



University
of Otago

ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA



Law at Otago
Tātai Ture ki Ōtākou



Be part of Otago's unrivalled law community.

Innovative, supportive and inclusive – we offer a world-class education to drive social change. The Otago Faculty of Law has been providing world-class legal education for almost 150 years. Our academics will help you develop skills for a career that can drive social change in your chosen profession and in the world. A Bachelor of Laws will give you the ability to question and challenge – skills employers love and Aotearoa New Zealand needs.

Your future in Law starts here.

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Studying Law Te Tātai i te Ture

A Law degree from Otago will give you the ability to question and challenge, analyse complex issues, find solutions to a wide variety of problems and contribute to decision-making at all levels. You'll develop precise language skills and gain an excellent grounding in negotiation, researching and forming legal and other arguments – all skills employers love.

The Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LLB(Hons)) are both four-year professional programmes. Most Law students at Otago complete double degrees, offering even greater career opportunities.

National recognition

Otago Law students achieve success in national and international competitions in writing, mooting, negotiation and client interviewing – demonstrating Otago's ability to prepare top-quality graduates with the skills and expertise to be valuable employees and make important contributions to their communities.



Life at Otago

Te koiora i Ōtākou

University life isn't just about study. It's a chance to meet new people, develop your hobbies and interests and have fun. At Otago, there are countless ways to immerse yourself in student life, from sporting activities and student clubs to volunteering opportunities.

Around 21,000 students call our Dunedin campus and its surrounding streets home, creating a lively buzz and a real community feel. The city centre, with its cafes, bars, art galleries, museums and live music venues is just a short walk away.

If you're into the outdoors, you'll find plenty to keep you occupied – Dunedin is surrounded by beaches, hills and harbour waters.

Most first-year students live in one of our 15 residential colleges, which are located on or close to campus. If you choose to flat, board or live at home, you'll automatically become a member of Locals, giving you plenty of opportunities to get involved in student life.

Support and wellbeing

We offer a range of support services to make your time at Otago as stress-free and successful as possible. These include disability support, chaplains, our on-site Student Health Services, the Career Development Centre, Te Huka Mātauraka / Māori Centre and the Pacific Islands Centre.

otago.ac.nz/future-students



Lucy King

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Marketing

Solicitor at Anthony Harper

“Coming to Otago was a chance for me to gain independence and develop life skills while being fully immersed in my studies and the Dunedin culture. I came with an open mind and few expectations, as I was unsure what to expect. In the end, this meant that Otago completely surpassed what I imagined my university experience would be. First and foremost, I enjoyed spending time with friends – who became family. Otago is the only university in the country that fosters such a close-knit community. It's great to have made strong connections, which I will carry with me throughout life.”

Law at Otago

Tohu Paetahi Ture ki Ōtākou

What to study at school

You don't need to have studied any specific subjects to enter first-year Law. In general, we recommend taking subjects that you enjoy and do well in. Good English and maths skills are useful. Taking part in activities such as drama and debating can help you develop your language and analysis skills.

Admission requirements

To apply for the first year of the LLB programme at Otago, you'll need to be at least 16 years old by the start of classes and hold a university entrance (UE) qualification.

otago.ac.nz/entrance

First-year Law

In your first year, you must take LAWS 101 The Legal System. You'll need to take an additional four to six non-Law papers at 100-level. These should include papers from your second preference subject so you can continue in another degree if you don't gain admission to second-year Law.

If you intend to do a double degree, you should choose subjects from the second degree. We encourage taking a Māori Studies paper, such as MAOR 102 Māori Society.

LAWS 101 The Legal System

This is a full-year 36-point paper with two examinations at the end of the year and practice assessments throughout the year. You'll develop your basic legal analysis and legal argument skills by studying selected court decisions and legislation.

Entry into second-year Law

Entry into second-year Law is limited to approximately 285 places and selection is based predominantly on the mark you achieve in LAWS 101. You must also have achieved a B- average in your four highest-performing non-Law papers. Some students will re-take LAWS 101 to gain entry to second-year Law.

The second-year course consists of only Law papers. These five compulsory papers are fundamental to the understanding of the law and provide a foundation for advanced papers in subsequent years:

- LAWS 201 Criminal Law
- LAWS 202 Law of Contract
- LAWS 203 Property Law
- LAWS 204 Public Law
- LAWS 298 Legal Writing

Third- and fourth-year Law

There are five compulsory papers that must be taken in your third and fourth years of study:

- LAWS 301 Law of Torts (usually taken in your third year)
- LAWS 302 Jurisprudence (usually taken in your third year)
- LAWS 498 Research and Writing
- LAWS 398 Legal Research Skills
- LAWS 499 Advocacy Skills

If you wish to practice as a barrister or solicitor, you must take LAWS 463 Legal Ethics. From third year, you can customise your study to suit your interests and career goals, by choosing from a wide range of Law and non-Law papers.



Double degrees

Many Law students do two degrees, which typically takes about five years. Your first and second years will be the same as those doing only a Law degree but you will also have to meet the paper requirements of your second degree. See pages 6–7 for an example of a double degree structure. If you're considering studying for a double degree, discuss your plans with course advisers from both the Faculty of Laws and your second degree.

Bachelor of Laws (Honours)

You may be invited into Honours as a result of exceptional performance in your second-year Law papers. There are also opportunities to apply for Honours at the end of your third year (and possibly your fourth year if you have a substantial part of your degree to complete). The LLB(Hons) involves additional supervised research and the completion of a dissertation.

Admission to the legal profession

If you wish to practice law following your LLB degree, you must also complete a professional legal studies course. This ensures that lawyers entering all areas of practice have the skills required to represent clients competently and ethically. In New Zealand, this 13-week course is offered by the College of Law and the Institute of Professional Legal Studies. Once completed, you will be admitted to the roll of barristers and solicitors of the High Court of New Zealand.

Double degree structure

Double degree: LLB and BA

BA major subject: Politics

BA minor subject: Economics

YEAR 1	LAWS 101 The Legal System 36 pts	BSNS 113 Economic Principles and Policy 18 pts	POLS 104 International Relations – Introduction 18 pts	MAOR 102 Māori Society 18 pts	ECON 112 Principles of Economics 2 18 pts	POLS 102 New Zealand Politics – Introduction 18 pts
YEAR 2	LAWS 201 Criminal Law 30 pts	LAWS 202 The Legal System 30 pts	LAWS 203 Property Law 30 pts	LAWS 204 Public Law 30 pts	LAWS 298 Legal Writing 0 pts	Total points: 120
YEAR 3	LAWS 301 Law of Torts 30 pts	LAWS 302 Jurisprudence 30 pts	LAWS 398 Legal Research Skills 0 pts	LAWS 499 Advocacy Skills 0 pts	ECON 201 Microeconomics 18 pts	POLS 207 Environmental Politics 18 pts
YEAR 4	LAWS 403 Immigration and Refugee Law 15 pts	LAWS 413 Labour Law 15 pts	LAWS 440 Environmental Law 15 pts	POLS 315 Nationalism and Identity 18 pts	POLS 375 Human Rights: From the Cradle to the Grave 18 pts	LAWS 415 Resource Management Law 15 pts
YEAR 5	LAWS 407 Company Law 15 pts	LAWS 411 Family Law 15 pts	LAWS 455 Māori Land Law 15 pts	LAWS 459 Treaty of Waitangi 15 pts	POLS 318 Chinese Foreign Policy 18 pts	ECON 302 International Trade 18 pts

Full year
 Semester 1
 Semester 2

Total points:
126

POLS 211 Global Political Economy 18 pts	ECON 202 Macro- economics 18 pts	POLS 216 Politics of the European Union 18 pts	Total points: 150		
LAWS 421 International Environmental Law 15 pts	LAWS 456 Media Law 15 pts	LAWS 464 Advocacy 15 pts	PHIL 105 Critical Thinking 18 pts	Total points: 159	
LAWS 409 Private International Law 15 pts	LAWS 433 Advanced Family Property 15 pts	LAWS 463 Legal Ethics 15 pts	LAWS 498 Research and Writing 0 pts	POLS 308 United States Foreign Policy since 1945 18 pts	Total points: 159

GRAND TOTAL:
714 points
(Includes cross credits of 180 points
between these degrees)

Student associations Roopū tauira

Getting involved with a student association is a great way to make friends and take the stress out of study.

The Society of Otago University Law Students (SOULS) offers social events, legal competitions, mentoring events, sports competitions and guest lectures, and produces four magazines throughout the year.

Te Roopū Whai Pūtake provides tutorials, academic lectures and social events during Te Wiki o Te Ture / Māori Legal Issues Week. The groups also runs social events and provides support and advocacy to Māori students in need.



The Pacific Island Law Students' Association (PILSA) organises an annual guest lecture, an annual camp and careers visits as well as mentoring and social activities. Their goal is to ensure that as many Pacific Island students as possible graduate and are admitted to the bar.

Otago Asian Law Students' Association offers a support network for Asian-identifying students. They help raise cultural awareness and promote diversity.

Pride in Law Otago (PILO) aims to build community, promote advocacy and raise awareness on issues in the law school and around the country for allies and people who are LGBTQI+ at Otago Law School.



Nera Tautau

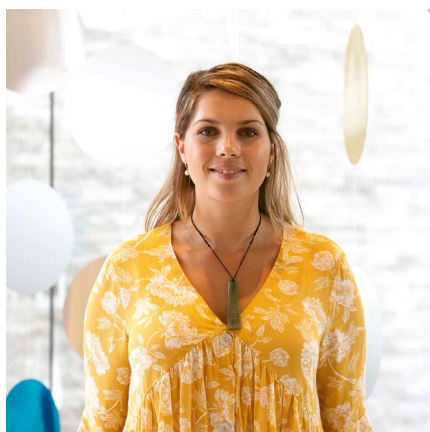
Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Politics)

“I was privileged to serve as the Pacific Island Law Students' Association (PILSA) president. Being on the executive was hard work and a big commitment, but bringing together all the Pacific Law students to form our own Pacific community to support each other made it all worth it. Those friendships have carried on as alumni, and we remain connected to the current PILSA cohort in various ways. Seeing the students we mentored as first-years join the executive and continue fostering and growing that community has been really rewarding to see.

“I interned in the Criminal Law team in Policy Group at the Ministry of Justice at the end of my fourth year. I supported the team through undertaking research and analysis used for policy advice on various projects. I also contributed through writing ministerial responses, official information act requests and other such correspondence. The internship provided me with practical experience and valuable insight into the machinery of government and the opportunity to receive quality mentoring and form connections with a wide range of people across different areas of the Ministry. It also opened up a new career pathway I hadn't considered before.”

Career-ready graduates

Ika-ā-Whiro e rite ana ki te mahit



Jazmine Cassidy

Ngāpuhi

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

Solicitor, Kayes Fletcher Walker

“A Bachelor of Laws is a great toolbox degree that can lead to a world of opportunities. You can become a courtroom lawyer, you can work in-house at Air New Zealand and get great work perks, work for your local government or a government organisation that will pay you to travel. The world is your oyster!”

Otago offers exciting opportunities to grow your skills beyond your degree and set yourself up for success after graduation.

Sharpen your legal toolkit

You'll start to develop the skills of a practising lawyer during your degree, taking papers that cover legal writing, legal research, oral advocacy skills and mooting. Another way to practise these skills is to take part in competitions organised by student organisations. These cover negotiating, client interviewing, mooting and witness examination, and provide opportunities to enter national competitions.

Volunteering

There are many opportunities to get practical legal experience during your studies. Organisations you can volunteer at include SOULS Tenancy Programme, Public Interest Law Network, Otago Students Animal Legal Defence Fund, Law for Change, Ignite Consulting, New Zealand Law Students' Journal, and Ngāi Tahu Māori Law Centre.

Dunedin Community Law Centre

Otago's Faculty of Law has a long relationship with the Dunedin Community Law Centre. Students in their third, fourth, fifth or sixth year of Law can apply to volunteer at the centres. Volunteer student advisers work under the supervision of a shift leader and a volunteer lawyer. Positions are advertised in early February (for volunteering from March to October/November) and in October (for volunteering over summer).

Summer clerking with a law firm

Law students who have completed three or four years of study can apply for summer clerking positions. Most major law firms and several boutique and regional firms participate in this programme and recruit in March for positions over the following summer.

What are your law career options? He aha ō whiringa mahi ture?

A Law degree from Otago is a professional degree that can lead to expected – and unexpected – careers.

Many Law graduates find careers as lawyers in private practice, but others work in business, government, the public sector, welfare agencies and international organisations.

In the commercial world, Law graduates work as legal advisers and company secretaries, in management and in executive positions.

Government departments and local bodies employ lawyers for specialist legal advice. Lawyers working in private practice have a variety of fields of law to choose from. These include commercial, property, public, environmental, Treaty of Waitangi, banking, wills and trusts, family, criminal, sports, media, Māori land law, civil, tax, intellectual property and medical law.



Postgraduate study Akornga paerunga



Alex Latu

**Bachelor of Arts (Politics),
Bachelor of Laws with Honours
and Master of Laws**

Senior Lecturer

Law alumnus and lecturer Alex Latu initially took Otago's open entry first-year course to see what studying law was like and whether it was for him.

"It really was. Law School provides conceptual tools to better recognise and understand law as a pervasive part of our lives and reason within that framework."

Before joining the Faculty, Alex practised as a solicitor in Sydney after completing his LLM at NYU Law on a Fulbright scholarship.

"Settling back in at Otago has felt very welcoming. It's been great to see the development of student organisations from the time when I was studying, particularly the Pacific Island Law Students' Association (PILSA), the executive of which I was catching up with recently and whom I hope to work with more in supporting and developing Pasifika students in the Faculty."

Admission to our postgraduate programmes is selective, with priority given to highly qualified students. Postgraduate students are a vital part of the intellectual life of the Faculty, so it is important that you share a passion for high-quality and original research. Our programmes include:

- Master of Laws (LLM)
- Master of Bioethics and Health Law (MBHL)
- Graduate Diploma in Bioethics and Health Law (GDipBHL)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Doctor of Laws (LLD)

otago.ac.nz/law/study/postgraduate

Legal research

Otago's Faculty of Law is a leader in legal research, with strong links to international research networks. Our research community consists of top-quality academics and postgraduate students from around the world. Our research interests engage with a wide range of areas, such as access to justice, animals in the law, bioethics and health law, environmental law, international human rights law, te Tiriti o Waitangi, and workers' compensation/ACC.

We host many multidisciplinary, local and international research projects and are home to three respected multidisciplinary research centres:

- New Zealand Law Foundation Centre for Law and Policy in Emerging Technologies
- Children's Issues Centre
- Otago Centre for Law and Society



Contact us

Whakapā mai

Faculty of Law
otago.ac.nz/law
E law@otago.ac.nz

AskOtago

AskOtago is your one-stop-shop for all questions about studying at Otago.

You can find answers with our searchable knowledgebase, or call, email or chat with us. You can also visit us in the Central Library or at one of our other hubs around campus.

ask.otago.ac.nz

Schools' Liaison

Our liaison staff visit secondary schools around New Zealand to provide you with information and advice about courses and life at Otago.

otago.ac.nz/liaison

Course advice

Course advice is available as many times as you need during your time at Otago.

otago.ac.nz/courseadvice

General information for new students
otago.ac.nz/future-students

Applying to study at Otago
otago.ac.nz/enrolment

Accommodation at Otago
otago.ac.nz/accommodation

Locals Programme
otago.ac.nz/locals

Te Huka Mātauraka / Māori Centre
otago.ac.nz/maoricentre

Pacific Islands Centre
otago.ac.nz/pacific

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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