



Postgraduate Opportunities for Registered Nurses



University
of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Te Tari Tapuhi
Department of Nursing
Ōtautahi – Christchurch Campus



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Why study Nursing at Otago?

The New Zealand health sector continues to evolve, providing increased opportunities for the nursing workforce. Our Department has been supporting registered nurses with postgraduate study for over 20 years, and we understand the importance for nurses to continue their personal and professional development.

Whether you want to develop your leadership skills, deepen your clinical specialisation or pursue a pathway towards becoming a nurse prescriber or nurse practitioner, we offer a wide range of postgraduate Nursing programmes to help you reach your goals.

Expert teaching and research

- Gain an internationally recognised qualification from one of Aotearoa New Zealand's leading health sciences universities.
- Learn the most up-to-date practices and approaches to health. Our programmes are aligned with health policy directives and evidence-informed practice nationally and internationally.
- We're approved as an educational provider by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.
- The University of Otago's long-established reputation for world-class research underpins the Department's aim to build a nursing research programme of international significance.

Flexible learning

- Fit study around your work and family commitments. Papers are offered on a full-time or part-time basis via block courses – study in-person, online or a combination of both.

Get career ready

- Develop advanced clinical skills in our high-tech simulation centre.
- Learn from registered nurses whose teaching is informed by both professional practice and research.

Supportive community

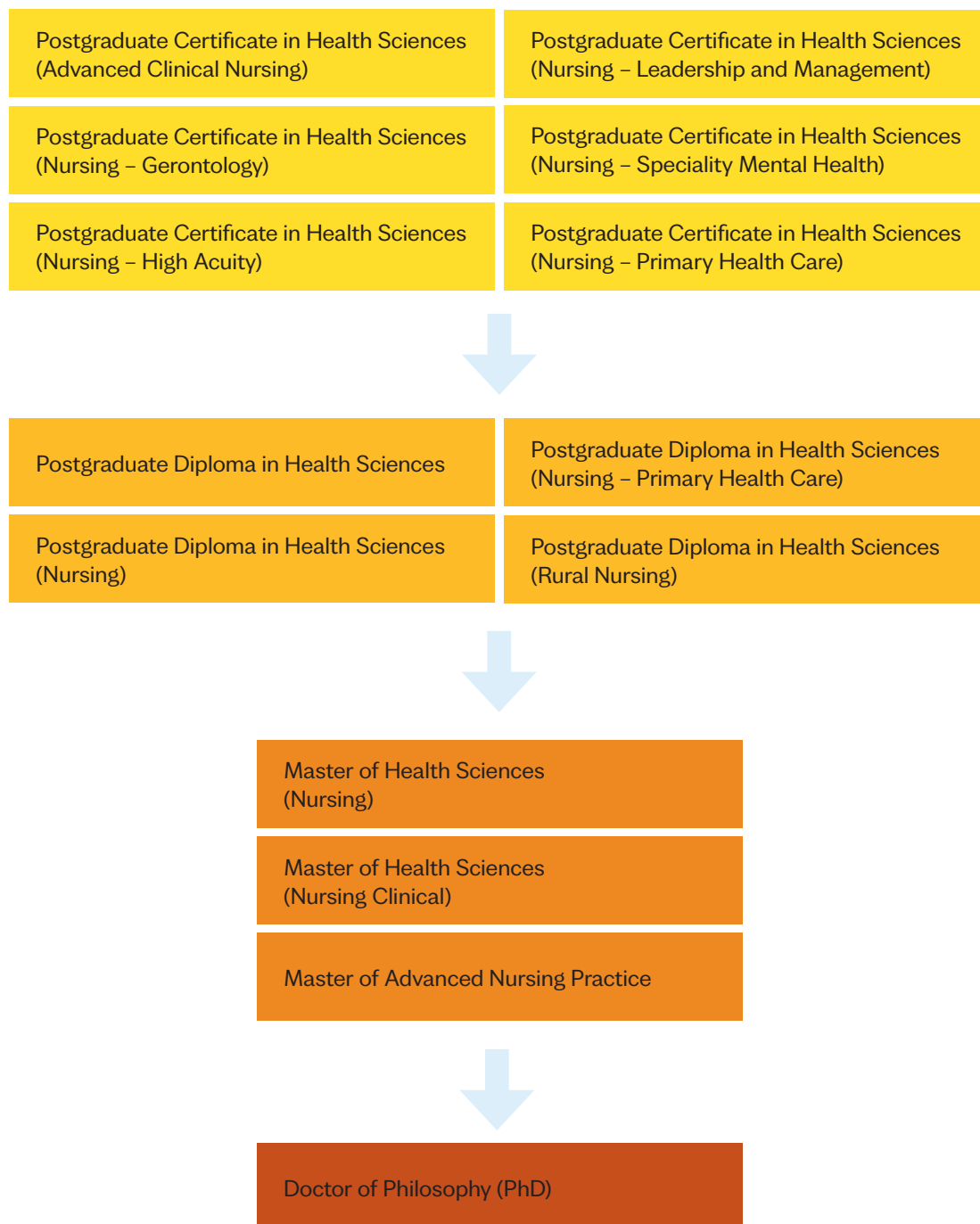
- The Department of Nursing – Te Tari Tapuhi is committed to improving equity and health outcomes for Māori and Pacific Island Peoples, and to translate research evidence into practice.
- We seek to integrate Māori health expertise throughout our programmes.

The Department of Nursing is ranked in the top 100 nursing schools in the world.

QS Rankings 2023

Postgraduate Nursing qualifications

Each qualification has a number of papers, some of which are compulsory (core). You choose the remainder from a wide range of papers on offer (see page five). Each qualification leads onto the next.



Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences

A coursework qualification open to registered nurses which can usually be completed in one academic year through part-time study. Students undertake two 30-point papers in a specialty nursing area of their choice.

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Advanced Clinical Nursing)

- NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice

And either:

- NURS 416 Nursing – Applied Pharmacology **OR:**
- NURS 427 Long-term Conditions: Pathophysiology and Management

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Nursing – Gerontology)

- NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 426 Nursing – Gerontology

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Nursing – High Acuity)

- NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 411 Nursing – High Acuity

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Nursing – Leadership and Management)

- NURS 423 Nursing – Leadership and Management I
- NURS 424 Nursing – Leadership and Management II

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Nursing – Specialty Mental Health)

- NURS 409 Mental Health Nursing Practicum

And either:

- NURS 403 Mental Health Nursing Practice **OR:**
- NURS 433 Intellectual Disability: Theory into Practice

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (Nursing – Primary Health Care)

- NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 413 Primary Health Care Nursing Rural/Urban

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences

A 120-point programme that can usually be completed in two academic years of part-time study. Provides a pathway to clinical research study or nurse practitioner.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing)

- Two 30-point Nursing papers normally approved from the list of papers on page five (this usually forms one of the above postgraduate certificates).
- An approved research methods paper (30 points) normally NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods.
- One further approved paper (30 points).

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences (Nursing – Primary Health Care)

- Two compulsory 30-point papers: NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice, and NURS 413 Primary Health Care Nursing Rural/Urban.
- An approved research methods paper (30 points) normally NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods.
- One further approved paper (30 points).

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences (Rural Nursing)

- Three compulsory 30-point papers: NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice, NURS 416 Nursing – Applied Pharmacology, and NURS 431 Rural Nursing.
- An approved research methods paper (30 points) normally NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences

No endorsement

Registered nurses studying to become either a RN Designated Prescriber **OR** towards the NP pathway are required to undertake three core papers:

- NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 416 Nursing – Applied Pharmacology
- NURS 427 Long-term Conditions: Pathophysiology and Management

For RN Prescribing: Final paper is NURS 429 Therapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice. (Prerequisites apply. This must be the final paper undertaken in this programme of study.)

For the NP Pathway: The final paper is usually one with a focus on the area in which you will work as a NP and could be the RN prescribing paper NURS 429 –Therapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice.

If you are undecided about which pathway to choose (MHealSc or MAdvNP), you can also complete this qualification.

Master of Health Sciences

A 240-point programme that is a combination of research and coursework and can usually be completed in four years of academic part-time study. The research undertaken for the thesis, research practicum or dissertation may be related to the RN's area of advanced nursing practice, or could be aligned with a project offered by the Department.

Entry requirements

Students need a **B grade** average across a 120-point PGDip, and a **B+ grade** or higher in a 30-point Research Methods paper. Potential candidates must seek departmental approval prior to applying for the programme.

Master of Health Sciences (Nursing)

- Two approved nursing papers (30 points each) from the list of papers on page five.
- An approved research methods paper (30 points) normally NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods.
- A further approved paper (30 points).

(The above comprise the PGDipHealSc(NURS) – 120 points.)

- A thesis (120 points).

Master of Health Sciences (Nursing Clinical)

Research practicum pathway:

- Three approved papers (30 points each) from the list of papers on page five.
- An approved research methods paper (30 points) normally NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods.
- A research practicum (120 points).

Coursework pathway:

- Three approved papers (30 points each) from the list of papers on page five.
- An approved research methods paper (30 points) normally NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods.
- Two further approved papers (60 points).
- A clinically applied dissertation (60 points).

Master of Advanced Nursing Practice

The MAdvNP is a focused pathway of study toward the Nurse Practitioner Matanga Tapuhi (authorised prescriber) scope of practice under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (HPCAA) 2003. The degree is underpinned by mastery learning principles, and builds on the nurse's relevant clinical and professional practice. It provides opportunities for candidates to meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand competencies for the Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice (NCNZ 2017).

Key information

The prescribing practicums involve completing supervised clinical experience with an authorised prescriber in relevant health service organisations. Applicants must provide evidence of employer support in accommodating their clinical learning, and identify the population(s) that will be the focus for their learning and future practice.

Entry requirements

Students must be a New Zealand registered nurse practicing clinically in a relevant field. You must have completed a postgraduate diploma with **B grade** average. For detailed requirements see:

otago.ac.nz/madvnp

Contact the Department of Nursing for advice regarding your study pathway, and visit the Nursing Council of New Zealand website for information about the competencies and requirements for NP:

nursingcouncil.org.nz

Career opportunities

Nurse practitioners work with healthcare teams in community, aged care, primary care and hospital inpatient or outpatient settings. Opportunities include self-employment as an autonomous nurse practitioner, ownership of a primary health practice, locum positions, or working as an employee in a health practice.

Degree structure

The 240-point programme is a taught degree consisting of eight papers: five taught papers, one clinical research project and two prescribing practicums.

Normally the degree is completed in three steps, commencing with a 60-point postgraduate certificate. Undertaking a further 60-points leads to a 120-point postgraduate diploma, before progressing to the final 120 points totalling the 240-point master's qualification

Core concept papers:

- NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice
- NURS 416 Nursing – Applied Pharmacology
- NURS 427 Long-Term Conditions: Pathophysiology and Management

And one of the following specialty papers (or contact your programme co-ordinator for further options):

- NURS 403 Mental Health Nursing Practice
- NURS 411 Nursing – Critical Care and High Acuity
- NURS 413 Primary Health Care Nursing Rural/Urban
- NURS 426 Nursing – Gerontology
- NURS 433 Intellectual Disability Theory into Practice

Once approved for the MAdvNP you will undertake:

- NURS 435 Evidence Based Nursing Practice
- NURS 531 Clinical Research Project

And two

 prescribing practicums:

- NURS 434 Therapeutics: Knowledge and Integration
- NURS 530 Nurse Practitioner Prescribing Practicum (this must be the last paper studied)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

A research-only qualification usually completed in three years' full-time study, or the equivalent in part-time study. Our PhD programmes enable nurses from clinical practice, education or management to explore ways of improving health outcomes and develop the profession through nurse-led research. The PhD has its own admissions process and further information for admission requirements can be found in the PhD Handbook: otago.ac.nz/phd-handbook

For more information, email postgrad.uoc@otago.ac.nz

Nursing research

The Department of Nursing – Te Tari Tapuhi is involved in a broad range of research activities with health service providers, and University of Otago, national, and international researchers in community and hospital-based healthcare settings.

Our areas of interest reflect the realities of clinical practice and service delivery, and include:

- Hauora Māori.
- Biophysiological research.
- Sociology of wellbeing and illness.
- Rural and primary healthcare research.
- Innovative research in the area of learning (intellectual), developmental and trans disability, and long-term conditions (e.g., mental health, diabetes, Parkinson's Disease, multiple sclerosis).

- Health workforce planning and development.

- Health professional education research.

For more information on research at the Department of Nursing, email nursingstudies.uoc@otago.ac.nz

Nursing papers

NURS 403 Mental Health Nursing Practice
NURS 405 Health Assessment and Advanced Nursing Practice
NURS 409 Mental Health Nursing Practicum
NURS 411 Nursing – Critical Care and High Acuity
NURS 413 Primary Health Care Nursing Rural/Urban
NURS 415 Nursing Research Methods
NURS 416 Nursing – Applied Pharmacology
NURS 418 Nursing Education – Principles and Practice
NURS 423 Nursing – Leadership and Management I
NURS 424 Nursing – Leadership and Management II
NURS 426 Nursing – Gerontology
NURS 427 Long-term Conditions: Pathophysiology and Management
NURS 429 Therapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice
NURS 430 Advanced Nursing Practicum
NURS 431 Rural Nursing
NURS 433 Intellectual Disability: Theory into Practice
NURS 471 Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control
NURS 472 Infection Prevention and Control in Practice

Limited to Master of Advanced Nursing Practice:

NURS 434 Therapeutics: Knowledge and Integration
NURS 435 Evidence-based Nursing Practice
NURS 530 Nurse Practitioner Prescribing Practicum
NURS 531 Clinical Research Project

For information about individual papers:

otago.ac.nz/christchurch/study/papers

Other papers offered by the University of Otago may contribute to your course of study. These include:

- Continence Management
- Digital Health
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal Management
- Pain and Pain Management
- Public Health

Helpful information

What's the time commitment for postgraduate study?

While postgraduate study requires commitment in terms of time for personal and professional development, it is a truly stimulating and rewarding path to take. Students should anticipate spending approximately 20 hours per week on each paper, including study time, assignment preparation, and class attendance.

Initial and ongoing guidance is given for students to assess, interpret, analyse, critique and evaluate theoretical and professional practice at an advanced level. This often requires balancing the demands of busy lives with academic endeavour.

A range of learning and teaching methodologies is used to support learning. At the start of each course, conveners and administration staff are available to provide information about the services and resources available for students within the University.

Study blocks take place in Christchurch though certain papers may be offered in Dunedin.



Rachel Marshall

Studying for a Master of Health Sciences (Nursing)

“My previous postgraduate study in leadership and management gave me a solid background to undertake numerous senior nursing roles over the past 10–15 years. I’m currently interested in the internationally qualified nursing (IQN) workforce. My thesis aims to examine the experiences of nurse managers in an urban hospital setting, when recently registered IQNs join the nursing team. Working full-time while studying is challenging but I am fortunate to have a manager that supports my study.”

Student support and services

Postgraduate students have access to a variety of services and support, wherever they are based. On the Christchurch campus, support services include:

- Academic advice and pastoral support from the Associate Dean, Postgraduate Studies.
- Individual learning support and group workshops from the student learning development adviser.
- Māori and Pacific Islands student support.
- Postgraduate Students’ Association (PSOC).
- Chaplain.

otago.ac.nz/services

For general information about studying at the University of Otago, Christchurch visit:

otago.ac.nz/christchurch

Libraries

Students may use any of the University of Otago libraries on the Christchurch, Dunedin or Wellington campuses. A specialist medical and health sciences library is located on the Christchurch campus and offers a place to study including group study rooms.

otago.ac.nz/library

Scholarships and funding

Registered nurses enrolling to study with us may be eligible for funding through their employer.

otago.ac.nz/scholarships

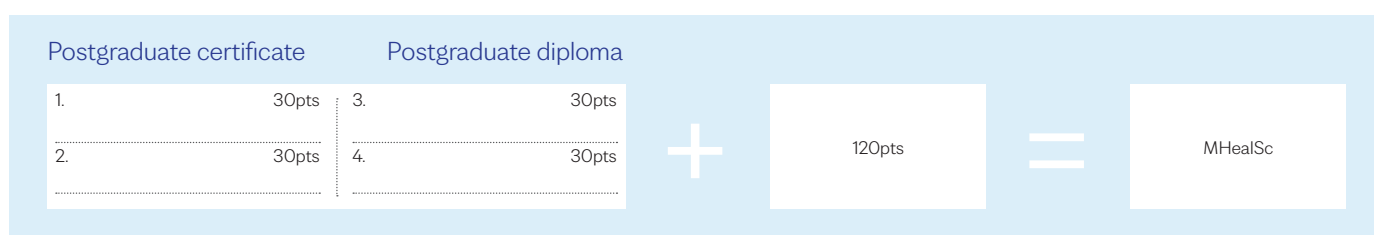
Planning your programme of study

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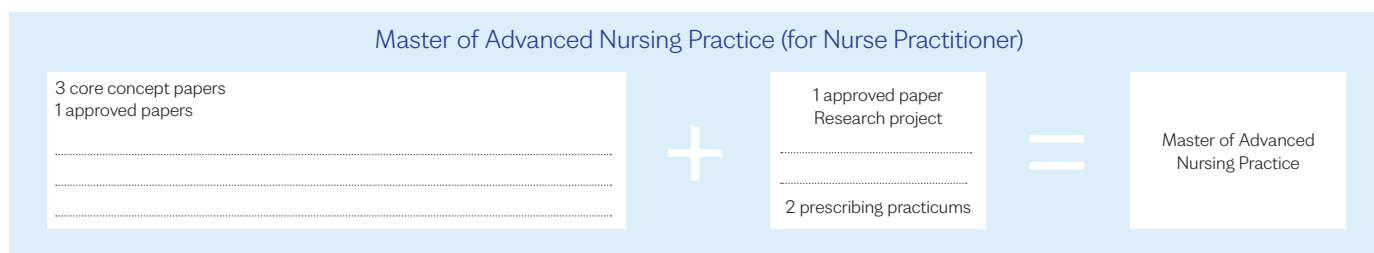
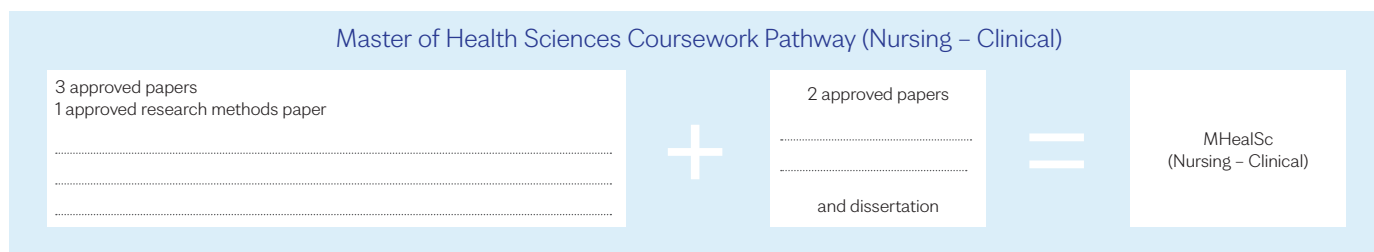
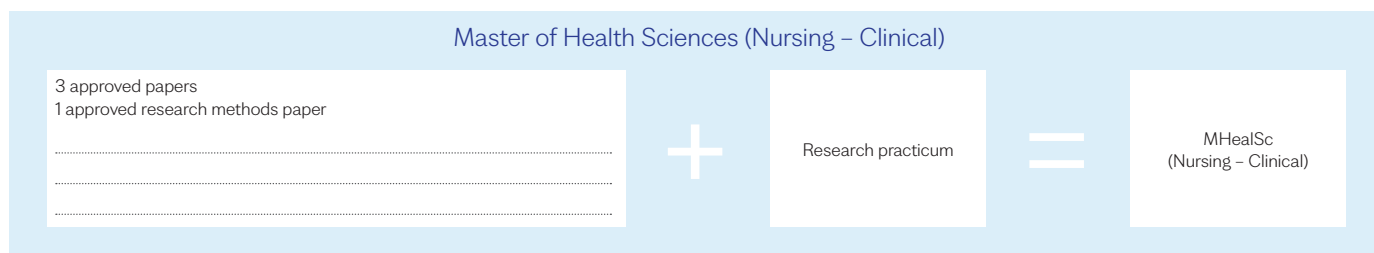
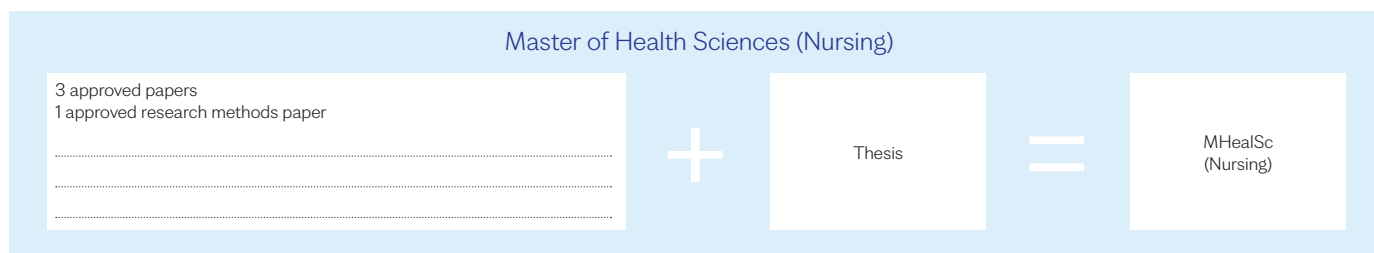
Completed by:

Notes

- Your course of study will require careful planning, so please seek guidance on your options.
- Research undertaken for a master's degree must be related to the registered nurse's areas of advanced nursing practice.



Master of Health Sciences Nursing Endorsements



Applying for entry Te urutono

Entry requirements

As guidance, a general requirement for entry into postgraduate nursing courses is an undergraduate degree, diploma, or professional qualification, congruent with the HPCA Act (2003). Registered nurses must, usually, have a current practising certificate from the Nursing Council of New Zealand – Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa. You must supply an academic transcript to prove that you have the appropriate pre-entry qualifications.

Apply online

The University has a compulsory online application process for programme admission and enrolment called eVision.

1. Apply at otago.ac.nz/qualification
2. Choose the qualification you wish to apply for.
3. Click the “Apply” button on the right-hand side.

Returning students will be able to log into their eVision portal with their student username and password to apply for further programmes. Students are required to complete enrolment/paper selection for each year they are studying.

All candidates need to:

1. Be admitted to a programme. The approval for this process is via an admissions committee.
2. For each year of study, complete enrolment/selection of papers for that year.
3. For each year of study, complete the declaration online following course approval.
4. Pay fees after accessing the invoice from eVision.

If you are considering master’s or doctoral study, please contact the Department of Nursing – Te Tari Tapuhi first for course advice.

Fees

Fees must be paid by early February for first semester papers, and mid-July for second semester papers.

Tuition fees are prescribed by the University Council, and are generally not finalised until November of the year prior to taking effect. Once set, they can be found on the University’s website.

otago.ac.nz/tuition-fees

Contact us Whakapā mai

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University of Otago, Christchurch
Level 3, 72 Oxford Terrace, Christchurch,
New Zealand
Email postgrad.uoc@otago.ac.nz
Tel 0800 80 80 98
otago.ac.nz/nursing

While all information in this booklet is, as far as possible, up to date and accurate at the time of production, the University reserves the right to change courses and course requirements, and to make any other alterations as may be deemed necessary.

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Auckland
Tāmaki Makaurau

Wellington
Pōneke

Christchurch
Ōtautahi

 Dunedin
Ōtepoti

Invercargill
Waihōpai



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