

Uni Exchange Aotearoa

Information document



Uni Exchange Aotearoa is a new domestic exchange programme between three NZ universities: [AUT](#), [Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington](#), and [the University of Otago—Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka](#).

If you're an eligible second-year domestic student, the domestic exchange is an opportunity to broaden your horizons by studying for one trimester at a different university within New Zealand.

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Who can apply

You're eligible to apply if you currently study at one of the three participating universities and you:

- are a domestic student
- are in your second year of study (i.e., the points earned while on exchange are not included within the first 120 points nor final 120 points of your degree)

- maintain a minimum 'B-' (4.0) grade point average (GPA) until the time of exchange, or have a [letter of recommendation](#)
- study one of the subject areas offered for 2026, and
- study full-time during the exchange

You should also demonstrate qualities that show you will be a good representative for Te Herenga Waka while you're on exchange.

A few eligibility restrictions to note:

- If you are currently on a scholarship at Victoria University, contact scholarships-office@vuw.ac.nz to check your eligibility for the domestic exchange.
- If you are currently taking any full-year course at Victoria University, spanning both trimesters 1 and 2, unfortunately you are ineligible for the exchange programme.
- If you are accepted with a C+ GPA, your course choices at your host university may be slightly more limited. Contact UniExchangeAotearoa@vuw.ac.nz for more information.

Limited spots available

Each university will offer a total of 10 places, sending up to five students to each host university. For example, Te Herenga Waka will send up to five students to AUT, and up to five students to the University of Otago. If more than 10 students apply, a selection process will be used to select successful students.

Timing and key dates

In 2026, the exchange is offered for trimester 2 only.

- 21 January—expressions of interest open.
- 2 April—expressions of interest close.
- 2–30 April—interviews.
- 30 April—students are advised of their outcome.
- 6 July—start of trimester 2 at Vic Uni, exchange begins here.
- 13 July—start of semester 2 at both AUT and Otago, exchanges begin there.
- 7 November—exchanges end at all three universities.

Advantages of a domestic exchange

There are lots of great reasons to spend a trimester at another NZ university.

- **Try a different city on for size**—living somewhere as a student for a few months can give you a new perspective, even if you’ve visited the city before.
 - Auckland is New Zealand’s largest city, and an economic powerhouse. It’s also the home of Aotearoa’s only university of technology, where learning connects you directly to real-world impact.
 - Dunedin is a picturesque student city with stunning beaches, nature trails, and unique wildlife. At Otago, there are countless ways to immerse yourself in student life and make the most of your university experience.
- **Broaden your academic opportunities**—each university offers courses, lecturers, and resources that may not be available at your home uni. Enrich your learning by experiencing different teaching styles and academic perspectives.
- **Expand your network on a national level**—connect with peers, lecturers, and professionals in a different region of the country. These connections may lead to future study opportunities, internships, or jobs.
- **Enhance your CV**—having done an exchange demonstrates initiative, adaptability, and willingness to embrace new challenges. These are all qualities that stand out to future employers.
- **Personal growth**—living in a new city for a trimester will help you build confidence, resilience, and insight.

Subject areas offered in the 2026 exchange

Each university’s students are offered a slightly different range of subjects based on whether there’s a suitable host equivalent to match their home degree. [A full subject list for each university](#) is included at the end of this document.

Subjects available for Te Herenga Waka students going to AUT or Otago:

- Anthropology
- Classics
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Criminology
- Economics
- Education (not Teacher Education)
- Global Studies
- Greek
- History

- Human Resource Management
- Information Systems
- Latin
- Linguistics and Language Sciences
- Management
- Marketing
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Media Studies
- Politics
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- Sociology

Each university will offer a range of approved courses within the subject areas above. Once you've been accepted into the exchange programme, you'll work with your Student Success Adviser to identify which specific courses you want to study.

- You can take a course that's outside your major if you wish, provided you meet the pre- or co-requisites.
- You won't be able to start a new degree while on exchange—the exchange is designed to enhance your current study.

All courses you take must be approved by Titoko before the exchange to ensure they count towards your degree at Te Herenga Waka.

Scholarships, fees, and costs

- **Exchange scholarship**—you will receive a \$1,200 scholarship which you can use for travel and/or course costs.
- **Accommodation**—you will be offered a place in university-run, self-catered accommodation at your host uni, free of charge. Alternatively, you can choose to find your own accommodation, either in a flat or with family, at your own cost.
- **Course fees**—you will pay fees to your host university for the courses you take while you're there. You will not pay any fees to your home university during that time.
- **Travel costs**—you are responsible for your own travel to your host university.
- **Living costs**—you will pay your own living costs (food, entertainment etc.) while on exchange.

- **StudyLink**—you can still access StudyLink payments while you're on exchange. You will need to let StudyLink know you'll be studying at a different university—contact student-finance@vuw.ac.nz and our fees advisers can help you with this.

Choosing which host university you want to go to

If you have a preference which host university you would like to go to, you can let us know in your [expression of interest form](#). We can't guarantee you'll be able to go to the university you chose but if you're selected, we'll contact you to discuss options.

Applying for Uni Exchange Aotearoa

[Expressions of interest are open](#) from 21 January 2026 until 11.59pm, Thursday 2 April. You should complete your expression of interest through Te Herenga Waka, your home university.

Next will be a round of interviews here at Victoria University, then we'll let you know if you have been accepted into the exchange programme by the end of April.

If your GPA is a C+ (between 3.0 and 3.99), please complete a [UEA recommendation form](#). Fill out Section 1 yourself, then have a Te Herenga Waka lecturer (who taught you in the past two years) fill out Section 2 and submit it directly via the email provided. Please remember that academics are busy people and to make sure that they have plenty of time to return this form to the Victoria University Uni Exchange Aotearoa office by the deadline, 11.59pm, Thursday 2 April.

Sharing your exchange journey—what we'll ask of you

Going on the Uni Aotearoa Exchange is an awesome experience, and we want other people to know about it as well. As a condition of participating in the exchange and receiving an exchange scholarship, we will ask you to:

- Participate in communications about the exchange, such as interviews or profiles. This could be before the exchange, while you are on the exchange, or after you return.
- Write a blog post or article about your experience, which we can share on our website and in other media.
- Complete a survey about your experiences on the exchange.
- Participate in exchange activities such as planning sessions and orientation before and while you are on exchange.

How admission and enrolment works

Once accepted into the exchange programme, you will need to apply to enrol at your host university. Your Student Success Adviser can help you with this.

Part-time versus full-time study

If you're currently studying part-time at Victoria University, you are still eligible for the exchange. However, all exchange students need to study full-time *during* the exchange (trimester 2, 2026). This means either:

- 4 x 15-point courses at AUT
- 3 x 18-point courses at Otago

Additionally, you must have completed 120 points towards your Victoria University degree and have been enrolled at Vic Uni for the 12 months immediately before the exchange.

Transfer of course credit between universities

You will receive either specified or unspecified credit for a given course you take at your host university:

- Specified credit is for courses that have been recognised as 'equivalent' to one of Victoria University's (e.g., transfer of credit for MGMT202).
- Unspecified credit is for courses that don't match Victoria University's courses so closely. Instead, it recognises the course you do on exchange as equivalent to a certain number of points at a certain level in a particular subject area (e.g., 15 points of 200-level Economics).

Before you go on exchange, you'll work with your Student Success Adviser to make sure the courses you take at your host uni count towards your degree requirements.

Once you return from exchange, your host uni will send your transcript to Te Herenga Waka, and we will assess this and award credit appropriately.

Your host university's transcript will be separate from your Victoria University transcript. This means:

- Courses taken on exchange will not be included in your GPA at Victoria University. Our GPA is based on grades achieved with us. [You can calculate your overall GPA manually here.](#)
- Any fail grade(s) you receive during the exchange will not be included in your academic transcript at Victoria University; however, you will need to make up the

credits in order to complete your degree. If you pass fewer than half of the points you take during the exchange trimester we may [review your enrolment for the next trimester](#).

- If you're applying for entry into a specialized programme or postgraduate study following the completion of your degree, then you will need to provide your transcripts from us and your host university.

Pastoral care

While you're on exchange, your host university has the primary responsibility for your pastoral care. If you have any academic or wellbeing issues while on exchange, seek out your host uni's support teams and their staff will follow their usual channels to help you. Your host university may contact us if there are any particular concerns while on exchange. You can also contact UniExchangeAotearoa@vuw.ac.nz.

Disability/learning support

Your host university will work with you to accommodate your needs.

Course cancellation at your host university

If one of your courses is cancelled at your host university after you've had your course selection approved, talk to your [Student Success Adviser](#) at Victoria University about finding an alternative course at your host uni that still counts towards your degree.

Withdrawing part-way through the exchange

If you want to withdraw part-way through the exchange, you will need to:

- notify your host university
- notify Victoria University via this email: UniExchangeAotearoa@vuw.ac.nz
- repay the \$1,200 scholarship you have received
- inform StudyLink.

If you withdraw from your exchange after the free withdrawal period, you will be charged the tuition fees.

Further questions

Talk to your [Student Success Adviser](#) or email UniExchangeAotearoa@vuw.ac.nz.

Full list of subjects offered for each university

Trimester 2, 2026

	AUT		Vic Uni		Otago	
	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing
Anthropology	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Classics	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Communication / Media Studies	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Computer Science	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Criminology	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Economics	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education (Not Teacher Education)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
German	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Global Studies	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greek	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Human Resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information Systems	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
International Relations	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Latin	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Linguistics / Language Sciences	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Management	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marketing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mathematics and Statistics	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Politics	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Psychology	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Public Policy	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Social Sciences / History	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sociology	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes