

Study Abroad in New Zealand



Study Abroad in New Zealand

2014 Edition

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Disclaimer

Study Abroad in New Zealand was written to offer an overview of the various opportunities available to international students in New Zealand (NZ). While it does not replace the expertise of immigration lawyers, it does provide an individual with background information regarding various types of New Zealand educational programs; the basic procedure involved in applying for a Student Visa for New Zealand; and other details that prospective international students may find of interest.

Although the author and publisher believe the information in this e-Book to be accurate on the date of its publication, the reader should be aware that information about educational programs in New Zealand and the regulations and other details of New Zealand's government related to international students, Student Visas to New Zealand, immigration to New Zealand, employment opportunities in New Zealand, and so forth, are subject to change at any time without warning. It is up to the reader to make sure that the information is accurate and up to date. The author and publishers shall not be held liable for any damage suffered directly or indirectly due to the use of this guide.

Introduction

New Zealand (NZ) is a Western democracy located in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Australia. This incredible country consists of two large islands (North Island and South Island) plus several smaller islands and is divided into 16 regions and one territory. It has an area of 267,710 square kilometers, which is smaller than Japan, a bit larger than the United Kingdom, and comparable to Colorado in the United States (except imagine Colorado with its rugged mountains, pine forests, pristine lakes, and ski slopes also being bordered on all sides by beautiful beaches and dotted with scenic sailboat-filled harbors).



Despite being similar to Japan and the UK in size, New Zealand only has a fraction of their populations. For example, New Zealand has around 4,467,280 people (90% of whom live in the cities), compared to approximately 127.8 million people who live in Japan and 62.6 million individuals who reside in the UK. Thus, with a very low population density of about 16 people per square kilometer, New Zealand has less stress on its abundant

natural resources and plenty of room to accommodate newcomers to this amazing country. Therefore, if you are looking for a peaceful, pristine environment in which to study abroad, New Zealand may be the place for you!

In fact, New Zealand has become one of the top destinations for international students from around the globe. In 2012, for example, there were 92,995 overseas students studying abroad in New Zealand, including 24,412 from China (i.e., the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong SAR); 11,349 from India; 9,990 from South Korea; 9,563 from Japan; 9,351 from member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), such as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; 8,817 from countries in Europe (specifically, from the Czech Republic, Germany, France, Italy, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom); 4,900 from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE); 4,026 from Latin America (specifically, from Brazil, Chile, Columbia and Mexico); 2,226 from North America (i.e., Canada and the United States); and 7,098 from various other countries throughout the world.

Why are so many foreign nationals traveling all the way down to the scenic South Pacific to study in New Zealand when they could simply study in their home country, their own region or elsewhere around the globe?

For many people who want to study abroad, New Zealand's education system is very attractive because it has a lot of flexibility and support to provide students with a variety of options to meet their individual interests and personal goals. Foreign nationals who study in New Zealand are also shown Manaakitanga ("hospitality") and this friendliness toward newcomers is very appealing to many international students and draws them to study in New Zealand. Besides that, it doesn't hurt that wherever you choose to study in New Zealand, you'll always be relatively close to beautiful beaches, scenic forests, majestic mountains, or great places in New Zealand's incredible cities where you can spend time with new friends or take a study break by yourself. In sum, if you are granted a New Zealand Student Visa and attend school in this island paradise, you can receive an excellent education and experience one of the best times of your entire life!

As you consider your options as an international student, especially concerning studying in New Zealand, you may have many questions, such as:

- What types of educational programs are available in New Zealand?
- How can you obtain a New Zealand Student Visa?
- Does New Zealand have work options available for international students?
- Can your family members join you in New Zealand?
- What opportunities are available after graduating from an educational program in New Zealand?

This e-Book was written to answer many of the questions that prospective international students often have concerning living, studying and working in New Zealand. It is intended to offer you a good overview of the alternatives available to international students in New Zealand and the processes involved in order to realize those opportunities - to assist you in making an informed decision about your potential overseas educational options.

We truly hope that you will find this e-Book informative and interesting. It is our goal that by the time you finish reading through it, you will have a better understanding of possible educational options available for you in New Zealand, what you may expect in this process and that you will look forward to the adventure of a lifetime that may await you in this friendly, laidback, scenic country.

Educational Opportunities

New Zealand's Top-Notch Education System

If you want to receive an excellent education in one of the most amazing countries on Earth, you will want to consider studying abroad in New Zealand!



According to New Zealand's government, "Our education system values both academic and practical, skill-based achievements. Young people are encouraged to be questioning, flexible and to seek their own answers. Add in a healthy dose of outdoor recreation and sport plus a safe learning environment, and you've got a great recipe for producing resourceful and confident young adults."

This statement is supported by others who agree that New Zealand has one of the best education systems found anywhere in the world. For example, the 2012 Legatum Prosperity

Index, which evaluated 142 countries around the globe on various factors such as economy, education, governance, health, opportunity, personal freedom, safety and social capital, ranked New Zealand in first place for education.

In 2013, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Better Life Index declared, “New Zealand is a top-performing country in terms of the quality of its educational system. The average student scored 524 in reading literacy, math and science in the OECD’s Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). This score is higher than the OECD average of 497, making New Zealand one of the strongest OECD countries in students’ skills.”

Universities in New Zealand are also considered among the top institutions of higher education on Earth. For example, the 2013 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) included the University of Auckland, Massey University, University of Canterbury, and Victoria University of Wellington among the top 500 universities in the world. In the 2012 Times Higher Education World University Rankings, Auckland University, Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Canterbury, University of Waikato and Massey University were included among the world’s top 400 institutions of higher education.

In another respected evaluation of global leaders in higher education, US News & World Report considered the University of Auckland to be the 83rd best university in the world; the University of Otago was ranked #133; the University of Canterbury was #221; Victoria University of New Zealand was #237; Massey University was #308; and the University of Waikato was rated as the #374 best university out of the thousands of institutions of higher education found around the globe.

What do international students themselves say about studying abroad at universities in New Zealand? The International Graduate Insight Group (i-graduate) surveys international students around the globe regarding their perceptions of the study abroad programs they are attending. In its International Student Barometer (ISB) for 2011, the International Graduate Insight Group (i-graduate) surveyed 5,886 international students in New Zealand in March-May 2011, 59% of whom were studying for a Bachelor’s Degree, 22% for a Master’s Degree

and 15% for a Doctoral Degree. In August 2011, they reported the following results:

- 75% of all foreign students attending educational programs in New Zealand said that they chose not to apply to study abroad in any other country
- 75% of respondents stated that the New Zealand Student Visa process was “very important” or “important” in their decision to apply to study in New Zealand
- 74% of students from other countries said that potential long-term employment opportunities in New Zealand were a key factor in applying to study abroad there
- 88% of overseas students said that they were satisfied with their arrival experience when they came to New Zealand
- 86% of international students stated that they were satisfied with their first night in New Zealand (i.e., traveling to their destination, accommodations, etc.)
- 82% of students from other countries reported that they were pleased with their “accommodation condition” when they arrived in New Zealand
- 91% of foreign students said they were pleased with the ease of opening a new bank account in New Zealand
- 89% of overseas students stated that they were satisfied with their university orientation held at the start of their educational program in New Zealand
- 87% of international students were satisfied with the organization of their courses
- 91% of overseas students were pleased with the quality of course lectures
- 91% of foreign students were satisfied with the level of safety in New Zealand
- 79% of international students would recommend their university in New Zealand to other people

As you can see, a variety of researchers from around the globe and an overwhelming majority of international students living in New Zealand agree that New Zealand has a top-notch education system. When its world-class education system is considered in combination with its spectacular scenery and friendly, relaxed culture, it is easy to understand why nearly

100,000 international students choose to study abroad in New Zealand each year!

Educational Structure in New Zealand

Since New Zealand is located in the Southern Hemisphere (i.e., south of the Equator), the seasons and school-year are different (i.e., occur at the opposite time of the year) from what is normally found in the Northern Hemisphere, such as in North America, Europe and Asia. Thus, the four-term school-year typically begins in February in New Zealand, with the first term running from early February to the middle part of April; after a two-week break, the second term usually begins at the end of April and goes until the early part of July; following another two-week holiday, the third term normally starts in the middle part of July and lasts until late September; after a two-week break, the fourth term tends to begin in the middle of October and continues until half-way through December when the six-week “summer vacation” occurs.

Seven of the eight universities in New Zealand have two semesters in their school year, with the first semester typically starting the first week of March and running until the last half of June and the second semester beginning around the third week of July and lasting until mid-November.

“Summer vacation” (and the third trimester, in the case of Victoria University of Wellington) often goes from sometime in late November until the first week in March.

All children in New Zealand are required to attend school when they are six-years-old (but normally start school when they are five-years-old) and continue attending school until they reach age sixteen when they complete secondary/high school. New Zealand provides children with free public education at state schools, but many parents choose to send their children to religious-based “state-integrated” schools or to private schools (which normally charge tuition). Furthermore, all children (residents and non-residents, regardless of visa type) who are three or four years of age may receive 20 hours of free early childhood education per week.

The education system in New Zealand is structured as follows:

- Primary School Education – ages 5-13 years of age
- Secondary/High School Education – ages 13-16 years of age
- Tertiary School Education – ages 16 and older

According to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), “Tertiary education is any form of learning that happens after completing secondary education. It may be study or training at a tertiary education organization, or training in the workplace... Tertiary courses range from transition programs (school to work), practical and academic courses, through to postgraduate study and research. There are also lots of trade, technical and business qualifications you can get on the job through workplace learning.”

As of 2013, New Zealand has eight universities which are located in Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Hamilton and Wellington, plus 20 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) which are found across New Zealand in its major cities and most key provincial municipalities. New Zealand also has over 700 private training establishments (PTEs) and several English language learning schools (including approximately 25 English New Zealand member schools which are all NZQA-approved).

Tertiary educational programs in New Zealand are categorized into 10 “levels” (Level 1 being the lowest level and Level 10 being the highest level) and are grouped according to the major awards/qualifications that can be granted upon completion of the educational program:

1. Certificate (levels 1 to 4)
2. Diploma (levels 5 and 6)
3. Bachelor’s Degree, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate (level 7)
4. Postgraduate Diploma/Certificate and Bachelor’s Degree with Honors (level 8)

5. Master's Degree (level 9)

6. Doctoral Degree (level 10)

In general, certificates and diplomas tend to be awarded for short-term, focused courses usually taught at private training establishments (PTEs) or other schools. Vocational degrees are normally awarded after completion of educational programs at institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) or some of the larger private training establishments (PTEs). Higher education degrees (e.g., Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate) are granted by universities in New Zealand upon successful completion of the educational program.

There are 20 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) throughout New Zealand. According to the NZQA, an ITP “delivers technical, vocational and professional education. They also promote research, particularly applied and technological research, that aids development.” The length of educational programs at an ITP will depend on such factors as the level, award/qualification granted (i.e., certificate, diploma or degree), and other factors, but will often last around 12 weeks, 17 weeks, 20 weeks, 34 weeks, one year, 68 weeks, two years or three years.

Examples of ITP educational programs, awards/qualifications and course lengths include: Certificate in Information and Communications Technology (17 weeks); National Certificate in Banking (17 weeks); Certificate in Health Studies (32 weeks); Certificate in Mental Health and Addiction (34 weeks); Diploma in Social Services (34 weeks); Certificate in Early Childhood Studies (34 weeks); Certificate in Professional Restaurant, Wine and Bar Service (34 weeks); Certificate in Film and Television (34 weeks); Diploma in Information Systems Development (34 weeks); Diploma in Digital Photography (34 weeks); Certificate in Media Communication (34 weeks); Certificate in Outdoor Recreation (34 weeks); Certificate in Carpentry (34 weeks); Certificate in Automotive Heavy Engineering (34 weeks); Certificate in General Engineering (34 weeks); Diploma in Accounting (one year); Diploma in Marketing (one year); Diploma in Computer Aided Design (one year); Diploma in Interior Design (one year); Certificate in Sport and Fitness (one year); Diploma in Computer Networking (two years); Diploma in Fashion Technology and Design (two years); National Diploma in Hospitality Management (two years); Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (three years).

These are just some of the many vocational and other educational programs available at ITPs in New Zealand along with common timeframes for completing the educational programs. Please note that course offerings and the length of time of required for completion of ITP educational programs may vary among the institutions.

Examples of the 20 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) found across New Zealand include: Aoraki Polytechnic; Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT); Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT); Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT); Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT); Northland Polytechnic (Nortec); Otago Polytechnic; Southern Institute of Technology; and the Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec).

New Zealand has eight world-class universities that international students may choose from. Five of these institutions of higher education are located on New Zealand's North Island, while three of these universities are found on the country's South Island. On the North Island, the University of Auckland and AUT University are both in Auckland; Massey University has three campuses which are located in Auckland, Palmerston North and Wellington; Victoria University of Wellington is found in Wellington; and Waikato University is located in Hamilton. Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury are both found in Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island, while the University of Otago is situated further south in Dunedin.

International students may select from hundreds of university degree programs in New Zealand. All eight New Zealand universities offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as other educational options, although certain degrees or majors/fields may only be available at particular universities. A Bachelor's Degree usually takes three years to complete in New Zealand, but some students will study four years in order to earn a Bachelor's Degree with Honors. The Master's Degree from a university in New Zealand requires one or two years of study beyond the Bachelor's Degree. A Doctorate Degree, such as the PhD, normally takes a minimum of 3-4 years to complete after a student has first received at least a Bachelor's Degree. All eight universities in New Zealand offer foundational educational programs to help students who need extra preparation prior to

starting a university degree program, as well as intensive English language courses.

There are various scholarships, grants or other financial assistance available to foreign students approved to study abroad in New Zealand. Sometimes, the university will have a limited number of scholarships available to eligible international students, while New Zealand's government also offers scholarships to many foreign students from certain countries through its [New Zealand Aid Program Scholarships](#). International students from any country who are applying for a PhD program in New Zealand may want to also apply for the [Education New Zealand Scholarships](#). Overseas students from the British Commonwealth countries may be eligible to apply for the [Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Plan \(CSFP\)](#). Additionally, international students may be able to receive scholarships, grants or other financial assistance from sources in their home country.

It can pay (literally) to do some research about what scholarships, grants or other financial assistance one may be eligible to apply for and to apply prior to the deadlines (and before limited funds have already been awarded). Please note that there is usually a lot of competition for these scholarships, grants or other financial assistance that may be available to eligible international students and there is no guarantee that one will receive financial aid. Thus, an international student (or their family) should be prepared to pay for their overseas educational program and other expenses during their stay in New Zealand. As will be discussed later, international students will be required to provide New Zealand's government with "proof of funds" as part of the NZ Student Visa application process. There may also be work options for overseas students while they are living in New Zealand, which will be explained in the following pages.

Whether you want to learn a vocation, improve your English language skills or earn a university degree, you can receive a top-notch education in New Zealand - and have a great time in the process!

Applying for a Student Visa

It is important to note that there are some cases in which a New Zealand Student Visa is not required. For example, someone who is a citizen of New Zealand or Australia does not need a NZ Student Visa. An individual who has a Permanent Resident (PR) Visa to New Zealand is also not required to have a NZ Student Visa. Additionally, a person possessing a PR Visa to Australia or an Australian Resident Return Visa will not need a Student Visa to New Zealand unless there are conditions on either one of these documents, in which case a NZ Student Visa will be required. Furthermore, foreign nationals who want to attend short-



term educational courses lasting less than three calendar months in New Zealand will not normally need a Student Visa. These are the major exceptions to the rule, but there may be other cases in which a NZ Student Visa is not required for a foreign national to study abroad in New Zealand.

Please note that an international student's spouse/partner or children may not be included on the NZ Student Visa application and will instead be required to apply for a NZ Visitor's Visa, Multiple Entry Work Visa or other visa type, as appropriate.

In general, noting these exceptions, if you want to attend an educational program in New Zealand that lasts more than three months, you will likely need a NZ Student Visa. The educational institution that you want to attend in New Zealand must have signed the Ministry of Education's Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students (assuming that you will be paying educational fees to the school and that your study abroad program will last more than two weeks). New Zealand's government states, however, that foreign exchange students who will be attending an educational program in New Zealand under three months in duration as part of a "reciprocal exchange scheme" that is administered by an "Exchange Program Organization" will not be required to attend an educational institution that has signed the Ministry of Education's Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students.

NZ Student Visa Requirements

Before you may apply for a Student Visa to New Zealand (NZ), you must first be accepted to attend a university, college, ITP or other "approved" school in New Zealand (i.e., an educational program that New Zealand's government considers eligible for the purposes of issuing a Student Visa). In most cases, as noted above, an educational institution in New Zealand that is considered "acceptable" by New Zealand's government for the purposes of issuing a Student Visa will have signed the Ministry of Education's Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students. A key reason for this requirement is that New Zealand's government wants international students to have a positive experience during their study abroad program and the educational institution, of course, plays a major role in helping this to occur.

Regarding tertiary education providers, New Zealand's government further states that private training establishments (PTEs), polytechnics (ITPs), wanangas, colleges and universities may only offer to international students approved courses that are longer than

three months and registered with the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). The tertiary educational institution must also be accredited by the NZQA to offer the approved course for international students to attend.

For international students who want to attend university in New Zealand, there is a general requirement that they possess adequate English language skills (an exception to this rule may occur for those attending an English language learning program at the university). A minimum score of 6.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam is normally necessary for first-year (undergraduate) university students or a minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS exam for graduate students, however, international students may want to consult with the university that they are interested in attending to confirm their particular English language requirements.

If you apply to an educational institution in New Zealand and are accepted to attend an approved study abroad program, you will need to obtain a “confirmation of enrollment” (COE) or “offer of place” from the school (these are two terms commonly used for an “acceptance letter” from an educational institution in New Zealand).

The COE/offer of place must specify: the name of the educational institution, as well as its address, phone number, FAX number and email address; the full name of the international student (with the family name/surname underlined) and the student’s current address; the course name and the minimum amount of time that will be required to complete the course; the start date for the course; the year of study (e.g., first year student) and type of study (e.g., tertiary); if you will be a full-time or part-time student; proof that the educational institution meets the requirements of New Zealand’s government for international students including those detailed in the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students; the amount of the course fee(s), whether these are domestic or foreign course fees, and whether you have paid your course fees.

According to New Zealand’s government, the COE/offer of place “must also include a declaration from the provider that an assessment has been carried out (or will be if not already done so) to ensure that you meet the competencies required for the course and

that the course matches your career intentions.” Finally, the COE/offer of place must be signed by the appropriate representative of the educational institution. Other details may be required.

After you have been accepted to attend an approved study abroad program in New Zealand and have received this required documentation, you may then file your application for a NZ Student Visa.

In addition to receiving a COE/offer of place from an eligible educational institution for an approved study abroad program, you and any family members who accompany you (if applicable) must also meet health and character requirements for entry into New Zealand. The health requirements are designed to protect the public health of people living in New Zealand and “to ensure that people entering New Zealand do not impose excessive costs and demands” on the country’s “health and special education services” as well as to make sure that international students are actually able to conduct the studies for which they have been issued a NZ Student Visa.

In general, this means that applicants who have certain communicable diseases such as tuberculosis (TB); require expensive medication or medical treatments (such as dialysis); need residential care; or require “high-cost disability services” will normally not be granted a New Zealand Student Visa. A medical exam and chest x-ray and related documentation may be required for the international student and all family members who will accompany them to New Zealand (if applicable). There are some exceptions to this general rule regarding a medical exam or chest x-ray, depending on where one has lived or other variables. Please note that this is an overview of the health requirements for a New Zealand Student Visa and other criteria may apply, plus New Zealand’s government may update its regulations at any time.

Applicants for a New Zealand Student Visa must also prove that they have “good character” in order to protect the public safety of people living in New Zealand. According to New Zealand’s immigration law (sections 15 and 16 of the Immigration Act), foreign nationals who have “been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for 5 years or more” (even if the

offense or offenses were removed from the official record) and also foreign nationals who have been convicted and sentenced to serve 12 months imprisonment during the past 10 years, will not be allowed entry into New Zealand. Someone who has been deported from New Zealand or another country, involved in terrorist activities or “belonged to or supported any organization involved in terrorist activities,” or who is believed to be likely to engage in criminal or drug offenses in New Zealand may also be prevented entry into the country.

International students who are over 17 years of age and want to attend a study abroad program in New Zealand, plus all family members above 17 years-old who will accompany the international student to New Zealand (if applicable), will be required to provide police certificates to prove their “good character” plus New Zealand’s government will conduct its own “character check.” Please note that this is a summary of the character requirements for a New Zealand Student Visa and other criteria may apply. Furthermore, New Zealand’s government may update its regulations at any time.

International students and all family members who will accompany them to New Zealand (if applicable) must have adequate health insurance while living in New Zealand. Although students from overseas do not need to provide proof of adequate insurance when they file their NZ Student Visa application, they will need to confirm on their Student Visa application that they intend to get the required insurance. In many cases, international students may be able to obtain the required insurance through their educational institution in New Zealand. Please note that New Zealand’s government may update at any time the regulations regarding requirements for international students and their accompanying family members to obtain health insurance.

New Zealand’s government also requires international students to provide proof that they plan to leave New Zealand (and have the ability to do so) after their study abroad program is over. For example, a student from overseas may need to show evidence that they (and any family members who may accompany them, if applicable) have a valid return airline ticket to their home country or to another country for which they will have legal authorization to travel when their educational program in New Zealand is completed. If they do not have the return airline ticket, they may be able to use funds held in New Zealand over the amount

required for their education and living expenses as proof of their intent and means to depart New Zealand after they finish their study abroad program.

It should be noted (and will be discussed later) that in some cases, international students may have an opportunity to apply for other visa options that could allow them to work and live in New Zealand after their study abroad program is over.

On a related note, another requirement for being issued a Student Visa to New Zealand is having a valid passport or other travel document that is acceptable to New Zealand's government. The passport or other acceptable travel document must be valid for at least three months after the date when the international student's travel abroad program is completed. Any family members who accompany the international student to New Zealand will also need to have a valid passport or acceptable travel document that is valid at least three months after the international student completes their educational program in New Zealand.

New Zealand's government has stated that a key requirement for being granted a Student Visa is that you provide satisfactory evidence that you can pay for the cost of your educational program and other living expenses while you are studying abroad in New Zealand. Proof of Funds may include the following: having sufficient funds in New Zealand (either yours or on your behalf); possessing an acceptable bank draft, enough cash, a "recognized credit card" with adequate credit, or traveler's checks for the appropriate sum; a "financial undertaking" to pay for your living expenses and other costs; receiving acceptable sponsorship to pay for your living and other expenses; or access to financial assistance made available to you in New Zealand through governmental aid programs. The amount of financial resources that New Zealand's government will require you to demonstrate you have access to depends on various factors, including:

- If your educational program in New Zealand is less than nine (9) months: you must provide evidence that you have the financial resources available to pay \$1,250NZ (New Zealand Dollars) during each month that you are residing in New Zealand, minus any advanced payments made for your living expenses (you must document such pre-payments).

- If your study abroad program in New Zealand will last over nine (9) months: you must provide evidence that you have the financial resources available to pay \$15,000NZ (New Zealand Dollars) per year to cover your educational and various living expenses while you are residing in New Zealand, minus any advanced payments made for your living expenses (you must document such pre-payments); OR, in the event that you are a Samoan or Tongan citizen, you may provide a guarantee in writing from your family member who is a citizen of New Zealand or a Permanent Resident of New Zealand stating that they will pay for your living expenses (if applicable).

Additionally, two color passport-sized (45mm X 35mm) photos done according to the standards established by New Zealand's government will also be needed for your NZ Student Visa application.

There is also a Student Visa application fee that must be paid to New Zealand's government.

Please note that there may be other requirements or documents needed to file your New Zealand Student Visa application and that New Zealand's government may make changes to its Student Visa criteria at any time without notice.

All of the required documents requested by New Zealand's government for the evaluation of your NZ Student Visa application must be included when you submit your application or New Zealand's government will return your Student Visa application to you unprocessed.

Any documents required for your NZ Student Visa application that are not originally written in the English language must be accompanied with a full English translation done according to the standards specified by New Zealand's government.

As a client of AbroadEd, you can benefit from the expertise and many years of experience of the AbroadEd legal team which can evaluate your eligibility to apply for a NZ Student Visa based on the most recent regulations and assist you through each step of the application procedure to make sure everything is done properly and in a timely manner.

Live, Study & Work in New Zealand

Being issued a New Zealand Student Visa can provide an international student and their eligible family members with many great opportunities, including the legal right to live, study and work in New Zealand. It may also open the door to future immigration to New Zealand, depending on various factors, such as one's education, work experience, job skills, the needs of businesses in New Zealand for skilled foreign workers in particular occupations, and so forth. As the holder of a valid New Zealand Student Visa, you will have both responsibilities to meet and also many privileges to enjoy. In this chapter, we will first summarize the general responsibilities for NZ Student Visa holders (and any eligible family



members who accompany them, if applicable) and then discuss several of the excellent benefits that international students (and their eligible family members, if applicable) may have access to while living in this amazing country.

Responsibilities While Living in New Zealand

While studying abroad in New Zealand, it is important that you comply with the conditions of your NZ Student Visa. For example, you must attend the educational program that is specified on your NZ Student Visa and be able to demonstrate that you are meeting the requirements for attendance and for passing the course. In the event that you would like to change your educational provider or educational program, you must apply to New Zealand's government to do so. International students who are required to live with a guardian (such as overseas students who are minors) must live with their guardian. As will be discussed later, international students are often permitted to work in New Zealand, but they must do so according to the conditions specified in their NZ Student Visa. You and any family members who accompany you must have adequate health insurance during the entire time that you are living in New Zealand. International students must, of course, obey the law in New Zealand and leave the country by the time required after they complete their study abroad program (unless they receive permission to stay in New Zealand through another visa option).

Please note that there may be other responsibilities not listed here. If you have questions or are not sure about your rights and responsibilities as the holder of a valid NZ Student Visa, you can usually ask someone at the educational institution you will be attending who is trained to help international students. You might also check with New Zealand's government, which has stated that it wants international students to feel welcomed and to enjoy a positive and safe study abroad experience in New Zealand.

New Zealand Student Visa Benefits

International students also receive several great benefits with their NZ Student Visa, such as being able to live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. As New Zealand's government has declared, "Every country has a certain amount of natural beauty to boast about. New Zealand just happens to have more, lots more." If you study abroad in New Zealand, you will have easy-access to countless outdoor activities which can be enjoyed in the temperate climate of this magnificent country that possesses such stunning variations

in geography, ranging from beautiful beaches to rugged mountains blanketed in snow. In New Zealand, it is quite possible to both sunbathe at the beach and hit the ski slopes – all in the same day!

New Zealand was one of the last areas on Earth to be settled by humans, meaning that during its long period of isolation, it developed a phenomenal biodiversity in both plant and animal life. To protect this natural beauty and biodiversity for current residents and visitors and preserve it for future generations, over one-third of New Zealand is protected parkland and marine reserve, offering a huge variety of spectacular sites to see. This includes 14 national parks scattered across the country (four in the center of the North Island and 10 spanning the length of the South Island) which offer residents and visitors great opportunities to go camping, hiking, backpacking, fishing and otherwise relax in some of the most unspoiled, pristine wilderness areas in the world. Hence, if you love nature and are granted a New Zealand Student Visa, you will have endless opportunities to enjoy the Great Outdoors while also receiving an excellent overseas education.

Not only is New Zealand a beautiful location to live, it is also one of the safest countries on the map. In 2011, the Global Peace Index evaluated 150 countries in terms of the risk people faced of becoming the victims of violence and it assessed New Zealand to be the 2nd safest place on the planet (after #1 Iceland). Similarly, the well-respected HR consulting firm, Mercer, declared the two largest cities in New Zealand, Auckland and Wellington, to be tied as the 9th safest cities on Earth in its 2011 Personal Safety Survey. Accordingly, the New Zealand government has summarized the significance of this designation as follows: “In terms of day-to-day living it means that you and your family can expect to walk or cycle the streets, play in playgrounds, catch public transport and generally do the things you want to do free of fear. Kids can be kids longer, and adults can feel comfortable going about their daily business.” Many people want to study in another country and experience a different culture, yet, they also want to feel safe while living in a foreign land. So, if this is an important factor for you when you study abroad (as it is for many international students), New Zealand would be a safe choice for you to consider.

In addition to Auckland and Wellington being some of the safest cities on the planet, they

have also been distinguished as being among the “Most Livable Cities” found anywhere on the globe. In 2012, the highly-esteemed Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) examined 140 cities from around the world and assessed them based on a variety of key criteria (such as healthcare, infrastructure, stability, environment, culture and education) and found New Zealand’s largest city, Auckland, to be the 10th “Most Livable City” on the map. A separate evaluation of 221 cities was also completed in 2012 by Mercer, which used 39 factors (such as healthcare, education, environment, safety, culture and recreation) in conducting its “Quality of Living Survey,” and it ranked Auckland as the #3 “Most Livable City” on Earth. In Monocle’s 2012 “Most Livable City Index,” which examined such criteria as safety, medical care, international connectivity, climate, public transportation, access to nature, urban design, business conditions, and tolerance, Auckland was scored as being the 9th best city on the map.

Although they utilized a variety of factors in their evaluations of the world’s best cities in which to live, the pattern that becomes apparent from these three assessments by highly-respected experts is that New Zealand is considered to have some of the safest and most livable cities to be found anywhere on the face of the Earth. It is not surprising, therefore, that the life expectancy in New Zealand (80.71 years) is among the highest around the globe. Consequently, if you want to experience a high standard of living when you study abroad, New Zealand is hard to beat.

Part of what makes cities in New Zealand so “livable” and attracts thousands of people from across the world to apply for a New Zealand Student Visa is that there is so much to see and do, whether relaxing at the beach, sailing on the sea, kayaking in the harbor, visiting its excellent museums, enjoying a concert, picnicking at the park, or spending time with friends or family at some of the many “happening” restaurants, cafes or pubs. And don’t forget the spectacular South Pacific sunsets. If you are approved to study in New Zealand, you may find that life is rather relaxed, but it’s definitely not boring! Those who study abroad in New Zealand have plenty of interesting places to visit and enjoyable activities to experience in this amazing country’s incredible cities and scenic natural areas.

For example, if you are issued a student visa, New Zealand’s spectacular city of Auckland

(located on the northeast coast of the North Island) awaits. Auckland is New Zealand's largest city (population 1,377,200) and offers a host of interesting places to enjoy, including: the Auckland Museum; Otara Market; Hauraki Gulf and its 47 beautiful islands (such as the popular Waiheke Island) where one can spend the day at the beach, sailing, kayaking, picnicking, bird-watching, enjoying a relaxing meal at seaside restaurant, or pay a visit to one of the fabulous wineries. Among other attractions are: the Auckland Zoo; Sky Tower (including Sky Walk and Sky Jump); Waitakere Ranges; Auckland Art Gallery; Auckland Museum; Bethells Beach; Nikau Cave; Rangitoto Island; great views of the city from Mount Eden and One Tree Hill; Auckland Domain; and great shops, restaurants, and bars to enjoy in the Viaduct Harbor and Parnell districts.

New Zealand's capital city of Wellington (population 395,600, as of 2012) is distinguished as being the southern-most national capital of any country on Earth and is found at the southwestern tip of the North Island. Some of the key attractions found in New Zealand's capital city include: the museum of New Zealand; Southward Vintage Car Museum; Zealandia; spectacular views from atop of Mount Victoria and Mount Kaukau; Wellington Botanical Garden; Staglands Wildlife Reserve; Parliament and Government House; Dowse Art Museum; Carter Observatory; Otari-Wilton Botanical Garden; St. Paul's Cathedral; St. Mary's of the Angels Church; Oriental Bay; Scorching Bay; Museum of Wellington City; Somes Island; the Wellington Zoo; and don't forget to check out the restaurants, cafes, and pubs in the Cuba Street area.

Situated on the northeast coast of New Zealand's South Island is Christchurch (population 363,200, as of 2012), which has been referred to as the "Garden City." The South Island of New Zealand is famous for its opportunities to enjoy nature, and this is also the case in and around Christchurch at such scenic locations as: the Banks Peninsula (great for hiking and kayaking); the Christchurch Botanical Garden; Hagley Park; Willow Bank Wildlife Reserve; Orana Wildlife Park; Lake Pukaki; Church of the Good Shepherd (overlooking beautiful Lake Tekapo); Pegasus Bay Winery; Marlborough Vineyards; and the exciting Adrenaline Forest. Outdoor enthusiasts will also enjoy the several national parks and other wilderness areas scattered across the South Island of New Zealand. Popular indoor activities in Christchurch can be found at the Court Theater (in its new building and location in the Addington area); Canterbury Museum; and the Air Force Museum, to name a few.

As you can see from all of the above, if you are looking for a great country in which to study abroad, New Zealand offers you a friendly, scenic, safe place with a myriad of marvelous things to do (when you're not studying, of course)!

Another great benefit of receiving a NZ Student Visa is, of course, having access to New Zealand's world-class education system. As discussed earlier, several universities in New Zealand have been ranked by various experts as being among the best institutions of higher education found anywhere around the globe. You may also train for a vocation at one of New Zealand's 20 institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs) or perhaps at some of its larger private training establishments (PTEs). For those who want to learn the English language in an English-speaking country, New Zealand offers international students a scenic, safe, welcoming environment in which to improve their English language skills. In many cases, international students who attain higher English language abilities and who meet other criteria are able to then go on to attend universities or ITPs in New Zealand, which can unlock excellent job possibilities. Thus, whether you want to take your English language skills to a high level, attend primary or secondary school as an exchange student, receive vocational training for any number of exciting occupations, or earn an undergraduate or graduate degree from university in one of hundreds of career fields, it would be a challenge to find a better location to study abroad than New Zealand.

Although the primary reason for being issued a Student Visa to New Zealand is to be able to attend an overseas educational program there, New Zealand's government may also authorize you to work up to 20 hours per week during the academic year "to meet a course requirement for practical work experience" if you meet certain criteria, which may include the following:

- You are attending a full-time educational program in New Zealand at a "private training establishment or tertiary institution" that requires at least two years for completion; or
- Completion of your full-time educational program in New Zealand will result in you obtaining a qualification that could make you eligible to receive points according to the Skilled Migrant Category; or

- You are attending an educational program in New Zealand full-time that lasts at least six months at either a tertiary institution (such as a university) or a “private training establishment” (such as an authorized English language learning school); AND you had an overall band score of at least 5.0 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam at the time you filed your Student Visa application; AND the New Zealand immigration official is convinced that the main reason for attending this particular educational program in New Zealand is to help you improve your English language skills; or
- You are attending a full-time study abroad program in New Zealand when you are in the years 12 or 13, as long as you have written parental consent from your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) AND have written permission from your school; or
- You are a full-time international student attending an educational program in New Zealand that lasts at least 12 months in duration AND it is the Christmas-New Year holiday time period.

According to New Zealand’s government, if your study abroad program is over 12 months in duration and is a full-time educational program, you may be able to apply for a “variation of conditions” when you complete your NZ Student Visa application which could authorize you to “work full-time during the Christmas and New Year holiday period at the end of each academic year.”

Furthermore, if you have been issued a Student Visa to New Zealand to attend an educational program that will culminate in a qualification of 7 or more in a field where there is an “absolute skill shortage” as defined by the Long-Term Skill Shortage List, or if your study abroad program leads to postgraduate qualifications, your spouse/partner (if applicable) may be able to apply for a Multiple Entry Work Visa to New Zealand and may be able to receive permission to work for any employer in New Zealand.

These are just some of the many benefits available to international students and their eligible family members while they are living in New Zealand. Attending a study abroad program in New Zealand can be one of the best experiences in a person’s life, as though they are on a long-term vacation to one of the world’s top tourist destinations – except that the international student also receives a top-notch education that can benefit them during the rest of their life.

Opportunities After Graduation

There are many opportunities available to you and your family members after you complete your educational program in New Zealand. The education received in New Zealand can give you many tools for success in life, including enhanced career options. You can also establish new relationships while studying abroad in New Zealand that can last a lifetime and may even give you future networking possibilities. In addition to the knowledge attained and the new friends made, studying abroad in New Zealand may also change you as a person, simply by living in a different country and culture and being exposed to a diversity of individuals and ideas from around the globe.



After you finish your study abroad program in New Zealand, you will have various choices to make, including where and how to use your education. Most international students will return to their home country and either seek employment there or perhaps enroll in further educational or training programs. Others enjoy studying abroad so much that they decide to apply for additional international educational programs or maybe even search for

employment in another country. Many international students “fall in love” with New Zealand and want to live and work there long-term.

Additionally, you may be able to work in New Zealand after you complete your study abroad program there if you meet certain criteria, such as:

- receiving an offer of employment that is relevant to your qualifications and the educational program you completed successfully in New Zealand if that educational program took at least three years to finish or it would qualify for points according to the Skilled Migration Category; or
- if you did not received an offer of employment, but you were successful in completing a qualification during your study abroad program in New Zealand that would “qualify for points according to the Skilled Migrant Category, for a maximum of six months, to transition from study, to work, to residence with a Graduate Job Search Visa.”

New Zealand has one of the best business climates in the world, with the key sectors of the economy categorized (2011) as Services (70.7%), Industry (24.5%), and Agriculture (4.8%). With an unemployment rate of 6.4% (August 2013) and a proven track record of businesses growing and flourishing (even during the recent global economic downturn), New Zealand offers endless opportunities for skilled immigrants and residents to prosper in their careers.

Business confidence in this island country reached a 10-year-high in 2012, with businesses saying that they expect to increase employment in the future. In fact, between June 2011 and March 2012, New Zealand’s government approved residence for 28,674 people (including 15% from the UK, 14% from China, 13% from India, 8% from The Philippines, 7% from Fiji, and 6% from South Africa), 13,265 of whom received approval in the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC), with 92% of these SMC residents being “approved with a job or job offer in skilled employment,” according to New Zealand’s government. New Zealand’s government has also reported that now is an excellent time for people from around the world to find work in New Zealand, especially if they have the qualifications and experience for high-demand skills. They state that “there are 11 key areas of work where skills are very definitely needed” (information that those wishing to study in New Zealand may want to consider when

they choose their major/field of study). These high-demand skills are in: healthcare; health technology; information technology (IT); agriculture and forestry; construction; education; engineering; science; oil and gas; tourism and hospitality; as well as finance and business.

Wages and salaries offered to employees working in New Zealand are among the best in the world. For instance, for the quarter ending March 31, 2012, the average hourly wage in New Zealand was \$26.59, which translates to an average annual income of \$52,000 for someone working regular full-time hours. A couple examples of hourly wages for jobs in New Zealand include financial accountants (who made \$35-50/hour) and contract Java software developers (who earned \$70-90/hour). Examples of recent average annual salaries (which vary based on experience and other factors) for some occupations in New Zealand include: early childhood teacher (\$34,000-\$60,000); medical receptionist (\$35,000-\$60,000); interior designer (\$40,000-\$55,000); social worker (\$40,000-\$60,000); speech therapist (\$45,000-\$70,000); civil engineer (\$45,000-\$110,000); paramedic (\$55,000-\$70,000); pharmacist (\$55,000-\$85,000); dentist (\$60,000-\$100,000); and physician – general practitioner (\$100,000-\$150,000). These examples are provided simply to help illustrate that many jobs in New Zealand pay well. There are, of course, many factors that can affect how much one might earn, such as education, work experience, job skills, location, demand, state of the economy, etc.

Don't think, however, that it's "all work and no play" in New Zealand! "Kiwis" receive around four weeks of paid holiday per year – enough time to enjoy what this incredible country has to offer, be it sunbathing, swimming, surfing, sailing, skiing, hiking, picnicking, or camping (there is plenty to choose from). The social welfare system is also available to provide assistance if needed. One really couldn't ask for better working conditions than are available in New Zealand. Thus, if you are granted a NZ Student Visa, New Zealand may be a good option for you after graduation, especially if your education and jobs skills are in high-demand.

Conclusion

International students have a variety of options to choose from for receiving an excellent overseas education in New Zealand. Whether you're seeking a university degree, training for a vocation, or want to improve your English language skills, New Zealand has much to offer international students in terms of receiving a quality education while enjoying a high standard of living in the process. Furthermore, spending time as an international student in New Zealand may also help prepare you for possible immigration to New Zealand in the future.

When it comes to exploring your educational options for New Zealand, there are many factors to consider, including:

- What type of educational program (i.e., university, vocational, English language courses, etc.) to apply for
- Which specific educational program (i.e., which school) to apply to
- Taking the steps necessary to be accepted to an educational program
- Meeting the requirements to be issued a New Zealand Student Visa

The experts at AbroadEd can simplify this procedure for you. Our legal team, with over a decade of experience in this field, can create a basic educational profile for you that will inform you of your options for studying in New Zealand; provide you with a specific evaluation based upon your eligibility and personal preferences; and offer you individualized professional assistance in applying for your chosen educational program and securing your New Zealand Student Visa.

Hopefully, this e-Book has given you a better understanding about various educational options available in New Zealand and the amazing life that may await you in this scenic South Pacific island paradise!