

Indigenous Studies Mātai Iwi Taketake

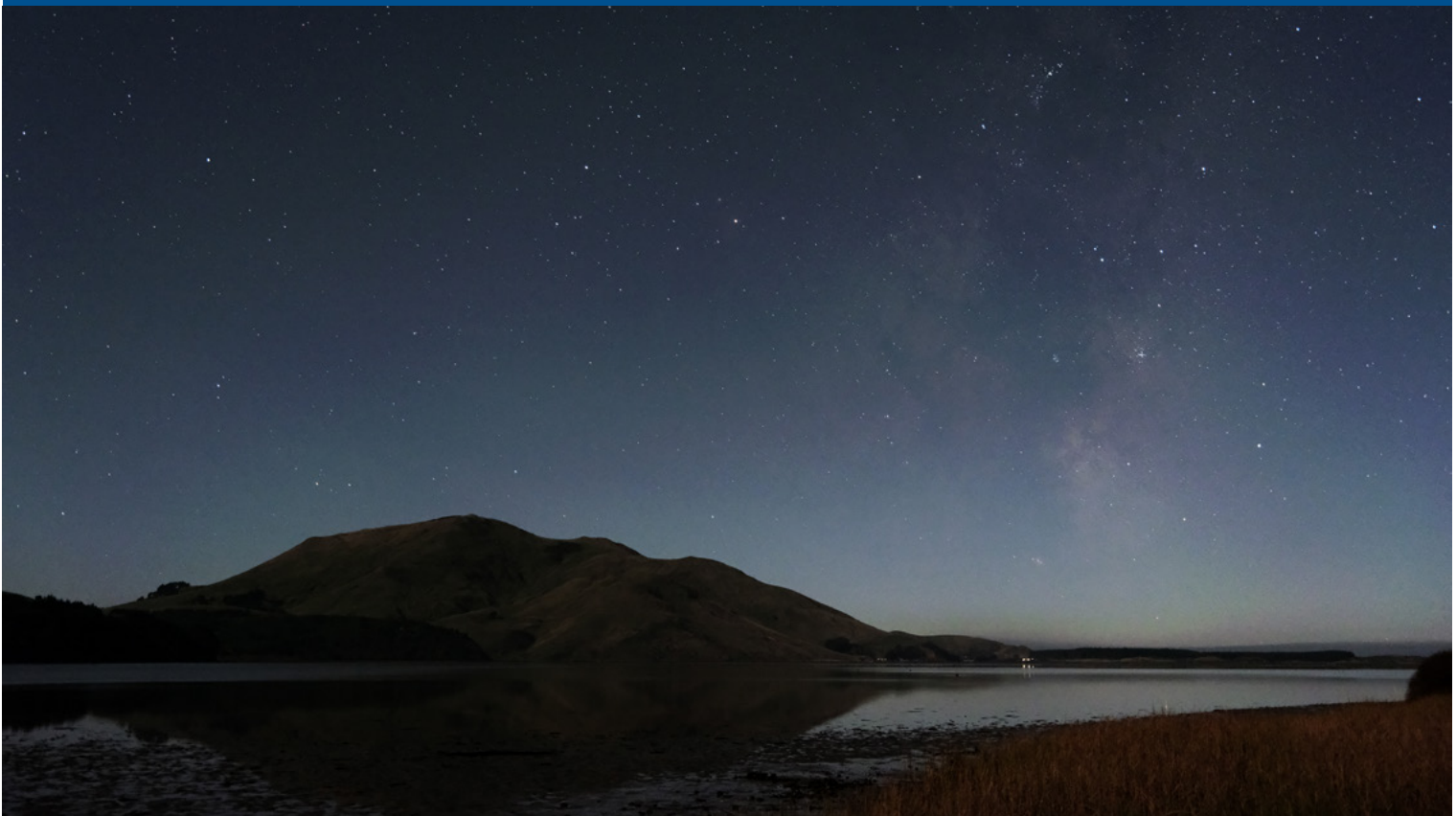
“Indigenous peoples ... have much to contribute to society, and they bring to both national and international debates valuable advice about the great issues facing humanity in this new millennium.”

Ole Henrik Magga
Sami linguist and politician

Learn about indigenous worlds

Indigenous Studies will broaden your understanding of the world as you explore humanity's cultural diversity. It will change your world view as you learn about indigenous cultures, histories and societies. These knowledges are explored in Indigenous Studies at Te Tumu, an interdisciplinary programme that supports and extends intellectual dialogues in Māori and Pacific Islands Studies. Students are encouraged to engage indigenous knowledges with a clear cognizance of mana whenua at our location in Ōtepoti, Dunedin, and a deliberate gaze towards plural indigeneities across the globe.

0800 80 80 98 | otago.ac.nz | university@otago.ac.nz



What is Indigenous Studies?

In many countries, the importance of indigenous knowledge is severely undervalued. Indigenous knowledges are becoming increasingly appreciated for their intellectual traditions that can help societies make sense of rapidly changing political, social, economic and environmental global change.

As Associate Professor Patrick Vakaoti explains, “indigenous world views guide our engagement with place and people. They allow us to be unapologetic about indigenous realities as a way of progressing intellectual and critical indigenous thought, and teaching and research practices.”

Indigenous Studies at Otago

With its multi-disciplinary approach, Indigenous Studies combines indigenous knowledge with a range of other subjects. It focuses on the ways indigenous peoples engage with cultural, social, economic and political issues in local, national and international contexts.

Students majoring in Indigenous Studies take a core of papers covering Māori, Pacific and other indigenous concepts, values, ideas and practices. You can also choose from a broad range of papers on Māori, Pacific and other indigenous societies from a number of other programmes to suit your areas of interest.

Indigenous Studies can be studied as a major in the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Arts with Honours, Bachelor of Arts and Commerce, Bachelor of Arts and Science and Bachelor of Entrepreneurship, and as a minor in most bachelor degrees.

Further study in this area is also available at postgraduate level (honours, postgraduate diploma, master's, PhD), including the Master of Indigenous Studies.

Throughout your degree you will be challenged to design and conduct research that will encourage open-minded solutions.

Areas of learning

A particular strength of this subject area is its cross-disciplinary nature, readily combining indigenous knowledge with a range of other disciplines. As well as the core papers, courses from the following programmes can also be incorporated into the Indigenous Studies major:

- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Gender
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Māori Studies
- Marketing
- Media, Film and Communication
- Pacific Islands Studies
- Physical Education
- Politics
- Spanish
- Tourism

Why Indigenous Studies?

Whether you want to learn about and promote the interests of indigenous people locally, or around the world, completing a major in Indigenous Studies will help you to achieve such ambitions.

Through this programme you will learn the value of indigenous knowledge through the critical reading and research of selected indigenous societies and cultures in both historical and contemporary contexts. You will also examine how such knowledge may help support the varied interests and needs of contemporary indigenous people and communities as they engage with and manage the issues of living in the present world in order to sustain their peoples, cultures and communities into the future.

Indigenous knowledge has its place in every aspect of society. Wherever your interests lie, Indigenous Studies complements many fields of study and work, including:

- environmental sustainability
- resource management
- policy development
- education
- historical and cultural studies
- language revitalisation
- primary healthcare and preventative medicine
- economic wellbeing
- social and community development
- social research.

Indigenous Studies encourages you to explore the connectivity between these disciplines and how their methodologies and intellectual genealogies can further enable indigenous communities to determine their own futures.

Graduates develop a multi-disciplinary, culturally inflected understanding of indigenous concepts and issues, including the use of co-operation rather than competition, and the importance of relationality and respecting differences.

Career opportunities

Our students are equipped with an understanding of indigenous cultural philosophies that are relevant in a wide variety of employment situations.

Graduates with a degree in Indigenous Studies have a broad interdisciplinary knowledge base, which can lead to careers in a great variety of fields including:

- education
- social work
- business
- law
- policy and governance
- Waitangi Tribunal
- foreign affairs
- health
- community organisations
- archaeology.

For more information about
Indigenous Studies
otago.ac.nz/courses/subjects/inds.html

