



TopUniversities.com

How to **STUDY ABROAD** in

New Zealand



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Slightly larger than the UK but with a total population of just 4.5 million (compared to 65m in the UK), New Zealand is famed for its stunning natural landscapes, multicultural society, and laidback approach to life.

If you're keen on outdoor pursuits, seeking a cosmopolitan setting, and have a penchant for rugby/wine/seafood, then New Zealand could be the study destination for you.

Recent statistics show New Zealand is attracting a growing number of students from across the world, with a 12% boost in international student enrolment reported between January and August 2014 compared to the previous year. Some 100,000 foreign students now study in the country, and national agency Education New Zealand aims to increase this by more than 40,000 by 2025.

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The nation is famed for its large areas of natural beauty, from lush green forests and lakes, to rocky fjords, expansive beaches and awe-inspiring mountains. Students with a taste for adventure will certainly find plenty to explore, including the 'Great Walks' hiking trails and all kinds of sports – from skiing to surfing and bowls to bungee jumping. And what New Zealand lacks in human population, it more than makes up for in terms of varied and interesting wildlife, including the distinctive kiwi bird which is the official national symbol.

New Zealand's eight universities are spread across its two main islands – from the multicultural melting pot of Auckland in the north down to the Scottish-influenced and student-centered Dunedin in the south. All eight are featured in the QS World University Rankings®, offering a good selection for prospective international students. If you think New Zealand student life could be for you, read on to find out what steps to take next.

Higher education in New Zealand

With a strong emphasis on research and personal development and a student satisfaction level of between 87% and 92% in the International Student Barometer, New Zealand offers a very successful higher education system. In recent years, the nation has seen a significant increase in international student enrolments, thanks not only to the high quality of living and education, but also following relaxed restrictions on student visas. In 2014 alone, there was a 19% increase in the number of student visas approved (a total of 13,896), compared to 2013.

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In part due to its history as a former British colony, New Zealand's higher education system is very similar to the European system. Tertiary qualifications run from certificate to doctorate level, progressing through diploma, bachelor's, and master's levels along the way. Typically, a bachelor's degree will take three or four years to complete and a master's degree one or two years, while a PhD program takes up to four years. The option of a fast-track master's degree, which takes less than one calendar year to complete, is also growing in availability and popularity.

As well as a selection of public and private universities, New Zealand also offers around 600 private training schools, for specialized foundation and diploma qualifications. Other options include studying at a 'Wānanga' – Maori-led tertiary institutions unique to New Zealand – or at one of the 18 Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs), which cater to around 157,000 students and offer more vocational degrees and diplomas.



Top universities in New Zealand

The highest ranked university in New Zealand in the **QS World University Rankings® 2015/16** is the **University of Auckland**, at joint 82nd in the world. A further seven New Zealand universities feature, with the **University of Otago**, **University of Canterbury** and **Victoria University of Wellington** all among the world's top 300.

Admission requirements & applications

The process of applying to study in New Zealand varies, with specific guidelines provided by individual institutions. In most cases, you can submit your application online, but some institutions require hard copies of documents to be sent by post.

Generally, you will be asked to submit relevant academic documentation, providing proof of qualifications completed.

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Language requirements

If you are not a native English speaker, you will be asked to provide proof of proficiency in English, either by submitting language test results (e.g. TOEFL or IELTS), or demonstrating that you've studied in English previously.

Student visas

Student visas are required for all full-time students from outside of New Zealand or Australia, who wish to study in the country for longer than three months. Part-time students are only eligible for a visitor visa.

In order to apply for your student visa, you must submit the official application form (online or on paper) to Immigration New Zealand (INZ), along with proof of acceptance to an NZQA-approved university, a valid passport, proof of medical and travel insurance, evidence of sufficient funds to cover living costs (see below), a police certificate, a medical check (for certain students only) and a return flight ticket (or proof of sufficient funds for this).

Your student visa will last for a maximum of four years, depending on the length of your course, after which you will need to apply for a graduate visa in order to stay in the country.



Working while you study

Recent reforms to visa requirements mean that it is now easier for international students to work while they study in New Zealand. All English language students studying for one year or more are now able to work part-time during term time (up to 20 hours a week) and full-time during official holidays. Master's and PhD student researchers are granted unlimited work rights.

Tuition fees, living costs & funding

Undergraduate students at universities in New Zealand can expect to pay tuition fees of NZ\$18,000-25,000 (US\$13,180-18,300) annually, while postgraduate students can expect costs upwards of NZ\$40,000 (US\$29,280) per year. International PhD students pay the same fees as home students, which are comparatively low. At the University of Auckland, for example, current annual PhD fees stand at NZ\$6,503 (US\$5,089).

Living costs in New Zealand will depend on where you're based, with the highest costs found in capital Wellington and largest city Auckland. While these are the costliest places to live within New Zealand, both cities are nonetheless relatively affordable from a global perspective.

If you are unsure as to whether you can afford these costs, be sure to research the range of funding opportunities for international students, offered by the government, external organizations and individual universities.

As a guideline, you should aim to budget NZ\$20,000-25,000 (US\$14,760-18,430) per year for living costs, equating to a weekly budget of NZ\$380-480 (US\$280-350). To apply for your student visa, you'll need proof of at least NZ\$17,000 (US\$12,530) to cover expenses.

If you are unsure as to whether you can afford these costs, be sure to research the range of funding opportunities for international students, offered by the government, external organizations and individual universities. For more information, visit the New Zealand Aid Programme website or search your chosen university's website to see if you are eligible for funding.



New Zealand consistently comes out near the top in ratings of the world's best places to live and highest quality of life. It has an appealing climate, stunningly beautiful natural landscapes, and cities which are modern and multicultural.

Find out more about life in some of New Zealand's top student cities:

AUCKLAND

On the east coast of North Island, Auckland is New Zealand's largest city and home to its highest-ranking university, the **University of Auckland**. Auckland is known for its especially multicultural community, and (though this is true of the whole country) for the wide range of high-adrenaline activities available in and around the city. Jet-skiing, canyoning, surfing, abseiling, bungee-jumping, snowboarding, climbing, diving – you get the idea. Or of course you might choose to simply relax on the beach!

The city is also home to **Auckland University of Technology** and several institutes of technology and polytechnics, while **Massey University's** Albany campus is less than 20km north of the city center. Auckland itself is ranked 18th in the 2016 edition of the **QS Best Student Cities index**.

WELLINGTON

On the south coast of North Island, Wellington is the capital city of New Zealand. It's believed by some to be more aesthetically attractive than rival Auckland (we'll let you make up your own mind), and offers a good selection of culture, cuisine and nightlife within a relatively compact area. And of course, stunning natural scenery is never far away in New Zealand – here, you'll find beaches, forests, islands, hills and vineyards all within easy reach.

Wellington's higher education institutions include **Victoria University of Wellington** and one of **Massey University's** three campuses, as well as several institutes of technology and polytechnics. The University of Otago has a medical school here, and the New Zealand School of Music (run jointly by Victoria University of Wellington and Massey University) is also based in Wellington.





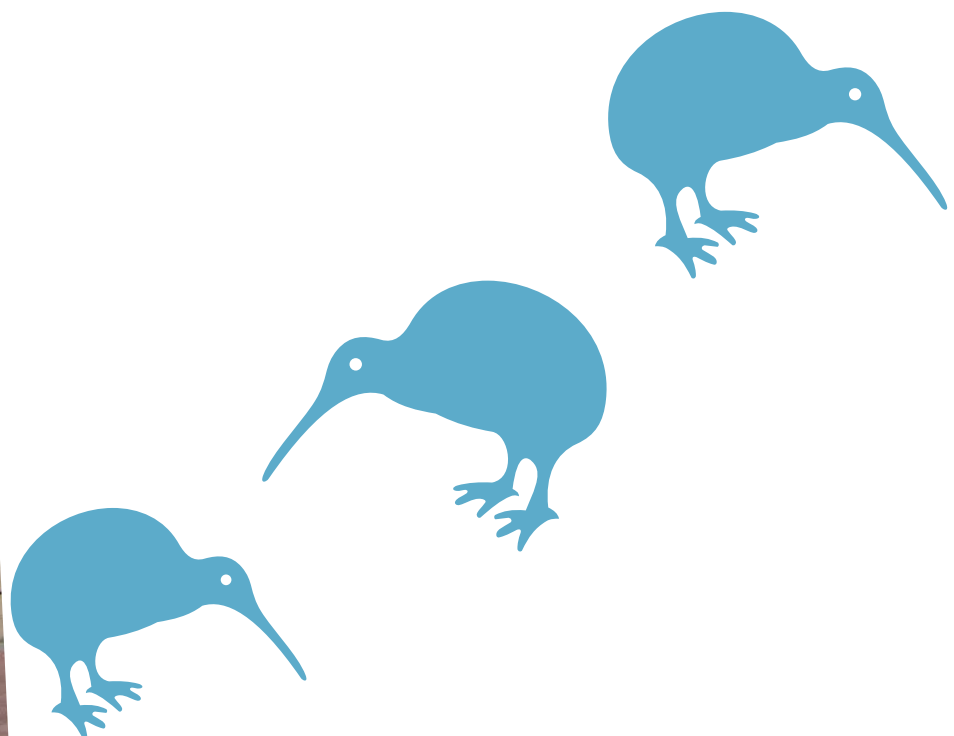
CHRISTCHURCH

Located on the east coast of South Island, Christchurch is the largest city on the island and the third most-populous urban area in New Zealand. In recent years, Christchurch has undergone major redevelopment projects, following damage from earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, and the general consensus seems to be that it's just as lively as before the natural disasters struck. Marketing itself as the 'Garden City', Christchurch prides itself on its large areas of public parkland and picturesque river banks, as well as its thriving arts and cultural scene. And yes, since this is New Zealand, you'll find the usual broad selection of outdoor pursuits.

Universities in Christchurch include the **University of Canterbury** (New Zealand's third highest-ranked) and **Lincoln University**, as well as a selection of specialist colleges, many of them private.

DUNEDIN

The second-largest city on the South Island, Dunedin is the main city in the Otago region, located on the east coast about 300km (190 miles) south of Christchurch. Formerly New Zealand's largest city (until around 1900), Dunedin retains a leading position in the country's culture, and is a major student hub, as the site of New Zealand's second highest-ranked and oldest university, the **University of Otago**. The city is also distinctive for its Scottish heritage (the name Dunedin comes from the old Gaelic for Edinburgh), and the legacy of its past Scottish settlers lives on – from whisky-stocked bars to a special tartan and haggis ceremony.



Working in New Zealand after graduation

In order to stay in New Zealand after graduation to look for work, you'll need to apply for a post-study work visa (formerly known as the graduate job search visa). You must do this within three months of completing your qualification, or within six months for PhD graduates. With this visa you will be entitled to a year's stay in the country in order to find a job, with eligibility to apply for an additional visa of two to three years once you get hired.

As well as having completed an accredited academic program in New Zealand, you will also need to provide proof of funds to cover your 12-month stay in New Zealand while seeking work (a minimum of NZ\$4,200, equivalent to around US\$3,120, is required). The job you undertake should show relevance to your qualification.

Key industries contributing to New Zealand's economy include agriculture, horticulture, forestry, mining and fishing.

As for career opportunities, New Zealand provides many prospects within its cities, as well as more rural areas. Key industries contributing to New Zealand's economy include agriculture, horticulture, forestry, mining and fishing. The nation is also reporting high demand for skilled graduates in specialized professional sectors such as healthcare, engineering, IT, construction, science, finance, education and hospitality.



More questions?

Want to find out more about studying abroad in New Zealand?
Ask a question in our [international student forum](#).

