

Standard information for University of Otago Faculty of Law students considering an overseas exchange.

Any Otago Law student considering an overseas exchange should consider the following questions and try to answer them before seeing the exchange advisor Professor Ceri Warnock:

1. When do you want to go?
 - Remember that in the year that you go on exchange, you will not be able to complete any full-year papers at Otago. Make sure that you have a plan to complete Torts and Jurisprudence, which are full-year and mandatory for graduation. Most students complete these papers in their third year, but they do not have to be if you are planning an exchange for your third year. Plan ahead!
 - You are permitted to complete your LLB degree on exchange, but if you do go in your last semester, you may not receive your results from papers taken on exchange in time for graduation or enrolment in professionals. There is no way Otago can speed up the reception of overseas results for you.
 - It is not possible to be enrolled in LAWS490 (the final Honours Research Dissertation) while you are on exchange. The Honours Dissertation must be taken under supervision at Otago over the course of a full academic year.
2. How long do you want to go for? One semester or two semesters?
3. What do you want to study overseas – only law papers, only other degree papers, or a combination of law degree and other degree papers? Even if you are not studying law papers on exchange and are not wanting to credit points to your law degree, the Faculty of Law must still sign off on your pink Learning Agreement.
4. Where do you want to go? If you want to take law papers, you will want to consider the following:
 - Does your chosen university have a law faculty?
 - Does your chosen university allow exchange students to take a mixture of law and non-law papers? Many American and Canadian universities do not.

The International Office has staff and a website that can provide assistance in answering many of the above questions. Consult them!

You should also consider:

5. Which degree do you want to use your exchange points towards? If you want to use exchange points towards your law degree the following rules apply:
 - The LLB allows for up to 30 optional non-law points to count toward the LLB – under the “substitution rule”.
 - A student can substitute a maximum of 30 Otago Law points in their LLB degree with points taken outside the Otago Law Faculty, whether those points are obtained from another department at Otago, from another New Zealand Law Faculty, or on exchange with an overseas university.
 - For the avoidance of doubt, *any* papers taken overseas (whether they are law papers taken at a Law Faculty or otherwise) will count as “non-law points” and can only be credited under the “substitution rule.”
 - As such, there is no requirement that the points taken overseas for your law degree be law-focused or taken at a law school. However, if you are going on exchange, taking law papers overseas may provide a wonderful opportunity to deepen your knowledge of the law from a comparative perspective and may make you a more attractive candidate to recruiters for law firm positions.
 - Any points taken overseas that you wish to count towards your LLB must be approved by Professor Warnock. If you want to use non-law papers on exchange as credits towards your law degree, you *must* also complete ‘Annex 1’ on the ‘Outbound Law Exchange Student Checklist’ (available from the Law website at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/law/undergraduate/exchange/index.html>) before seeing Professor Warnock.

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6. Calculate how many points you have left in order to complete your LLB degree and any other degree you are taking. (For assistance, use the degree completion chart found on the Faculty Blackboard site and available as a handout at the Faculty of Law office.) Ensure that you will be able to finish your degree(s) in the number of semesters you wish.

Note: The Otago Faculty of Law will not give credit for more than 30 optional LAWS points taken overseas. *We cannot make exceptions to this rule.*

7. Make sure that you complete LAWS498 (Research and Writing) and LAWS499 (Advocacy Skills) at Otago. The Faculty of Law will not *in any circumstances* credit assignments or moots done overseas as credit for these two requirements.
8. If you intend on being admitted to the Bar in New Zealand, be sure that you take LAWS463 (Legal Ethics) at Otago. Foreign papers in legal ethics will almost never be accepted by the law societies in New Zealand as satisfaction for their ethics requirements.
9. When you come to see Professor Warnock, please bring:
 - Your pink Learning Agreement for completion and signature;
 - A list of any of the overseas law papers you are interested in taking;
 - The description and points value of those law papers (if available);
 - If you wish to take non-law points on exchange and use them towards your law degree, you must also complete the requirements on 'Annex 1' on the 'Outbound Law Exchange Student Checklist' and provide the requisite information;
 - A recent copy of your academic record (if you wish to have assistance in confirming that you can complete your degree as planned).
 - Do not procrastinate getting all of the required signatures!
 - Do not expect Professor Warnock or anyone else to run around after you or for you. They won't!
 - Remember that Professor Warnock and the others you will seek signatures from are busy and may not be available when you want to see them so plan-ahead.

Leave yourself plenty of time to complete all the formalities.