

# A Short Glossary

## Binary Gender

This means you identify as either a woman or a man. This is different from non-binary genders where someone may identify as neither, both, or somewhere in-between woman and man.

## Cis-Gender

Denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their sex assigned at birth.

## LGBTQIA +

The acronym used to refer to the queer community, with the corresponding letters standing for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual. The plus acknowledges identities that exist that are less commonly talked about and referred to and also acknowledges all cultural and indigenous identities too, for example takatāpui and fa'afafine.

## Pronouns

These are words and language used to refer to someone without using names. In Standard English, some singular third-person pronouns are "he" and "she," which are usually seen as gender-specific pronouns. A gender-neutral pronoun, such as "they," is one that gives no implications about gender, and can be used for someone of any gender. any gender.

## Queer

It's a term used to describe the many variations of sexuality, sex, and gender identity. Used interchangeably in this resource with 'Rainbow' community. This term, while once seen as negative, has been reclaimed and embraced by many members of the community.

# Support

## Uni Q

UniQ Otago provides a social support service designed to meet the needs of Dunedin-based queer and questioning students. We provide safe, queer friendly spaces and regular social events. We run these events through a group collective and are always looking for more help!

[otagouniq@gmail.com](mailto:otagouniq@gmail.com)

## Dunedin Pride

Dunedin Pride Inc. is a new organisation with a vision to create an inclusive and affirming environment for queer/ rainbow communities in Dunedin and surrounding areas.

[dunedinpride@gmail.com](mailto:dunedinpride@gmail.com)

## OUSA Queer Support

We are dedicated to making the University of Otago and the Otago Polytechnic the most inclusive tertiary institutions in New Zealand. Both institutions recognise that sexual orientation and gender identity are not fixed, but are part of what makes us the unique individuals that we are at any given time.

5 Ethel Benjamin Place  
[q.support@ousa.org.nz](mailto:q.support@ousa.org.nz)

[www.ousa.org.nz/support/queer-support](http://www.ousa.org.nz/support/queer-support)

 OUSAQueer

# TOP TEN tips

Rainbow Friendly Spaces  
LBGTQ+ and You

queer  
support

ousa

# Top Ten Tips

## 1. Gender Neutral Language

If you're moving in or hanging out with people you don't know very well, use gender-neutral language, such as "do you have a partner?" or "what is their name?" Hearing that you haven't made assumptions will help other talk more openly about their sexuality.

## 2. Confidentiality

If someone 'comes out' to you, thank them for trusting you. Is this person telling everyone or just you? Ask them about who knows and reassure them that you will keep what they say to yourself. Some people come out to everyone, all at once, others come out in gradual stages, or not at all.

## 3. Pronouns

If you're unsure about someone's gender, ask them how they identify their gender and/or what pronouns they use. Another option is to simply use 'they/them' pronouns until you get to know them. Listen to the language they use to describe themselves and reflect that back.

## 4. Be Consistent

If a flatmate comes out as trans and asks you to start using a different pronoun, do your best to use the correct pronoun all the time, even when they're not in the room. It's easy to slip up at first, but if you do just correct yourself and carry on.

## 5. Boundaries

Check in with your friends about how you can respect their boundaries. Some trans, non-binary, and gender diverse folk experience some levels of discomfort with aspects of their body. Personal space is also something to be mindful of both in platonic and intimate situations.

## 6. Finding Stuff Out

It's great to be curious about another person's identities, but try not to be intrusive. Make sure your flatmate is ok with answering questions. If you lack knowledge about a flatmate's identity and feel uncomfortable asking questions talk with us at Queer Support!

## 7. Humour

Avoid using slurs, overgeneralizations, and making bad jokes about people's identities, even if the particular people you're joking about aren't part of the space you're in. This applies to any and all aspects of someone's identity, including sex, sexuality, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, and more.

## 8. Belonging

If your space is mostly made up of queer identifying people be prepared for cis-gender or straight identifying people to feel a bit left out at times. Remember we all come from different backgrounds and bring with us differing levels of knowledge and experience, and everyone has something positive to contribute.

## 9. Being Supportive

Many people experience mental distress, and rates are high in the rainbow community. Let friends know if you're happy to lend an ear. If someone is experiencing an issue beyond your abilities, support them to seek professional help. Have an open discussion about what problems might arise and strategies for ensuring everyone feels supported and safe in your space.

## 10. Fun

Plan a fun outing or get-together at our queer events such as OUSA Queerest Tea Party, Queen of Hearts, or UniQ's XO party.

## Facts\*

**24.6%** of LGBTQAQ participants were 'out to everyone'  
**50.3%** of LGBTQAQ students had concealed their sexual identity or gender identity to avoid intimidation  
**24.9%** of LGBTQAQ participants experienced harassment on campus compared to 5.9% of heterosexual and binary gender students

\*Treharne, G.J., Beres, M. Nicolson, M., Richardson, A., Ruzibiza, C., Graham, K., Briggs, H., & Ballantyne, N. (2016). Campus climate for students with diverse sexual orientations and/or gender identities at the University of Otago, Aotearoa New Zealand. Available at: [www.ousa.org.nz/support/queer-support/resources-2](http://www.ousa.org.nz/support/queer-support/resources-2)