

International Students Admission

About Us

The University of Otago's School of Physiotherapy was established in 1913 and is one of the oldest Physiotherapy Schools in the world. It has a strong commitment to teaching and research excellence and sits within one of New Zealand's highest-performing research universities.

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhty) and BPhty(Hons) are fully accredited by the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand and are recognised degrees internationally.

Otago accepts up to 10 international students into the second year of the Bachelor of Physiotherapy under two categories: **direct entry** and **competitive entry**.

Direct entry: Otago accepts up to 5 high-performing international students directly into the Physiotherapy programme at Year 1 - Health Science First Year (HSFY). This is restricted to outstanding students, based on their pre-university performance, who wish to study only Physiotherapy, and is restricted to students with recognised pre-university qualifications or who are completing the University of Otago Foundation Year. Evidence of meeting the University of Otago English requirements may be required [Language Requirements | University of Otago](#). These students progress to the second year of the programme, provided they pass all compulsory papers in HSFY with an average of B (70%) or better. If a student who receives a direct offer does not meet this average, they are able to apply for Physiotherapy under the competitive entry pathway.

Competitive entry: Otago accepts further international students into the Physiotherapy programme at Year 2 via the competitive entry pathway, following completion of Health Sciences First Year (HSFY). Students in this category would need to score an average grade of C+ (60%) in HSFY to be considered for selection into the second year of the Physiotherapy programme. Single programme preference applicants (those only applying to Physiotherapy) are selected from first, before making offers to general applicants.

Applications

Applications for the direct entry category close on 31 October each year. A special Physiotherapy application form is required, in addition to the standard application for admission into a HSFY programme. You will need to obtain this from physiotherapy@otago.ac.nz – complete the form and return it to the same email address with your pre-university academic results.

Other Information

It is expected that any international student who enters the programme via direct entry is committed to completing the Bachelor of Physiotherapy. Those who receive a direct entry offer into Physiotherapy will still be required to apply in the July application period for Physiotherapy, however, will be guaranteed a place in the programme providing they meet the requirements outlined in their direct offer. Additionally, If, in the first year, the student applies for entry into the second year of any other Health Sciences Professional Programme (e.g. Dentistry, Pharmacy) he/she will sacrifice his/her place in the direct entry category and will only be considered via competitive category. Our School provides specific support for International Students, including pastoral care, separate tutorials and a structured communication support programme where second and third-year English as an Additional Language students can observe clinical practice to prepare them for their four-year clinical placements.