

Entry requirements Diploma and Foundation Studies Certificate

English language requirements: IELTS Academic overall score of 5.5 (no section less than 5.0)

[Or equivalent accepted proof of English.](#)

Academic entry requirements:

Country	Diploma	Foundation Studies
Cambridge International Examinations AND Pearson Edexcel International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 100 points on the New Zealand Tariff* at A or AS level from any syllabus groups, which are broadly equivalent to those in the list of approved subjects for NCEA An E grade or better in AS/A level syllabuses from at least two different syllabus groups (excluding Thinking Skills) AND one IGCSE passing grade (4/C or higher) in a third syllabus group If taken in NZ, Cambridge/Pearson international applicants must also meet literacy and numeracy requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 80 points on the New Zealand Tariff* at A, AS or IGCSE level from any syllabus groups which are broadly equivalent to those in the list of approved subjects for NCEA An E grade or better in syllabuses from at least three different syllabus groups (excluding thinking skills) If taken in NZ, Cambridge/Pearson international applicants must also meet literacy and numeracy requirements.
International Baccalaureate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBDP exam sat with a minimum score of 18 points across 6 subjects with none of these subjects below 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBDP exam sat with a minimum score of 12 points across six subjects with none of these subjects below 2. Year 1 only will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with appropriate documentation.
Afghanistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall average of 80% in the 12th Grade Graduation Certificate (academic) AND 80% achieved in at least 3 academic subjects.
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATAR – Minimum score of 60 Foundation Year from a recognised tertiary institute – minimum average grade of 50% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATAR – Minimum score of 55
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completion of Bangladesh Higher School Certificate (HSC) with a minimum GPA of 3.5 out of a maximum 5.0 scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completion of Bangladesh Higher School Certificate (HSC) with a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of a maximum 5.0 scale.
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most provinces** – Graduated high school with an average of at least 55% in five acceptable Grade 12 courses Ontario – Ontario Secondary School Diploma with an average of at least 55% in six acceptable Grade 12 courses Quebec – Quebec Grade 12 Certificate with an average of 50% or higher across six subjects including English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most provinces** – Graduated high school with an average of at least 50% in five acceptable Grade 12 courses Ontario – Ontario Secondary School Diploma with an average of at least 50% in six acceptable Grade 12 courses Quebec – Quebec Grade 12 Certificate with an average of 45% or higher across six subjects including English. Grade 11 only will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with appropriate documentation.
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma of Upper Secondary Education – minimum average grade of B in the four best relevant academic subjects, excluding Home-language Khmer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma of Upper Secondary Education – minimum average grade of C in the four best relevant academic subjects, excluding Home-language Khmer.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary School Graduation Certificate – minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects Gaokao/NCEE – 60% of the total mark (396/660 in Shanghai, 450/750 other provinces) NCC Education International Foundation Diploma with a minimum average 75% Other Foundation programmes at accredited Chinese institutes with a minimum average 75% may be considered case-by-case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Grade 3 – minimum average of 60% Senior Grade 2 – minimum average of 70%

Country	Diploma	Foundation Studies
Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiji Year 13 Certificate– minimum of 220/400 (including English). The score represents the total of the best three academic subjects plus English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiji Year 13 Certificate– minimum of 200/400 (including English). The score represents the total of the best three academic subjects plus English. Fiji Year 12 Certificate– – minimum of 220/400 (including English). The score represents the total of the best three academic subjects plus English
Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKDSE - aggregate score of 10 across the four best Category A and C subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKDSE - aggregate score of 8 across the four best Category A and C subjects.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) and India School Certificate (ISC) and Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal: minimum average grade of 60% in the four best relevant academic subjects and a minimum of 55% in English. Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from other states – minimum average of 75% across the four best relevant academic subjects and a minimum of 75% in English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior School Certificate (SSCE) and India School Certificate (ISC) and Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal: minimum average grade of 55% in the four best relevant academic subjects and a minimum of 55% in English. Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from other states – minimum average of 70% across the four best relevant academic subjects and a minimum of 70% in English.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMA – Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. MA – Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMA 3 – Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. MA - Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Secondary Graduation Certificate – minimum average grade of 3.0 in relevant academic subjects. Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination – minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Secondary Graduation Certificate: Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 2.5 in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2 completed with a minimum average grade of 3.5 in relevant academic subjects Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination - Completed with an average of 70% in relevant academic subjects.
Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – completed with a minimum average of 75% AND 75% achieved in at least 3 academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – completed with a minimum average of 70% AND 70% achieved in at least 3 academic subjects.
Macau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary Graduation Certificate – Senior Grade 3/Form 6 completed with an average of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary Graduation Certificate - Senior Grade 3/Form 6 completed with a minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2/Form 5 completed with a minimum average grade of 65% in relevant academic subjects
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STPM – three subjects with a minimum grade of 2.3 (C+) in each. Matrikulasi – minimum average grade of 2.3 (C+) in relevant academic subjects. UEC – maximum aggregate score of 30 in the five best relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPM – minimum average grade of B in the best five relevant academic subjects. UEC – maximum aggregate score of 37.5 in the five best relevant academic subjects
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not accepted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matriculation Examination Pass Certificate – completed with a minimum average of 70% AND 70% achieved in at least 3 academic subjects.

Country	Diploma	Foundation Studies
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Leaving Certificate Examination Grade XI & XII by the National Examinations Board (NEB). Completed with a minimum average grade of B+ 3.2 in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Leaving Certificate Examination Grade XI & XII by the National Examinations Board (NEB). Completed with a minimum average grade of B 2.8 in relevant academic subjects. Overall average 60% in relevant subjects in School Leaving Certificate Examination Grade X.
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCEA – 16+ credits in four subjects at Level 2 or above, with at least 2 of the 16 credits per subject at Level 3, and three of the four subjects must be on the approved subject list. UE Literacy and Numeracy requirements met, 50+ total credits at Level 3. Special Admission- domestic students who do not otherwise meet entry requirements and will be at least 20 years of age on the first day of Diploma classes, may be admitted under special admission on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCEA – 10 credits achieved in Numeracy at Level 1 or above, 5 credits in English Level 2 achieved in Reading, 5 credits in English Level 2 achieved in Writing, at least 12 credits in each of 3 approved NCEA Achievement Standards at Level 2+ Special Admission- domestic students who do not otherwise meet entry requirements and will be at least 20 years of age on the last day of FSC classes, may be admitted under special admission on a case-by-case basis.
Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Diploma – minimum average grade of 80% AND 80% achieved in 3 academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Diploma – minimum average grade of 75% AND 75% achieved in 3 academic subjects.
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) – Completed with a minimum average grade of 85% (GPA 4.3) in relevant academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) – Completed with a minimum average grade of 70% (GPA 3.2) in relevant academic subjects.
Philippines	<p>Certificate/Diploma of Senior High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic track – minimum average grade of 80% in relevant academic subjects; Arts and Design track – minimum average of 82% in relevant academic subjects for Diploma of Arts only 	<p>Certificate/Diploma of Senior High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic track – minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. Arts and Design track – minimum average grade of 77% in relevant academic subjects into Arts/Humanities stream only
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum average grade of 80% AND 80% in at least 3 academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum average grade of 70% AND 70% in at least 3 academic subjects.
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Cambridge GCE A Levels – A minimum of three H2 passes OR two H2 and two H1 passes at D grade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore-Cambridge GCE O levels – 2 B's and 2 C's in academic subjects. Singapore Cambridge GCE A Levels – A minimum of three H2 passes OR two H2 and two H1 passes at E grade
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completion of the National Senior Certificate with confirmation of eligibility to enrol in a diploma at a South African university. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful completion of the National Senior Certificate with confirmation of eligibility to enrol in a higher certificate at a South African university.
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Diploma / High School Certificate of Graduation – Senior Grade 3 minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects. College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) – minimum of Level 5 in the four best subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Diploma / High School Certificate of Graduation – Senior Grade 3 minimum average grade of 60% in relevant academic subjects; Senior Grade 2 minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects.
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Lanka General Certificate of Education A levels– 2 C's and 1 S in academic subjects. AS + A levels– 2 C's and 2 S's in academic subjects. National Diploma NVQ Level 6 awarded by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC) – Case-by-case assessment with minimum GPA of B (3.00). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Lanka General Certificate of Education Ordinary Levels – 2 B's and 2 C's in academic subjects. Sri Lanka General Certificate of Education– Three A Level passes at Grade S or higher OR two AS level and two A level passes at Grade S or higher in academic subjects.
Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior High School Diploma – Senior Grade 3 minimum average of 70% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior High School Diploma – Senior Grade 3 minimum average of 60% in relevant academic subjects Senior Grade 2 minimum average of 70% in relevant academic subjects.

Country	Diploma	Foundation Studies
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Basic Education – Secondary Grade 6/มัธยมศึกษา 6 minimum GPA of 2.6 in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Basic Education – Secondary Grade 6/ มัธยมศึกษา 6 minimum GPA of 2.0 in relevant academic subjects Secondary Grade 5/มัธยมศึกษา 5 minimum GPA or 2.5 in relevant academic subjects.
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum overall average of 80% AND 80% achieved in at least 3 academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum overall average of 70% AND 70% in at least 3 academic subjects
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level (A Level) passes at Grade D or higher, issued by any official UK awarding body. A result in General Studies will not be accepted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced Level (A Level) passes at Grade E or higher, issued by any official UK awarding body. A result in General Studies will not be accepted.
United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 completed with a minimum average grade of 2.0 in relevant academic subjects. GED completed with a minimum score of 160 in all four subject tests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 completed with a minimum average grade of 1.0 in relevant academic subjects. GED completed with a minimum score of 150 in all four subject tests Grade 11 only will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Grade 12 (Lớp 12) as shown on the High School report with a minimum GPA of 7.0/10.0, AND a pass in the National High School Graduation Examination (Kỳ Thi Tốt Nghiệp Trung Học Phổ Thông Quốc Gia). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Grade 12 (Lớp 12) as shown on the High School report with a minimum average GPA of 6.5/10.0 Completion of Grade 11 (Lớp 11) as shown on the High School report with a minimum GPA of 7.5/10.
West Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West African Senior School Certificate Examination – Completed with a minimum overall average grade of B3 AND B3 achieved in at least 3 relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West African Senior School Certificate Examination – Completed with a minimum overall average grade of C6 AND C6 achieved in at least 3 relevant academic subjects.
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zimbabwe General Certificate of Secondary Education at Advanced Level awarded by the Zimbabwe School Education Council (ZIMSEC), with pass grades of D or above in at least 3 Advanced Level subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zimbabwe General Certificate of Secondary Education at Ordinary Level awarded by the Zimbabwe School Education Council (ZIMSEC), with 2 B's and 2 C's in academic subjects.

***New Zealand Tariff (amended to include IGCSE for FSC admission only)**

Level	A*	A	B	C	D	E
A	140 points	120 points	100 points	80 points	60 points	40 points
AS		60 points	50 points	40 points	30 points	20 points

Level	9/A*	8/A	7	6/B	5/C	4
IGCSE	40 points	35 points	30 points	25 points	20 points	15 points

****Canadian Provinces:** Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia

Academic subjects

We consider academic subjects to be broadly equivalent to those in the list of approved subjects for NCEA: <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-secondary-quals/university-entrance/ue-subjects/>

Qualification not listed?

We can accept other qualifications on a case-by-case basis. Please contact pathways.admissions@otago.ac.nz to enquire, or submit an application and our admission committee will consider it.

Disclaimer: Information updated April 2026 by the University of Otago Pathway team. Entry requirements may change; please check the University of Otago website for the most current details.