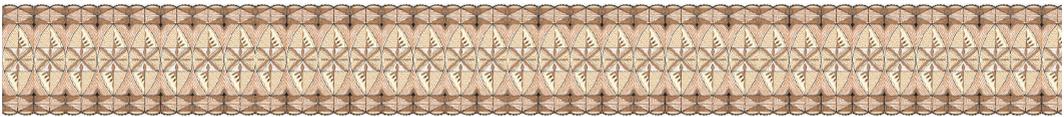




PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE

2020 Your Passport to Success

Growing Pacific Scholars
Orientation Week Guide





Pacific Welcome performance by Otago University Pacificana Group 2019

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UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

Here at Otago you will have unprecedented opportunities. You will be taught by international experts in their fields; you will gain a world-class qualification, and you will be able to contribute to ground-breaking research. The student experience at Otago is exceptional. You will join a diverse population of well over 21,000 students from around New Zealand and more than 100 nations around the world. Importantly, you will have the opportunity to truly define yourself and choose your own direction in life.



Harlene Hayne

PROFESSOR HARLENE HAYNE
ONZM, PhD, HonDSc, FRSNZ
Vice-Chancellor

PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE MANAGER'S WELCOME

Congratulations! Our records show that you are heading to Otago this year and here is our first contact to help you prepare for your life-changing journey ahead. Believe it – you really do have the power to create a successful future and you have satisfied the first stage by doing extremely well in achieving university entrance. Coming to Otago is a huge achievement and there will be challenging moments ahead – that is why we are here!



Read and note all the important information in this booklet. We look forward to welcoming you to our family here at the University of Otago.

Nina Kirifi-Alai

TOFILAU NINA KIRIFI-ALAI
BA, LLB
Manager Pacific Islands Centre



21,000+ students with approximately 1,000 Pacific students



NZ's top university for students' educational performance



Ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide
*QS world university rankings



15 residential colleges



Highest rating for quality and excellence



85% of students from outside Dunedin



Pacific On-campus Experience (POCE) students and mentors, Tertiary Open Day 2018



YOUR ENROLMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

1

Has my enrolment been confirmed?

Make sure that you have accepted or declined any offer of place in your chosen programme, and that you have picked your papers within eVision (otago.ac.nz/evision). If you have any enrolment or admission queries please contact AskOtago.

Tel 0800 80 80 98 Email university@otago.ac.nz

If you need help with this give us a call 0800 80 80 98 ext. 8278 or email pacific@otago.ac.nz

2

Where is Dunedin?

Start researching the place you are now heading to – Dunedin.

Go online dunedin.govt.nz and otago.ac.nz/pacific and also read all the information packs that have been sent to you. Make sure you take your parents and family along with you (show them the photos and discover together) to ensure everyone is on board. After all, your journey is their journey and your success is their success!





3

What do I know about the University of Otago?

The University of Otago, founded in 1869 by an ordinance of the Otago Provincial Council, is New Zealand's oldest university. The new University was given 100,000 acres of pastoral land as an endowment and authorised to grant degrees in Arts, Medicine, Law and Music.

The University's main campus is in Dunedin, with campuses in:

- Christchurch (Health Sciences, established 1972)
- Wellington (Health Sciences, established 1977)
- Auckland (Information and Teaching Centre, established 1996)
- Invercargill (Education and Health Sciences, established 1980)

Otago is also a significant provider of programmes taught by distance.

Feeling excited?

Now familiarise yourself with the Orientation programme and helpful "arriving here" information provided in this booklet, designed especially for you and your family. Memorise the dates and events and carry this with you all the time. If you're in doubt, we are here to answer your questions before you arrive. Go ahead – read and enjoy finding out about your exciting journey ahead!



Otago University Fijian Students' Association during Pacific Week 2018

TRANSITION AND ORIENTATION

Living away from home and going to university is a lot different to high school. Luckily, there is a lot of support in place at the University of Otago for first-year students. To ensure that your transition into university life is a smooth one, get involved!

- Join in our Orientation programmes to ensure you are familiar with all the support services and programmes here at Otago.
- Sign up to be a member of a club or society. There are many cultural, sporting, and academic options to choose from. Sign-ups usually happen at “Tent City” during O-Week. For information on the clubs associated with the Pacific Islands Centre – look there for Eric.
- Another great way to meet people and get to know Dunedin is by volunteering in the community. Many colleges do their own volunteer work, but be sure to like UniCrew volunteers on Facebook so you can stay informed about the many great volunteering opportunities available in 2020.
- Attend the UNI 101 lectures, which are specifically planned to help you transition from living at home to living independently here at Otago, and from studying at school to studying at university! Your success will depend on how well you complete these transitions.



Otago Pacificana performing at the University of Otago Pacific Welcome 2019

Otago Pacificana: Choir and performing arts

A great way to meet new friends and settle into university is to join our Otago Pacificana. Join in and become part of the family. For more information or to sign up, visit Eric Nabalagi at the Pacific Islands Centre tent at Tent City or contact:

Tel 03 479 8278

Email pacific@otago.ac.nz



SETTLING IN

Important documents to bring

- Original Birth Certificate or witnessed copy
- A photo identification such as passport, driver licence or 18 Plus Card
- IRD Number and Community Services Card
- Necessary academic records (NCEA or other results)
- Medical prescription (if you have a medical condition).

Clothing and personal items to bring

Don't pack too much. We also have a lot of great stores in Dunedin where you will receive lots of student deals!

- A good warm jacket – casual (for uni) and formal (for Church)
- Puletasi, sulu, alo'a (cultural wear) for Church and formal functions
- Changes for two weeks which you could alternate until they wear out and then visit a local good second-hand shop in Dunedin
- 1 pair each of good walking shoes, sandals and formal shoes
- Toiletries (i.e. shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc)
- If you are moving into a Residential College, make sure you know what items will be provided for you.
- If you intend to go flatting, you can get cheaper beds from second-hand shops or visit studentfurniture.co.nz
- A light but warm mink blanket, towels and an extra pillow if you want
- And don't forget your Bible.



Airport arrival

There will be a Help Desk at the Dunedin Airport awaiting your arrival and it can assist you with any queries.

Take the airport shuttle as they have specials for students and groups. A shuttle costs \$20 per person and a taxi will cost \$90.

Book in advance online, if you can, at kiwishuttles.co.nz or phone Masoe Antonio Seiuli on 027 277 3852 or 03 487 9790.

Accommodation

The friendly staff at the Student Accommodation Centre can assist you with:

- Residential college applications
- Applications for the University Flats
- Rental accommodation solutions

For general accommodation queries phone 64 3 479 5100 or email accommodation@otago.ac.nz

StudyLink

To ensure you receive your student loan and/or allowance on time, make sure you apply early. Contact StudyLink for information and application material. Visit studylink.govt.nz

NEED HELP?

Before you come

The Pacific Islands Centre staff will be available anytime during your preparations before moving to Dunedin.

On campus

Spot a yellow t-shirt mentor – they will answer your questions and act as a tour guide during Academic Orientation week.

DOs AND DON'Ts OF ORIENTATION WEEK

DOs

Do make friends

Get to know your neighbours/ flatmates/ roommates/ Residential Assistants (RA). That way, if anything happens, you have people you are familiar with around you who can help you.

Do dress warmly

Dunedin weather is known to students for its “four seasons in one day”, so get ahead of the freshers ‘flu and stay warm.

Do have fun

Get out and explore Dunedin, make sure to go together with friends, watch out for one another.

Sign up for clubs and OUSA short courses (see OUSA Recreation Guide for more information). Step out of your comfort zone, try new hobbies and meet great people!

Do be responsible

Why drink if you’ve never done so before? But if you are tempted, be responsible.

Make sure you have important phone numbers such as Campus Watch, Student Health and the Pacific Islands Centre saved to your phone.

DON'Ts

Don't waste money

O-Week is an exciting time; especially with StudyLink rolling in, you can get carried away with purchases. Spend your money wisely, e.g. don't be tricked by flash mobile deals that would see you broke during the year.

Don't fall behind

You have made it to university! Look at it as a job. If you work at your studies with an “8 to 5” attitude there will be plenty of time to socialise.

Don't do it alone

You are never alone, there are helpful staff on campus trained to assist you with anything.

At the end of O-Week and throughout the year make sure you keep your family and friends back at home up-to-date. Call, email or even write a letter to tell them about your adventures.

Don't struggle alone

The Pacific Islands Centre is open Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5pm. Take a break, come have a chat and stay connected.

PACIFIC FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS' ORIENTATION: GROWING PACIFIC SCHOLARS (GPS) PROGRAMME 2020 THURSDAY 13–SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

DAY ONE | THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY

8:00am	Katalau – Breakfast at the Pacific Islands Centre
9:00am	Registration
10:30am–3:30pm	All Pacific students
2:30pm	Parents' session

DAY TWO | FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

8:30am	Katalau – Breakfast at the Pacific Islands Centre
9:30am	University Central Library guided tour
10:00am	Health Sciences Early Orientation Programme: Pacific Islands Research & Student Support Unit (PIRSSU)
10:30am–1:00pm	Commerce: Otago Business School Pacific (Room G14)
10:30am–1:00pm	Humanities: Oceania House
10:30am–1:00pm	Sciences: Division of Sciences
1:30pm	Questions and answers / free time
2:00pm	Lunch (to be provided)
3:00pm	Closing of Orientation Programme 2020 Mystery Bus Tour around Dunedin city
4:30pm	Otago Pacificana: Students' Choir and Performing Arts group practice

EARLY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR HEALTH SCIENCES | FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

PIRSSU Office, 71 Frederick Street

10:00am	Friday 14 February
All-day session	Saturday 15 February

At conclusion of Day One, students travel to overnight camp at 5:00pm.
At conclusion of Day Two, students will be taken to their accommodation.



Students volunteering for the city's beach clean up.

ESSENTIAL FORUMS FOR FIRST-YEAR PACIFIC STUDENTS

GROWING PACIFIC SCHOLARS FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION

We look forward to meeting all new Pacific students at the Dare to be Pacific First-Year orientation. Come along for an informative and enjoyable session of getting to know fellow students and key staff at the University of Otago. This is an essential forum for all new students, so be sure to pencil this in your calendar.

For more information:

Email pacific@otago.ac.nz Tel 03 479 8278

Thursday 13 February 9am–4pm | Union Main Common Room

ACADEMIC ORIENTATION WEEK

An academic orientation booklet will be provided.

Monday 17 February–Sunday 23 February

CONVOCATION CEREMONY

All first-year students are invited to the Convocation Ceremony. This is a formal ceremony where first-year students are welcomed to the University. The Convocation Ceremony marks the start of the academic year and provides an opportunity for new Otago students to hear from the leaders of the University and the city. Speakers will include the Vice-Chancellor, the Mayor of Dunedin, and the Students' Association President, along with a guest speaker.

Monday 17 February | 7:30pm (seated by 7:20pm) | Forsyth Barr Stadium



Playing sport is also a highlight of University life.

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO PACIFIC WELCOME AFIO MAI – WELKOM – WARM PACIFIC GREETINGS!

This is the annual welcome hosted by University of Otago leaders to officially start the new academic year, and to welcome you to our kainga here at Otago. All new and returning Pacific students and their families are invited to attend.

Official address and welcome by Professor Harlene Hayne, Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago.

A function not to be missed – hear from University leaders, meet academic and support staff, meet your fellow students and be Pacifically welcomed by our very own Otago Pacificana Performing Arts Group!

Thursday 20 February | 5:30pm start, 7pm dinner | Castle 1 Lecture Theatre

There will be a live stream in Castle 2. Dinner to be held at the Union Food Court/Common Room.

FOFOA ACCOMMODATION ORIENTATION

Orientation day for the 10 students that have been successful in getting a University of Otago Fofoa Accommodation Award.

Sunday 23 February | 10am–4pm | Pacific Islands Centre, 1 Leithbank

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY PARENTS

My son/daughter has never left home before. Who will look out for him/her?

We are number one in support services for our students. It would be great if you can accompany your son or daughter to Dunedin and familiarise yourself with his/her new home, and meet the academic and support staff.

Do not worry, do let us know, and we will look out for him/her.

How can I support my son/daughter from home?

Understand the course he/she is enrolled in.

Ensure his/her rent and fees are up-to-date.

Maintain regular contact with your son or daughter to help them focus.

Your prayers are much appreciated.

Who will look after my son/daughter when he/she is sick?

We have a great and affordable Student Health Service established especially for students. see website for details. otago.ac.nz/studenthealth

Please also let us know as soon as you know when he or she is sick. Often students do not share this information with us.

How will I know if my son/daughter is passing and doing well?

Ask them and be part of their journey.

Please however note that the Privacy Act 1993 maintains your son or daughter's privacy.

Who can I ring if I cannot get hold of my son/daughter?

Tofilau on 021 279 4574 or during office hours or ring toll free on 0800 80 80 98 and ask for the Pacific Islands Centre.

Matua Moe Po – Parents' Orientation

If you are bringing your son/daughter, you are warmly invited to join us in our Orientation activities and especially the Matua Moe Po session run especially for you.

ARE YOU READY ACADEMICALLY?

- Look up the required text books for your papers (unibooks.co.nz).
- Make sure you have the stationery you require i.e. laptop, pens, notebooks.
- Find your lecture theatres, tutorial rooms and labs.
- Join the Pacific Orientation Library tour to make sure you know how to access the University libraries!
- Make sure you attend your preliminary lectures to find out about the necessary materials and expectations for each of your papers.

Did you know that the University provides academic assistance?

Free tutorials

- This is run by the Pacific Islands Centre and we employ mainstream tutors from academic departments.
- Tutorials are free to all Pacific Island students, except NZAID-sponsored students who have funding to pay for their tutorials.
- Starts in March.
- Times depend on students' timetable and tutor availability to ensure it doesn't interfere with any of your classes or mainstream tutorials.
- To sign up, visit the Pacific Islands Centre reception during Academic O-Week and fill in a form.
- Pacific Islands Centre also help to organise study groups.

Taimane Academic Mentoring Programme

- This is run and co-ordinated by the Pacific Islands Centre and the academic divisions. It's aimed at helping Pacific students succeed and maximise their full potential while at Otago.
- See Pacificana booklet for details.

One-on-one discussions with lecturers/staff

Careers advice

Supervised study nights

- Monday–Thursday, 5-7pm at Pacific Islands Centre

KEY STAFF TO CONTACT

The Pacific Islands Centre maintains your privacy, so you can come and discuss anything you require with us – from issues with your course to personal discussions, all in confidence.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRE

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