



## Program Information – subject to change

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**Name of host institution:** University of Otago

**Location:** Dunedin, New Zealand (South Island)

**Website:** <http://www.otago.ac.nz/international/>

**Accreditation/Recognition by:**

**Number of international students:** 2,700 (1,873 undergrads) **local students:** around 20,000, 80% from outside Dunéidin.

1 country cannot be greater than 20% of international students; US sends approx. 250 study abroad students per semester

**Most convenient way to reach host country from Atlanta:** Delta Air Lines, Air New Zealand 2 Stops Dunedin, New Zealand (DUD) Connect in: Los Angeles/San Francisco/Houston, Auckland

**How students reach host institution from airport:** Info booth at airport; \$15 flat rate charge from airport to uni. There, students pick up their bedding and go to their housing.

**Visa information:** Student Visa Application form, which can be downloaded from the Study forms and guides section on the INZ website at <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>  
This takes 2-6 weeks and needs proof of payment.

**Point of contact in International Students Office:** Jason Cushen, Student International Services Manager  
Tel 64 3 479 5670 Email [jason.cushen@otago.ac.nz](mailto:jason.cushen@otago.ac.nz)

**# of staff in Visiting Students Office:** 12

**After hours emergency phone number:** Campus watch number is 800

**Terms of study:**

\_X\_ fall    \_X\_ spring    \_X\_ summer    \_ other (explain)

**Approximate dates of terms:**

Semester I: late February to Early June

Semester II: mid-July to mid-October

US summer: late June – mid July

### **Application Process**

**Application form** (online, paper, how to obtain): After receiving Berry approval, apply online:  
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/international/studyabroad/index.html>

**Requirements for participation** (gpa, references):

- Completed at least one year of study at an accredited tertiary institution. US students are expected to be in their Junior year.
- Current enrolment at an accredited tertiary institution.
- A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or greater (USA),

Students receive essential checklist following acceptance, and more information on housing, mentoring, etc.

**Application fee:**

**Deadlines:**

- First Semester: 31 October
- Second Semester: 30 April
- Summer School: 31 October

**Academics**

Established in 1869

Classes are pre-approved by Otago. Students meet with their advisor on day 1 and complete enrollment at that time.

**Credit system (e.g. ECTS) & US equivalent:** 18 Points at Otago = 4 U.S. semester credit hours

**Language pre-requisites:** None for English speakers

**Academic advising** (how do students register for classes): Advisers of Studies are approved members of staff who can advise you on your choices for studying at Otago. They can also discuss career opportunities and possibilities for postgraduate study.

**Course articulation** (relationship to Berry curriculum: gen ed fulfillments, major courses; classes especially for international students): Gen ed, major courses (called “papers”). Students have 1 week to add and 3 weeks to drop a class.

**Are there any courses/departments study abroad students are excluded from?** Dentistry, Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, Pharmacy, and Physiotherapy.

**May students take half of a year-long course?** No

**Do any classes require additional fees?** There is a geology field trip fee.

**Is a certain number of students required for a class to “make?”**

**Average course load (# of courses & credits):** Minimum = 54 Points per semester, Maximum = 90 Points per semester. Students take three or four papers per semester, usually worth 18 points each.

**Instruction** (lecture, seminar, tutoring, online): Lecture and seminar courses (called “papers”); academic writing is much different but support is available.

**Internship opportunities:** Students can intern at the international programs office.

**Form of student assessment:** Final exams (very strict rules on when/where, worth up to 50% of their final grade), marks are compiled through the semester based on assignments/essays assigned throughout

**Support** (“learning center,” etc.): Student Learning Center offering tutoring on general study skills or by subject matter

**Resources** (library, IT): Several libraries, lots of IT help (two separate websites)

**Major differences in educational system:** Strict enforcement of exam policy; lecture classes can be much larger than Berry (several hundred students); fewer contact hours: lecture with lab or tutorial.

**Average size of classes:** One site says around 15, but there is no “on-paper” maximum according to the university.

**Transcript & grading system** (explain US equivalents, avg. length of time between end of term and issuing of transcript) Transcripts available, can be ordered online at any time. Study abroad agreement: semester 1: end of July, semester 2: before Christmas

## **Student Support & Life**

**On-site orientation** (length, items covered): Meeting, lasts 3 hours; covers:

- Formal Maori greeting and Welcome from Dunedin Mayor
- Introduction to the University of Otago
- Meet your international support team
- Academic Information Session
- Social Events – what's on during Orientation?
- EXPO of Student Services
- Financial Literacy Session
- Train trip with barbecue after with mentors

Student will have a brief academic advising session with someone from the international office.

Each flat also has its own orientation.

**What challenges might US students encounter in this culture/educational system, etc.?** There is no central heating. Students living/cooking together must learn to compromise. Final exams worth up to 50% of grade.

**What is the level of interaction between students and host country nationals?** Moderate—students suggest joining activities, especially if you live in a flat with other International Students.

**Excursions/activities (indicate additional fees):** Barbeque, train trip to Taieri Gorge (no cost); at orientation, there are activities through uni flats. There is an international mentoring program: mentors apply, are selected and trained, and then matched by interest/request. ISA offers excursions for students applying through that program.

**Is there a language partner program?** Yes **If so, describe:** Otago Language Match introduces students studying English, and other international students, with students or staff who want to practise another language. Speakers of languages such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, German, Afrikaans, Arabic, Portuguese and Spanish meet their Otago Language Match partner informally to share conversation practice.

**Health/counseling facilities:** Yes—physiotherapy, Health Center, Counselling Service, etc.

**Accommodation for students with disabilities:** Inform the international office early. See <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilities/services/index.html>. Accommodation could be different, for example, extra time on exams might not be as long as time they are allowed in the US.

**Required/recommended vaccinations:** see [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Student societies:** over 100; Student Association, Magazine, etc. There is a Clubs Day to highlight all clubs.

**Sport/Recreation (indicate additional fees):** Recreation center with swimming, etc.; Specific outings are charged based on activity, around NZ\$100. There is a new gymnasium, free for students. Students can also rent equipment.

**Drinking policy:** Discourage “unhealthy” drinking; repeated public signs of intoxication will result in an intervention by campus staff, but students are expected to drink responsibly

**May students work?** No **If so, what restrictions are there and what is the process** (special visa, work permit, etc.)?

**Opportunities for volunteer service:** Available via the college, not a requirement for jobs or graduation. Volunteer organizations are available.

## **Housing**

In negotiation skills/diplomacy from living community: Kiwi host helps set up rules/agreements and the Kiwi hosts over a cluster of flats. There is also no central heating. These are owned by the university. Students are guaranteed uni flats, which are either stand alone or attached houses.

**Application process:** information sent to student upon acceptance

**Options:** University-managed flats with shared bathrooms, kitchens, etc. US students live together with a Kiwi host

**May students remain in residence hall during breaks?** Yes

**If residence hall, are intl. & host country students mixed?** Yes—Kiwi host lives with STA students. 4 or 5 US students and 1 Kiwi host—housing among other students houses is local.

**Are genders mixed?** Yes—student can request this.

**Is there a curfew?** No

**Internet access:** Yes      **Additional fees:** NZ\$100.00 per semester charge to cover the usage of the wireless internet access in your flat.

**Furnishings** (linens, pillow, etc.): Can buy bedding packet (included with ISA fee). Room comes with a double bed, desk, chair, dresser. The bedding pack (suggested) should be ordered before arrival. Information will be sent with welcome information via email after acceptance.

**Avg. distance between institution and student housing:** Less than ten minutes walking

**How do students reach campus from housing:** Walking

**Atmosphere of neighborhood where students live:** University housing; generally suburban. There is a free shuttle through Campus Watch from library to the housing. Students should keep their doors locked.

### **Financials – the following are estimates and subject to change**

**Room:** NZ\$4,343.00 (approx. USD 3200.00) per semester for shared flats (own bedroom)  
ISA housing fee: Approximately USD 3,600

**Insurance:** NZ\$ 295 (approx. USD 220.00)

**Do students pay additional housing costs during orientation?** No

**Room deposit:** A deposit of NZ\$500.00 is required and applies to housing cost

**Meals:** Students do their own cooking and should estimate **NZ\$1500** per semester in groceries (about USD 1120)

**Other** (lab, materials, computing fees): In 2012, the Student Services Fee (GST inclusive) for Dunedin on-campus students is NZ\$672.14 (part of tuition fees).

**Personal expenses** (books, spending money, etc. – approximate): **NZ\$2,000** per semester, depending on student's lifestyle

**Scholarship opportunities:** ISA has scholarship opportunities:

<http://studiesabroad.com/admissions/document/scholarships>

### **Refund policy:**

Fees may be refunded in full, less a refund fee where a student has completed the Course Approval process, under the following conditions:

- a) the University withdraws an offer of a place or is unable to provide the entire degree or diploma programme
- b) a student is unable to obtain a student visa and permit
- c) a student fails to meet the condition of an Offer of Place
- d) a student formally withdraws from study by or within:
  - 16 January for Summer School papers
  - 31 March – for full-year and first semester papers
  - 31 July – for second semester papers