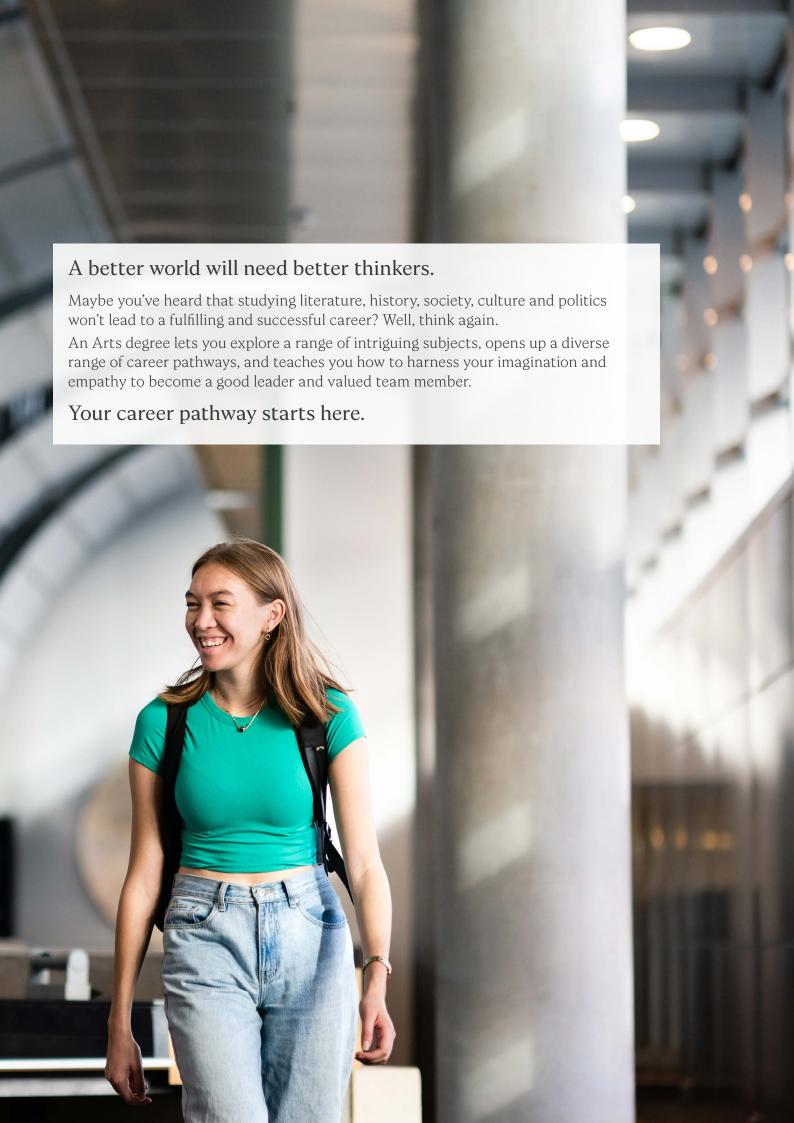


Bachelor of Arts at Otago Te Tohu Paetahi ki Ōtākou





Why study for a Bachelor of Arts (BA)? He aha e whai ai i te Tohu Paetahi?

Imagine a world without the humanities, arts or social sciences? Culture, literature, history, human relationships, and politics help us make sense of the world. They also hold the keys to how we might imagine a better world, with their emphasis on creativity, collaboration, persuasion, empathy and communication.

In a world that's constantly changing, adaptability is your superpower

The world of work is set to change dramatically over the next 10 years. The skills you'll gain while studying for an Arts degree will prepare you for jobs that might not even exist today and give you the freedom to work in a field you're truly passionate about.

Build leadership skills

55 per cent of the world's professional leaders are social sciences and humanities graduates (British Council).

Arts careers are everywhere

An Arts degree is less loosely tied to a career path than, say, a science degree. Instead, Arts graduates find opportunities across a wide range of industries, developing the human-centred skills valued by employers. Following your BA, you could find yourself working in:

- Policy development, government and the diplomatic service.
- Web design and social media management.
- Advertising, communications and public relations.
- Art galleries, museums and cultural centres.
- Music and the performing arts industry (theatre, television, film).
- · Journalism, reporting, media relations.

Gain real-world skills

The Humanities internship is a great way to make connections with employers and gain valuable workplace experience. If you choose to take this one-semester paper, you'll spend one day a week at a local organisation, working on a project relevant to your degree.

In 2024, three Humanities lecturers received University of Otago Excellence in Teaching awards.



Life at Otago Te kojora 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

Most first-year students live in one of our 15 residential colleges, which are located on or a member of Locals, giving you plenty of

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 onsite Student Health Services, the Career Development Centre, Te Huka Mātauraka / Māori Centre and the Pacific Islands Centre.

otago.ac.nz/future-students

The University of Otago is ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world.

(QS World University Rankings)

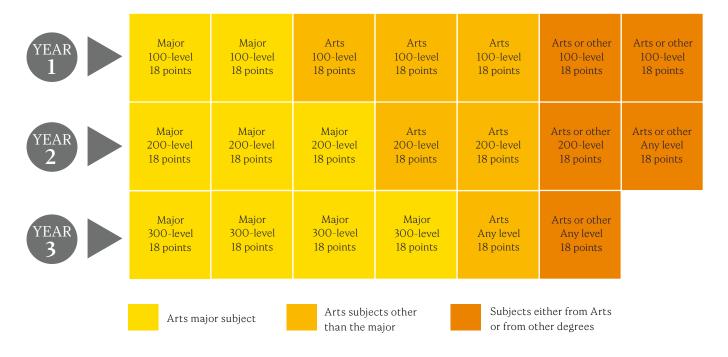


How does the Bachelor of Arts work? E pēhea e kainga ākona te Tohu Paetahi?

The BA degree is:

- Three years of full-time study (can be studied part-time).
- Made up of at least 20 papers.
- Each paper is usually worth 18 points (credits), so 360 points is the minimum total required for a degree.
- Each paper takes around 10 hours of study time each week.
- You usually study different papers in each of the first and second semesters, and can also take papers at Summer School (January–February).
- Your degree must have at least one major subject, and can also include a minor subject.
- Otago has one of the most flexible Arts degrees – you can even include up to five non-Arts papers e.g. papers from Sciences or Commerce.

Structure of the BA over three years of study:



The 360-point BA must include at least 180 points (10 papers) above 100-level, with 72 points (four papers) of these being above 200-level.

Choosing what to study

What interests you?

You might want to choose a subject you've already studied at school and are good at, or one you haven't tried before but think sounds interesting. Studying a subject that genuinely fascinates you will make your time at university easier and more enjoyable.

Pick your papers

Papers are like topics within each subject – the building blocks of your degree. The first courses you take are called 100-level papers or beginner papers. For the Bachelor of Arts, you'll need to study either three or four papers in the first semester. If you're feeling confident choose four; if you want time to find your feet, choose three.

Choose a major subject

This is the subject you think you'll specialise in within your BA, and go on to study in your second and third years. Choose at least one paper from your major subject for each semester. This makes

it easier to cover the requirements for the major as you progress through your degree.

Not sure what to major in? A good approach is to include two papers from each of three subjects in your first year. This gives you lots of choice for your major.

Consider a minor

You might want to start thinking about a minor subject. This is a subject you study in less depth than your major. Your minor can be a subject more commonly taken for a different degree; for example, a BA majoring in Philosophy can include Marketing as a minor subject.

The Otago BA is very flexible

You can always change your major, your minor, or even your degree if you decide it isn't right for you.

Get help with your application

Schools' liaison

Schools' liaison work with anyone considering study at Otago, including secondary school students and adults thinking about returning to education.

If you're a secondary school student, your schools' liaison officer will visit your school to help you plan your first year of study. You can also contact them at any time through their offices.

otago.ac.nz/liaison

Course advice

Once you're on campus, course advisers are available to help. Course advice is available as many times as you need during your time at Otago.

otago.ac.nz/courseadvice

How to apply

Applications to Otago are made online through eVision. Once you've created your account, eVision will guide you through the application process. All enrolment, scholarship, and residential college applications are made via eVision.

otago.ac.nz/study/enrolment

AskOtago

AskOtago is your one-stop shop for all questions about studying at Otago. Find answers with our searchable knowledgebase, or call, email or chat with us. You can also visit our hub in the Information Services Building, or at one of our other hubs around campus.

ask.otago.ac.nz

Subject guide Ko ngā kaupapa ako e āhei ana

Check out the huge range of subjects you can study for your Bachelor of Arts.



Anthropology

(see Social Anthropology)

Archaeology

otago.ac.nz/subjects/arch

Archaeology is part of the Anthropology major at Otago and provides a long-term perspective on human diversity and cultural variation. Archaeology is our primary source of knowledge about our history and the gradual developments in culture and society that led to the present-day arrangement of human communities. Study Archaeology and you'll gain a unique 50,000-year perspective on early human colonisation and cultural change in Asia and the Pacific – you'll learn about who we are and how we got here.

Archaeology draws on a range of other fields, particularly from the sciences. You'll learn how to generate data through fieldwork and excavation, and use both laboratory science and interpretive theory to study that data.

You'll be taught by active researchers who incorporate their research programmes and findings into their teaching. Alongside lectures and tutorials, you'll engage in fieldwork and laboratory analysis, gaining skills in the recording, analysis and interpretation of the cultural past. Since research is a key component of archaeology, you'll also become skilled in the construction and presentation of well-reasoned and articulated arguments – fundamental skills for a wide range of careers.

Career opportunities

Graduates take up positions in archaeological research, heritage management, museum studies or related fields. They may work for government agencies, such as Heritage New Zealand or the Department of Conservation, or work in a private consulting capacity, offering services and advice to local and national government and other public institutions.

Biblical Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/bibs

Delve into the Jewish and Christian scriptures and explore their influence on Western civilisation. Your studies will focus on the Old Testament (Tanakh or Hebrew Bible) and New Testament, but you'll also have opportunities to study the biblical languages of Classical Hebrew and New Testament Greek to an advanced level.

Career opportunities

Graduates have found careers in teaching, social work, policy analysis, journalism, and librarianship, as well as a variety of church-based roles.

Buddhist Studies

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/budh

Buddhism is the dominant religion in many Asian countries and has played an important role in the history and culture of Asia. The minor in Buddhist Studies introduces Buddhism through its Indian origins and then allows you to focus on the development of Buddhism in other regions of Asia.

You can also combine your study of Buddhism with the study of one or more of the languages of the Buddhist scriptures (Sanskrit, Chinese, or Japanese).

Career opportunities

The skills you'll gain will translate to a variety of careers, including teaching, social work, policy analysis, and journalism, as well as church-based roles.

Chinese

otago.ac.nz/subjects/chin

Chinese culture is both rich and farreaching. China is the world's biggest trading nation and an increasingly important business partner for New Zealand.

You'll have the opportunity to learn the Chinese language from introductory level to advanced level. You'll also study a diverse range of papers on Chinese culture, covering topics like history, society, literature and cinema.

To completely immerse yourself in the Chinese language and culture, you have the option to study at one of our partner universities in China.

Career opportunities

Career paths include tourism, education, trade, banking, mass media, interpretation/ translation, as well as in foreign affairs and other government agencies. If you want to teach Chinese at primary or secondary school, you'll need a BA in Chinese and a qualification in teaching.

Christian Thought and History

otago.ac.nz/subjects/chth

Explore the history, beliefs and values of Christianity. You'll delve into the origins and development of Christianity and gain key language and research skills.

Christianity has been a hugely influential force in the development of Western civilisation, helping to shape the world in which we live today. It continues to have a significant global presence.

Career opportunities

Graduates develop valuable skills in critical thinking, research and communication. They go on to develop careers in a variety of fields: teaching, social work,

journalism, librarianship, administration, aid and development agencies, government department work, and church leadership and ministry.

Classics

(including Greek and Latin minor subjects)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/clas

The cultures of Greece, Rome and the Mediterranean world lie at the root of many modern traditions and institutions. By studying the Classics, you'll gain an understanding of these ancient civilisations and a deeper insight into the challenges of the 21st century.

You'll develop your awareness of language, your insight into literature and art, your understanding of history and politics, your knowledge of religion and mythology, and your appreciation of ethical and social issues.

You'll also develop valuable transferable skills such as the ability to think through a problem, to see both sides of a question, to analyse, to present an argument, and to express yourself clearly and fluently – just the kind of skills that employers are searching for. The millionaire financier Sir Robert Jones is fond of saying that he would far rather employ a Classics graduate than a Commerce one.

Career opportunities

Classics graduates have made careers in school and university teaching, university administration, foreign affairs, trade and industry, social welfare, local government, tourism, computing, insurance, law, librarianship, bookselling, publishing, museums and art galleries, fashion and design, broadcasting, journalism, tourism, and the theatre.

Communication Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/coms

We live in a mediatised world. Our experiences of social reality, personal relationships and public institutions are shaped by media and communication.

You'll explore the relationship between communicative technologies, consumer culture and social power. You'll hone your written and oral communication skills while developing expertise in teamwork, problemsolving and critical analysis.

We foster creative thinking and the ability to lead and contribute to teams – just the kind of skills that employers are looking for. You'll also develop an understanding of cultural diversity and differing perspectives that will serve you well in almost any career.

Career opportunities

Graduates find work in a wide variety of fields, including journalism, education, advertising, administration, media production, archival and curatorial work, media policy analysis, public relations, and tourism.

Computer Science

otago.ac.nz/subjects/cosc

Computing now underpins every element of our society and computer scientists are in hot demand across the world.

On this major, you'll learn how to analyse, design and implement computer algorithms and systems. You'll gain practical programming skills in industry standard languages, as well as the transferable skills that will enable you to be part of a dynamic tech team.

Love solving problems? Discover the joy in designing and implementing a complex system and then seeing it all work in front of your eyes.

Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to work in an exciting range of positions: making CGI movies, developing software for driverless vehicles, writing control software for Formula 1 cars, designing computer games, working as a weapons engineering officer in the Navy, and programming the latest high-performance computers.

Criminology

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/crim

Criminology at Otago focuses on the critical study of crime and victimisation. You'll look at why people commit crime, the community response to crime and what society is doing to reduce offending.

You'll explore topics like crime and victimisation in the media, the criminal justice system and the shifting boundary between what is socially considered legitimate and criminal behaviour. You'll also develop critical thinking skills that will enable you to ask key questions about crime, deviance and social control.

Criminology is one of the fastest growing and most popular areas of study in the social sciences internationally and will open the door to a wide range of challenging and rewarding career opportunities.

Career opportunities

Your degree could lead to a career in law, social work, teaching, public health, theological ministry or working with NGOs. You'll also be well prepared to work in policing, justice, victim support, corrections, social development or social policy.

Dance

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/danc

Study for a minor in Dance and immerse yourself in an exciting, creative environment.

Through a combination of practical sessions and academic training, you'll develop a critical appreciation of dance and begin to form your own distinct choreographic identity and performance style.

You'll have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of topics, from popular dance culture to contemporary dance, and dance for musical theatre. You'll cultivate essential communication and teamworking skills and grow your confidence, bolstering your career opportunities after graduation.

Career opportunities

Studying Dance will prepare you for a career as a dancer, performer, choreographer or researcher. You could also go on to teach dance at tertiary level or in the private sector.

Economics

otago.ac.nz/subjects/econ

Economic thinking drives decision-making in just about every area of society, from government and business policy to personal decisions. This programme will equip you with the skills to interpret, analyse and question diverse economic theories and policies in a real-life context.

Do you enjoy wrestling with tough questions? Get ready to debate complex issues around unemployment, economic growth, housing, income inequality, international trade, sustainable development and the environment. You'll learn how to analyse ideas and come to your own conclusions – valuable skills for just about any career.

Career opportunities

A degree in Economics opens doors to a range of rewarding careers in the public or private sector, whether you aspire to work as a policy analyst, a business consultant, an economics researcher, a financial adviser or a diplomat. Our programme equips you with the skills to excel in any field.

Education

otago.ac.nz/subjects/educ

Education is a powerful tool that can transform the lives of children, adults, families and communities. By studying Education, you'll investigate how education changes lives, how learning happens, and how we identify and address patterns of success and failure in education.

You'll study a wide range of topics, including:

- Educational psychology (how children, young people, and adults learn).
- How education systems evolve and how they function.
- The role of education in the lives of families, whānau and communities.
- · Mātauranga Māori and education.
- The historical influences that have shaped institutions of childhood and education systems nationally and internationally.
- The cultural, social, and political influences on the school curriculum.
- Gender, disability studies, ICT and research methods also feature in the undergraduate programme.

You'll develop a range of sought-after skills including critical thinking, problem solving, strong interpersonal skills, and written and verbal communication skills. Education is relevant to any work involving people!

Career opportunities

Education is excellent preparation for teaching and can also be useful for careers in research, policy analysis, social work, the counselling professions and many areas of public service.

English

otago.ac.nz/subjects/engl

Language is power. We use language for the whole range of activities that make us human, from passion to politics; we negotiate through language in every waking moment of our lives. Literature is language at its most effective.

English at Otago is designed to fulfil three main aims: opening up the vast and delightful range of literatures written in English; providing a grasp of the concepts and techniques for analysing texts; and improving communication skills of every kind

By taking English you'll find your perceptions sharpened, your understanding deepened and your enjoyment enhanced – for life. Above all, you'll equip yourself for a career in almost any sector of society.

Literature in English embodies a high level of creative insight into human behaviours, preoccupations, politics and passions. By learning about language from its best practitioners, you'll gain critical skills that are valued by employers, governments and educationalists; skills that are essential for people taking an active role in an open society.

We also offer courses in Writing – creative writing, and writing for professional purposes.

Career opportunities

Our graduates find work as editors, copywriters and in publishing, as creative writers or journalists, teachers, librarians and educational administrators. English graduates can be found in the public service, as analysts, diplomats, politicians, and policymakers. Others have become ministers of religion, arts administrators, and broadcasters.

Environment and Society

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/envi

Explore the Earth's environmental systems and the impact humans have on our natural systems at global, national and regional scales. Examine environmental hazards and concerns and delve into the ethical, legislative, economic, and political responses to these issues.

Film and Media Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/fime

Film and media give us a platform for expression and help us make sense of local, national and global cultures. You'll explore a wide range of subjects, including film history, media theory, screenwriting, production techniques, digital media, and much more.

You'll gain practical experience through workshops, collaborative projects, and internships, providing you with the opportunity to apply what you learn to real-world scenarios.

By the time you graduate, you'll have had the opportunity to become a confident communicator with the ability to think critically, lead and contribute to teams, and solve problems through effective research methods – skills that are in strong demand by employers.

Career opportunities

Graduates work in a variety of fields, including media production, journalism, education, advertising, administration, archival and curatorial work, media policy analysis, public relations, and tourism.

French

otago.ac.nz/subjects/fren

In our world of global travel and communication, language graduates are in short supply. French is a major international language, spoken in a total of 47 countries around the world. By studying French, you'll gain an advantage in business, tourism or any organisation with an international marketing strategy.

Career opportunities

Graduates now work as teachers, librarians, consultants, marketing managers and journalists all around the world. The

analytical skills, communicative abilities and international perspectives you'll gain by studying French will give you an edge in a wide range of occupations

Gender Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/gend

What does gender mean to you? Why is there a gender pay gap? Why are the All Blacks the "national team"?

On this programme, you'll wrestle with pressing questions like these, diving into topics that include gender in the media, social justice, intersectionality, and gender, sexuality and state power. You'll explore categories such as "women", "men", "trans", or "non-binary" and how they can be fundamental to our own and others' understandings of who we are.

Through interactive work with staff and fellow students, you'll explore television, film, social media, public debate, photography, subculture and fashion as well as scholarly reading. You'll develop strong creative thinking and research skills as well as the ability to analyse and participate in debate.

Career opportunities

Graduates work in policy development and analysis, human rights, education, human resources, health and community advocacy, the media and social work.

Geography

otago.ac.nz/subjects/geog

Geographers study the environment – both physical and human – to find innovative responses to society's most pressing issues, from climate change and migration to globalisation and inequality.

On this programme, you'll explore the physical processes that shape the natural environment, the social and cultural processes that explain patterns of human activity, and the interactions between human activity and the natural world.

Want to learn outdoors? Alongside lectures and tutorials, you'll have the opportunity to gain valuable practical skills through field trips and research studies. The diverse landscape surrounding Dunedin provides multiple environments to study, from river ecosystems to coastal communities.

As well as specialist knowledge, you'll build transferable skills in communication, data collection and analysis, and project management.



Poppy Johns

Bachelor of Arts with Honours (Gender Studies)

Programme Activator, Social Impact Studio

"The way I describe my studies to others is critical social sciences how to critically understand and analyse the social world beginning with gender. What I came out with is a deeper understanding of people and society, of social issues, how they came about, and potential solutions to remedy or reduce their negative effects. I developed skills such as research, effective written communication, construction and analysis of ideas, and emotional intelligence. I firmly believe Gender Studies makes you better at any job, especially those that involve working with people from different backgrounds."



Logann Russell

Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha

Bachelor of Arts (Major: Education, Minor: Māori Studies), Master of Teaching and Learning (Primary Education)

"My Education major and Māori Studies minor complemented each other well, as te ao Māori and te reo Māori are linked within the education system through the curriculum and cultural competency documents, and feature in the teaching given by lecturers. My minor allowed me to look further into the histories of my ancestors and how they educated their whānau, as well as the challenges they faced through history. It has given me the confidence to discuss and inform others about the histories of Māori, and spread awareness about the systems they had that are beneficial to all people of Aotearoa New Zealand."

Career opportunities

Geography graduates find employment in government departments, state-owned enterprises, private corporations and consultancies. They work in areas such as regional and resource planning, environmental management, natural resources (especially water) analysis, social and economic research, social services and regional development.

German

otago.ac.nz/subjects/germ

Knowledge of German language and culture has long been an asset in Europe but it is also a major advantage within New Zealand. Germany is one of the world's largest contributors to research and development, and its well-funded universities are an important destination for scientists and students.

Career opportunities

Graduates work in teaching, the arts, science, the media, law, government departments (e.g. Foreign Affairs and Trade), tourism and business.

Global Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/glbl

Today's employers are seeking graduates with the ability to look at the big picture and apply it to solve specific problems. Global Studies graduates are ideally qualified to respond to this challenge, as they're trained to analyse issues logically, challenge assumptions, consider different viewpoints, and act with flexibility, adaptability and creativity.

Global Studies gives you the freedom to choose from a wide range of Humanities, Commerce and Science papers. You can combine it with other major subjects as part of the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Arts and Commerce, the Bachelor of Arts and Science, or with other degrees, such as the Bachelor of Laws.

Looking for personal growth and community building? You'll be mentored to build your own individualised course of studies. Guidance is provided via regular course advising and hands-on workshops that include career advice, CV-building, and interview mock-ups.

Learning takes place both in and outside the classroom. In your third year, you'll get the opportunity to complete an internship or an applied research project – either on campus, with a governmental institution or NGO, or in the private sector.

Career opportunities

Communications and creative industries, environmental and human rights organisations, tourism, commerce,

foreign affairs, government and public administration are just a few of the career areas open to you.

History

otago.ac.nz/subjects/hist

Studying the past helps us make sense of the present, providing a crucial perspective for understanding – and solving – current and future issues. No discipline is better suited to this task than History.

On this programme, you'll explore a diverse range of topics, encountering political intrigue, cultural transformation, decolonisation, war, and revolution across the globe.

Build on your classroom learnings by delving into the excellent history resources in our libraries, Hocken Collections, and museums and galleries of Dunedin. We also offer internships at some of Dunedin's most interesting local institutions, giving you the opportunity to gain relevant work experience before you graduate.

In your second and third years, a wide range of papers let you focus on the events, themes, or historical time periods that intrigue you most. However you shape your degree, you'll develop an invaluable set of skills – creative, critical, and analytical – that will serve you well in almost any career.

Career opportunities

You could find work in areas ranging from journalism, teaching and public affairs to management and finance. Otago History graduates have gone on to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Te Papa Tongarewa, Canterbury Museum, AgResearch, and Heritage New Zealand.

Human Services Law

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/husl

Focus on areas of the law such as family law, criminal justice, law and psychiatry, sentencing, and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Indigenous Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/inds

On this programme, you'll gain the knowledge to support indigenous cultures here and overseas.

You'll study the cultures of indigenous societies in both historical and contemporary contexts.

You'll explore indigenous perspectives on education, language, healthcare, policy development and resource management, and learn to debate indigenous issues in a culturally appropriate manner.

You'll graduate with a deep understanding of the common issues indigenous peoples face, opening the door to a diverse range of careers.

Career opportunities

You could go on to a career in education, social work, policy and governance, iwi, tribal or political advisement, foreign policy or within community organisations.

Information Science

otago.ac.nz/subjects/info

In our increasingly online world, vast amounts of data are created every day. Information scientists combine business thinking with technical skills to capture, process and communicate this information, helping people and organisations operate more efficiently.

Through a combination of lectures, tutorials and practical labs, you'll learn how to model and interpret data to help organisations achieve their goals. You'll gain practical programming skills in industry-standard languages and hone your problem-solving skills.

In your third year, you'll work on a team project with an industry partner, giving you the opportunity to apply your studies to real-life problems.

Career opportunities

Information Science graduates are in high demand because of the vital role that information systems play in modern organisations. You could find work in business management and analytics, science and data science, education, research, finance, health, manufacturing and automation, media production and user experience technology, music and entertainment, and engineering.

Irish Studies

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/irst

Irish Studies is an interdisciplinary study of the literature, history, film and theatre of Ireland over the past 200 years. It focuses on issues such as identity, ethnicity, and "nation building", and Ireland's relationships with New Zealand, Europe and Australia. Papers are chosen from a specified range of English and History papers at 200-level (second-year) and above.

Japanese

otago.ac.nz/subjects/japa

Japanese culture blends the best of East and West, of cutting-edge modernity and unique tradition, of high-tech innovation and high-cultural style. It's given us awardwinning manga and anime, the mysteries of Zen, the delectable tastes of sushi and tempura, and the fun of karaoke – not to

mention the world's shortest poems and longest novels!

As one of the world's richest and largest markets, knowledge of Japanese language and culture is highly valued by employers. Our language programme, designed for complete and near-beginners, will help you learn to read, write and communicate effectively. Tutorials in small groups with native speakers will help you gain confidence.

You'll learn about Japanese culture through Japanese film, literature, history and society. With a wide range of papers on offer, you can discover and shape your interests, whether that's anime cartoons and Zen meditation, the novels of Haruki Murakami, or the films of Hayao Miyazaki.

Career opportunities

You could opt for a career in foreign relations, trade, commerce and tourism, or choose an academic path, such as teaching Japanese in schools or going on to MA and PhD degrees. Graduates have spent time in Japan under the Japanese government's JET Programme, working as assistant language teachers at Japanese schools or as co-ordinators for international relations at local government offices.

Law

(taught as separate degree – see Law at Otago)

Linguistics

(includes English and Linguistics, and Language and Linguistics)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/ling

Language is an integral part of being human so studying how language works helps us understand ourselves more fully. It's a useful subject for anyone interested in learning a second language or considering teaching.

You'll explore how languages evolve and change over time, why people misunderstand each other, and how languages are taught and learned. You'll develop critical thinking and communication skills and learn how to evaluate and justify linguistic arguments.

Taught by passionate lecturers with wideranging research interests, you'll have the opportunity to delve into topics that interest you the most, from phonetics and phonology (the study of speech sounds and systems) to linguistic typology (the study of language comparison and classification) and psycholinguistics (the study of language processing in the brain).

Career opportunities

Career paths include language teaching, interpreting/translation, editing and writing, computer programming and speech therapy. The Teaching English to Speakers

of Other Languages (TESOL) minor specifically equips you to teach English abroad and at home in language schools and other non-state institutions.

Māori Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/maor

Māori Studies will provide you with enhanced knowledge and understanding of the Māori language, Māori customary lore and the Māori world. You'll gain a high level of fluency in te reo, and an understanding of contemporary, historical, cultural and environmental and ethical issues affecting Māori.

A strong knowledge of Māori culture combined with te reo language skills is an enticing package for many New Zealand employers. Add in the valuable transferable skills you'll gain through this programme – in analytical thinking, communication, and multicultural understanding – and you'll graduate with the knowledge to succeed in a variety of careers.

Career opportunities

A degree in Māori Studies can lead to careers in policy and governance, teaching, public health, community organisations and arts institutions like museums.

Mathematics

otago.ac.nz/subjects/math

Career options in 10 years' time are likely to be very different to today but we know that many of them will involve mathematics. Our 100-level papers are designed for all students, whether you're interested in pursuing a mathematics career or you want to be a modern scientist, engineer, or innovator. A qualification in Mathematics widens your options and prepares you for change.

Career opportunities

Mathematics graduates follow diverse career paths. In finance, quantitative analysts use mathematical models for market decisions. Data science and artificial intelligence rely on mathematical algorithms for problem-solving. Engineers apply mathematical principles for design and optimisation, and cybersecurity professionals use mathematics for digital security. Our students are in-demand and have secured excellent, interesting jobs. And they're well paid!

Music

(taught as separate degree – see Performing Arts guide– and minor subject)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/musi

From classical music to contemporary rock, delve into the theory and history of music and hone your skills in performance, composition, and studio production.

Our excellent facilities include a recording studio, performance spaces and practice rooms, all equipped with the latest technology.

Career opportunities

Our graduates have pursued careers in musical performance, the recording industry, opera, teaching, media, theatre, and music theatre.

Music Production

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/musi

Digital technology is shaking up the traditional studio system of music production. On this programme, you'll be exposed to the huge range of opportunities that now exist in the music industry, equipping you with the skills and the confidence to achieve your creative goals.

The course caters to any music genre or style, from classical to traditional folk music, jazz and beyond. Topics of study include songwriting, recording, composition, music production, and performance. Our excellent facilities include a recording studio, performance spaces and practice rooms, all equipped with the latest technology.

Career opportunities

You'll be prepared for a career within the creative industries, including audio engineering, developing film soundtracks, game audio, radio, and theatre. Graduates also find work in education, cultural agencies, and the computer industry.

Pacific Islands Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/paci

New Zealand is the world's largest Polynesian country, and excellent employment prospects await graduates with intercultural communication skills in the Pacific context.

You'll have the opportunity to study a range of topics from a Pacific Islands point of view, including education, leadership, history, religion and church history, art history, and film and media studies.

This programme covers the geographical area contained within the Polynesian Triangle defined by Hawai'i, Rapa Nui, and Aotearoa as well as the islands of Melanesia and Micronesia. These communities exist in a constantly changing environment. You'll learn how to track the effect of these changes and provide insights into how to formulate more inclusive policies and plans for future development.

Knowledge of Pacific Island cultures has its place in every aspect of society and complements many fields of study including climate change, environmental sustainability, resource management,

agriculture, policy development, education, language revitalisation, primary healthcare and preventative medicine, economic wellbeing and independence, community development and religion.

Career opportunities

A major in Pacific Island Studies can lead to a career in national and regional organisations, the diplomatic corps, social work, teaching, religion or non-government organisations.

Performing Arts

(degree – see *Performing Arts* guide)

Philosophy

otago.ac.nz/subjects/phil

Philosophy provides a toolkit to critically engage with difficult and important questions. Are scientific claims certain? What is meaning? Is the future less real than the past? In grappling with these issues, philosophers seek to build a well-grounded picture of the world and of human life.

On this programme, you'll develop the philosophical tools to deal with practical problems, such as whether an unpopular theory should be accepted, or to what extent we can appeal to common sense when arguing about a radical claim.

Philosophy focuses less on what you believe and more on the quality of your reasons for believing it, so studying Philosophy is an invaluable skill in a wide range of occupations. You'll develop the ability to construct and dissect arguments and express yourself more clearly.

Outside of lectures and tutorials, you'll have opportunities to further develop your philosophical reasoning through regular social events. Our weekly seminar programme is attended by leading philosophers and our undergraduate Philosophy Club meets monthly for pizza and philosophical discussion.

Career opportunities

You'll graduate with a unique mix of analytical and literary skills, making you attractive to employers in a wide range of industries, including computing, e-commerce, economics, journalism, marketing, politics, social services, and dispute resolution.

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

otago.ac.nz/subjects/phpe

Picture yourself dissecting the profound questions of existence in philosophy, unravelling the intricacies of political systems and decoding the mysteries of economic forces. This interdisciplinary programme isn't just an academic journey;

it's a toolkit for understanding the world's complexities.

Gain critical thinking superpowers, develop analytical finesse and emerge as a well-rounded thinker ready to tackle real-world challenges. With PPE, you're not just earning a degree; you're investing in a versatile skill set that opens doors to diverse career paths and positions you at the forefront of global issues. Join us and help shape a world in which your ideas matter.

Career opportunities

Career opportunities exist in a broad range of businesses, government departments and NGOs, both in New Zealand and in the wider world. Graduates of the programme include senior advisers in several ministries, diplomats, business consultants, journalists, lawyers, think-tank members, entrepreneurs and CEOs.

Politics

otago.ac.nz/subjects/pols

Politics involves amending and creating rules for the running of society.

Disagreement is a central aspect of politics, and generally stems from those in power holding different viewpoints on who should get what, when and how in society.

At Otago, you'll be taught to focus on causation in politics – what happened, how did it happen, and most importantly why? You'll learn to logically analyse issues, challenge assumptions and consider different options and viewpoints. And you'll gain the insight and skills to better understand power dynamics and take part in responsible decision-making for the betterment of yourself, society and the world.

Otago offers a huge range of Politics papers to reflect the diversity of the industry – these papers are organised into the four main sub fields of the subject and taught at every level of your degree: comparative politics, international relations, New Zealand politics and political theory.

Career opportunities

Graduates have gone on to work as policy analysts, diplomats, journalists, business leaders, lawyers, public servants, consultants and politicians. Others work in immigration and with refugees, for NGOs and the not-for-profit sector, education and the media. Many students progress into postgraduate study.

Psychology

otago.ac.nz/subjects/psyc

Psychology examines the behavioural, perceptual, mental and emotional processes taking place in our brains. Studying Psychology will give you the skills to

understand, explain and predict human behaviour, making you a great choice for employers in a diverse range of careers.

You'll examine how our abilities change with age, and what might underlie abnormal behaviour. You'll investigate how we process and store information using our senses and memory and learn how our experiences shape our behaviour.

You'll also learn how behaviour relates to the functioning of the brain, and why things such as drugs, hormone levels and lack of sleep can influence the way we behave. Applied psychologists use this knowledge to address problems as diverse as sleep disorders, industrial relations, phobias, drug rehabilitation, aircraft safety and hyperactivity.

The Department of Psychology is one of the most popular at Otago and has won numerous awards for excellence in teaching and research.

Career opportunities

Graduates often work across community, health, industry, policy and research areas. You might work in industries like marketing, management or HR – all careers where understanding human thought and behaviour is highly beneficial. If you want a career as a clinical psychologist, you'll need to undertake specialised postgraduate training. Clinical psychologists work in health, justice, education, industry and private practice.

Religious Studies

(includes the Buddhist Studies minor subject)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/rels

Religious Studies is a Humanities superdiscipline. Using methods from psychology, history, philosophy, law, anthropology, sociology and politics, you'll examine a range of fascinating cases, from the "mystery religions" of ancient Egypt to modern conspiracy theories. Our programme is run by social scientists, not theologians. You'll analyse religion as a global human phenomenon – the product of the desires, questions and passions of our world's diverse cultures.

You'll study the Asian religions of Hinduism and Buddhism, examining Hindu mythology, the teachings of the Buddha, religious disciplines such as yoga and meditation, the expression of religious devotion in art and architecture, and the role of the religions in contemporary political debates. You'll also examine the three Abrahamic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – their origins, the way in which they evolved and the ways in which all three faiths have responded to the challenges of modernity. More advanced papers examine religion's

connections with topics including science and magic, law and politics, and the human body.

Career opportunities

Religious Studies graduates are valued for their critical thinking and writing skills, their ability to find, analyse and communicate information, and their understanding of what motivates and shapes the behaviour of other people. You could find work in a variety of employment settings, including government, education, journalism, business, non-profit and law.

Science of Religion

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/srel

A scientific approach to the study of religion will increase your understanding of key aspects of human life. You'll gain insights into why people believe what they do, the societal functions of religion, and the impact of religious beliefs on individuals and communities.

You'll also learn about the psychological aspects of faith, including the cognitive processes behind religious belief, the impact of religion on mental health, and the role of religious experiences.

Career opportunities

Your knowledge of the scientific methods used in studying religion and the social sciences more generally will be attractive to employers. You'll also gain experience with persuasive writing and evaluating evidence-based claims, which will put you in a good position for careers involving evidence-based social policy, such as those in government, NGOs and education.

Social Anthropology

otago.ac.nz/subjects/anth

What does it mean to be human in a diverse, complicated and changing world? Anthropologists ask questions about human variation and human differences. They study issues that affect different societies, such as changing economic and political arrangements of power, sustainable living alternatives, and the tensions around community inclusion and exclusion.

What are the patterns by which people organise their lives? How do ideas of difference and sameness come about? How does the movement of people through a globalised world impact the meaning and experience of culture and our sense of belonging and heritage? These are just some of the questions you'll delve into during your studies.

You'll learn to engage with cultural groups ethically and explain social life through systematic questioning and critical analysis.



Edward Ennion-Dickison

Bachelor of Arts (Majors: Anthropology, Politics, Minor: TESOL)

Human Resources Advisor, Ministry of Social Development

"I went into a graduate policy role at the Ministry of Social Development through the Ministry for Ethnic Communities Graduate Programme. The programme is open to graduates from a range of degree backgrounds and aims to provide an entry pathway into the public service for skilled graduates from a range of ethnic communities in New Zealand."

You'll acquire expertise in problem-solving, research and writing, independent thinking, and project management, preparing you for a wide range of rewarding careers.

Career opportunities

Anthropology graduates work in a variety of fields including community development, the police force, disaster relief, historic preservation, foreign affairs, the media, and within government or local bodies. Other career routes include project co-ordination/management for organisations such as Volunteer Service Abroad, international aid, working with refugees, social impact assessment and environmental management.

Social Work

(degree - see otago.ac.nz/subjects/sowk)

Sociology

otago.ac.nz/subjects/soci

If you have an interest in people and social relationships, or find habits, mannerisms and everyday life intriguing, then Sociology could be for you.

You'll explore a huge range of subjects focused on different areas of society and seek out the answers to big picture questions – to what extent are our circumstances shaped by society? Does race, gender and social class background affect our life opportunities? What is the role of institutions in society, and do they just work in the interests of those with power?

Sociology will teach you how to think, not what to think. Our teaching style is interactive and engaging – you'll learn how to ask insightful questions about power, human behaviour and social processes; how to deepen your understanding and critically analyse social issues; to develop your own thoughts and theories about the social world, and to propose alternative ideas that promote social justice.

You'll gain an understanding of how political arrangements, economic forces, social order, and historical realities can impact a person – or group of people's – place in society, rather than assigning individual blame for someone's circumstances or decisions.

Career opportunities

Critical and creative thinking skills, and an in-depth understanding of human behaviour and relationships, make Sociology graduates extremely sought after in the workplace. Graduates go on to work in local and national politics, government departments, non-profit organisations, trade unions, social services, public health, journalism, social policy development, advertising and marketing, human resources and academia.

Spanish

otago.ac.nz/subjects/span

With over 500 million native speakers from 21 countries spread across five continents, Spanish is truly a global language. Spanish-speaking countries account for an increasing proportion of world trade and are a growing target market for New Zealand exporters.

Alongside language papers, you can explore the social values and cultural life of the many countries around the world where Spanish is spoken. Spanish is taught through the communicative approach. You'll have opportunities to improve your speaking and comprehension skills using the latest text, audio, video and internet resource.

Career opportunities

Spanish language and culture skills give graduates an edge in areas such as government, planning and consultancy firms, mass media (e.g. journalism, publishing and advertising), finance and banking, healthcare, tourism and hospitality. With trade links between New Zealand and Latin America growing, the demand in business for Spanish language graduates is increasing.

Sport Development and Management

otago.ac.nz/subjects/spdm

Sport is used as a mental and physical tool across many sectors and areas of the community. On this programme, you'll examine the people, institutions and policies that influence the structure, management and experience of sport. You'll focus on three main areas:

- The quality of organisations and societal conditions that support sport participation.
- The psychological variables that help sporting development and performance.
- The impact of sport on community objectives such as wellness, social integration and economic renewal.

At 300-level, you'll have the opportunity to gain hands-on industry experience through working with a school or community sport organisation, or undertaking applied research in the New Zealand Centre for Sport Policy and Politics.

The Sport Development and Management degree is the only programme of its kind in Aotearoa. It's available as a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, so you can adapt your learning to your strengths and interests.

Career opportunities

Careers in this sector include sport development officers, administrators and managers in national/regional sports organisations, community trusts, commercial sports entities, government ministries and local councils. The programme also provides pathways into teaching, coaching, youth work, sports marketing and sports journalism.

Statistics

otago.ac.nz/subjects/stat

Statisticians find information in data and apply this knowledge to real-life scenarios. Statistical techniques are used in just about every field, from evaluating the environmental effects of pollutants to helping researchers evaluate new drugs and medical procedures.

You'll learn how to design experiments and surveys, analyse data, and extract meaningful information. You'll gain expertise in statistical computing, quantitative reasoning and mathematical modelling – all skills that will make you highly employable.

Your teaching will be enhanced by the varied research interests of our staff, which include ecology, bioinformatics, biostatistics, quantitative genetics and problems such as disease spread and seismic and volcanic hazards.

Career opportunities

Statisticians are in short supply and demand for their skills are growing. Employers include banks and insurance companies, consulting firms, Crown Research Institutes, government departments, and companies such as Fonterra, Meridian Energy, and Spark.

Teaching

(degree – see College of Education guide)

TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/tsol

TESOL is a huge international education industry, and it's only predicted to keep growing. As the most spoken language in the world, the ability to speak English opens doors to travel, study and business opportunities.

The minor in TESOL is taught through the English and Linguistics programme. You'll cover the four domains of language: reading, writing, speaking and listening, gaining an introduction to theoretical and practical teaching methods. Through micro-teaching with your peers – a unique training and development technique – you'll develop strong skills in teaching grammar and vocabulary to students of all competency levels. You'll also gain knowledge and skills in lesson planning, cross-cultural issues, effective teaching practice and classroom management.

Please note, the minor in TESOL is not available for students majoring in Linguistics.

Career opportunities

TESOL graduates will find opportunities both in Aotearoa and internationally. You could work in education consultancy or management, curriculum development, policy, or teaching in overseas schools and communities. There are also global opportunities as educational administrators, TESOL directors, or in government roles involving second language provisions

Alternatively, you could pursue further study in Education – like the Master of Teaching and Learning – and go on to teach English in New Zealand primary and secondary schools.

Theatre Studies

otago.ac.nz/subjects/thea

Through a combination of practical exploration and academic training, Theatre Studies will give you the opportunity to bring ideas and performances to life.

Delve into a wide range of topics that include performance skills, analysis and interpretation of drama on stage, directing, writing for stage and screen, theatre history, contemporary drama and performance art, performance analysis and critical theory, and theatre technology and design. You'll learn through lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical workshops; most classes are small, with plenty of opportunity to pursue independent and group projects.

You'll have access to excellent facilities, including our modern performing arts building and state-of-the-art music studio. Plus, hone your skills in our unique Lunchtime Theatre programme held in Allen Hall Theatre – your testing ground for performing, directing, playwriting and all things stagecraft.

Theatre Studies unlocks important personal and professional skills and traits – like self-confidence, teamwork, communication and creative expression. It also gives you the unique opportunity to reflect on – and inhabit – lives and cultures vastly different to your own. You'll graduate well prepared to work both within and far beyond theatre and the performing arts.

Career opportunities

You could pursue a career as an actor, director, publicist, scriptwriter, filmmaker, designer, teacher, musician or theatre technician. Alternatively, you could work in TV or radio, event management, arts administration, advertising and marketing, or continue study at a higher-level.

Theology

(degree and minor subject)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/theo

Theology is about learning to understand life, meaning, beliefs and identity at a deep level. Through in-depth exploration of scripture (biblical writings), the work of past and living theologians, the history of faith, and contemporary religious practices, you'll gain an informed understanding of the Christian faith.

You'll explore key theological topics – like the place of the Bible in Christian faith, the story of Christianity across two millennia, the practice of contemporary ministry, and the responsibility to live ethically in a world that is increasingly socially aware.

You'll explore some of the complex issues addressed by others in the field, as well as answers to fundamental questions of human life from a Christian perspective. What does it mean to be human? Where do we find meaning and identity? Who is Jesus? And what can we say about God?

Otago's Theology programme is the only one offered in Aotearoa. Our teaching is divided into three main areas: Biblical Studies (BIBS papers), Christian Thought and History (CHTH papers), and Pastoral Studies (PAST papers). You'll learn and engage with topics from all three areas, while studying one – of your choosing – at a deeper level. Alternatively, these subject areas can be studied as a minor with any degree.

Theology papers are also offered by the University's Distance Learning programme and may be credited to a Bachelor of Theology degree, Diploma for Graduates, or Diploma in Theology. Most papers are taught by videoconferencing, but a few are available as one-week intensive courses.

Career opportunities

Intellectual discovery, creativity, and sound thinking and writing skills make Theology graduates extremely sought after in the workplace. The transferable skills of the degree see graduates working in careers such as teaching, social work, journalism and the media, administration and public services. Others will work in some form of Christian ministry, or complete further study at the postgraduate level.

Tourism, Languages and Cultures

otago.ac.nz/subjects/tlc

Tourism is a well-established sector, generating billions of dollars around the world, and multilingual graduates are in high demand. With this major – the only one of its kind in New Zealand – you'll open up opportunities for international travel,

amazing experiences and exciting career paths.

Our teaching is aligned to the practical demands of the sector. You'll study hospitality, planning, management, and marketing, and gain solid skills in business alongside knowledge of the societal and environmental implications of tourism.

You have the option of studying one or more of the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Māori, and Spanish. Language papers are taught using a combination of lectures, tutorials and directed readings, and classes are often small.

There's also the flexibility to shape your study around your areas of interest or career aspirations.

Career opportunities

Graduates are employed by national and regional tourism organisations such as Tourism New Zealand or Destination Queenstown, or accommodation, activity, transport and infrastructure operators. Larger domestic companies in New Zealand include Air New Zealand, Tourism Holdings Ltd, Real Journeys, Auckland Airport Ltd, and Ngai Tahu Tourism, while multinational employers include Accor, the Hilton Hotel Group and China Travel Service.

Writing

(minor subject only)

otago.ac.nz/subjects/writ

The ability to write clearly, accurately and concisely can open many doors – from boosting your university grades to landing your dream job. Good communication skills become even more essential as you move up the career ladder, with high-level roles in just about any profession requiring advanced writing and communication abilities.

Writing papers can be taken individually or as part of the minor. Delve into professional writing, academic writing or creative writing, build a portfolio, and get hands-on experience through workshop-style classes and practical assessments.

Career opportunities

You could find work as an editor, copywriter, creative writer, journalist, in education, administration, the public sector, politics, policymaking and analysis, and interactive media.

Double and combined degrees

If you want to open up a wider range of career options, you can study for a double or combined degree.

Combined degrees

- Bachelor of Arts and Commerce. Choose two different majors, one from Arts and one from Commerce.
- Bachelor of Arts and Science. Choose two different majors, one from Arts and one from Science

Double degrees

It's possible to take two degrees at the same time. One of the most popular options is a Bachelor of Arts taken in combination with a Bachelor of Laws – this will usually take five years to complete. Around 50 per cent of Law students also study for a BA.

If you're considering a double or combined degree, talk to your schools' liaison officer or a University course adviser.

Other degrees

Alongside the BA, we have many other Humanities degrees that are just as interesting and can lead to other career opportunities:

Bachelor of Laws

A Law degree from Otago is a professional degree that can lead to expected – and unexpected – careers. Many graduates go on to work as lawyers in private practice, but others work in business, government, the public sector or welfare agencies.

Bachelor of Music

Develop your skills as a performer, composer, songwriter or music producer.

Bachelor of Performing Arts

Explore more than one performing art form – music, theatre and dance – blended into a single degree.

Bachelor of Social Work

This four-year degree will qualify you to register as a social worker following graduation, opening doors to an impactful professional career.

Bachelor of Teaching

Gain the contemporary theory, curriculum knowledge and professional experience needed to become an outstanding teacher. You can study initial teacher education at our campuses in Dunedin or Invercargill.

Bachelor of Theology

Theology offers the chance to explore faith, yourself and the world.

otago.ac.nz/humanities-undergraduate

Useful information

Bachelor of Arts otago.ac.nz/myba

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

Local students otago.ac.nz/locals

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

Pacific Islands Centre otago.ac.nz/pacific

Kaiāwhina Māori Māori Student Support Officers

Tēnā koutou katoa. The Division of Humanities Kaiāwhina Māori network is here to help students:

- · access academic and pastoral support
- · provide assistance with advocacy and scholarships
- · liaise with Humanities departments regarding things Māori.

Our centrally-based Kaiāwhina work with a team of Kaiāwhina across programmes in the Division.

Email humanities.kaiawhina@otago.ac.nz

Pacific Islands Students' Support

Warm Pacific greetings. The Pacific Islands Support Officer in the Division of Humanities supports students from the Pacific Islands enrolled in Humanities papers. Key roles are:

- to liaise with academic departments and support services with respect to any issues relating to students and their course of study
- to act as a point of contact for all Pacific Islands students enrolled in Humanities papers and degrees
- to facilitate access to pastoral care, student services and course planning advice within the University.

Email pacificsupport.humanities@otago.ac.nz

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.

Printed May 2024.

