

Student and Parent Pre-departure Information



NELSON COLLEGE
TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ



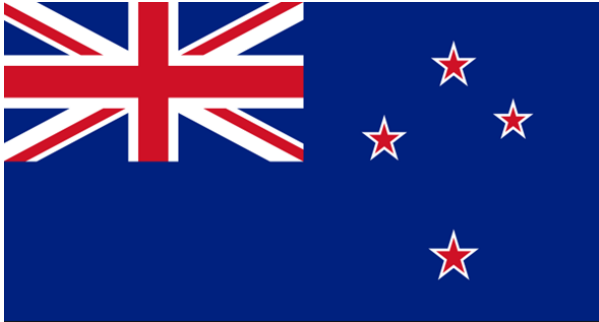
www.nelson.school.nz

Preparing for your time in New Zealand

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Welcome to New Zealand.



New Zealand is a special place to visit, travel and study. We have beautiful beaches, lovely forests, snowy mountains, green farmland, interesting cities and towns and friendly, welcoming people. The population of New Zealand is 5.1 million people. English, Maori and New Zealand Sign Language are official languages, although most people speak English.

New Zealand is a popular place for international students. We have an excellent educational system that is recognized around the world.

We are very glad you are coming to New Zealand and spending time in one of our schools. We hope you enjoy your time here, learn something new and make new friends.



Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park

Nelson/Tasman.

The Nelson Tasman region is considered to be one of New Zealand's best. Nelson is a small city (approx. 115,000 people) however this makes it safe and welcoming to international students



Nelson is surrounded by 3 National Parks (Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi) and there is easy access to the calm and tranquil waters of Tasman Bay.



Abel Tasman National Park

Climate & Money.

The average New Zealand temperature decreases as you travel south. January and February are our warmest months, and July is our coldest month of the year.

A helpful website to check the climate and weather in our region is:

www.newzealand.com/int/feature/new-zealand-climate-and-weather

The weather in New Zealand can change fast. Be prepared for changes in weather and temperature, particularly if doing outdoor activities.



Banking

- New Zealand banks are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.
- Automated Teller Machines (ATM's) are widely available at banks, on main shopping streets and in malls.
- International credit cards and ATM cards will work if you have a four-digit PIN code.
- Please check with your bank before leaving home.

Bringing cash into New Zealand

- You can bring cash to New Zealand.
- However, if it is more than NZ\$10,000 in cash you must complete a Border Cash Report.

Currency values

- Coins have values of 10, 20, 50 cents, \$1 and \$2
- Notes have values of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100

Currency converter

- A helpful website to convert currency is:

www.xe.com/currencyconverter

Pocket money

While you are at the school, we can arrange for you to have a NZ bank account through Westpac bank <https://www.westpac.co.nz/>. We can then arrange to pay you a weekly allowance (pocket money) at an agreed rate with your parents.

Visa and Immigration.

Before travelling to New Zealand, you need to make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your expected departure date.

- If you are studying for twelve weeks or less, you will need a visitor visa. If you are from a visa-waiver country, you may obtain this on arrival in NZ. If you are not from a visa-waiver country, you must apply for your visitor visa in your home country, as early as possible (at least eight weeks) before your travel date.

- If you are studying for more than twelve weeks, please apply for a student visa at least eight weeks before your departure date.

A helpful website to find out what you need to travel to New Zealand is: www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa

You can find the list of New Zealand visa waiver countries here:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/preparing-a-visa-application/your-journey-to-new-zealand/before-you-travel-to-new-zealand/visa-waiver-countries>

Some visitors to New Zealand can travel here without a visa if they get an NZeTA before they travel. You can find out more about this and apply here:

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/visas/visa/nzeta>

Airports.

48 hours before you fly you will need to complete the 'New Zealand Traveller Declaration'. They will collect your travel, customs and biosecurity information. The website is <https://www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/>

Your flight into New Zealand will land in either Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. The process into the arrival area is the same at all airports.

After you disembark the airplane follow the signs for 'Immigration'.

If you have an 'e-passport' go through the electronic immigration gate or if not wait in line to see an Immigration Officer.

Your passport will be returned to you.

Collect your bags from the baggage claim area.

Go to the officer at the Customs and Biosecurity.

You will speak to a Customs Officer. They will ask you questions about the contents of your bags. They will direct you where to go after they have finished asking you questions. They may want to look in your bag or put it through an X-ray machine.

Once you have been cleared by Customs and Biosecurity you will walk through the arrival doors.

Welcome to New Zealand!

Nelson College is in Nelson (a city located at the top of the South Island. You will need to catch a plane from the domestic terminal. We will meet you at Nelson Airport!

What should you pack

Below are some items we suggest you pack for your time in New Zealand. Depending on the time of the year you are coming, you will need to bring different things.

Essentials:

- Return airline ticket
- Passport and current visa to study in New Zealand
- Travel/medical insurance policy
- Any medication you take
- Laptop and mobile phone
- Adapter plug(s) for electrical items. the electrical supply is 230/240 volts
- A few personal belongings to help your room feel like home
- Black shoes or trainers for school

Spring/Summer

If you are coming during our spring and summer months we suggest:

- Swimwear
- Sunhat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Shorts
- T-shirts and/or short sleeve shirts
- Jumper and/or sweatshirt
- Light raincoat
- Your choice of other clothing and footwear

Autumn/Winter

If you are coming during our autumn and winter months we suggest:

- Warm waterproof jacket
- Jumper and/or sweater
- Long pants and/or jeans
- Long sleeved shirt and/or t-shirt
- Scarf, hat and gloves
- Your choice of other clothing and footwear

Travel and Medical Insurance.

The New Zealand government requires you to have insurance to cover your travel and the cost of medical treatment during your stay in New Zealand. Insurance policies must be approved by the school and must meet the requirements of The Education (Pastoral of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021.

If you go to the doctor while you are in New Zealand, you will need to pay for the visit and then claim the cost back later with your insurance company. Ask the school to help you do this.

Please note that if you have a current medical condition, we **MUST** know about this for insurance purposes.

To claim on your insurance for lost or stolen items, you must have your proof of purchase.

Getting Insurance

The school can arrange insurance for you, through Uni-care which you can find more about here: <https://www.uni-care.org/Policy/NzStudentPlan>

You can book your own insurance however you must share the certificate and policy wording with us.



Website, Policies & Code of Practice.



This is the school's website:
www.nelson.school.nz

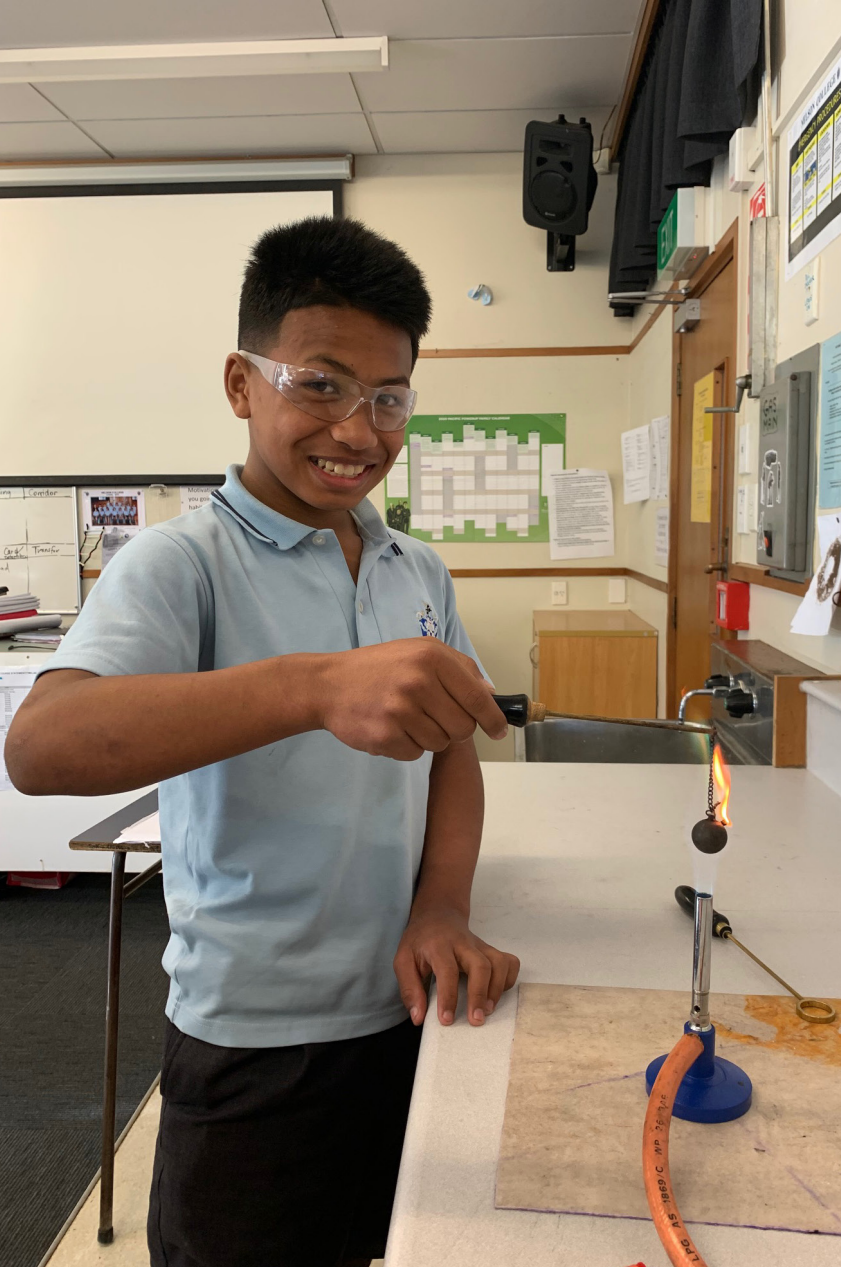
You can find information on the school's policies for international students here: <https://nelson.school.nz/international/policies/>

Code of Practice:

Nelson College has agreed to observe and be bound by the "Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021" (the Code). Copies of the code are available from the school or from New Zealand Qualifications Authority at: <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/education-code-of-practice/> See the end of this booklet for more details.

For complaints relating to contracts of fee disputes, The Dispute Resolution Scheme is the appeal authority. IStudent complaints is the appointed operator of the International Student Contract Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS). Please view their website for more information on the DRS rules and how to make a complaint.

<https://www.istudent.org.nz>



Uniform.

During your time at the school, you will need to wear the school uniform. You can buy the uniform once you are in New Zealand from the uniform shop. The approximate cost of the uniform is between \$300 and \$900 depending on how long you are staying and what you need.

You can buy the following items in your home country before you come:

- Black lace-up shoes or trainers (for school)
- A white long-sleeved shirt
- A black belt
- Trainers (for sport)
- Any specific sport shoes (e.g. soccer boots)



Orientation.



Orientation and What to Bring

We have a two-day orientation programme that introduces new students to the school

During the programme we will cover:

- An introduction to the Nelson College International Department
- New Zealand laws and Nelson College rules and regulations.
- A full tour of the school
- Connection of electronic devices to our internet network (Phones, laptops)
- Fitting and purchase of uniform (from the school uniform shop)
- ESOL (English as a Second Language) testing – including vocabulary, grammar and writing tasks
- Timetabling – subject choices
- Registration for Co-curricular activities – Music and Sport
- Arranging of bank account (by appointment)
- Transport card (Bus)

Students can wear casual clothing.



Emergency.

Our school's emergency contact number is: 0800 58 33 22. Please call this number if you need help when you're in New Zealand.

Schools and teachers are very good at caring for students from all around the world.

Please talk to someone at school about any worries or problems you have. Someone will be able to help you.



Food & Transport.

Food

- We provide all international students lunch in our dining room if you are living in boarding or homestay.
- Just remember, food in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to - always try it first, then if you don't like it then it is OK not to eat it again.
- While you are eating your food at school, watch other student's manners. What is OK in your culture may not be in New Zealand. Some New Zealander's think it is rude to burp or slurp, reach in front of others, or eat with your mouth open. Try not to. This is part of learning about another culture. Neither is right or wrong – they are just different.
- There is a cafeteria at our school where you can buy food at break time / lunch time. The kinds of food it sells includes: fruit, sandwiches, hot food (e.g. curry), burgers, wraps, potato chips, cake and drinks.

Getting to School

- Homestay - after the first day of school, if you are close enough you might walk to school or ride a bike. You might even catch a school bus. Or you might drive in the car with your host family.
- Our two boarding houses are located on school grounds less than 5 minutes' walk from the school buildings
- We drive on the left side of the road, so if you are crossing a road you need to be very careful– make sure you look both ways! Remember look right first, then left, then right again.... then cross the road.
- People living in New Zealand use different ways to get around – walk, bike, skateboard, scooter, car and bus.



Nelson



See you soon.



Contact Us

Email : international@nelson.school.nz

www.nelson.school.nz