

Our Responsibility: Your Responsibility

Your years at the University of Otago will be a life-changing experience. You will have access to state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities and you will be taught by world-class experts in humanities, sciences, health sciences and commerce.

While gaining new knowledge will be the cornerstone of your university experience, your time here will be about more than earning a degree. We recognise that the Otago experience extends beyond what happens in the lecture theatre, the library or the lab, and that many of the experiences you have outside the classroom will be remembered for a lifetime.

During your time at Otago you will have fun, make new friends and learn to live independently. You will learn to think critically and to work on your own and as part of a team. You will develop a commitment to life-long learning and you will become a good, ethical, well-rounded citizen. These are just a few of the many positive attributes that define an Otago graduate.

But during your time at Otago, you may also take some risks. The University takes seriously its pastoral responsibility to educate you as a whole person – not just academically – and is committed to providing a safe environment in which you can grow. However, this is a reciprocal obligation: it is important that you are aware of your own responsibilities – to yourself, your peers, your family, your University and to the community in which you are living.

During your university years, it is vital that you understand the consequences of any risks you take. The reality is that excessive use of alcohol or drugs may result in physical or psychological harm to you and to others, and possibly result in involvement with the Police. The long-term consequences of some of these actions can be drastic.

As part of its pastoral responsibility to students, the University introduced a Code of Student Conduct in 2007 to foster an environment of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. Its "rules" are largely commonsense – no different to those rules that you will have encountered in other areas of your life. In short, the University's expectation is that you will not engage in any disruptive, deceptive, obstructive, threatening, violent or otherwise unlawful behaviour.

The Code, which is printed in full on the back of this brochure, applies to all students, both on and off campus. Breaches of the Code may result in disciplinary procedures that range from reprimands, fines and community work, to exclusion from the University, for a period of time or permanently.

You need to be aware that activities you may regard as simply high-spirited hi-jinks, can put you, your fellow students, the University and the community at risk. Activities likely to endanger your own or others' safety and well-being will not be tolerated by the University.

Between 2007 and 2011, 24 students were excluded from the University under the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct. Five of these exclusions were for setting fire, or attempting to set fire, to couches and chairs. A further student was excluded for lighting fires in the street and another three students received other penalties resulting from fire-related incidents. It is worth noting that alcohol was a significant contributing factor in 21 of the 24 cases.

If you are concerned about alcohol or drugs, and the impact they may be having on your behaviour, confidential medical and counselling help is available through the University's Student Health Service.

Campus Watch was introduced by the University at the same time as the Code of Student Conduct to further enhance the quality of the Otago student experience. Campus Watch teams are out and about the campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing informal advice on a wide range of issues, from how to stay safe and keep out of trouble, to sorting your flat recycling and running a good party that stays within the law and acceptable to the neighbours. Please remember – they are there to help you when you need it.



University of Otago Code of Student Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to promote the University's academic aims and a sense of community through the cultivation of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. To this end, the University expects that students will not engage in behaviours that endanger their own or others' safety and well-being.

Students are expected to conform to the standards contained in this Code of Student Conduct off campus as well as on campus.

The University reserves the right to pursue through its disciplinary procedures matters that are also being, or may also be, addressed by the legal system or under the University's Ethical Behaviour Policy processes.

Requirements of Student Conduct

The basic rules of conduct require that no student shall:

- (a) disrupt any teaching, study or research or the administration of the University either wilfully or by engaging in conduct which ought reasonably to have been foreseen would cause disruption;
- (b) wilfully obstruct any member or employee of the University in academic work or in the performance of duties;
- (c) wilfully misuse, damage or deface, steal or wrongfully convert to the student's own use any property of the University or of any member of the University;
- (d) wilfully acquire by theft or deception the benefits of any service provided by the University or any academic advantage;

- (e) engage in actions that:
 - (i) amount to assault or which result in, or can be reasonably expected to result in, harm to a person or persons; or
 - (ii) are unreasonably disruptive to other members of the University or the local community; or
 - (iii) result in, or can be reasonably expected to result in, damage to property of any person; or
 - (iv) are otherwise unlawful;
- (f) threaten, intimidate or harass another person or group;
- (g) fail to comply with the proper directives of a University official, including refusing to identify oneself;
- (h) lie to, or misrepresent information to, the University or any University official;
- (i) fail without good reason to co-operate with the University's disciplinary procedures;
- (j) fail without reasonable cause to comply with any penalty imposed under the Discipline Statute;
- (k) be party to or attempt to commit an act of misconduct as set out in the foregoing rules.

Further information can be found at

www.otago.ac.nz/administration/policies/otago003143.html#codeofstudentconduct



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