

# Student culture

## Local lingo

University of Otago students earned the nickname 'scarfies' in the period post World War Two when it was popular to wear long scarves in the University colours of blue and gold wrapped around the neck.

## Those were the days...

From the earliest days of the University, capping time has been the source of fun and entertainment for the students. In 1930 however the graduation ceremony turned into a riot. Students filled the organ pipes of the Dunedin Town Hall with flour, let off fireworks and jeered at the speakers. The next year capping was a very controlled affair.

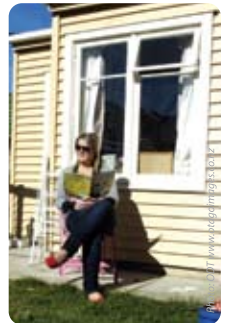
From New Zealand and beyond, in January every year, teenagers in their thousands descend on Dunedin. This annual influx of students adds more than 25,000 additional young people to the population.

For many Otago students, halls of residence (or 'Colleges') are the first taste of what is in store for them over the coming years. Halls provide comfortable surroundings for first year residents with enough supervision to keep 'the olds' happy. That doesn't stop freshers having a great time making new friends, facing new challenges, and having fun! The year starts with Orientation Week. In between pesky stuff like course approval and preliminary lectures, students will attend concerts, parades, toga parties and movie screenings, largely run by the Otago University Students' Association. The rest of the year sees classes, internal assessment and stressful exams surrounded by concerts, parties, rugby games and other organised events. It goes without saying that this year passes in a blur for many students!



Proud residents of Selwyn College

Once the first year is over, 'freshers' become 'second years', and most head out into the exciting (and often cold) world of flatting. In a trait unique to Otago, many will live within the confines of Albany, Great King and Howe Streets and Harbour Terrace for their first year of flatting. Due to these close quarters, there is generally a high level of hi-jinks and pranks at various times of the year. Living costs are kept as low as possible, and this extends from food to power to beverage consumption; lots of mince dinners, sleeping bags to keep warm (no heaters), and drinking cheap booze.



Outside a student flat

Generally, after their second year, students begin to see their impending degrees at the end of the tunnel and hunker down to their final year or years of study.

