ENGL 200		
<b>YEAR 4</b>	LAWS 300	LAWS 300	LAWS 300	LAWS 400	LAWS 400	LAWS 400	CRIM 300	CRIM 300	ENGL 200	
<b>YEAR 5</b>	LAWS 300	LAWS 400	LAWS 400	LAWS 400	LAWS 400	CRIM 300	CRIM 300	ENGL 300	PHIL 100	

	Compulsory Law paper		Law elective		BA major		BA minor		Other
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Papers are single-semester unless indicated as full year (\*)

“One of the aspects I enjoy most about studying Law at Otago is the flexibility of the course structure. After second year, students can choose from a wide range of electives, allowing me to tailor the degree to my interests. This has given me the freedom to explore topics like environmental law, which align with my passion for using law to address societal challenges.”

### Zoe Cameron

Studying for a Bachelor of Laws with Honours, Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)



# PERFORMING ARTS

## WHAKAATURANGA TOI

Explore music, theatre, and dance.

### **Bachelor of Performing Arts**

Develop your knowledge and skills in music performance (singing or instrument), composition, songwriting, music production, dance performance, choreography, directing, acting and technical production.

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/performing-arts](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/performing-arts)

### **Bachelor of Music**

If you want music to be the focus of your degree, we also offer a Bachelor of Music. From creating music on your laptop, to learning guitar, to writing new works,

our flexible degree structure lets you design your study around your passions.

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/music](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/music)

You can also add Music and Performing Arts papers to most other degrees.

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Entry to some Performance Music papers is by audition. Applications must be made by 1 September of the year before you plan to study at Otago.



Three years  
full-time

“There are only a few compulsory papers you have to study for the Bachelor of Performing Arts – the rest is entirely up to you and what you want to specialise in. In my three years at Otago, I studied subjects like directing, musical theatre singing, contemporary singing, playwriting, Shakespeare and many more. I think it’s vital for a performer to have many tools under their belt – not only that, but by trying different papers, I was able to use and transfer skills across all aspects of my learning.”

**Lexie Tomlinson**

**Bachelor of Performing Arts**



# GEOGRAPHY

## TE IHO WHENUA

Understand the world, shape the future.

This degree bridges physical and human geography, blending scientific investigation with social and policy perspectives. Geography is key to tackling some of the world's most urgent challenges, from climate change and inequality to sustainable development. Discover how people shape the planet – and how the planet shapes us in return.

You'll have opportunities to take learning beyond the classroom on field trips and immersive, week-long field

schools, working alongside communities, agencies, and local government to understand real-world environmental and socio-political change as it happens.

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/geography](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/geography)

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Practical training in data collection, spatial analysis, and environmental assessment will equip you with skills highly valued by employers.



Three years  
full-time

“The paper I enjoyed most was GEOG 380 which involved designing a research project. My group chose to research perceptions about climate change in Wānaka and how community groups can champion environmental causes. We went to Wānaka for a week to do our data collection. The field trip was a highlight of my degree as I was able to talk to people who were doing amazing things in the sustainability space.”

### Keira Hill

**Bachelor of Arts (Major: Geography,  
Minor: Sport Development and Management)**



# THEOLOGY

## WHAKAPONO KARAITIANA

Otago offers the only university Theology programme in New Zealand.

Many students study Theology to enquire further into their own faith, but others simply have a broad curiosity about the world and human experience.

At Otago, we offer campus and distance courses on Biblical Studies, Christian Theology, Church History, Theology and Public Issues, Pastoral and Practical Theology, Ministry, and Chaplaincy.

Students who take papers in Theology often uncover insights that complement their studies in subjects such as Classics, History, Social Sciences, Politics and Law.

Our programme also offers papers on aspects of Māori and Pacific theology.

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/theology](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/theology)

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The Diploma in Theology is a one-year undergraduate qualification which involves seven papers, mainly at 100-level.



Three years  
full-time

“I loved noticing things in the Bible or Theology that were confusing to me – things that didn’t seem to make sense, or I just didn’t understand – and bringing questions to my teachers. Sometimes they had answers, other times they put me onto resources to help me figure out the answers myself, or we’d wrestle through the questions together. I really enjoyed both the expertise and humility of my lecturers as they shared their knowledge with their students.”

**Sophie Silvester**

Bachelor of Theology (Biblical Studies)



# TE TUMU

Te Tumu is one of New Zealand's leading destinations for studying Māori, Pacific, and Indigenous languages, cultures, and societies.

Te Tumu offers undergraduate programmes in Māori Studies, Pacific Studies, and Indigenous Studies, and postgraduate qualifications in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Known internationally for its vibrant learning and research environment, Te Tumu invites students to critically engage with the world and gain skills to make a meaningful impact.

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

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Te Tumu is a multicultural community dedicated to advancing Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.



Three years  
full-time

“I chose to study Māori Studies to learn the language. I grew up knowing very little of it, and that was something I was always unhappy about. A second reason is that it is a fairly potent double major to do with Law. Tikanga and Māori understandings of the law are becoming more relevant in New Zealand society, so it is a good conjoint to eventually enter the workforce with.”

## Eslyn Beck

Tapuika, Ngāti Pūkenga  
Studying for a Bachelor of Arts (Māori Studies),  
Bachelor of Laws



# SUBJECT GUIDE

## Anthropology

(Includes Archaeology and Social Anthropology)

Anthropologists ask questions about human variation and human differences. They study issues that affect different societies, such as changing economic and political arrangements of power, sustainable living alternatives, and the tensions around community inclusion and exclusion.

### Career opportunities

Anthropology graduates work in a variety of fields including community development, the police force, disaster relief, historic preservation, foreign affairs, and the media.

## Archaeology

To study Archaeology at Otago, your undergraduate major will be in Anthropology, with papers in Archaeology. Studying Archaeology will broaden your understanding of the development of human culture and learn how complex societies have emerged throughout the world.

### Career opportunities

Graduates take up positions in archaeological research, heritage management, museum studies or government. They also go on to postgraduate study in Archaeology.

## Biblical Studies

Biblical Studies explores Jewish and Christian scriptures, focusing on the Old and New Testaments in their ancient contexts.

### Career opportunities

Graduates have found careers in teaching, social work, policy analysis, journalism, and librarianship, as well as a variety of church-based roles.

## Buddhist Studies

(Minor subject only)

Buddhism shapes the history and culture of many Asian societies and continues to influence how people understand identity, community, and meaning. You'll be introduced to Buddhism through its Indian beginnings, then explore its growth across Asia.

## Chinese

China is one of New Zealand's most important global partners. Learning Chinese opens doors to careers in business, trade, diplomacy, and tourism – giving you a competitive edge in a world where cultural understanding and international communication are highly valued.

### Career opportunities

Career paths include tourism, education, trade, banking, mass media, interpretation/translation, as well as in foreign affairs and other government agencies.

## Christian Thought and History

Ever wondered how Christian beliefs and practices have shaped our societies? Studying Christian Thought and History helps you understand this global faith in both historical and contemporary contexts.

### Career opportunities

Graduates develop careers in a variety of fields, including teaching, social work, journalism, librarianship, administration, aid and development agencies, government department work, and church leadership and ministry.

## Classics

(Including Greek and Latin minor subjects)

The cultures of Greece, Rome and the Mediterranean world lie at the root of many modern traditions and institutions. By studying the Classics, you'll gain an understanding of these ancient civilisations and a deeper insight into the challenges of the 21st century.

### Career opportunities

Classics graduates have made careers in school and university teaching, university administration, foreign affairs, trade and industry, social welfare, local government, tourism, computing, insurance, law, librarianship, bookselling, publishing, museums and art galleries, fashion and design, broadcasting, journalism, tourism, and the theatre.

## Communication Studies

If you've ever wondered how media, culture and communication shape the way we live, work and connect, Communication Studies is for you. This dynamic field explores how messages move through digital platforms, print, broadcast, and conversation, and how they influence identity, politics, culture and commerce.

### Career opportunities

Graduates find work in a wide variety of fields, including journalism, education, advertising, administration, media production, archival and curatorial work, media policy analysis, public relations, and tourism.

## Computer Science

Whether you're interested in artificial intelligence, computer animation, gaming, software design or robotics, studying Computer Science at Otago will give you the expertise to thrive in a constantly evolving sector.

Computer Science is fundamentally about learning to analyse, design and implement computer algorithms and systems. You'll gain practical programming skills in industry-standard languages alongside transferable skills that enable you to be part of dynamic tech teams.

### Career opportunities

Career paths include game design and development, CGI movie production, automotive software development, and medical informatics.

## Criminology

Criminology is a rapidly growing field that critically examines crime, justice, and social control. At Otago, you'll explore the causes of crime, how society responds, and the workings of the criminal justice system. You'll also analyse media portrayals of crime, evolving legal boundaries, and justice policies in Aotearoa and beyond.

### Career opportunities

A background in Criminology enhances career prospects in law enforcement, justice, and social services. You could work as a policy adviser or analyst in justice and crime prevention, an investigative journalist, a forensic social worker or forensic psychologist (with additional qualifications), a youth justice worker or case manager, or a victim support advocate.

## Dance

(Minor subject only)

Explore how the body expresses ideas, emotions, and identity while developing collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills.

## Data Science

Data Science combines techniques and methods from computer science, information science, and statistics. Through a combination of lectures, tutorials and practical labs, you'll learn how to extract insights from large, complex data sets and communicate this knowledge through effective modelling and visualisation.

### Career opportunities

Studying Data Science leads to opportunities in fields as diverse as banking and biotechnology, entertainment and education, gaming and government, medicine and manufacturing, retail and research.

## Economics

Economic thinking drives decision-making in just about every area of society, from government and business policy to personal decisions. This programme will equip you with the skills to interpret, analyse and question diverse economic theories and policies in a real-life context.

### Career opportunities

A degree in Economics opens doors to a range of rewarding careers in the public or private sectors. You could become a policy analyst, a business consultant, an economics researcher, a financial adviser or a diplomat.

## Education

The study of education draws on a range of disciplines, including history, philosophy, psychology, Indigenous studies, politics and sociology, to explore the transformational nature of education and the learning and teaching process.

### Career opportunities

Education is excellent preparation for teaching and can also be useful for careers in research, policy analysis, social work, the counselling professions and public service.

## English

From the medieval to the modern, we offer an extensive range of papers to suit all tastes. English majors choose from a selection of course offerings including Māori and Pacific literature, literature and psychology, environmental literature, revolutions in poetry, and literary controversies.

### Career opportunities

Our graduates find work as editors, copywriters, creative writers, journalists, teachers, librarians, analysts, diplomats, politicians and policymakers.

## Environmental Management

Learn how to combine scientific knowledge, management methods and an understanding of environmental legislation to provide solutions to environmental problems.

### Career opportunities

Graduates commonly pursue careers in government agencies, environmental consulting firms, agricultural research organisations, academic institutions, food security and export firms.

## Environment and Society

(Minor subject only)

Explore the Earth's environmental systems and the impact humans have on our natural systems at global, national and regional scales.

## Film and Media Studies

If you're fascinated by film, television and online media, and how they influence culture, society and everyday life – this major is for you.

### Career opportunities

Graduates work in a variety of fields, including media production, journalism, content creation, archival and curatorial work, media policy, and government roles.

## French

Whether you're a complete beginner or a heritage speaker, our paper stream takes you step-by-step towards Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELFL), the official French-government language certificate.

### Career opportunities

Graduates work in a wide range of fields, including diplomacy, climate negotiations, humanitarian agencies, luxury tourism, journalism, international law, and bilingual tech startups.

## Gender Studies

Explore how gender and sexuality have constantly shaped our lives, our cultures and the world around us. You'll look at big questions about identity, power, and equality, and learn to see connections between personal experience and global issues.

### Career opportunities

Graduates work in policy development and analysis, human rights, education, human resources, health and community advocacy, the media, and social work.

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

## Geography

See page 11

## German

Knowledge of German language and culture has long been an asset in Europe but it is also a major advantage within New Zealand.

### Career opportunities

Graduates work in teaching, the arts, science, the media, law, government departments (e.g. Foreign Affairs and Trade), tourism and business.

## Global Studies

Global Studies is all about tackling the world's biggest challenges and finding your place in shaping the future. You'll dive into issues like inequality, the climate crisis, conflict, disinformation and artificial intelligence, while seeing how different cultures, systems and ideas connect.

### Career opportunities

Communications and creative industries, environmental and human rights organisations, tourism, commerce, foreign affairs, government and public administration are just a few of the career areas open to you.

## History

Studying the past helps us make sense of the present and shape the future, providing a crucial perspective for understanding an increasingly complex world. No discipline is better suited to this task than History.

### Career opportunities

You could find work in areas ranging from journalism, teaching and public affairs to management and finance. Otago History graduates have gone on to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Te Papa Tongarewa, Canterbury Museum, AgResearch, and Heritage New Zealand.

## Human Services Law

(Minor subject only)

Focus on areas of the law such as family law, criminal justice, law and psychiatry, sentencing, and the Treaty of Waitangi.

## Indigenous Studies

Examine how Indigenous communities shape conversations about identity, sovereignty, environment, and social justice. This subject brings together perspectives from history, politics, anthropology, and the arts to help you understand the complex realities of colonisation, resilience, and renewal.

### Career opportunities

You could go on to a career in education, social work, policy and governance, iwi, tribal or political advisement, foreign policy or within community organisations.

## Irish Studies

(Minor subject only)

Explore the culture, history, and creative traditions of Ireland while building strong analytical and communication skills.

## Japanese

Ready to learn a language that's not only fascinating but also deeply relevant in today's world? Studying Japanese gives you more than just grammar and vocabulary – it opens a window into a culture rich with creativity, history and innovation.

### Career opportunities

You could opt for a career in trade, commerce and tourism, or choose an academic path, such as teaching Japanese in schools or going on to MA and PhD degrees.

## Law

See page 8

## Linguistics

(Includes English and Linguistics, and Language and Linguistics)

Explore how languages evolve, how meaning is formed, how sound and structure shape communication, and how language interacts with society and the mind.

### Career opportunities

Career paths include teaching, interpreting/translation, editing and writing, computer programming and speech therapy. The Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) minor specifically equips you to teach English abroad and at home in language schools and other non-state institutions.

## Māori Studies

Engage with te reo Māori / the Māori language, tikanga Māori / customary practice and te ao Māori / the Māori world in real and relevant ways. Explore contemporary issues, including Māori health, education, environment and the interplay of culture and society.

### Career opportunities

A degree in Māori Studies can lead to careers in policy and governance, education, public health, media, communications or heritage work, and business or management roles.

## Mathematics

When you study Mathematics, you'll build a toolkit for tackling real problems. You'll learn to analyse complex situations, break challenges into manageable parts, and find creative solutions. These skills transfer across careers in technology, finance, data science, research, engineering and more.

### Career opportunities

Mathematics graduates follow diverse career paths. You could find work as a data analyst or data scientist, a software or algorithm developer, a teacher, educator or academic, a quantitative modeller, or a researcher.

## Music

See page 10

## Music Production

(Minor subject only)

Digital technology is shaking up the traditional studio system of music production. On this programme, you'll be exposed to the huge range of opportunities that now exist in the music industry, equipping you with the skills and confidence to achieve your creative goals.

## Pacific Studies

Examine history, culture, migration, language, environment and identity through a Pacific lens, gaining a deep appreciation of the diversity and resilience of Pacific communities. The programme affirms New Zealand's place within the Pacific and its strong cultural, political and intellectual connections across the region.

### Career opportunities

A major in Pacific Studies can lead to a career in national and regional organisations, the diplomatic corps, social work, teaching, religion or non-government organisations.

## Pastoral Studies

(Minor subject only)

Pastoral Studies helps you connect your Theology studies with culture, community life, personal experience and the ideas that shape care, communication, and meaning in everyday settings.

## Performing Arts

See page 10

## Philosophy

Philosophy provides a toolkit to critically engage with difficult and important questions. You'll develop your powers of argument, analysis, and critical reasoning. You'll learn how to express yourself more clearly and develop the ability to address complex and difficult problems.

### Career opportunities

You'll graduate with a unique mix of analytical and literary skills, making you attractive to employers in a wide range of industries, including computing, e-commerce, economics, journalism, marketing, politics, and social services.

## Philosophy, Politics and Economics

If you're driven to make sense of the world – and to shape it – Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) is for you. This major brings together the analytical rigour of philosophy, the societal insight of politics and the methodological strength of economics.

### Career opportunities

Career opportunities exist in a broad range of businesses, government departments and NGOs, both in New Zealand and in the wider world. Graduates of the programme include senior advisers in several ministries, diplomats, business consultants, journalists, lawyers, think-tank members, entrepreneurs and CEOs.

## Politics

If you've ever wondered why decisions get made, who decides and how change happens, studying Politics is your chance to step right in. At Otago you'll explore the heart of power, from local communities in Aotearoa to global systems and everything in between.

### Career opportunities

Graduates have gone on to work as policy analysts, diplomats, journalists, business leaders, lawyers, public servants, consultants and politicians. Others work in immigration and with refugees, for NGOs and the not-for-profit sector, education and the media. Many students progress into postgraduate study.

## Popular Music

(Minor subject only)

Are you interested in the diverse popular music of the world and its cultural contexts? Through this minor, you'll learn how to critically evaluate the function of popular music in the world around you.

## Psychology

Psychology is the science of behaviour, brain and cognition – the study of how humans and other animals interact with the world and each other. It's about what drives us, how we think, and why we act the way we do.

### Career opportunities

Our graduates work in diverse fields such as mental health support and youth work, marketing and consumer behaviour, human resources and organisational management, research and data analysis, health coaching and promotion, the criminal justice sector, teaching, social work, and nursing (with additional qualifications).

## Religious Studies

The study of religions is more than just learning about beliefs - it's about exploring what it means to be human in a diverse, changing world.

### Career opportunities

Religious Studies graduates are valued for their skills in analysis, communication and cultural awareness. You could find work in a variety of settings, including community engagement and social services, education, public policy, government roles, journalism, and business.

## Science of Religion

(Minor subject only)

This minor helps you explore how scientific research explains religious belief, behaviour, and culture. You'll learn to ask strong questions, work with experimental and survey methods, and evaluate evidence with confidence.

## Social Anthropology

(See Anthropology)

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

## Social Work

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/social-work](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/social-work)

Studying Social Work at Otago helps you develop the theoretical knowledge, intervention skills, and ethical grounding needed to engage with real-world challenges, such as inequality, child protection, health and disability services, justice, and Indigenous and Māori perspectives. Students initially enrol in the Social Work pre-professional Bachelor of Arts and apply for admission to the Social Work programme near the end of their second year.

### Career opportunities

The Bachelor of Social Work is approved by the Social Workers' Registration Board of New Zealand. Graduates pursue careers in government services, not-for-profit agencies, iwi-based organisations, and private practice.

## Sociology

Sociology will open your eyes to how society really works. You'll explore how identity, relationships, and everyday choices are shaped by bigger social forces. You'll unpack ideas about power, inequality, culture, and change, all while developing critical thinking skills that will stay with you far beyond your degree.

### Career opportunities

Critical and creative thinking skills, and an in-depth understanding of human behaviour make Sociology graduates sought after in the workplace. Graduates go on to work in government departments, public policy, community and non-profit organisations, public health, and research.

## Spanish

At Otago we teach Spanish from the ground up, so if you're curious about the world and keen to make connections beyond New Zealand, studying Spanish is a brilliant way in.

### Career opportunities

Spanish language and culture skills give graduates an edge in areas such as international relations, translation, tourism, education, media, marketing and business.

## Sport Development and Management

Examine the people, institutions and policies that influence the structure, management and experience of sport.

### Career opportunities

Careers in this sector include sport development officers, administrators and managers in national/regional sports organisations, community trusts, commercial sports entities, government ministries and local councils.

## Statistics

Statisticians find information in data and apply this knowledge to real-life scenarios. Statistical techniques are used in just about every field, from evaluating the environmental effects of pollutants to helping researchers evaluate new drugs and medical procedures.

### Career opportunities

Career pathways include data analyst or statistician in government, business or research settings; biostatistician supporting public health, medical studies or clinical research; data scientist working with analytics, modelling and real-world datasets; market or consumer insights researcher; risk analyst or financial analyst.

## Teaching

[otago.ac.nz/subjects/teaching](https://otago.ac.nz/subjects/teaching)

The College of Education offers a Bachelor of Teaching endorsed in either Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, or Te Pōkai Mātauranga o te Ao Rua / Primary Bicultural Education. If you already hold a bachelor's degree, you can study for a Master of Teaching and Learning, which can be endorsed in Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, or Secondary Education.

## TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

(Minor subject only)

A minor in TESOL opens doors to global opportunities, from living and working overseas to supporting learners in diverse communities. You'll gain practical teaching experience, strengthen communication across cultures, and develop insights into language, learning, and society.

## Theatre Studies

See page 10

## Theology

See page 12

## Tourism, Languages and Cultures

This subject provides you with a unique opportunity to gain cross-cultural perspectives while also acquiring a solid grounding in tourism management.

### Career opportunities

Graduates are employed by national and regional tourism organisations such as Tourism New Zealand and Destination Queenstown, as well as accommodation, activity, transport and infrastructure operators.

## Writing

(Minor subject only)

The ability to write clearly, accurately and concisely can open many doors – from boosting your university grades to landing your dream job.

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





# GET HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION

## Schools' liaison

Schools' liaison work with anyone considering study at Otago, including secondary school students and adults thinking about returning to education.

If you're a secondary school student, your schools' liaison officer will visit your school to help you plan your first year of study. You can also contact them at any time through their offices.

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

## Course advice

Once you're on campus, course advisers are available to help. Course advice is available as many times as you need during your time at Otago.

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

## AskOtago

AskOtago is your one-stop shop for all questions about studying at Otago. Find answers with our searchable knowledgebase, or use our online form to request a service. You can also chat to us online, phone us, or visit our hub in the Information Services Building, or at one of our other hubs around campus.

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

## Career Development Centre

The Career Development Centre can set you on the path for success right from the start. Attend interactive workshops and fairs, get help with your CV, or explore employment opportunities. Career advisers are available for one-to-one discussions.

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

# HOW TO APPLY

Applications to Otago are made online through eVision. Once you've created your account, eVision will guide you through the application process.

All enrolment, scholarship, and residential college applications are made via eVision.

[otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment](https://otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment)

# USEFUL INFORMATION

Division of Humanities  
[otago.ac.nz/humanities](https://otago.ac.nz/humanities)

General information for new students  
[otago.ac.nz/future-students](https://otago.ac.nz/future-students)

Applying to study at Otago  
[otago.ac.nz/enrolment](https://otago.ac.nz/enrolment)

Accommodation at Otago  
[otago.ac.nz/accommodation](https://otago.ac.nz/accommodation)

Local students  
[otago.ac.nz/locals](https://otago.ac.nz/locals)



## KEY DATES

### 1 August

Residential college applications open online.

### 15 August

Applications close for most University of Otago entrance scholarships.

### 1 September

Application deadline for Performance Music auditions (late applications may be considered).

### 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.

While all information in this booklet is, as far as possible, up to date and accurate at the time of production, the University reserves the right to change courses and course requirements, and to make any other alterations as may be deemed necessary.

Printed March 2026.

