



Personalised guide

Your Graduate Entry Roadmap

Stage 0: Regroup

A personalised guide from Cutline

02

You are here

Six stages, from the HSFY result to the first day of Medicine or Dentistry. The roadmap changes at each one.

0

Regroup

Still in HSFY, or just missed out.
You are here.



1

Choose

Year 1 of a degree

2

Build

Year 2

3

Prepare

Year 3

4

Apply

Graduated

5

Arrive

What comes next

You are still in HSFY, or you have just found out you missed out. A lot of people miss out. Pick a degree that keeps the graduate door open, and look after yourself.

03 Your stage at a glance

Stage 0: Regroup

A lot of people miss out. Pick a degree that keeps the graduate door open, and look after yourself.



Where you are

You are in HSFY, or the results have just landed and they were not what you wanted.

What matters most

Choosing a degree you can do well in, and understanding what the graduate route asks of you.

Biggest trap

Deciding your whole future in the same week the results come out.

Move up when

You are enrolled in a degree, you know how the weighted GPA works, and you are sleeping again.

04 The stage table

Stage 0: Regroup

You are still in HSFY, or you have just found out you missed out. Six areas, what is in the way in each, and what moves you up.

Area	What is in the way	To move up
01 Papers	You have not chosen a degree yet, or you chose one in a rush because it was the first thing on the list.	Pick a degree with papers you can score well in. Check that it leads to 300-level papers you would want to take.
02 GPA	Your HSFY grades feel like the whole story.	On the graduate route, the degree papers are what count. The weights are 0.5 at 100 level, 1.0 at 200 level and 1.5 at 300 level.
03 Tests	UCAT feels like it defined you this year.	For Otago Medicine you sit UCAT ANZ again in your final year. If UCAT is what let you down, you can sit it in Year 2 as a practice run. That sitting does not count toward entry. Otago Dentistry has no UCAT at all.
04 Interview	There is nothing to do here yet.	Otago Medicine has no interview in the Graduate category. Otago Dentistry interviews by Zoom in the year you apply.
05 Timeline	The graduate route feels like a vague someday.	Write the years down. Three years of a degree, with the application going in through eVision during the final year. The 2026 window ran 1 July to 13 August.
06 Wellbeing	Missing out hurts, and it can feel like everyone else got in.	Talk to someone and take the break you need. Make the degree decision with a clear head.

05

The big picture, then the areas that matter at this stage, each in its own section on the pages that follow.



When you hit Stage 0: Regroup

Stage 0 is the regroup. You are either in HSFY right now, or the results have come out and you did not get a place this time. The graduate door is open either way. The road through it is longer, and plenty of students walk it.

The main job at this stage is to choose well. The degree you enrol in next year decides which

papers you take, and those papers become the numbers Otago ranks you on later.

Nobody expects you to have it all planned in the week the results come out. You need a degree, a rough idea of the route, and enough rest to think straight.

1 Choosing a degree

2 Understanding the doors

3 The numbers, stated plainly

4 Looking after yourself

1

Choosing a degree

The graduate category ranks on a weighted GPA built from your degree papers. So the best degree for you is one where you can score highly and stay interested for three years.

- List two or three degrees you could enjoy.
- For each one, look up the 300-level papers it leads to. Those carry the most weight later.
- Ask AskOtago or a course advisor which categories your degree would make you eligible for.
- A degree that sounds medical is not automatically the one you will do best in.

2

Understanding the doors

There is more than one way in, and each door asks for different things. This is what was published when we checked.

- Otago Medicine, Graduate category: UCAT ANZ in the year you apply as a screen, then ranking on weighted GPA alone. No interview.
- Otago Dentistry, Graduate category: no UCAT. A Zoom interview in late September or early October, then the weighted academic score decides.
- Auckland Medicine from 2028 entry: a minimum GPA of 6.0 (B+), then an MMI and the CASPer test instead of UCAT.
- Australia: ten graduate medical schools take applications through GEMSAS, and GAMSAT sits in March and September.
- If UCAT is what let you down in HSFY, plan a practice sitting in Year 2. It does not count toward entry, and the sitting that counts is in your final year. Start preparing for the real one in the year before you sit it.

3

The numbers, stated plainly

These are the two narrowest doors in this roadmap. You should know the size of the door before you spend three years walking toward it.

- Otago Medicine, Graduate category (General), 2025: 24 offers made, 20 accepted.
- Otago Dentistry, Graduate category (General), 2025: 57 interviewed, fewer than five offers made.
- A better plan changes where you sit inside those numbers. It does not change the numbers.

4

Looking after yourself

Missing out on HSFY is one of the harder things that happens to students in this country, and it happens to a lot of them every year. You are allowed to feel it.

- Tell one person how you are doing.
- Take time off before you decide anything. The enrolment deadlines are not this week.
- Stay off the results threads for a while. Comparing yourself with people on a forum will not tell you anything useful.



What success looks like at Stage 0

You have chosen a degree for reasons you can explain, you know what the graduate route asks, and you are sleeping again.

06

Do these each week for the next month and you will be ready for year 1. The same six, every week.

Your weekly focus

**1**

Talk to someone who has walked the graduate route, or to AskOtago.

**2**

Write down two degrees you could enjoy and the 300-level papers each one leads to.

**3**

Read Otago's graduate category page once, slowly. Note anything you do not understand.

**4**

Learn the three weights, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5, well enough to explain them to someone.

**5**

Do something physical that has nothing to do with study.

**6**

Sleep properly at least five nights out of seven.

Print this page, or copy the six lines into your notes, and tick them off on Sunday.

07 Signs

On track

- ☐ You have a shortlist of degrees and can say why each is on it
 - ☐ You can explain the weights and the 360-point selection in your own words
 - ☐ You know which door you are aiming at, or that you are keeping two open
 - ☐ You have talked to at least one person about the plan
 - ☐ You feel like yourself most days
-

The one goal at Stage 0

Start next year in a degree you chose on purpose, knowing what the graduate route asks, with your head clear enough to do the work.

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Needs more work

- ☐ You enrolled in the first degree on the list to make the feeling stop
 - ☐ You still think your HSFY grades are the thing being ranked
 - ☐ You are checking results threads every night
 - ☐ You have not told anyone how it went
 - ☐ You are trying to plan three years in one weekend
-



08 Moving up

You are ready for Stage 1: Choose when

**1**

You are enrolled in a degree
you chose on purpose

2

You know the weights and
how the 360 points are
selected

3

You know which door you
are aiming at

4

You know the three-year rule
for applying

5

You know whether your door
needs UCAT, GAMSAT,
CASPer or none

6

You have rested and you
have people around you

Before you go

Stage 0 can take a few weeks or a whole summer. There is no prize for finishing it fast. Stage 1: Choose starts in the first year of your degree.

09 Outline can help

Cutline can help

This roadmap is free and stays free. If you want more than a PDF, this is what exists now and what is coming. There are no prices in this guide, and there are no promises about outcomes, because nobody can make one.

01**The free Graduate Entry Map**

The rules behind this roadmap in one place, with a source and a date on every fact. We update it when a university publishes new guidelines.

02**The Cutline qbank for HSFY papers**

If you are still in HSFY, the qbank is where students practise each paper one question at a time. Part of it is free every day.

03**The paper plan**

A short written plan for your 200 and 300 level choices, built from your own results and the degree you are in. It opens after Otago results day in December. You are on the waitlist.

04**The enrolment clinic**

A live session in January to get your enrolment right before the semester starts. You are on the waitlist.

05**1:1 time with Dominic**

Dominic received first-round offers for both Medicine and Dentistry through the graduate route in 2026. A small number of 1:1 sessions will open with him, and you are on the waitlist for those too.

We will email you when each one opens. We will not email you about anything else.

[Open the Graduate Entry Map](#)

cutline.nz/postgrad

10 What comes next

Stage 1: Choose

You are in the first year of a degree. Paper choices matter. 100 and 200 level papers are pooled by grade, and your best 300 level papers weigh the most.



Where you will be

First year of your degree. From here, the papers you pass are the papers Otago will rank.

What will matter most

Choosing papers you can score highly in, and lining up the 200 and 300 level papers they unlock.

The trap to watch

Treating first year as a warm-up. In a standard three-year degree, every paper is likely to be selected.

11 A note

A note from Dominic



I remember the week the HSFY results came out. It felt like the only door had shut. It took me a few months to see that it had not.

The graduate route is longer and it asks for steady work over three years. People finish it every year. Pick a degree you can enjoy, look after yourself, and take the next year one semester at a time.

Dominic

Dominic went through the graduate route and received first-round offers for both Medicine and Dentistry in 2026.

12 Sources

Sources

Every fact in this roadmap, numbered, with the source it comes from and the date we checked it. The sources themselves are listed after the facts. Rules change every year, so check the official page before you rely on any of them.

F1	To apply in the Otago Graduate category your first degree must have been completed within the three years before you apply. S1, 23 Sep 2026
F2	For Otago Medicine in the Graduate category, UCAT ANZ is sat in the year you apply and is used as a screen before ranking. S1, 23 Sep 2026
F3	Once the UCAT screen is passed, Otago Medicine ranks Graduate applicants on weighted GPA alone. There is no interview in the Graduate category. S1, 23 Sep 2026
F4	The 2026 application window for Otago Health Sciences professional programmes ran from 1 July 2026 to 13 August 2026. The 2027 dates were not published when this roadmap was checked. S1, 23 Sep 2026
F5	In the 2025 cycle, Otago Medicine made 24 offers in the Graduate category (General subcategory) and 20 were accepted. S3, 23 Sep 2026
F7	Otago Dentistry has no UCAT requirement. Graduate applicants are interviewed by Zoom in late September or early October, and the weighted academic score is the final deciding factor for applicants who meet all the admission criteria. S4, 23 Sep 2026
F9	In the 2025 cycle, 57 applicants were interviewed for Otago Dentistry in the Graduate category (General subcategory), and fewer than five offers were made and accepted. Otago withholds exact counts under five. S3, 23 Sep 2026
F10	Under Otago's weighted GPA method, your best 300-level papers are selected first, up to 120 points. Then your best 100-level and 200-level papers are pooled together and selected by grade, up to 240 points, to reach a 360-point total. Where a 100-level and a 200-level paper have the same grade, the higher-level paper is selected. S1, 23 Sep 2026

12 Sources

Sources, continued

F11	The weights are 0.5 for 100-level papers, 1.0 for 200-level papers and 1.5 for 300-level papers. S2, 23 Sep 2026
F12	The weighted GPA cannot exceed 9.00, because an A+ is 9 points at every level. S2, 23 Sep 2026
F17	From 2028 entry (applying in 2027), Auckland selects Medicine applicants on a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) and the CASPer situational judgement test, replacing UCAT, with a minimum GPA of 6.0 (B+) as a hurdle. Students applying for 2027 entry keep the existing criteria. S5, 23 Sep 2026
F19	GEMSAS is the shared application system for domestic applicants to ten Australian graduate-entry medical schools: ANU, Deakin, Griffith, Macquarie, Melbourne, Notre Dame Fremantle/Broome, Notre Dame Sydney, UQ, UWA and Wollongong. S6, 23 Sep 2026
F20	GAMSAT sits in March and September each year. Registration for the March 2027 sitting opens in November 2026. S7, 23 Sep 2026
F23	2028-entry guidelines were not yet published for every pathway when this roadmap was checked. Where a rule is stated for 2027 entry, we expect 2028 to work the same way but it is not confirmed. S1, 23 Sep 2026
F24	You apply in Year 3, the final year of your degree, through the Otago eVision portal, in the application window (1 July to 13 August in 2026; 2027 dates not yet published). S10, 29 Sep 2026
F25	You sit UCAT ANZ in the final year of your degree (Year 3 of a BSc or equivalent). You can sit it in Year 2, but a Year 2 UCAT does not count toward your entry because it is not in your final year. S10, 29 Sep 2026

12 Sources

Where the facts come from

Rules last checked 23 Sep 2026. Where a rule is only published for 2027 entry, we expect 2028 entry to work the same way, but it is not confirmed until the university publishes it. S10 is a consultant's account of the process rather than an official page, and it is kept separate for that reason.

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- S1** University of Otago, Admissions FAQ for Health Sciences professional programmes
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/faqs-guidelines-for-admission-to-health-sciences-professional-programmes>
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- S2** University of Otago, official weighted GPA calculator workbook (New-Method-Weighted-GPA-Calculation-Secured.xlsx)
https://www.otago.ac.nz/__data/assets/excel_doc/0018/644130/New-Method-Weighted-GPA-Calculation-Secured.xlsx
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- S3** University of Otago response to Official Information Act request 30307 (letter of 26 May 2025 and follow-up of 12 Sep 2025), via fyi.org.nz
<https://fyi.org.nz/request/30307-minimum-median-gpa-for-offers-into-bds-and-mbchb-via-graduate-category-2025>
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- S4** University of Otago, Dentistry admissions guidelines
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/healthsciences/students/professional/dentistry>
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- S5** University of Auckland news, "New undergraduate health programmes to prepare future health workforce", 18 May 2026
<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2026/05/19/new-undergraduate-health-programmes-prepare-future-health-workforce.html>
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- S6** GEMSAS (Graduate Entry Medical School Admissions System), home page
<https://gemsas.edu.au/>
-
- S7** ACER, GAMSAT registration page
<https://gamsat.acer.org/registration>
-
- S10** Confirmed by a Cutline consultant who applied through this route, 29 Sep 2026
 Not an official page. A consultant's account of the process, relayed to Cutline.

Cutline is not affiliated with or endorsed by the University of Otago or any university. This is our opinion based on student experience. Check your paper outline and the official admissions guidelines, which change every year.