



## College Preferences

We understand there is a common misunderstanding about 'first choice, due to prospective students being asked to indicate their top three college preferences when applying for accommodation at the University of Otago. We cannot guarantee that they will be placed in one of those colleges.

The reasons for this may be:

1. Many colleges are very popular, and they cannot usually accommodate everyone who has selected them as one of their preferences; and
2. Heads of colleges have many other factors that help form the college's decision-making process. Aspects such as the following are carefully considered:
  - Your school results.
  - Your school subjects and how they might fit with your proposed course of study.
  - Your confidential school reference (known as the CCRF or Common Confidential Reference Form)
  - Your extra-curricular activities (e.g. sport, cultural, art, music, community service, part-time job, volunteering, etc)
  - Your written reason for selecting a particular college.
  - Your fit or match with the college's ethos (each college has its own carefully developed character)
  - Each college's policy in terms of the balance sought regarding study disciplines and cultural and gender proportions.

It is important to note that all Colleges applied for through the University of Otago offer similarly high levels of pastoral care, tutorial support, and social, sports, and cultural programs. Any of the 15 colleges that you are accepted into, will be the best college for you.