



NELSON  
COLLEGE

# International Students Pre-Departure Information



TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ

## **Nelson City**

Nelson is a small picturesque city with a population of just over 40,000 people. It is famous for its year-round sunshine, long golden beaches, national parks, locally grown produce and freshly caught seafood.

More specific detail can be found on this website (Nelson Tasman Tourism).

<https://www.nelsontasman.nz/>

## **New Zealand Climate**

Nelson has 4 distinct seasons, a hot and dry summer (December – February), a cooler autumn (March – June), a clear and crisp winter (July – September) and a mild and moist spring (October – December). In summer the temperature can get to 30 degrees centigrade and in winter can get as low as -1 to -2 degrees.

## **Nelson College**

This single sex boys' school is the oldest state school in the country. There are approximately 1100 boys attending from the age of 11 through to 18 years old. Nelson College is aligned with the NCEA (National Certificate Education Achievement) assessment system run by NZQA (New Zealand Qualification Authority). There is a large number of subjects that you can chose to study during your time with us. Depending on your year group there are subjects that are compulsory and some subjects which you can select.

## **Arrival in New Zealand**

Nelson Airport is a regional hub with great links to the International airports located in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Make sure that you send us the details of your flights so that we can arrange for you to be picked up at Nelson Airport by one of the Nelson College International Team. Auckland Airport has two terminals (Domestic and International). It is an easy transfer to move between the two terminals. If you are not sure that you can make the transfer without assistance then please let us know. We can contract our partners (OK Welcome) [www.oknz.co.nz](http://www.oknz.co.nz) to pick you up and help you with the transfer.

## **Boarding**

Nelson College has two identical historic boarding houses (Barnicoat and Rutherford) that have been recently renovated to modern standards. These houses hold up to 75 boys in each of mixed year groups. Boarding students have 3 meals a day provided in the Dining Room which is handily located between the two houses. Also, students have access to medical care in our Sanitorium. You will be looked after in the boarding house by a housemaster, a matron and several tutors. There are several rules to follow around safety (signing in and out when you leave the school grounds), bedtime and keeping your allocated area clean and tidy. There are many boarding events which take place during the year, you will also have the opportunity to play social or competitive sport and go on cultural trips.

## **Homestay**

We try to match you carefully with a host family. We get applications from host families in the community. Before we arrange a contract with them we visit their home and do several formal safety checks on them to make sure they are suitable to host international students. You will have your own room with a bed, desk, chair and heater. It is common for families in New Zealand to share a bathroom. Your host family will help you with your washing, will cook meals for you and help you with transport. Students may be expected to help with household chores. There will also be household rules to follow around bedtimes, internet use and length of time in the shower. These rules will vary between families. If the relationship between the student and the homestay does not work out then we will do our best to move you to a suitable family. Homestay boys eat lunch in our dining room with the boarding students.

## **A typical school day**

The day generally starts at 7am when most people get out of bed. School starts at 8.45am every day except Thursday (9am start). There is a registration class (homeroom) followed by two academic classes (1 hour each). Interval lasts 25 minutes and then there are two more academic classes. Lunch goes for 50 minutes and is followed by the last academic class of the day. The final bell goes at 3.15pm. Afterschool there is the opportunity to socialise, play and/or train in sport or practise music. The evening meal in New Zealand varies between families but usually

happens around 6pm. Bedtime for the average teenager is around 9-10.30pm depending on their age.

## **Transport**

The public transport system in Nelson is not very advanced as the size of the city means that there is not much need. There is a public bus which is run by the local council. Information can be found here <http://www.nelson.govt.nz/services/transport/nbus/about-nbus/>

Sometimes your host family (homestay) will be able to help you with transport or you might need to organise something yourself. Biking is an easy and cost-effective way to get around. Boarding students live 10 minutes' walk from the city.

## **Internet**

The school has full wifi areas that you can access throughout the classrooms and the boarding houses. When you arrive, we will connect your devices to the network so that you can communicate with home and use the internet as a study aid. You are not welcome to download large files such as games and movies. In homestay, your family may have rules around the amount of time you are allowed to spend on the internet.

## **SIM Card**

We have some free SIM cards that we can give to students on arrival to provide them with a NZ cellphone number. The provider is called 2degrees, a full schedule of plans and benefits available can be found on: <https://www.2degreesmobile.co.nz/mobile/prepay/>

## **Money**

New Zealand has pretty much become a cashless society. We can setup a New Zealand bank account for you upon arrival as we have a relationship with Westpac bank. If you chose to get a bank account you will be issued with a EFTPOS card (electronic debit card). This can be used to purchase anything, pretty much all shops accept payment this way.

## **Pocket Money**

Pocket money is a personal decision to make between the student and his family. If the family chose to supply Nelson College with a lump sum we can pay pocket money into the student's personal Westpac account each week. Most students get between \$30-\$50 a week. You can get an idea about cost of living in Nelson here <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Nelson>

## **Working in New Zealand**

You are allowed to work up to 20 hours a week if you are studying in year 12 or 13. You will need to submit a variation of conditions form which is available in the International office along with a letter from your parents giving you permission to work. The fee to apply for a variation for conditions is approximately \$200.

## **Driving**

International students are not allowed to own or drive a car whilst studying at Nelson College. You are allowed to learn to drive through the guidance of a licensed practitioner.

## **Smoking**

New Zealand overall has a strong anti-smoking stance as a country. You are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school grounds and in many public areas in the city. The legal age that you can buy and smoke cigarettes in New Zealand is 18 years old. You are also not welcome to use electronic cigarettes (vaping) on school grounds.

## **Travel and Medical Insurance**

It is compulsory for all international students in New Zealand to have travel and medical insurance that covers them for the whole time they are away from home. This means that every time you go to the doctor you can claim back the costs of your appointment and medication costs. If you break or damage any electronic goods (phone, laptop etc) we can help you claim back on insurance for the cost of it to be repaired as long as you have a receipt of purchase.

## **Outdoor Education**

If you're planning on taking Outdoor Education, most specialist equipment will be provided by

the school. We do recommend you bring your own tramping boots and a waterproof jacket if you have one. Thermal underwear will also be useful although this is not very expensive to buy in New Zealand if you can't fit it in your suitcase.

### **Year 10 Camp**

All year 10's will have the opportunity to go on a week-long Outdoor Education camp to Matakītaki Lodge. The boys complete a multi-day walk in a beautiful alpine environment. The lodge is fully resourced including walking boots, sleeping bags, tents and rucksacks.

### **Uniform**

We will provide you with most items of school uniform when you arrive in New Zealand, however there are a few items that you will need to bring from home or purchase when you arrive. This includes plain black shoes, and a belt (if necessary)

### **Orientation**

When you first arrive, you will have a 2-day orientation programme hosted in our international building. In this programme you will tour the school, complete some testing (Mathematics and English), choose some subjects (if applicable), receive a timetable, get some uniform and learn about Nelson College and New Zealand rules.

### **NCEA**

NCEA (National Certificate of Education Achievement) is New Zealand's national assessment system run by NZQA (New Zealand Qualification's Authority). The system allows for internal (in the classroom) and external (end of year examination) assessment and is very flexible allowing students lots of choice of subjects and choice of how they present their work. You can find out more about the system here <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/>

### **Holidays**

The New Zealand school year consists of 4 terms. Term 1 runs from late January until early April, Term 2 from late April until early July, Term 3 from late July until September and Term 4

from October to December. Senior students (sitting NCEA examinations) finish classes in November so that they can take their examinations. Between these terms there are 3 term breaks for 2 weeks (April, July and September). Students can use these breaks to travel or relax.

Term Dates for 2023 are:

Term 1 – 31<sup>st</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> April,

Term 2 – 24<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June

Term 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> July to 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Term 4 – 9<sup>th</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> December

### **Musical Instruments**

If you own a musical instrument and plan on taking lessons while you're here, consider bringing your instrument with you (depending on how big it is). In many cases, the cost of hiring an instrument in New Zealand is similar to the cost of paying a little extra to fly with it, and the instrument you hire may not be of the same quality you are used to.

### **Homestay Families**

We recommend contacting your homestay families before departing for New Zealand. They are excited about meeting you and often appreciate the opportunity to connect with you and your family.

### **Laptops & Devices**

In 2016, Nelson College became a 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) school. It is recommended that you bring your own laptop or surface device. You can bring a tablet; however, the school does not recommend them as they are not as useful for school work. The College provides students with free access to our primary software (Office 365) which works best on a PC operating programme.

### **Sports & Clubs**

A friendly reminder to families that for most Nelson College sports and clubs, an additional charge will apply. The amount of this varies considerably and covers things like uniform, usage

fees and competition entry. Please contact the International Director about this if you require specific details for your son

### **Emergency Contact**

In the unlikely event you face difficulties during your travel to New Zealand, or during your time in New Zealand support is available to you from Nelson College. In an emergency, please use our freephone number that will connect you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to one of the International staff. The number is 0800 58 33 22.

### **Naumai**

We encourage students to register on the Naumai website before they arrive [www.naumainz.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz](http://www.naumainz.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz). This website provides lots of information about New Zealand customs, lifestyle and living conditions specifically designed for international students.