

Pathways at Otago New Zealand

Diplomas, Foundation Studies and English Language

Preparing and supporting international students for success at the University of Otago – New Zealand's First University.

Pathways at Otago

Otago is New Zealand's only university-owned and managed pathway and English language provider, with classes taught on the beautiful University of Otago campus. For over 20 years the University of Otago has offered high quality university preparation programmes to transform the lives of domestic and international students. We firmly believe in supporting students of all backgrounds and experiences to succeed in their study goals.

Our pathway and English language programmes offer a highly supportive, motivating and culturally inclusive study environment that enables students to gain the confidence, academic knowledge and skills to succeed in their chosen studies.

Pathway study environment

Our Diploma and Foundation Studies Certificate students enjoy:

- Studying on the beautiful University of Otago campus
- Studying alongside domestic students and other international students
- Lectures and laboratories held in the university's world-class university facilities - preparing and familiarising students for university class life.
- Student life as an Otago student, alongside full degree students
- Pathway course tutorials are taught in dedicated, newly renovated classrooms in the Otago Business School, located in the heart of the main university campus
- A maximum tutorial class size of 18-20 students for pathway course classes

Foundation Studies Certificate students consistently outperform other students in their first year of university studies.

Diploma students continue to study with their peers, entering directly into the second year of university studies.



New Zealand's
first university,
established in
1869



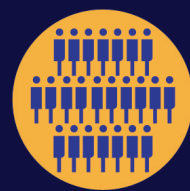
New Zealand's
top-performing university
for student academic
performance
(Tertiary Education
Commission)



Ranked among the
world's top 220
universities
(QS rankings)



One of the most
beautiful campuses
in the world (THE
Student Voice)



21,000 students
(including 2,500 from
over 90 countries)



95% of our graduates go
directly into employment
or further study

Diploma

The Diploma in Arts (DipArts), Diploma in Commerce (DipCom) and Diploma in Science (DipSci) are NZQF Level 5 qualifications designed for students who have only just missed university entrance requirements.

The diplomas enable highly motivated, near-miss university entrance students to gain a qualification that allows direct progression into the second year of relevant bachelor's degree programmes: Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) and Bachelor of Science (BSc).

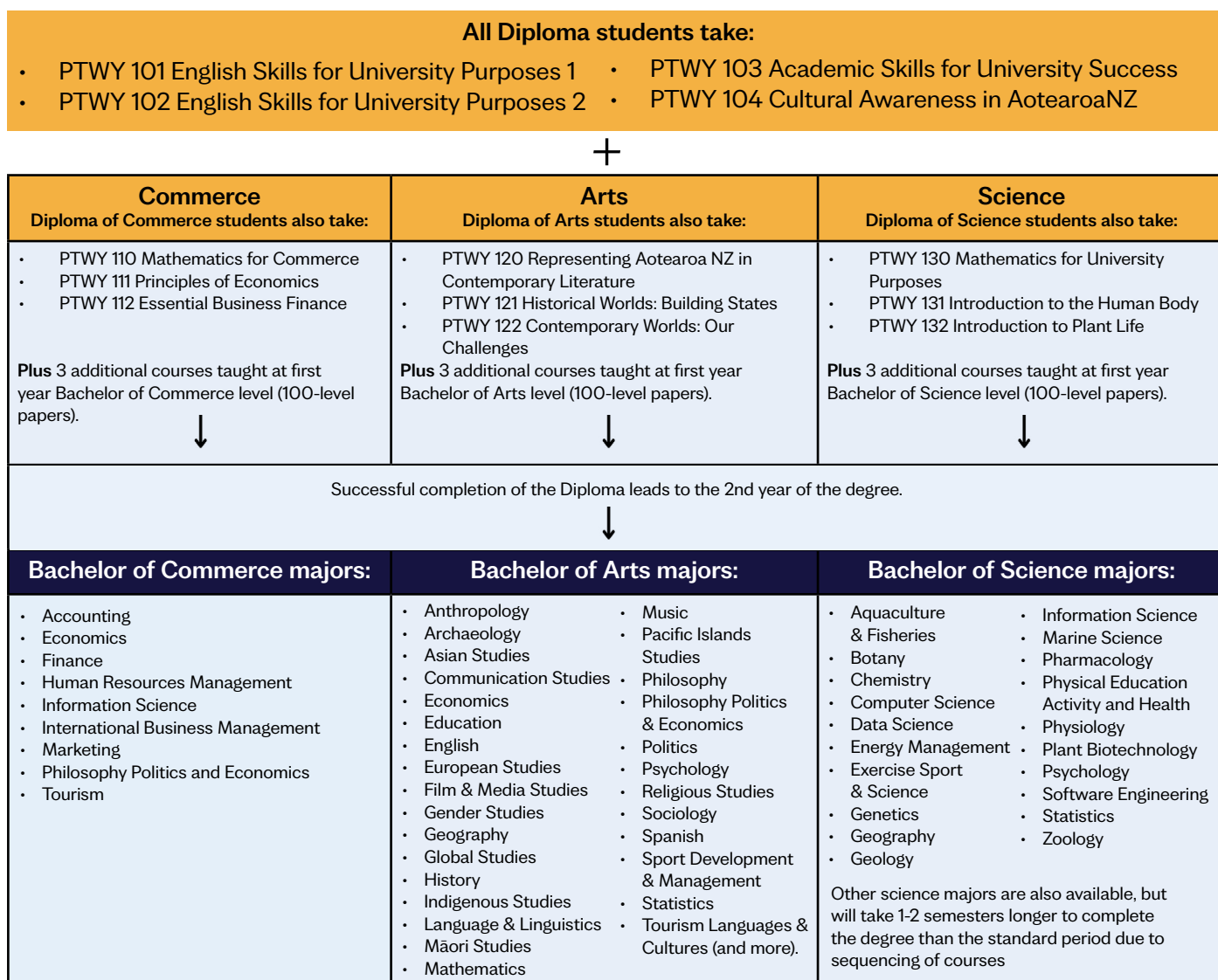
Each diploma is taught over one academic year, aligned to the University calendar (two 12-week long semesters, plus exams). The diplomas follow a carefully structured programme, in a highly supportive environment with small classes and dedicated academic and pastoral care support.

The diplomas also incorporate mātauranga Māori and Pacific perspectives across all papers. This supports all students to have a sound cultural context for their continued studies in New Zealand and future employment opportunities.

The diplomas have been designed to create learning communities so that students work together with their peers during the diploma year and then move together into second year bachelor degree studies.

Courses include a mix of pre-university pathway subjects (NZQF level 5 courses) and subjects from the first year of the chosen bachelor degree (NZQF level 7 courses). Students learn alongside domestic students.

Course structure and degree pathways



Diploma intake and key dates

Diploma starts	Diploma ends	Bachelor continues
February	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 2: February-November• Year 3 February-November



Application deadline:

1 December in the year prior to study, to allow good time for visa processing.

Apply:

- Students and University of Otago education consultants apply for the Diplomas via our eVision application system.
- Education consultants without access to eVision can contact pathways.admissions@otago.ac.nz for application assistance.



Entry requirements Diploma and Foundation Studies Certificate

English language requirements: IELTS Academic overall score of 5.5 (no section less than 5.0)

Or equivalent accepted proof of English.

Academic entry requirements:

Country	Diploma	Foundation Studies
International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIE A-Levels – minimum score of 6 in three A Level academic subjects, OR two A Level and two AS level academic subjects IB – minimum score of 22 points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IGCSE O-Levels – minimum score of 18 in four O Level academic subjects CIE A-Levels – minimum score of 5 in three A Level academic subjects, OR two Level and two AS Level academic subjects IB – minimum score of 18 points
Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATAR – Minimum score of 65 Foundation Year from a recognised tertiary institute – minimum average grade of 50% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATAR – Minimum score of 60
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSC – average grade of 4.5 in relevant academic subjects, excluding Bangla/Bengali 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSC – average grade of 4.0 in relevant academic subjects, excluding Bangla/Bengali
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma of Upper Secondary Education – minimum average grade of B in the four best relevant academic subjects, excluding Home-language Khmer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diploma of Upper Secondary Education -minimum average grade of C in the four best relevant academic subjects, excluding Home-language Khmer.
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary School Graduation Certificate - minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects Gaokao/NCEE - 60% of the total mark (396/660 in Shanghai, 450/750 other provinces) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Grade 3 - minimum average of 70%, OR Senior Grade 2 - minimum average of 80%
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachiller Académico – minimum average grade of 5.1 (85%) in relevant academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bachiller Académico – minimum average grade of 4.8 (80%) in relevant academic subjects
Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKDSE - aggregate score of 10 across the four best Category A and C subjects (average of 2.5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HKDSE - aggregate score of 8 in the four best Category A and C subjects (average of 2.0)
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) and India School Certificate (ISC) and Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal: minimum average grade of 60% in the four best relevant academic subjects and a minimum of 55% in English. Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from other states – minimum average of 75% across the four best relevance academic subjects and a minimum of 75% in English. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior School Certificate (SSCE) and India School Certificate (ISC) and Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from Karnataka, Maharashtra, and West Bengal: minimum average grade of 55% in the four best relevant academic subjects and a minimum of 55% in English. Higher Secondary Certificate Standard XII from other states – minimum average of 70% across the four best relevance academic subjects and a minimum of 70% in English.
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMA – Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. MA – Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMA 3 – Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. MA - Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2 completed with a minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects.
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Secondary Graduation Certificate –minimum average grade of 3.5 in relevant academic subjects. Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination – minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Secondary Graduation Certificate: Senior Grade 3 completed with a minimum average grade of 2.5 in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2 completed with a minimum average grade of 3.5 in relevant academic subjects Upper Secondary School Equivalency Examination - Completed with an average of 70% in relevant academic subjects.
Kuwait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum average of 80% across all relevant academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum average of 80% across all relevant academic subjects for the Health Sciences stream; 70% for all other streams.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper secondary School Diploma – minimum average grade of 70% or 14/20 in relevant academic subjects

Country	Diploma	Foundation Studies
Macau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary Graduation Certificate – Senior Grade 3/Form 6 completed with an average of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary Graduation Certificate - Senior Grade 3/Form 6 completed with a minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; OR Senior Grade 2/Form 5 completed with a minimum average grade of 65% in relevant academic subjects.
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STPM – three subjects with a minimum grade of 2.3 (C+) in each. Matrikulasi – minimum average grade of 2.3 (C+) in relevant academic subjects. UEC – maximum aggregate score of 30 in the five best relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPM - minimum average grade of B in the best five relevant academic subjects. UEC – maximum aggregate score of 37.5 in the five best relevant academic subjects
New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCEA - 16+ credits in four subjects at Level 2 or above, with at least 2 of the 16 credits per subject at Level 3, and three of the four subjects must be on the approved subject list. UE Literacy and Numeracy requirements met, 50+ total credits at Level 3. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCEA - 10 credits achieved in Numeracy at Level 1 or above, 5 credits in English Level 2 achieved in Reading, 5 credits in English Level 2 achieved in Writing, at least 12 credits in each of 3 approved NCEA Achievement Standards at Level 2+
Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Diploma – minimum average grade of 80% in relevant academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Education Diploma – minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects
Philippines	Certificate/Diploma of Senior High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic track – minimum average grade of 80% in relevant academic subjects; Arts and Design track – minimum average of 82% in relevant academics subjects for Diploma of Arts only 	Certificate/Diploma of Senior High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic track - minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. Arts and Design track - minimum average grade of 77% in relevant academic subjects into Arts/Humanities stream only
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate - minimum average grade of 80% in relevant academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate - minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects.
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore Cambridge GCE A Levels – minimum aggregate score of 6 in three H2 Level subjects OR in two H2 and two H1 Level subjects. NUS High School (of Math & Science) Diploma – minimum CAP of 2.50 in three relevant subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore-Cambridge GCE O levels - minimum aggregate score of 18 in four O Level academic subjects. Singapore Cambridge GCE A levels - minimum aggregate score of 5 in three H2 Level subjects OR in two H2 and two H1 Level subjects.
South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Diploma / High School Certificate of Graduation – Senior Grade 3 minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects. College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT) – minimum of Level 5 in the four best subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Diploma / High School Certificate of Graduation - Senior Grade 3 minimum average grade of 70% in relevant academic subjects; Senior Grade 2 minimum average grade of 75% in relevant academic subjects.
Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior High School Diploma – Senior Grade 3 minimum average of 75% in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior High School Diploma - Senior Grade 3 minimum average of 70% in relevant academic subjects; Senior Grade 2 minimum average of 80% in relevant academic subjects.
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Basic Education - Secondary Grade 6/มัธยมศึกษา 6 minimum GPA of 2.6 in relevant academic subjects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Basic Education - Secondary Grade 6/มัธยมศึกษา 6 minimum GPA of 2.0 in relevant academic subjects; OR Secondary Grade 5/มัธยมศึกษา 5 minimum GPA or 2.5 in relevant academic subjects.
United Arab Emirates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate – minimum average of 80% in relevant academic subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Secondary Education Certificate - minimum average of 70% in relevant academic subjects
Vietnam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary School Graduation Diploma (THTP) - minimum average grade of 7.0 in Grade 12 (Lớp 12) and a pass in National High School Graduation Examination (Kỳ Thi Tốt Nghiệp THPT Quốc Gia). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Secondary School Graduation Diploma (THTP) - Grade 12 completed with a minimum average grade of 6.5 in relevant academic subjects; OR Grade 11 completed with a minimum average grade of 7.5 in relevant academic subjects.



Foundation Studies Certificate

The University of Otago Foundation Studies Certificate is a university entrance qualification that can be completed within two 13-week semesters. This is a NZQF Level 4 qualification.

The Foundation Studies Certificate is the ideal pathway programme for students who do not meet university entrance requirements, but who have a strong desire to achieve a university degree and seek a supportive environment to achieve that goal.

The Foundation Studies Certificate comprises a carefully paced series of courses which give students a solid foundation of academic knowledge, study skills and the confidence to succeed at university. Students learn alongside domestic students.

There are four main subject streams for the Foundation Studies Certificate. Each stream prepares you for a smooth progression from pathway studies into your chosen undergraduate degree.

Within each stream you will take ten papers, including two compulsory English papers.

Subject Streams

- Health Sciences
- Sciences
- Arts/Humanities
- Business/Commerce



Course structure and degree pathways

Health Sciences

Foundation Studies – Health Sciences courses

- Health Sciences
- Academic English I
- Academic English II
- Biology
- Human Biology
- Chemistry - Structure and Bonding
- Chemistry - Reactivity
- Physics - Mechanics, Materials and Electricity
- Physics - Thermodynamics and Modern Physics
- Health and Disease
- Mathematics for Science



Successful completion of the Foundation Studies Health sciences stream leads to the following university degrees:

- Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences
- Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (public health)
- Bachelor of Oral Health (limited direct entry, competitive selection)
- Bachelor of Dental Technology (limited direct entry, competitive selection)
- **Health Sciences First Year** – compulsory year of study required to compete for entry into:
 - Bachelor of Dental Surgery*
 - Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science*
 - Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery*
 - Bachelor of Pharmacy*
 - Bachelor of Physiotherapy*

*Open entry into Health Sciences First Year. Competitive entry into the second year of the professional programmes based on grades in HSFY, passing the English Diagnostic Test (plus for dentistry an interview; plus for medicine the UCAT result).

Sciences

Foundation Studies – Science courses

- Academic English I
- Academic English II
- Foundations of Computing
- Applications of Computing
- Mathematics for Science

Plus five electives of your choice:

- Biology
- Human Biology
- Chemistry - Structure and Bonding
- Chemistry - Reactivity
- Geography
- Physics - Mechanics, Materials and Electricity
- Physics - Thermodynamics and Modern Physics
- Health and Disease
- Business
- Economics
- Introduction to Marketing
- Introduction to Management



Successful completion of the Foundation Studies Science stream leads to the following university degrees:

- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Applied Science
- Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences
- Bachelor of Arts and Science
- Bachelor of Commerce and Science
- Bachelor of Oral Health (limited direct entry, competitive selection)
- Bachelor of Dental Technology (limited direct entry, competitive selection)
- Bachelor of Surveying (limited entry, competitive selection into second year of BSurv)

Arts/Humanities

Foundation Studies - Arts/Humanities courses

- Academic English I
- Academic English II
- New Zealand History
- International Studies - Contemporary Environment
- International Studies - An Historical Perspective
- Foundations of Computing
- Applications of Computing
- Geography
- Economics
- Introduction to Marketing



Successful completion of the Foundation Studies Arts stream leads to the following university degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Arts and Commerce
- Bachelor of Arts and Science
- Bachelor of Theology
- Bachelor of Teaching (limited places, interview process and selective entry)
- Bachelor of Performing Arts (audition may be required for some specialisations)
- Bachelor of Laws (limited places, competitive entry into the second year of LLB)
- Bachelor of Social Work (limited places, competitive entry into the third year of BSW)

Business/Commerce

Foundation Studies – Business/Commerce courses

- Academic English I
- Academic English II
- Business
- Introduction to Marketing
- Introduction to Management
- Introduction to Accounting
- Introduction to Business Finance
- Applications of Computing
- Mathematics for Commerce
- Economics



Successful completion of the Foundation Studies Commerce stream leads to the following university degrees:

- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Entrepreneurship
- Bachelor of Arts and Commerce

Foundation Studies Certificate intake and key dates

Intake starts	Intake ends	Bachelor starts	Streams available
February	November	February following year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Sciences • Sciences • Arts/Humanities • Business/Commerce
June	February	February same year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Sciences • Sciences • Arts/Humanities • Business/Commerce
October	June	July same year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sciences • Arts/Humanities • Business/Commerce



Application deadlines

To allow good time for visa processing in time for the start of studies, it is recommended that international student applications are submitted by the following dates:

- February intake – apply by 1 November
- June intake – apply by 31 March
- October intake – apply by 31 July

Apply:

- Students and education consultants apply for the foundation studies certificate via our website: otago.ac.nz/uolcfy/apply
- Or contact pathways.admissions@otago.ac.nz for application assistance



English Language Centre

The University of Otago English Language Centre is a member of English New Zealand and proudly offers quality programmes with some of the best English language teachers in the country.

We are also a registered test centre for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and the Occupations English Test (OET).

No matter your level of English or future study plans, we have a programme for you.

Otago English Language Centre study environment

- Our English language students and visiting groups enjoy:
- Studying on the beautiful University of Otago campus
 - Newly renovated classrooms dedicated to English language teaching, in the modern Otago Business School, right in the heart of the University campus
 - Maximum class sizes of 18 students
 - Qualified and experienced English language teachers
 - Experiencing student life at the University of Otago
 - Excursions and activities designed especially for international students developing their English language skills
 - No requirement to re-sit an IELTS test following successful completion of our English courses designed as a pathway into Otago programmes.

General English (elementary to advanced)

General English classes are an effective way to improve your English skills and confidence, or to prepare for the Foundation Studies Certificate or Diplomas, if you have met the academic requirements but not the English language requirements.

- This programme includes listening, speaking, reading, writing, pronunciation, and grammar skills – at five different levels – from elementary to advanced.
- All students complete a placement test, so that you are placed in the best class for your current language level.
- There are 23 hours of tuition each week for on campus students.
- Class sizes are kept small with a maximum of 18 students.
- Continuous assessment throughout the course ensures that you are meeting your language learning goals.

General English intakes and key dates

Intake starts	Intake ends	Aligns to study intakes*
Term 1 – February	Term 1 – June	Foundation Studies Certificate - June intake
Term 2 – June	Term 2 – October	Foundation Studies Certificate - October intake
Term 3 – October	Term 3 – February	Foundation Studies Certificate - February intake or Diploma

**Subject to required English language level*



Application deadlines

- Term 1: February - 1 November
- Term 2: June - 31 March
- Term 3: October - 31 July

Entry requirements

There is no formal entry requirement. All students complete a placement test, so that you are placed in the best class for your current language level.

English for Otago

The English for Otago (EFO) programme is a pathway option for students who meet the academic entry requirements but do not meet the English entry requirements for undergraduate or postgraduate study at the University of Otago.





Specifically, this 12-week programme helps prospective students who are missing 0.5 IELTS (or equivalent) to meet Otago's English language requirements for either undergraduate or postgraduate level studies.

Students with a conditional offer of place from the University of Otago for an undergraduate or postgraduate programme are eligible to study EFO.

This is an intensive course requiring a high entry standard. Students are required to take an entrance test in order to entry EFO or have achieved the entry requirement level within two years of the start of the course.

Upon successful completion of EFO, students progress into their planned university programme without needing to re-sit IELTS or other proficiency tests.

Entry requirements for English for Otago

 Entry level required	 English for Otago	 Completion level achieved
Undergraduate IELTS overall 5.5 (no section less than 5.0) or equivalent	Achieve overall grade C or higher 	IELTS 6.0 equivalency achieved (no need to sit a new test)
Postgraduate IELTS overall 6.0 (no section less than 5.5) or equivalent		IELTS 6.5 equivalency achieved (no need to sit a new test)

English for Otago intakes and key dates

English for Otago intake starts	English for Otago intake ends	Degree studies start	Level available
March	June	July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate • Postgraduate
October	February	February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate • Postgraduate

Course content

EFO is a 12-week full time course (23 hours per week). Assessment is continuous throughout the course.

You will cover:

- Academic vocabulary in general and specific subject areas
- Reading, critical understanding and assessment of academic texts
- Listening skills and strategies needed to understand academic text and lectures
- Paraphrasing and summarising academic texts
- Critical assessment of academic reading and listening
- Delivery of presentations
- Participation in academic debates and discussions
- Research skills including electronics research, methodology and presentation of results
- Distinguishing between academic genres/production of different academic writing
- Structuring an argument in academic texts and essays
- Group research skills

Assessment breakdown

- Group research report 10%
- Written summary 5%
- Journal 5%
- Seminar presentation 15%
- Written research assignment
 - » EFO Undergraduate: 15%
 - » EFO Postgraduate: 25% - this includes research proposal, literature review, paraphrasing and in-text citations, bibliography

During course

- Vocabulary 5%
- End of course three-hour final exam
 - » EFO Undergraduate 45%
 - » EFO Postgraduate 35%



Application deadlines

- March intake – apply by 20 December
- October intake – apply by 30 June

English for group packages

Bespoke English language courses are offered for groups and can include:

- A combination of English, tourism and special interest activities.
- Intensive English - a full-time programme of English tailored to meet your group's English requirements
- English for Specific Purposes: e.g. business, medicine, journalism, and other professional fields
- Programmes are available to meet special needs, for example English for Teachers
- All programmes have an orientation component.

For group enquiries contact:

uolcfy.groups@otago.ac.nz





Accommodation

Homestay – English language students stay in a homestay accommodation, living with a “Kiwi” family, further immersing themselves in the language. Students are provided with their own bedroom and three meals a day, and the chance to build a relationship with a local family. The Language Centre manages all its own homestays to ensure quality and this enables us to deal with any questions or issues as soon as they arise.

www.otago.ac.nz/uolcfy/accommodation

Residential Colleges – Foundation Studies Certificate and Diploma students stay in one of the 15 University-owned residential colleges. The University colleges offer a safe and highly supportive environment for new-starting students preparing for and starting bachelor degree studies. This is an excellent opportunity to live and study alongside New Zealand students who have moved to Dunedin for their bachelor degree and to form friendships for life. The colleges have private rooms with shared bathroom facilities (private shower/toilet cubicles). Some rooms have ensembles available. All meals are provided along with snacks available in the day (Halal, vegetarian and other dietary options covered). Female only floors are available. The colleges offer a wonderful social programme and provide excellent pastoral care and academic support. Tutorials are offered at the colleges and group study is also encouraged to support students to keep up with studies and seek help as they need it. Following the Foundation Studies Certificate or Diploma year, students can apply to stay on in a college one further year, or may prefer to secure private accommodation and flat with other students. www.otago.ac.nz/colleges

Under 18 year olds: Students must live either in a homestay accommodation, a designated Otago residential college, with a designated caregiver or with their parents, in line with the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021 (the Code).



Support

Student services : A student ID card gives all English language, Foundation Studies or Diploma students access to University of Otago resources including the seven libraries, 24-hour computer suites, recreational facilities and gym at UniPol, Student Health, over 150 student clubs and societies and student cafes. Student discounts are offered by many Dunedin retail, food and travel providers.

Student Support: The Pathway and English Language Centre have a specialist student support team, providing arrival and orientation support, activities through the academic year, pastoral care support and practical study and planning advice. Students also have access to the University’s course advice staff and international recruitment specialists, as they plan and apply for their degree studies. On commencement of university degree studies, international students are supported with a full university orientation.

Visa: All international students require a visa for the duration of their studies. With a conditional offer for subsequent Bachelor or postgraduate studies, students can apply for a pathway visa. Please check Immigration New Zealand for official and current requirements.

2025 Tuition fees and key dates

English language tuition fees 2025

English for Otago	NZD \$6,239 per course
General English tuition (4-11 weeks)	NZD \$501 per week
General English tuition (12+ weeks)	NZD \$468 per week

Diploma tuition fees (2025)*

Diploma in Arts (DipArts)	NZD \$33,572
Diploma in Commerce (DipCom)	NZD \$35,594
Diploma in Science (DipSci)	NZD \$36,461

Foundation Studies Certificate tuition fees (2025)*

Foundation Studies – Health Sciences stream	NZD \$30,510
Foundation Studies – Sciences stream	NZD \$30,510
Foundation Studies – Arts/Humanities stream	NZD \$29,334
Foundation Studies – Business/Commerce stream	NZD \$29,334

*Estimated tuition fee depending on the specific papers selected.

Scholarships for Diploma and Foundation Studies Certificate

Foundation Studies Certificate applicants

- Apply for the Pathway Te Huarahi Scholarship. Awards typically range in value from NZD \$5,000-\$15,000 , but can be awarded higher. Scholarships are applied towards the tuition fee of the Foundation Studies Certificate.
- Foundation Studies Certificate students are also eligible to apply for the Undergraduate Entrance Scholarships, towards their Bachelor degree studies. These scholarships are valued from NZD \$10,000 to \$45,000.

Diploma applicants:

- Apply for the Pathway Te Huarahi Scholarship. Awards typically range in value from NZD \$5,000-\$15,000, but can be awarded higher. Scholarships are applied towards the tuition fee of the Diploma.

Living costs and other fees 2025

Accommodation	Diploma	Foundation Studies	English
Homestay			NZ \$450 placement fee NZ \$58-\$67 per night
Residential College per academic year	NZ \$20,937-\$24,053	NZ \$20,937-\$24,053	
Student services fee (2024 price)	NZ \$1,076 Diploma academic year	NZ \$1,076 Foundation Studies academic year	NZ \$26.50 per week
Insurance	NZ \$855 Diploma academic year	NZ \$855 Foundation Studies academic year	Variable depending on course duration

We recommend you plan for a minimum total cost of living of NZ \$25,000 per year of study, most of which will be your accommodation fees. Immigration New Zealand has a minimum requirement of NZ \$20,000 per year of study.

Diploma dates 2025

Key dates	
16 February	Arrival and Orientation
24 February	Semester 1 classes start (mid-semester break 18-27 April)
4-18 June	Exams
19 June-13 July	Mid-year break
14 July	Semester 2 classes start (mid-semester break 30 August-7 September)
20 October-8 November	Exams
February 2026	Bachelor studies 2nd year classes start

Foundation Studies Certificate 2025

Foundation Studies Certificate starts	Foundation Studies term break	Foundation Studies Certificate ends	Bachelor degree studies
17 February 2025	8-22 June 2025	4 October 2025	16 February 2026 University orientation
16 June 2025	5-19 October 2025	7 February 2026	16 February 2026 University orientation
13 October 2025	8-22 February 2026	6 June 2026	6 July 2026 University orientation

English for Otago 2025

English for Otago starts	English for Otago ends	Degree studies (Bachelor or Postgraduate)
24 March 2025	23 June 2025	6 July 2026 University orientation
14 July 2025	13 October 2025	16 February 2026 University orientation
28 October 2025	2 February 2026	16 February 2026 University orientation

General English 2025

General English starts	General English ends
20 February 2025	13 June 2025
23 June 2025	10 October 2025
16 October 2025	13 February 2026

DISCLAIMER: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication, please always check otago.ac.nz for up-to-date information. Published by International Marketing and Recruitment, August 2024