



University of Otago

# Intro to postgraduate study

## Whakatakinga ki te mahi tāura



# What is postgraduate study?

He aha kē ngā akoranga tāura?

Postgraduate study refers to the range of programmes that are available to you once you have completed a bachelor's degree. Our postgraduate programmes allow you to take your study to the next level and really explore your specialist subject area.



## Why do postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study opens up a world of possibilities and can enhance your career opportunities. By following your passion, you'll gain knowledge that will make you a specialist in your field. Your point of difference will be the ability to stand out in a competitive job market, and you'll have the edge if you want to change careers or take your work to the next level.

You can undertake postgraduate study by coursework, research or a combination of the two.

### COURSEWORK

- Diploma for Graduates
- Postgraduate Certificate<sup>1</sup>
- Postgraduate Diploma<sup>1</sup>
- Bachelor's degree with honours
- Master's degree by coursework (also known as a taught master's)

Postgraduate study via coursework allows you to explore specific subjects in more depth than at undergraduate level in either a small taught class or individual study environment. It may include a dissertation<sup>2</sup>.

### COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH

- Master's (coursework + research)
- Professional doctorate

These degrees have an initial coursework phase, followed by a thesis<sup>2</sup>.

### RESEARCH

- Master's degree by research
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Professional doctorate

Research can be challenging, fun and highly rewarding. These research-only qualifications involve independent research under the supervision of an academic staff member, and the completion of a thesis<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Can be research-based in some cases.

<sup>2</sup> A dissertation and a thesis both involve supervised research that explores a research question/s with analysis and a written report of findings. A dissertation is normally between 40 and 60 points in size. A thesis is normally 90 points or more and is of greater scope, depth and length.

# Why Otago?

## He aha me whiri ai a Ōtākou?

Our postgraduate programmes allow you to take your study to the next level and really explore your specialist subject area. A postgraduate qualification can enhance your career prospects – become an expert in your field and stand out in a competitive job market.

**\$18  
million**

\$18 million available in scholarships for postgraduate candidates each year.



Maximum 5-stars plus ranking reflects quality and excellence.

**1,500**

More than 1,500 PhD students.



Ranked in the **top 1%** of universities in the world. (QS World Rankings)

**320+**

The University has more than 320 international partners.

**4,500**

Around 4,500 postgraduate students.

**\$208  
million**

Otago attracted \$208 million in external research funding, including the PBRF.

**120**

More than 120 postgraduate programmes.

**20%**

Dunedin is a true student city: more than 20% of residents are University of Otago students.



# Enrolment

## Whakaurunga

To discuss eligibility and possible research areas in your particular field of interest, you should contact the department or school directly.

If you are thinking of a PhD, your first step will be to find a supervisor – an academic specialising in your research area – via the department’s website or check out our staff expertise database:

[otago.ac.nz/mediaexpertise](https://otago.ac.nz/mediaexpertise)

Once you have that sorted, contact the Doctoral Office for all PhD-related admission queries:

[phd@otago.ac.nz](mailto:phd@otago.ac.nz)

Applications for admission to all postgraduate programmes are made online.

[otago.ac.nz/enrolment](https://otago.ac.nz/enrolment)



### Key dates

#### HONOURS DEGREES

The due date for applications for most honours programmes is 10 December.

#### POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

The due date for applications for most postgraduate diplomas and certificates is 10 December.

#### COURSEWORK MASTERS' DEGREES

The due date for applications for most coursework masters' degrees is 10 December for study beginning at the start of the following academic year, or 1 June for study beginning in semester 2.

#### RESEARCH MASTERS' DEGREES

There are no specific due dates for applications for a research master's degree. Thesis-only students can begin their studies at any time between early January and late December.

#### PHD PROGRAMMES

There are no specific due dates for applications for PhD study. Applications for admission can be made at any time throughout the year.

For professional doctorates, contact the department or faculty to check application dates.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for University of Otago postgraduate scholarships can be made at any time throughout the year, usually at admission, in which case the scholarship application should be uploaded as part of the online admission application process.

# Student support

## Taunaki ākongā

We'll help you succeed with a range of support specifically for postgraduate students.

### ACCOMMODATION

The Student Accommodation Centre can help you find somewhere to live while you're studying.

With three residential colleges that cater for postgraduate students – Arana, Knox and Salmond – as well as all the flatting options that Dunedin offers, you'll have plenty of accommodation choices.

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

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Career Development Centre has a dedicated postgraduate career adviser who can help you to explore your career options, consider ways to gain experience, and assist with the job application process plus job search strategies.

[otago.ac.nz/careers-postgrad](http://otago.ac.nz/careers-postgrad)

### GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL

The Graduate Research School provides administrative and pastoral support if you're undertaking a research master's or PhD or other doctorate. The School also runs a programme of professional development support (including individual performance coaching and Māori postgraduate support) and events to celebrate and showcase research.

[otago.ac.nz/graduate-research](http://otago.ac.nz/graduate-research)



### LIBRARIES

Dunedin-based students have access to print and electronic resources in a number of facilities across campus, including the Central (Business and Humanities), Robertson (Education), Law, Health Sciences, and Science libraries, and the Hocken Collections (New Zealand and Pacific heritage material).

There are also medical and health sciences libraries on the Christchurch and Wellington campuses.

All subject areas have a dedicated librarian to support postgraduate learning. They can help with information on starting research, finding resources and producing a thesis. There are also targeted sessions throughout the academic year to support students in their study.

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

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Otago offers more than 280 generous postgraduate scholarships each year, worth over \$18 million. There are scholarships for Māori and Pacific students, students studying in particular areas and general postgraduate scholarships that you can apply for at any time throughout the year.

Around 200 doctoral scholarships are available for domestic and international candidates each year. High performing New Zealand-trained PhD applicants may be eligible for a guaranteed scholarship.

Go online and check out what's available and how to apply.

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

### STUDENT LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

Student Learning Development (SLD) works closely with the Graduate Research School and the International Office to provide an integrated approach to postgraduate students' studies. Its postgraduate programme includes workshops on the research journey, reviewing literature, thinking about and preparing a thesis, writing critically, presenting at conferences and publishing. Personal one-to-one consultations about specific problems associated with postgraduate research and study are also available.

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

### SUPERVISION

If you choose to study a research programme (honours, master's or doctoral) you'll work with a supervisor – an academic staff member who will work closely with you and provide advice, support and guidance for your research. You may have more than one supervisor to assist with covering different disciplines of study depending on your research topic.



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