



OTAGO  
AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED IN 1869, OTAGO IS NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST UNIVERSITY. IT ENJOYS A WORLDWIDE REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE, SUCCESSFULLY BALANCING THE TRADITIONS OF ITS HISTORY WITH MODERN SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH. IT OFFERS A UNIQUE CAMPUS LIFESTYLE, CREATING A CULTURE OF LEARNING THAT REFLECTS THE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW ZEALAND TOGETHER WITH INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC VALUES.

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is located in the South Pacific region. Its nearest neighbours are Australia and the smaller Pacific nations of Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and the Cook Islands. Otago (after which the University takes its name) is the provincial area in New Zealand's South Island that includes the city of Dunedin. The inland area of Central Otago includes the resort centres of Queenstown and Wanaka.



### AUCKLAND

University of Otago, Auckland Centre  
External Engagement  
Enterprise Office  
Teaching and information facilities

### WELLINGTON

University of Otago, Wellington  
Research and clinical training  
Postgraduate courses

### CHRISTCHURCH

University of Otago, Christchurch  
Research and clinical training  
Postgraduate courses

### DUNEDIN

Main Campus  
Divisions of  
~ Humanities  
~ Sciences  
~ Commerce (Business School)  
~ Health Sciences  
Administration

### INVERCARGILL

Southland Campus, College of Education

## LOOKING BACK

In 1848 a small group of mainly Scottish emigrants founded the colonial settlement of Otago and began to build the city of Dunedin. Within 21 years the University of Otago had been created by ordinance of the Provincial Council, and opened amid much celebration on July 5, 1871. The vision that built a university in such a young settlement reflected a deep-seated respect for education and the emerging status of Dunedin as the wealthiest city in New Zealand, its prosperity founded on the discovery of gold in the 1860s.

There were originally three professors, one to teach Classics and English Language and Literature, one with responsibility for Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and the third to instruct in Mental and Moral Philosophy. The following year a professor in Natural Science joined the staff and the syllabus was gradually widened to include classes in Mining (1872), Law (1873) and Medicine (1875).

Further growth was seen with the opening of the School of Dentistry in 1907 and the School of Home Science in 1911. Teaching in Accountancy and Commerce subjects began in 1912. A Faculty of Theology was created in 1946, followed a year later by the founding of the School of Physical Education.

By 1960 the roll stood at nearly 3,000 and at around 6,500 by 1980; however, the following three-plus decades were marked by spectacular growth and expansion. There are now around 21,000 students and the range of qualifications has been expanded by the addition of Surveying, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Science, Teaching, Physiotherapy, Applied Science, Dental Technology, Medical Radiation Therapy, Biomedical Sciences and many specialised postgraduate programmes. In 2007 the Dunedin College of Education merged with the University to form the University of Otago College of Education.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO  
WAS FOUNDED WITHIN 21 YEARS  
OF COLONIAL SETTLEMENT





## TODAY

The University of Otago today is a multifaceted institution whose influence spreads far beyond its campuses, contributing strongly to the culture and economy of New Zealand, as well as to international development.

An Otago education blends a traditional concern for quality with an innovative response to the needs of a modern, global society. The University is recognised as a world-class institution and has been awarded the highest possible quality rating – five-star plus – from the international quality evaluation programme, QS Stars. It is placed 184th in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world rankings, and placed in the top one per cent of universities internationally.

Strategically, the University of Otago is unwaveringly committed to research and teaching excellence, to providing outstanding experiences for students and to its responsibilities to community service, sustainability and good citizenship at the local, national and global levels.

With around 21,000 students (by headcount) and almost 4,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, the University now offers 200 undergraduate and postgraduate degree, diploma and certificate courses across its campuses. It has become a significant economic force, locally and nationally, with the total economic impact of University activities on New Zealand estimated at more than \$2 billion.

The University of Otago has strong national and international connections. It is one of the founding members of the Matariki Network, a group of seven international universities – from the USA, Canada, England, Germany, Sweden and Australia – that share an ethos of excellence in

research and education, based on long-standing traditions in renowned academic communities.

Student exchange agreements offer Otago students the opportunity to study in more than 100 institutions in 38 countries and a significant number of students from overseas also study at Otago. In 2019 there were 2,972 international students, with the largest numbers coming from the USA (804), China (525) and Malaysia (263).

The University is proud of the special relationship that exists with Ngāi Tahu, the Māori iwi (tribal group) indigenous to the Otago region. The Treaty of Waitangi, signed in 1840 between Māori and the Crown, is a seminal document in New Zealand history. Through this, the University has a responsibility to contribute to the achievement of Māori aspirations and has completed memoranda of understanding with Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Whatua, Waikato-Tainui and Ngāti Toa Rangitira, as well as a number of Māori health providers across the country. These agreements underpin beneficial relations with iwi in the University's areas of operation.

The Māori Strategic Framework provides a cohesive approach to Māori strategy across all University campuses. In 2019 there were 3,187 Māori students enrolled at Otago, comprising a record of 12.4 per cent of domestic EFTS (equivalent full-time students).

Pacific development is another strategic focus for the University. A Pacific Strategic Framework is being implemented across the University by the Pacific Development Office. In 2019 Pacific enrolments were at an all-time high of 1,058 students (5.4 per cent of domestic EFTS).

OTAGO HAS A FIVE-STAR PLUS  
RANKING FROM QS STARS  
REFLECTING THE UNIVERSITY'S  
WORLD-CLASS QUALITY  
AND EXCELLENCE

OTAGO HAS STUDENT EXCHANGE  
AGREEMENTS WITH MORE  
THAN 100 INSTITUTIONS IN  
38 COUNTRIES







## CAMPUSES

Predominantly campus-based, the University's administrative centre and the majority of academic activities are in Dunedin. However, the University also has significant medicine and health sciences campuses in Christchurch and Wellington, a College of Education campus in the southern city of Invercargill, as well as a presence in Auckland.

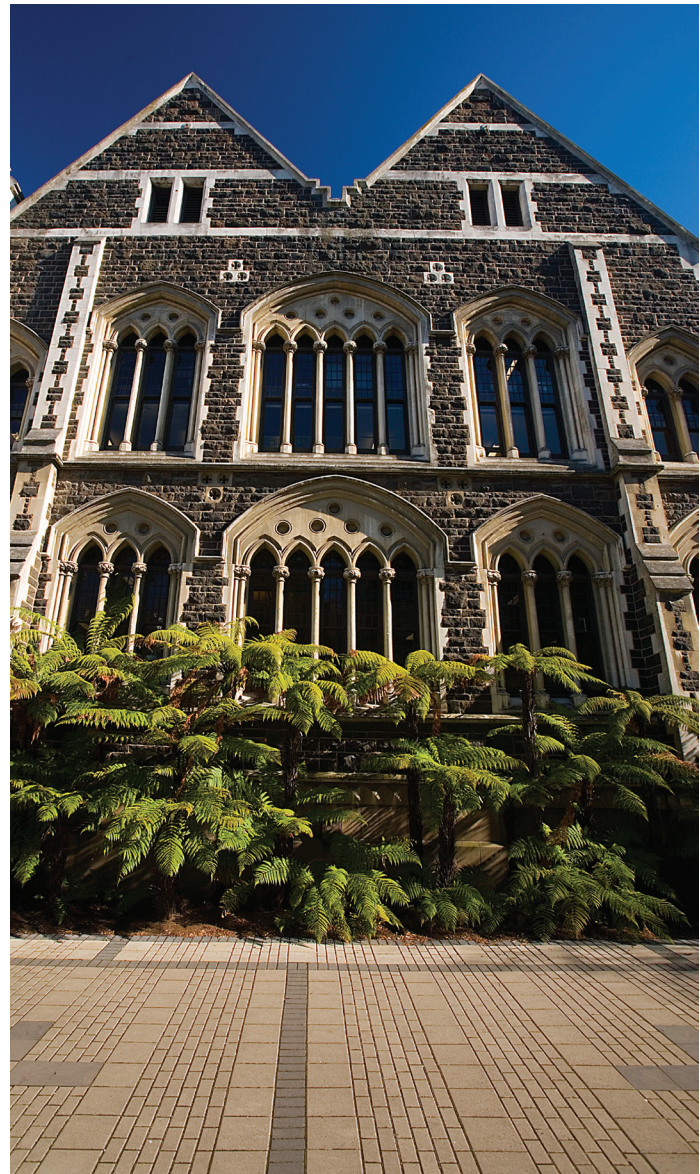
Dunedin is a small, sophisticated harbour city with a colourful history, an excellent infrastructure and a temperate climate. With a population of more than 130,000, it possesses most of the amenities and cultural richness of cities many times its size.

Education is Dunedin's main industry, with the University a major economic force and opinion leader in the city. With its highly visible student body and large staff, the University enriches the intellectual, cultural and sporting life of the city.

The University of Otago's Dunedin campus is located on the edge of the Water of Leith, just a short distance from the centre of the city and its Botanic Garden. It has been internationally recognised as one of the 16 most beautiful university campuses in the world, with an eclectic collection of buildings that range from the iconic neo-gothic 1879 Clocktower building, to the award-winning Information Services Building, the Green Star-rated William James Building and the newly-completed Dentistry clinical services building considered one of the most technologically advanced dental school facilities in the world.

The University is in the midst of one of the largest and most complex building programmes in its history, with sustainability and a vision for excellence as the principles against which all capital developments are measured.

Christchurch, the home of one of the University's three health sciences campuses, is the largest of the South Island's cities and, like Dunedin, education is a focus of activity in this city. The third health sciences campus is in Wellington, at the southern end of the North Island. New Zealand's capital city and seat of Parliament, Wellington is a vibrant and dynamic city, home to most government departments, national theatre, performance companies, as well as the national museum, archives and library.



OTAGO HAS BEEN RECOGNISED  
AS ONE OF THE 16 MOST  
BEAUTIFUL CAMPUSES  
IN THE WORLD

# UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

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The University of Otago's governing body is its Council, chaired by the Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor is the academic and administrative head of the University. Three Deputy Vice-Chancellors have specific responsibilities: one for academic matters; another for research and enterprise; and a third for external engagement. The University Senate (chaired by the Vice-Chancellor) is responsible for academic matters, while the day-to-day administration of academic programmes is devolved to the University's four academic divisions, each headed by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

## Academic divisions

Division of Humanities (incorporating the Faculty of Law; School of Arts; School of Performing Arts; Te Tumu: School of Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies; School of Social Sciences; College of Education; School of Geography).

Division of Sciences (incorporating the School of Surveying; School of Physical Education; Sport and Exercise Sciences)

Business School (Division of Commerce)

Division of Health Sciences (incorporating the Medical Schools in Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington; School of Biomedical Sciences; Faculty of Dentistry; School of Pharmacy; School of Physiotherapy)

University of Otago Foundation Studies

Language Centre





## RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Research excellence is the foundation of Otago's international reputation and the heart of its academic activity. A strong research culture is fostered across all disciplines and all departments. Among its core academic staff of about 1,740 (FTE) – almost all of whom are actively engaged in research as well as teaching – Otago has more than 393 FTE research-only staff. The research culture is further strengthened by the presence on campus of almost 4,000 postgraduate students, including around 1,580 PhD students.

Otago's research excellence is reflected in its ongoing success in the highly-competitive funding rounds of major external funders such as the Marsden Fund and Health Research Council. In 2019 the University attracted around \$200 million in external and performance-based research funding. Three Otago research teams have won New Zealand's top science honour, the Prime Minister's Science Prize, since its inception in 2009.

The University has leadership roles in three national Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs): the Dodd-Walls Centre for Photonic and Quantum Technologies; Brain Health New Zealand – Rangahau Roro Aotearoa (together with the University of Auckland) and Ngā Pae o te Māramtanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence (also together with the University of Auckland). Otago is also a partner in a number of other national CoREs; is involved through collaboration or research leadership in all National Science Challenges; and leads the Genomics Aotearoa platform.

The University hosts two of the most recognised longitudinal studies in the world: the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study; and the Christchurch Health and Development Study.

Areas of particular research strength are formally recognised in designated research centres and research themes ([otago.ac.nz/research/centres](http://otago.ac.nz/research/centres)).

Entrepreneurial activities are an increasing focus. The University's Centre for Innovation provides an incubator facility, bringing research and industry together on campus. Within this structure Otago Innovation Ltd manages the commercialisation of intellectual property arising from research, and has had particular success in the areas of biotechnology and cancer diagnostics. Proof of Concept and Translational Research Grant competitions are keenly contested by Otago researchers each year.

To parallel the quality of its research activities, Otago places great emphasis on the quality of its teaching. In recent Tertiary Education Commission educational performance indicators, the University topped the country for student performance and retention.

The University's annual Teaching Excellence Awards and the Otago University Students' Association's annual teaching awards celebrate the efforts of our outstanding teachers, who have gone on to win the country's Supreme Award for Teaching six times in the last eight years. This is a record unmatched by any other New Zealand tertiary institution.

THREE OTAGO RESEARCH  
TEAMS HAVE WON THE  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
SCIENCE PRIZE

OTAGO TOPPED THE  
TEC'S EDUCATIONAL  
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS  
FOR STUDENT PERFORMANCE  
AND RETENTION





## OTAGO AND THE COMMUNITY

The University of Otago serves its local, national and international communities in many ways. Around 90 per cent of academic staff are regularly involved in community service connected with their area of expertise, spending around 8.5 per cent of their work time on such activities.

There is a strong focus on research that addresses questions of national and international importance. The University is actively involved in the National Science Challenges that focus on the biggest science-based challenges facing New Zealand, in such areas as biosecurity, housing, healthier lives and climate change. Many Otago researchers are world leaders in their fields, collaborate widely and participate in internationally significant work. Examples include the Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre that has contributed to the drafting of World Health Organization guidelines and the Centre for International Health which is working to fight infectious diseases in developing countries. Otago researchers have played a leading role in New Zealand's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The National Poisons Centre, based within the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, provides a 24-hours-a-day 365-days-a-year free phone service to the people of New Zealand.

Public lectures, continuing education and arts performances are a long-standing tradition and contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of Dunedin. In 2019, more than 700 events were held.

Otago has a well-established outreach programme including Hands-On at Otago, and the New Zealand Marine Studies Centre that provides a wide variety of community engagement and educational programmes. A number of other programmes have been established to specifically target Māori, rural areas and those from low-decile schools.

The University is also strategically committed to harnessing the altruism of its students, not only for the betterment of the wider community, but for the students themselves, helping to prepare them for lives of good citizenship. The Social Impact Studio worked with 65 community partners in 2019 with 42,350 volunteer hours undertaken by 6,000 students.



IN 2019, 42,350 VOLUNTEER  
HOURS WERE UNDERTAKEN  
BY 6,000 STUDENTS



## THE OTAGO STUDENT

More than 85 per cent of Otago's students come from outside Dunedin, and 77 per cent from outside the University's "home catchment" of Otago and Southland. This has resulted in the evolution of a distinctive learning-based lifestyle that has come to shape the key attributes of the Otago graduate. Independence, co-operative working habits and an aptitude for lifelong learning are outcomes of the Otago academic and lifestyle experience that are highly valued by employers.

Otago is committed to providing an enriched, holistic experience for its students, one that not only fosters academic excellence, but also personal development.

Acknowledging the presence of so many young people living away from home, the University places great emphasis on the provision of high quality accommodation and pastoral care. Almost all students take the opportunity to live close to the campus, initially in one of the 15 residential colleges that lie within easy walking distance of the heart of the University and of the social, sporting and commercial activities that support student life. The majority of senior students go on to live in the many flats and apartments that nestle around the campus and central city, a proximity that enhances the youthful vibrancy that is a feature of Dunedin life.

The University provides an outstanding range of services for students including Student Health, the Māori and Pacific Islands Centres, Student Job Search, Disability Information and Support, the Student Learning Development, the Career Development Centre and the University chaplaincy. There is also a vast range of sporting, cultural and recreational clubs and facilities, with Otago students participating and excelling on the national and world stage in activities ranging from rowing to debating.

And, to ensure the safety and security of the Otago campus environment – and to provide information when needed – Campus Watch teams are on patrol 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The 2019 Student Opinion Survey revealed that 98 per cent of students were satisfied with the level of campus safety, 97 per cent were positive about sport and recreational facilities, and 98 per cent were happy with the general campus environment.



98% OF STUDENTS ARE HAPPY  
WITH CAMPUS SAFETY AND  
CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTS: 2019  
STUDENT OPINION SURVEY



## LIBRARIES AND THE ARTS

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The University Library collection is held in a number of facilities across the three main campuses, including the specialist Law, Science, Medical and Dental libraries, and the Hocken Collections. The largest is the Central Library, housed in the Information Services Building (ISB) focusing on the arts and fine arts, commerce, education, theology, physical education, social sciences and general reference, with an increasing emphasis on online collections. In 2019, more than 1 million eBooks and 200,000 electronic serials were available. The rare books collection includes more than 9,000 books printed before 1800.

The Hocken is one of the foremost research libraries in New Zealand, built on the personal collection of Dr Thomas Hocken and gifted in 1907 to be held in trust by the University for the people of New Zealand. Its collections reflect the history and culture of New Zealand, the Pacific and Antarctica, with a particular focus on Otago and Southland. The collections have grown extensively over the past century and include published and unpublished manuscripts, books, ephemera, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, maps, film and music dating from the 17th century to the present day. There are more than 10,500 metres of archives and 1.1 million pictures and photographs.

The University has a long-standing commitment to fostering the arts. With the early support of private donors, Otago established New Zealand's first continuous fellowships in literature (Robert Burns Fellowship 1958), visual arts (Frances Hodgkins Fellowship 1962) and musical composition (Mozart Fellowship 1969). The Caroline Plummer Dance Fellowship was established in 2004. The University of Otago College of Education Writer in Residence was appointed for the first time in 2007, following the merger with the Dunedin College of Education.

THE HOCKEN COLLECTIONS  
IS ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S  
FOREMOST RESEARCH LIBRARIES

## ALUMNI AND UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT

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The University of Otago remains in regular contact with more than 113,000 alumni living throughout New Zealand and the rest of the world. Alumni are resident in more than 140 countries with the largest numbers (outside New Zealand) in the USA (7,980), Australia (5,396), Malaysia (3,662); the UK (2,478), China, Hong Kong and Macau (1,386); and Canada (1,172).

The University values an ongoing relationship with its alumni. It hosts an events programme for alumni in cities around the world and also keeps in touch through reunions, the *University of Otago Magazine* which is published twice each year, and regular electronic communications.

Otago alumni are also encouraged to contribute to University life through bequests and an Annual Appeal that each year contributes financially towards scholarships and research.

The University of Otago Foundation Trust receives and administers all bequests and donations to the University. In 2019, \$11.2 million was distributed to provide support across the spectrum of University activities. Details of the University's development and alumni relations activities can be found on the website [otago.ac/alumni](https://otago.ac/alumni)

Philanthropy has been important to the University since its establishment in 1869 and, in recent years the University has increased its development activities, enabling the establishment of new scholarships, endowed chairs and research centres.

THE UNIVERSITY IS IN CONTACT  
WITH MORE THAN  
113,000 ALUMNI IN 140 COUNTRIES  
AROUND THE WORLD





# FACTS AND FIGURES

## Student enrolment 2019 by qualification

(Enrolments by qualification exceed the total headcount as students can enrol for more than one qualification type)

Doctoral	1,579
Master's	1,469
Other postgraduate qualifications	1,783
Bachelor's Honours	396
Bachelor's	14,728
Other undergraduate qualifications	1,866
Total (headcount)	21,240

## Home area of students 2019

Dunedin	3,078
Remainder of Otago/Southland	1,853
Remainder of South Island	3,662
North Island	9,180
Overseas	3,448
Unknown	19
Total	21,240

## Ethnicity of students 2019

(Some students reported more than one ethnic group so totals are greater than 100%)

European/Pākehā	71.5%
Māori	10.3%
Asian	20.3%
Pacific	5.0%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/ African	3.7%
Other/unknown	3.8%

## International students 2019

(Students from Australia, Tokelau and Cook Islands are not counted as international students)

Undergraduate	1,833
Postgraduate	1,139
Total	2,972

## International student exchange partners

The University of Otago has exchange agreements with more than 100 institutions spread throughout the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Wales

## Academic attainment 2019

Undergraduate diplomas and certificates	97
Undergraduate degrees	3,517
Postgraduate diplomas and certificates	912
Postgraduate degrees	1,044
Total	5,570

## Staff profile 2019

Academic and research staff (full-time equivalent)	1,744
Professional staff (full-time equivalent)	2,246
Total staff	3,996

## Research outputs 2019

Total research outputs	5,375
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# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This information represents the consolidated performance for 2019 of the entity comprising the University, its commercial activities conducted through University of Otago Holdings Limited and various Trusts.

\$NZ000

## Income

From Government for tuition	248,727
From students for tuition	170,043
From research	200,173
From consulting and commercial activity	80,697
Other	79,488
Total	779,128

## Expenditure

On staff	429,096
Other	307,126
Total	736,222

Operating surplus	42,906
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## Financial position

Total assets	2,392,560
Total liabilities	243,209
Total equity	2,149,351





# WHO'S WHO

Chancellor  
Dr Roydon Somerville QC

Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Harlene Hayne

Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)  
Professor Patricia Cragg

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)  
Professor Richard Blaikie

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)  
Professor Helen Nicholson

Chief Operating Officer  
Mr Stephen Willis

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences  
Professor Paul Brunton

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Humanities  
Professor Tony Ballantyne

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sciences  
Professor Richard Barker

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Commerce  
Professor Robin Gauld

Registrar and Secretary to the Council  
Mr Christan Stoddart

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other sources of information about the University of Otago include:

The University of Otago website  
[otago.ac.nz](http://otago.ac.nz)

The University Calendar (print and online)  
[otago.ac.nz/about/official\\_documents/calendar](http://otago.ac.nz/about/official_documents/calendar)

The Annual Report (print and online)  
[otago.ac.nz/about/official\\_documents](http://otago.ac.nz/about/official_documents)

*University of Otago Magazine* (print and online)  
[otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine](http://otago.ac.nz/otagomagazine)

*He Kītenga* Research Highlights (print and online)  
[otago.ac.nz/hekitenga](http://otago.ac.nz/hekitenga)

OTAGO WAS PLACED 184<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE QS RANKINGS  
(2020)

THE UNIVERSITY'S NATIONAL  
ECONOMIC IMPACT IS  
ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN  
\$2 BILLION

## CONTACTS

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### University of Otago Main Campus

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Tel 64 3 479 1100

Email [university@otago.ac.nz](mailto:university@otago.ac.nz)

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

Information line

0800 80 80 98 (callers within New Zealand)

64 3 479 7000 (callers outside New Zealand)

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### University of Otago, Christchurch

2 Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch

Mail PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

Tel 64 3 364 0530

Email [christchurch@otago.ac.nz](mailto:christchurch@otago.ac.nz)

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### University of Otago, Wellington

Mein Street, Newtown, Wellington South

Mail PO Box 7343, Newtown 6242, New Zealand

Tel 64 4 385 5541

Email [wellington@otago.ac.nz](mailto:wellington@otago.ac.nz)

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### Southland Campus, University of Otago

College of Education

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Tel 64 3 211 6724

Email [education@otago.ac.nz](mailto:education@otago.ac.nz)

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### University of Otago Auckland Centre

Level 4, 385 Queen Street, Auckland

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