



OTAGO
POLYTECHNIC
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago

Central Otago

www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz



Otago Polytechnic's Central Otago campus is an ideal place to study, work and play. Expand your mind and discover a wealth of opportunities at the same time!

With about 80 full time students, hundreds of part-time students and 20 staff, the Cromwell campus creates a welcoming environment for all our students.

Classes are generally small, and the lecturers take pride in helping all students to succeed and to begin their chosen career. There is plenty of support and activities to allow students to get to know each other and have fun together.

Otago Polytechnic's campus is located in the heart of Central Otago, with most programmes based in the township of Cromwell.

Central Otago

Central Otago offers a unique and rich blend of what's best about New Zealand, from its landscape to its people and lifestyle opportunities. It's all here – stunning scenery, a wealth of history, food and wine, art galleries, buzzing resort towns, adventure activities, superb snow sport areas, the world's southernmost wine growing region and excellent business opportunities.

The main industries in Central Otago are farming, viticulture, fruit production, hospitality, tourism, and construction.

Cromwell township (population 4080) lies on the shores of Lake Dunstan, a man-made lake which provides a great recreation facility.

Cromwell is situated 40 minutes from Queenstown International Airport, the fourth busiest airport in New Zealand. The tourist resorts of Queenstown and Wanaka, with their mountains and wide range of activities, are each a 40 minute drive from Cromwell.

Cromwell offers a large selection of pre-school childcare facilities, with good primary and secondary schools also available. There is a wide range of sports facilities and cultural activities available.

Climate

Central Otago is the hottest, driest, coldest region in New Zealand. Temperatures range from the high 30s Centigrade in the summer to minus 15C in the winter. The region has the lowest average annual rainfall in New Zealand – just 135mm compared to the national average of around 650mm.

During the summer months you should be prepared for warm, dry days and cool evenings. In winter, thermal clothing is the order of the day! The Central Otago sun is extremely harsh and sun-screen of factor 30+ is recommended all year round.

Living in Central Otago

Generally, you should allow around \$20,000 per year for living expenses in Central Otago over and above your student fees.

There is a range of accommodation available for students in the Cromwell area. Our staff at Cromwell campus will provide information on accommodation available in the area.

Hostel Accommodation

The Chalets is an unsupervised hostel where you can rent a single room for \$100 per week (minimum rental three months), power included. Students are usually placed together, sharing lounge, bathroom and kitchen facilities. You will need to provide your own bedding and cooking utensils (meals are not provided).

Homestay

There is some accommodation available in private homes. These are usually around \$225 per week, including some meals.

Flating Privately

There are good houses to rent in Cromwell – usually furnished three or four bedroom homes costing between \$85 and \$120 per room per week in rent and \$80-\$100 per week in expenses.

Average weekly rent for 3 bedroom houses (unfurnished):

Central Otago District	\$240
Queenstown	\$400–440
Wanaka	\$340

The rent you pay will be influenced by the area, the condition and size of the property. Homes are generally heated with log fires and/or electric heating including heat pumps.

Electricity is charged for on a monthly basis. Typically, NZ households pay around \$2000 per year for electricity.

Keeping in Touch

Mobile phones and the internet are one of the most convenient ways to keep in touch with home. If your mobile phone uses a SIM card you may be able to buy a new SIM card here in NZ to use in your existing phone.

Example Mobile Phone charges:

180 minutes of calls + 150 Txt messages is approx \$85 per month.

Students are able to use the Polytechnic's Open Access Suite for internet usage. Students often use Skype to communicate with family overseas as this provides verbal contact for free.

Transport

Local transport connections are inexpensive and readily available to Queenstown, Alexandra and Dunedin. There are also plenty of daily flights into Queenstown from the International Airports of Auckland and Christchurch, and direct flights to Australia.

Many students in Cromwell use bicycles to get around or walk, as it is a small town. The campus has several bikes available for student use.

Alternatively you could buy a car. For example:

A ten year old sedan/saloon car can be bought for \$5,000-\$7,000. Petrol is currently around \$1.80 per litre for the average vehicle.

Keeping Fit

Outside of work and study, outdoor activity is key to the Central Otago lifestyle, with fishing, boating, rowing, waterskiing, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, bungy jumping, jet boating, ice skating, and snow sports all easily accessible.

There are four major ski fields within easy driving distance of Cromwell. And, as a student, you can enjoy great rates for ski passes in the winter.

There are local gyms, squash courts, yoga and pilates classes, golf courses, driving range, tennis courts and plenty of walking and biking tracks. The Rail Trail is a popular recreational cycleway easily accessible in Clyde.

Shopping

There are a number of shopping areas in the region, at Alexandra, Cromwell, Queenstown, Frankton and Wanaka.

Cromwell has a good range of shops, including a supermarket, convenience stores, and clothing and homeware retailers.

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