



## NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

### University of Otago, New Zealand

#### Fast Facts:

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="#">University of Otago general website</a> <a href="#">International office home page</a> <a href="#">Exchange to Otago, Student exchange webpage</a>												
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English												
<b>Semester dates:</b>	Semester 1 (Semester 2 in NZ): July - November Semester 2 (Semester 1 in NZ): February to June												
<b>Number of students currently enrolled</b>	21, 000												
<b>Academic restrictions at a glance</b> <i>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme.</i>	<p>Courses not open to exchange students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicine,</li> <li>• Dentistry,</li> <li>• Psychiatry,</li> <li>• Physiotherapy,</li> <li>• Pharmacology,</li> <li>• Pharmacy or any other clinical course</li> </ul> <p>Courses restricted to exchange students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBA,</li> <li>• Wildlife Management</li> <li>• Master of Science Communication</li> </ul>												
<b>General Costs</b>	<p>Please note these are estimates and may change depending on your lifestyle. Prices are for the full year.  <a href="#">Living costs, University of Otago, New Zealand</a></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Student accommodation (incl. bills and food)</td> <td>\$18,315</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average rent in a shared flat</td> <td>\$10,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Food</td> <td>\$4,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bills</td> <td>\$1,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Personal costs</td> <td>\$3,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Entertainment</td> <td>\$2,200</td> </tr> </table>	Student accommodation (incl. bills and food)	\$18,315	Average rent in a shared flat	\$10,400	Food	\$4,000	Bills	\$1,800	Personal costs	\$3,200	Entertainment	\$2,200
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	Medical and travel insurance	From \$690
<b>About the University</b>	<p>The University of Otago is an internationally recognised university located among the natural beauty of New Zealand's spectacular South Island. As a student at New Zealand's oldest university, you will become part of a unique educational experience. Otago's attractive campus is a mixture of historic and modern buildings located in the centre of Dunedin. The campus is a short walk from the city's central shopping and services. The University of Otago has earned an international reputation for the quality of its research and teaching.</p> <p>Students make up one sixth of Dunedin's population, creating an energy and atmosphere that you will only find at Otago. Otago students rate its campus lifestyle as one of its strongest attractions.</p>	

## What to expect

### Application process

You apply for study exchanges through SWAY. You can find out more about our [study exchange routes here](#), and more about the [application process here](#).

After applying, if you are allocated an exchange place at the University of Otago you will be officially nominated by the International Programmes Team. We will then provide you with your detailed application instructions. **You can ONLY apply to any exchange destination if you have been allocated a place there, and if you are officially nominated by us.**

### Academics

For support with the academic side of your exchange, your best point of contact is your Exchange Coordinator, [found here](#). The Exchange Coordinator is a member of academic staff who will be a key contact throughout your exchange.

<b>Course Load and Credit Load</b>	<p>You are normally <b>required</b> to take whatever constitutes a full academic credit or course load at your host university.</p> <p>The page linked below contains a copy of the <b>International Exchange Credit Requirements</b>. This outlines the number of credits you are required to take at your host institution. There are</p>	
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	<p>also more answers to frequently asked questions about the academic side of your exchange.</p> <p><a href="#">Academic matters   The University of Edinburgh</a></p>
<b>Courses</b>	<p>Courses at the University of Otago are called 'papers'. You can browse the lists of subjects and papers <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Level 100 courses are often 1st year papers with no pre-requisites. Level 200 and 300 courses are 2nd and 3rd year courses. These are the levels we advise you take. You must meet the pre-requisites to take these courses at Otago. Level 400 and above are Honours/Graduate level papers.</p> <p>There is also more information available about the <a href="#">workload</a> at this institution.</p> <p><b>**Please be aware, there may not be an up-to-date course catalogue available at this exchange destination. Please use the information available to get an idea about what you can study while on exchange**</b></p>
<b>Academic Restrictions</b>	<p>Medicine, Dentistry, Psychiatry, Physiotherapy, Pharmacology, Pharmacy or any other clinical course are not open to exchange students. Some Otago courses such as MBA, Wildlife Management and Master of Science Communication are restricted in admissions.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> These are guidelines. It is <b>your</b> responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme. <b>Even if there are not restrictions on your degree subject, it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.</b></p>
<b>Orientation</b>	<p>The International Office runs on-campus <a href="#">orientation programmes</a> for new international students including a wide variety of events to assist you in adjusting to life at Otago</p>

## Accommodation

Finding accommodation that you are happy with on your year abroad is very important and there are often many aspects to consider when looking for somewhere to live.

Many host institutions do offer university accommodation but please do note, **this is not always guaranteed**. You may also need to pay for things like agent or

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administrative fees that is not always the case here in Edinburgh. It is a good idea to do your research so you do not have any surprises!

<b>University Accommodation</b>	<p>The University of Otago is renowned for its residential campus environment, and offers different types of <a href="#">accommodation</a>, and offers extra information about <a href="#">accommodation for international students</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Residential Colleges</a> offer a communal living opportunity, and are the perfect place to find like-minded people and discover life-long friendships, combining living and learning environments to help you thrive. Most school-leaver, first year students will stay in a University Residential College which is on- or near-campus dormitory-style accommodation. Postgraduate students are welcome to apply for any Residential College.</p> <p><a href="#">University Flats (Uni Flats)</a> offer a shared living situation where a local host student lives with several international students. Uni Flats are the recommended option for Study Abroad and Exchange students.</p> <p>All Uni Flats are located within an easy walk of the University campus and main shopping centre. Students share the cleaning and cooking duties and usually shop together for food. The residential fee includes the cost of your room, electricity, internet, bed linen, community events and the services of the Uni Flats team. All Uni Flats are fully furnished, including a basic kitchen setup.</p> <p>In order to be considered for accommodation with Uni Flats you must first register and then apply online through the <a href="#">Student Accommodation Centre</a>. For a July start, you should apply by mid-May .</p>
<b>Private Accommodation</b>	<p>The University of Otago provides information for international students interested in living in <a href="#">private accommodation</a> during their exchange.</p> <p>The most popular private accommodation options are <a href="#">flat shares</a>, staying in studios and <a href="#">homestays</a>. There is also a list of private accommodation <a href="#">real estate websites</a> provided by the University of Otago and <a href="#">rental accommodation listings</a>.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Student Accommodation Centre</a> can also provide some advice around private accommodation options.</p>

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## Costs

It is important to budget for different expenses while on exchange. Your exchange destination may be more expensive than Edinburgh, and different expenses may be required. For example, rent may be higher; you might need to take public transport more; essentials may be more expensive or different, like sun cream in warmer climates or woolly socks in colder climates! These costs will add up so it is good to have an estimate of how much money you might need.

<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p>While on exchange, you will continue to pay fees to the University of Edinburgh, as appropriate, and your fee status will determine how much you pay.</p> <p>Consult our webpage <a href="#">here</a> and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.</p>
<b>Estimated Cost of Living</b>	<p>The University of Otago recommends students budget for a minimum of NZ\$ 22,000 per academic year.</p> <p>They have a <a href="#">Living Costs Guide</a> for future students, and a <a href="#">Living Costs Guide for International Students</a> available on their website where they outline costs of living over a 40-52 week period.</p> <p>Please note that there may be additional <a href="#">service fees</a> you are required to pay to your host institution too. This can include paying for your transcript to be sent to us at the end of your exchange. Please note that the fees mentioned do not include the price of your visa.</p>
<b>Insurance</b>	<p>All international students are required to have comprehensive <a href="#">health and travel insurance</a> while in New Zealand.</p> <p>The University of Otago's recommended policy is <a href="#">Studentsafe Inbound University</a>. When you enrol you will automatically be covered by Studentsafe, and the insurance premium will be added to your student account. Further details are available on our website including information on using an alternative insurance policy.</p> <p>This may cost at least NZ\$690 for the full academic year.</p>
<b>Student Loans and Grants</b>	<p>Consult our <a href="#">funding webpages</a> for more information about the Funding available to you through SWAY while on your year abroad.</p> <p>If you receive a student loan or grant, you may still be eligible to receive them during your exchange. Contact your funding providers for more information on the availability and eligibility of funding during your exchange, as well as any additional support</p>

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	they may offer. For example: some loan providers offer travel grants to students.
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## Other

<b>Passports</b>	<p><b>Make sure that your passport will be in date for the entirety of your stay, and for any additional required time after the end of your exchange for entry requirements and visa purposes.</b></p> <p>If you need to apply for a new passport during the application process to your host institution, this may delay the application and visa processes.</p>
<b>Visas</b>	<p>The visa process will vary from country to country, and your own citizenship will influence the visa process you need to undertake. You must make sure to enter your host country on the appropriate visa.</p> <p>All exchange students must obtain a <a href="#">student visa</a> prior to their arrival in New Zealand and continue to hold a valid student visa throughout your enrolment period at the University of Otago.</p> <p>Full details of student visa requirements are available from <a href="#">Immigration New Zealand</a>.</p> <p>Here in SWAY we cannot give specific visa advice. Please research using the relevant embassy and government websites for more information. There is more information on our webpage about things to consider regarding visas <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Once you have received an offer from a host institution, you will be given more advice from them about the visa processes.</p>
<b>Employment</b>	<p>Study Abroad and Exchange students may be granted restricted work rights under some conditions. Visit the <a href="#">Immigration New Zealand website</a> for information on visa categories, eligibility criteria and requirements.</p>
<b>Disability Statement and Accessibility</b>	<p>Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulties or disabilities and you wish to study abroad please contact The International Programmes Team via email: <a href="mailto:international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk">international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk</a>.</p> <p>We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It may also be helpful if you discuss this with your</p>

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	Personal Tutor and the Disability and Learning Support Service as well.
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