

The cover features a solid green background with two large, overlapping circles. The circle on the left is a darker shade of green, while the circle on the right is a lighter shade. The text is centered and rendered in white.

ousa

Budget 2026

Introduction

The Otago University Students' Association (OUSA) provides advocacy and services to students at the University of Otago. The majority of OUSA's funding comes from a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the University. The SLA funding comes from Students and is collected by the University in the form of the Compulsory Student Services Fee (CSSF) to fund both University and OUSA resources and services. To make up the rest of OUSA's operational costs, additional income is derived from a range of student-focused and commercial streams.

Since the Voluntary Student Membership was introduced in 2012, the CSSF, which ultimately funds OUSA, is no longer set by students. The University currently sets this fee, and the proportion given to OUSA is negotiated based off consultation with students. The SLA then forms the basis for OUSA's budget for the following year.

Other income streams include event ticketing, advertising sales and building leases. The majority of OUSA's services are not designed to make a profit. However, the Association actively looks into alternative income streams to strengthen our financial security, in the event that University funding is cut.

OUSA is committed to providing the best advocacy and services for our students. We annually assess our expenditure to ensure students are getting the most from their money. We regularly provide opportunities for feedback the biggest being our annual survey on OUSA services which goes out during second semester.

The budget has been prepared according to the values of OUSA and the interests of University of Otago students.



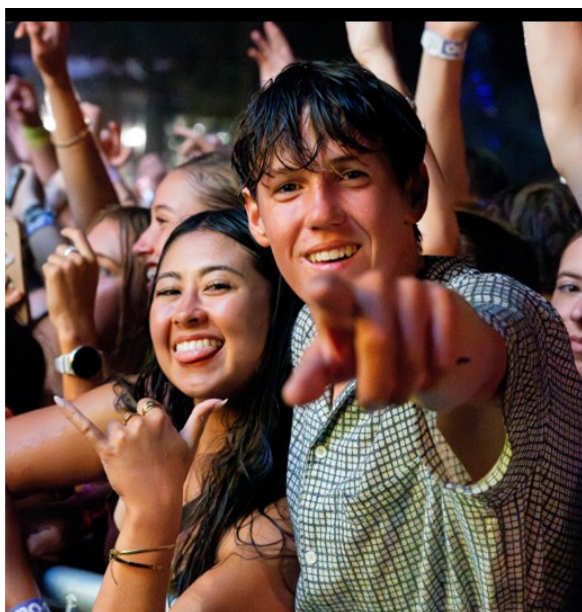
Student Support

Student Support is OUSA's free and confidential service that helps students navigate university life. The Student Support team provide advice and advocacy on tenancy issues, financial hardship, academic disputes, wellbeing, relationships, queer support, and more. Students can access support for matters such as budgeting, food assistance, flatting guidance, or personal challenges.

For 2026, \$740,267 is budgeted for Student Support, an increase of \$36,800 from 2025. This reflects the ongoing demand for these support services, particularly due to cost of living pressures affecting students. Student Support is fully funded by the SLA.



Events



OUSA runs a wide range of events each year that bring students together and shape campus life. These include major traditions such as Orientation Week, Re-Orientation, and the Hyde Street Party, as well as community focused programmes like Volunteer Week, Flatting Week, Speed Flatting, Winter Wellbeing Week, Mental Health Awareness Week, and Diversity Week.

For 2026, \$588,812 is budgeted for Events, an increase of \$47,819 from 2025, supporting both major traditions and smaller programmes that foster community and shared experiences central to student life at Otago. Events are funded by the SLA and ticket sales.

Student Executive

The OUSA Student Executive governs the Association and represents students' interests at university, local, and national levels. It advocates on academic, welfare, and policy issues, ensuring students have a strong voice in decisions that affect their education and campus experience.

For 2026, \$249,976 is budgeted for the Student Executive, a decrease of \$29,196 from 2025. This reflects lower Executive pay over the summer period, when members have historically paused duties, and a reduction in the President's pay to account for University Council remuneration. The change emphasizes accountability for student representatives. The Executive is funded by OUSA's commercial activities.



Clubs & Societies

The OUSA Clubs & Societies Centre is a central part of student life at Otago. In 2024 it welcomed over 166,000 visits and supported more than 160 student clubs across sports, culture, and special interests. The Centre also provides everyday services such as free breakfasts, \$4 lunches, study spaces, recreational programmes, and facilities including hot showers and a sauna.

For 2026, \$919,863 is budgeted for Clubs & Societies, an increase of \$107,800 from 2025. This reflects the costs of maintaining the Centre and continuing to provide facilities, services, and support for students and clubs. Clubs & Societies is funded by the SLA.

Radio One

Radio One 91FM is OUSA's student radio station, operating since 1984. It provides students with a platform to share their voices, gain broadcasting experience, and connect with Dunedin's arts and music scene. The station supports new and emerging artists, offers hands on media training, and delivers independent journalism and diverse programming.

For 2026, \$301,821 is budgeted for Radio One, an increase of \$23,652 from 2025. This increase reflects higher operational costs required to maintain the station's equipment, facilities, and programming. Radio One is funded by the SLA and New Zealand on Air.



Critic Te Ārohi

Critic Te Ārohi is New Zealand's longest running student magazine and a key part of Otago's campus culture. It provides an independent platform for students to share ideas, report on issues, and showcase writing, art, and design. The magazine also offers students hands on experience in journalism and publishing.

For 2026, \$338,212 is budgeted for Critic Te Ārohi, a decrease of \$21,640 from 2025. This reduction reflects printing changes, which lowers production costs while maintaining the magazine's quality and reach. Critic Te Ārohi is funded by OUSA's commercial activities and the SLA.



**OUSA 2026
Budget**

	Department	FY Budget 25		FY Budget 26		Change
Income	University Contribution (SLA)	-\$	4,644,088	-\$	5,165,088	-\$ 521,000
	Planet Media	-\$	197,874	-\$	43,619	\$ 154,256
		-\$	4,841,962	-\$	5,208,706	-\$ 366,744
Expenses	Administration	\$	1,029,648	\$	1,143,546	\$ 113,898
	University Union Building Levy	\$	135,000	\$	120,000	-\$ 15,000
		\$	1,164,648	\$	1,263,546	\$ 98,898
	Marketing & Communication	\$	455,940	\$	468,260	\$ 12,319
	Student Executive	\$	276,972	\$	249,976	-\$ 29,196
	Student Support	\$	703,467	\$	740,267	\$ 36,800
	Events					
	Events General	\$	571,077	\$	606,808	\$ 35,730
	Orientation	\$	23,481	\$	28,205	\$ 4,723
	Hyde Street	-\$	97,720	-\$	90,720	\$ 7,000
	Capping Show	-\$	4,304	-\$	4,959	-\$ 655
	Battle of the Bands	\$	10,374	\$	11,214	\$ 840
	Re:Ori	\$	23,384	\$	21,954	-\$ 1,430
	Future DJ	\$	2,280	\$	2,390	\$ 110
	Art week	\$	12,420	\$	13,920	\$ 1,500
		\$	540,993	\$	588,812	\$ 47,819
	Clubs & Societies					
	Clubs & Societies Centre	\$	675,491	\$	759,075	\$ 83,585
	Aquatic Centre	\$	66,453	\$	86,208	\$ 19,755
	Clubs Development	\$	70,120	\$	74,580	\$ 4,460
		\$	812,064	\$	919,863	\$ 107,800
	Student Media					
	Radio One	\$	333,616	\$	357,267	\$ 23,652
	Critic	\$	359,852	\$	338,212	-\$ 21,640
		\$	693,467	\$	695,479	\$ 2,012
	Depreciation	\$	227,160	\$	283,550	\$ 56,390
	Net Surplus/(Loss)	\$	32,750	\$	1,047	\$ 31,704