OPC Guide & Calendar 2026/2027

General Information

What does OPC Stand for?	Orientation and Preparation Course – a 2-day programme to prepare you for nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand.
How do I book the OPC?	**First exam:** The OPC is automatically booked for you when you book your first OSCE attempt. **Re-Sit:** If you are re-sitting your exam the OPC is an additional charge, you need to select this at the time of booking if you wish to attend again.
When is the OPC?	You will attend the OPC ***before*** your OSCE. The OPC runs for 2 days from 8:30am – 3pm on both days. For more detailed information that relates to your specific OPC & OSCE date follow the guide & calendar on the next pages.

Where is the OPC?	University of Canterbury, Christchurch in one of 2 campuses:
	• Main (Ilam) Campus
	  ○ Rehua Building
	  ○ James Hight Building (Central Library)
	• Dovedale Campus
	  ○ Whekī Building
	
	Check the calendar below for specific campus, building and room locations. Re-check the calendar 1 week prior to your OPC date for confirmed location.
	
	Scroll to the end of this document for full instructions for finding each room.

What do I bring to the OPC	Proof of identity. • Physical/hard copies of your primary and secondary identification. Digital copies or photocopies will not be accepted. • Your primary and secondary identification must match the name you used in your application to the Nursing Council. • For full details see 'proof of identity' in the IQN handbook.
Food Requirements:	You will not be provided lunch.

Important Information:
Not all OSCE dates listed on the calendar will be available to book, check your NMSAC Candidate Portal ncnz.useclarus.com for up-to-date OSCE availability.

Your portal shows all available dates within your eligibility period.
We do not have a waitlist for dates. Dates are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Key					
	No Event		NZ Public Holiday		OPC Running (2 Days, 9am—3pm both days)
	EN OSCE		RN OSCE		OPC & OSCE: It is not possible to complete the OPC & OSCE on the same day.
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2026

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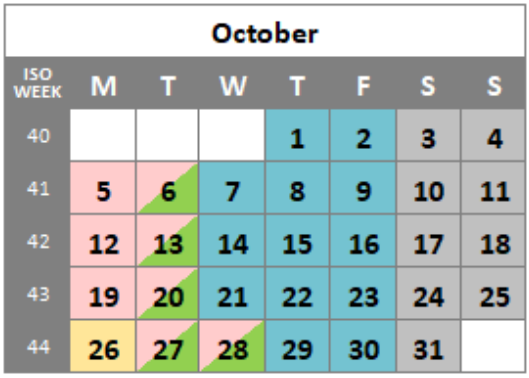
October 2026	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	1, 2, 6 October Thur, Fri, Tue	28 & 29 **September** Monday & Tuesday	**Monday:** **Main Campus** Rehua Building Room 226 **Tuesday:** **Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	7, 8, 9, 13 October Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	5 & 6 October Monday & Tuesday	**Monday:** **Main Campus** James Hight Building Room Undercroft 101 **Tuesday:** **Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	14, 15, 16, 20 October Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	12 & 13 October Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building **Monday:** Room 105 **Tuesday:** Room 451
	21, 22, 23, 27, 28 October Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue, Wed	19 & 20 October Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building **Monday:** Room 451 **Tuesday:** Room 105
	29, 30 October Thurs, Fri	27 & 28 October **Tuesday & Wednesday**	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451

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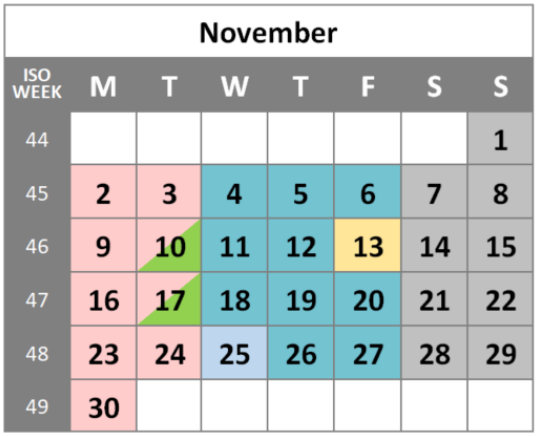
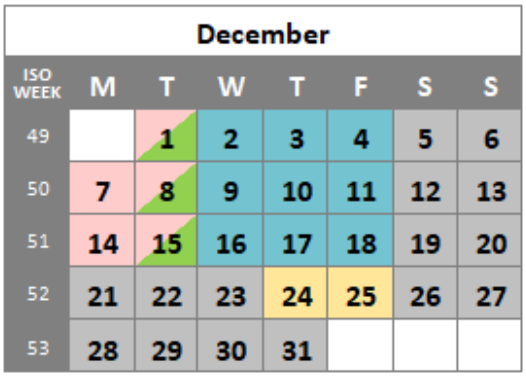
November 2026	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	4, 5, 6, 10 November Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	2 & 3 November Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building **Monday:** Room 451 **Tuesday:** Room 105
	11, 12, 17 November Wed, Thurs, Tue	9 & 10 November Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	18, 19, 20 November Wed, Thurs, Fri	16 & 17 November Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	25, 26, 27 Wed, Thurs, Fri	23 & 24 November Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451

December 2026

December 2026	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	1 December	23 & 24 November Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	2, 3, 4, 8 December Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	30 November & **1 December** Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	9, 10, 11, 15 December Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	7 & 8 December Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451
	16, 17, 18 December Wed, Thurs, Fri	14 & 15 December Monday & Tuesday	**Dovedale Campus** Wheki Building Room 451

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2027

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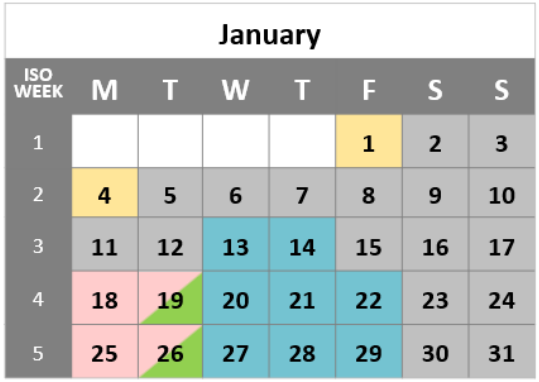
January 2027	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	13, 14, 19 January Wed, Thurs, Tue	**NO OPC** *Candidates must have previously attended the OPC to sit this exam*	**Location TBC** *This document will be updated once location is confirmed, please do not contact NMSAC to request location.*
	20, 21, 22, 26 January Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	18 & 19 January Monday & Tuesday	
	27, 28, 29 January Wed, Thurs, Fri	25 & 26 January Monday & Tuesday	

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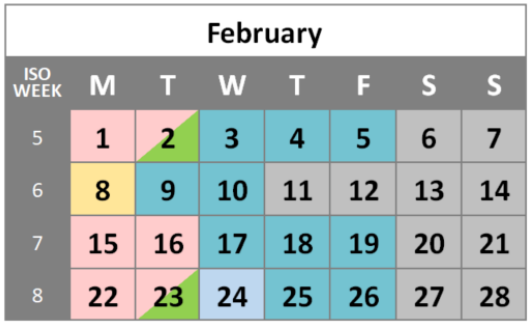
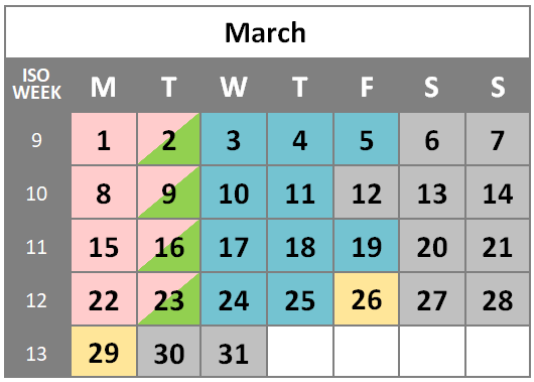
February 2027	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	2 February Tue	25 & 26 **January** Monday & Tuesday	**Location TBC** *This document will be updated once location is confirmed, please do not contact NMSAC to request location.*
	3, 4, 5, 9, 10 February Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue, Wed	1 & 2 February Monday & Tuesday	
	17, 18, 19, 23 February Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	15 & 16 February Monday & Tuesday	
	24, 25, 26 February Wed, Thurs, Fri	22 & 23 February Monday & Tuesday	

March 2027	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	2 March Tue	22 & 23 **February** Monday & Tuesday	**Location TBC** *This document will be updated once location is confirmed, please do not contact NMSAC to request location.*
	3, 4, 5, 9 March Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	1 & 2 March Monday & Tuesday	
	10, 11, 16 March Wed, Thurs, Tue	8 & 9 March Monday & Tuesday	
	17, 18, 19, 23 March Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	15 & 16 March Monday & Tuesday	
	24, 25 March Wed, Thurs	22 & 23 March Monday & Tuesday	

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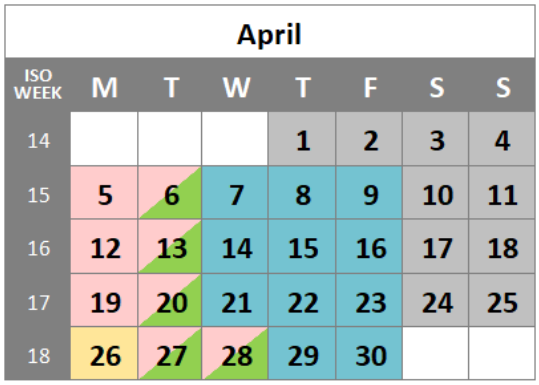
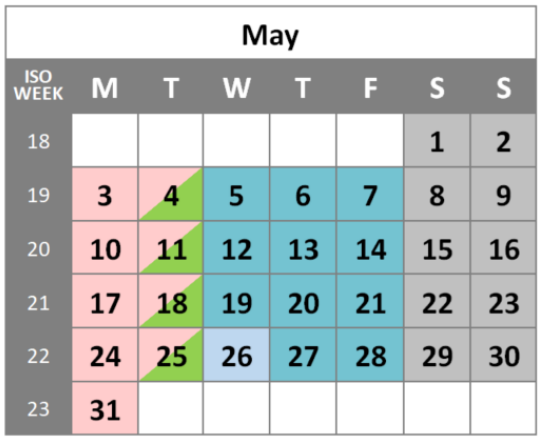
April 2027	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	7, 8, 9, 13 April Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	5 & 6 April Monday & Tuesday	**Location TBC** *This document will be updated once location is confirmed, please do not contact NMSAC to request location.*
	14, 15, 16, 20 April Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	12 & 13 April Monday & Tuesday	
	21, 22, 23, 27, 28 April Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue, Wed	19 & 20 April Monday & Tuesday	
	29, 30 April Thurs, Fri	27 & 28 April **Tuesday & Wednesday**	

May 2027	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	4 May Tue	27 & 28 **April** **Tuesday & Wednesday**	**Location TBC** *This document will be updated once location is confirmed, please do not contact NMSAC to request location.*
	5, 6, 7, 11 May Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	3 & 4 May Monday & Tuesday	
	12, 13, 14, 18 May Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	10 & 11 May Monday & Tuesday	
	19, 20, 21, 25 May Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	17 & 18 May Monday & Tuesday	
	26, 27, 28 May Wed, Thurs, Fri	24 & 25 May Monday & Tuesday	

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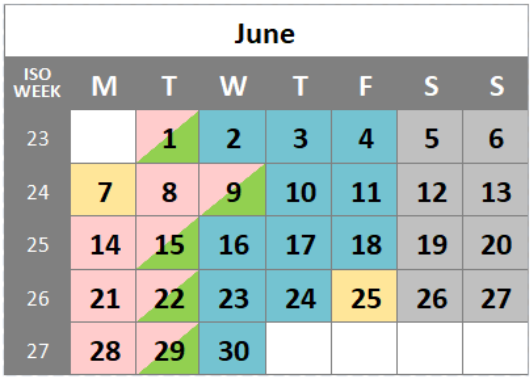
June 2027	OSCE Dates	OPC Orientation	OPC Location
	1 June Tue	24 & 25 **May** Monday & Tuesday	**Location TBC** *This document will be updated once location is confirmed, please do not contact NMSAC to request location.*
	2, 3, 4, 8, 9 June Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue, Wed	31 **May** & 1 June Monday & Tuesday	
	16, 17, 18, 22 June Wed, Thurs, Fri, Tue	14 & 15 June Monday & Tuesday	
	23, 24, 29 June Wed, Thurs, Tue	21 & 22 June Monday & Tuesday	
	30 June Wed	28 & 29 June Monday & Tuesday	

Continue for OPC Campus Building and Room Location Guide

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OPC Campus Building and Room Location Guide

University of Canterbury

Dovedale Campus

Whekī Building

- **Rooms 102, 104, 105 and 106**
  Enter the main entrance of Whekī building and turn to the left past the stairwell through the first set of doors. From here you will see the rooms are numbered, look for the corresponding number.
- **Room 451**
  This is a large classroom located on the fourth floor of the Whekī building. To get to the fourth floor you will need to take either the stairs or the lift, located at the main entrance of the building. Go to the **third** floor.
  When exiting the lift, turn left and go through the door. Once through the door take the stairs or lift on your left up to the **fourth** floor where you will find room 451.

Main Campus (also called Ilam Campus)

Rehua Building

The Rehua building is a newer building and is coloured orange. To find the building enter off Arts Road. Enter the Rehua building through the double sets of double doors, located on the west side of the building.

- **Room 005 and 009**
  These rooms are large classrooms located on the lower ground floor of the building and are labelled with their corresponding room number.
- **Room 226**
  Enter the building and head to the lift, level 2. Exit the lift and go straight ahead. 226 is the large room at the end on the left with ***Te Moana nui a Kiwa*** written on the curve of the wall.

James Hight Building (also called central library)

- **Undercroft 101**
  Located on the ground floor of the James Hight building which is the tallest building on the Ilam campus and is also known as the central library. The best way to find this room is to enter the building from the entrance next to the Café / Chiltons. It is at the back of the building and up a small set of stairs.

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