

# Study Abroad Guide to New Zealand



*Please use this booklet in conjunction with the DU Study Abroad Handbook*

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## Introduction

This handbook will provide you with a general overview of issues involved in traveling to New Zealand. We thank the U.S. State Department for sharing with us the New Zealand safety and travel information in this handbook. Please use this guide in conjunction with our general Pre-Departure Guide.

We hope this information will assist you and your family in preparing for your time abroad. It is important that you review all the information, as well as the information sent by the New Zealand university, before you leave the U.S. and that you take these materials with you to New Zealand.

Studying abroad is an exciting opportunity. Nothing during your college years will likely change you more. You will learn about another country and another culture. You will also learn to look at your own country from a different perspective and most important, you will learn more about yourself. So, we encourage you to invest yourself fully into this experience.

How much you gain from this opportunity will depend on your preparedness, flexibility and responsibility. Review the general pre-departure information we have provided to you. Complete the administrative and academic matters that need to be taken care of before you leave. Research the country and city you will be going to. Review some of the suggested readings in our Pre-Departure Guide about what it means to go abroad. Be respectful of other cultures; things are not better, they are not worse; they are just different – learn to accept, not expect. Remember, you are there to complete an academic program successfully, just as if you were at DU. Good time management and goal setting are keys to handling a challenging academic program and becoming familiar with life outside the classroom.

Most of all, we want you to have a great experience and to make the most out of this opportunity. And when you return, be ready to share your stories with other students. Your personal experience will be the best source of inspiration for others.

Safe Travels,  
*DU Office of International Education*

## Preparing For Your Program

### Passport

You must have a valid passport for traveling to New Zealand and to obtain a Student Visa. If you do not already have a passport, apply for one immediately at your local Post Office. New passport processing can take many weeks. If your passport will expire while you are abroad, renew your passport right away. Your passport must be valid for the duration of your time abroad and up to six (6) months after your program ends. Make photocopies of your passport before going abroad. In case you lost your passport, a copy can help to replace it:

- Leave one with your parents.
- Give one to the Office of International Education for your file.
- Keep one copy with you in a separate place from your original passport.



Local Passport Office (for emergency passports **only**):

(877)487-2778 to schedule an appointment  
3151 S. Vaughn Way, Suite 600  
Aurora, CO 80014

### Student Visa

In order to participate in a study abroad program in New Zealand, you must apply for a student visa through the New Zealand Immigration Service (NZIS) of the New Zealand Government. The student visa allows you to stay in New Zealand for the duration of your academic program and possibly for a few weeks after your program ends. You must depart New Zealand before the student visa's expiration date.

Citizens of countries other than the United States should consult the NZIS website ([www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)) to verify application requirements and fees.

New Zealand immigration suggests that you wait at least TWO months prior the start of your program before you apply for a student visa. Once you are within the two months timeframe and you have received all of the required documentation, we recommend that you apply for a Student Visa as soon as possible and no less than FOUR WEEKS prior to your departure. Issuance of a student visa is dependent upon the satisfactory health and character clearance conducted by the New Zealand government. If your application needs to be revised, it may take up to 4 weeks to finalize the process; therefore, delaying your student visa application to the last moment could interfere with your travel plans.

**All the information and forms you will need to apply for your student visa may be found here:**

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/>

(click on "Study")

Student Visa Application: Below are some hints to help you complete this form fully:

- You are applying for a "Student Visa" and not a "Student Permit" or "Limited Purpose Visa or Permit."
- Write "Certificate of Proficiency" as the qualification you will be studying.
- Don't forget to sign your visa application.
- If you have an American passport, there is no fee for a New Zealand student visa.

## PREPARING FOR YOUR PROGRAM

Financial Support: You need to show sufficient funds equal to NZ\$1,000 per month during your time in New Zealand. If you, personally, can't; your guarantor (likely your parents or relative) must fill out the Statement of Financial Undertaking: This form is to show evidence of sufficient funds available during your time in New Zealand.

In addition to the completed and signed Application to Study in New Zealand and Statement of Financial Undertaking, you must provide the following documentation:

- a. One passport-sized photograph: Before attaching the photo to your application, write your full name on the back.
- b. Valid passport: Your passport must be valid for at least three months beyond departure date from New Zealand. If your passport will expire before that time, please renew your passport immediately. (Hint: Yes, you do actually mail your original passport to them so that they may affix your visa inside of your passport!)
- c. A self-addressed, prepaid courier envelope (for example, FedEx or UPS): This will ensure the safe return of your passport and original documents once the New Zealand Embassy grants your visa. Indicate on the envelope the address and phone number of where you will like the documents to be delivered back to you. Please note that your passport is a very important document and should never be delivered using regular mail.
- d. Offer of Place from the New Zealand university: This letter, issued by the university, states that you will be attending a study abroad program there, that you have guaranteed accommodation, and that DU will pay your program fees.
- e. Letter of support from the Office of International Education: This letter, addressed to the New Zealand Embassy, verifies that you are a full-time DU student, that you have been authorized to participate in this study abroad program, and that the University of Denver will cover the program fees.
- f. Flight itinerary: Include with your application a photocopy of the flight itinerary you received from your travel agent.

### WHEN TO APPLY FOR YOUR STUDENT VISA: It's best between 8 and 4 weeks prior to departure

You will be able to apply for your student visa as soon as you have gathered all the necessary documentation and received an Offer of Place from the New Zealand university. Mail your completed visa application at least four weeks prior to date of departure. Student visa applicants residing in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, and Washington should forward their applications to LOS ANGELES. If you reside in any other state your application should be lodged with the visa section at the NZ Embassy in Washington DC.

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/washington>

Email: [nz@nzemb.org](mailto:nz@nzemb.org)

Postal Address: New Zealand Embassy

37 Observatory Circle NW

Washington DC 20008

Phone: +1 202 328 4800

Fax: +1 202 328 4836 Office

Hours: Monday to Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

#### LOS ANGELES

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/losangeles>

Email: [nzcg.la@verizon.net](mailto:nzcg.la@verizon.net)

Postal Address: New Zealand Consulate-General

2425 Olympic Blvd, Suite 600 East

Santa Monica, CA 90404

Phone: (310) 566 6555

Fax: (310) 566 6556

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am-12.00pm

Use FedEx or Priority mail to send all your visa documents, passport, and supporting paperwork as listed above. This will allow you to track the delivery to the New Zealand Embassy. The self-addressed pre-paid courier envelope you provide will allow the New Zealand Embassy to return your documents to you safely.

If there are questions about your application, you will be notified by an official and instructed on what to do next. It may be necessary to complete additional forms and have a medical review. Incomplete applications will be returned to you. The New Zealand Embassy website is: [www.nzembassy.com](http://www.nzembassy.com). For more information about New Zealand Immigration Services (NZIS), go to: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

## Travel Arrangements

Because you must state your flight arrival and departure dates with your student visa application, you should book your travel arrangements soon. Cherrington Global Scholars should refer to the DU Travel Arrangements email sent to you or contact your study abroad coordinator.

### STOPOVERS

When you make your travel arrangements, you may want to ask the travel agent about “Stopovers.” Stopovers are different from layovers in that they are over 24 hours long and are a ‘perk.’ Stopovers do have restrictions and their prices vary on length of stay and how many you wish to have. Some common stopovers include Fiji, Hawaii and cities in Australia. **If are a Cherrington Global Scholar and you choose to include a stopover in your plans, you will be responsible for any costs above and beyond the basic fare to and from New Zealand.**

### FLIGHT TIME

When you look at your ticket it may seem as if your flight takes two days. In actuality your trans-Pacific flight should take approximately 13 hours (LA to Auckland). The reason it looks so long is because when traveling to New Zealand, you will cross the International Dateline.

### USEFUL WEBSITES ABOUT TRAVEL TO AND WITHIN NEW ZEALAND

- U.S. Department of State Consular Affair website: [www.state.gov/travel](http://www.state.gov/travel)
- New Zealand Tourist site: <http://www.newzealand.com/>

## Customs Regulations

New Zealand Customs is strict about what you can bring into the country. Because it is an island country, New Zealand wants to keep out many of the diseases that affect humans, animals and plants in other parts of the world. In general, it is not possible to bring fresh foodstuffs, plants or plant products; animal products; wildlife or wildlife products; drugs; firearms or other weapons into the country.

If you plan to bring used camping gear, including hiking boots, into New Zealand, please make sure the items are as clean as possible (i.e. no caked-on mud). You must declare these items when you arrive in New Zealand because they may need to be treated/fumigated before you can use them in New Zealand’s protected ecosystem. If you try to bring in these items without declaring them, you will be prosecuted and fined.

## Prescription Medication

If you are taking regular medication, you should contact the New Zealand Embassy well before departure to confirm that the medicine and the quantities you will be carrying are permitted into the country. You should also ask what the necessary documentation is that you may need to provide. It is advisable that you get a letter from your doctor describing the medication you are taking and certifying that the medication has been supplied to you for a particular medical condition. Take this letter with you in your carry-on along with your actual medication. The maximum allowable amount is a three-month supply. **Keep all medications in the container in which they were dispensed.**

To find out more details about New Zealand Customs regulations, please visit the Customs website at [www.customs.govt.nz](http://www.customs.govt.nz).

## The New Zealand Academic System

### Academic Culture

There are major differences between the New Zealand and U.S. academic systems. As a former British colony and a member of the British Commonwealth, New Zealand's higher education system is based on the British model. There is no educational institution equivalent to the American liberal arts college. The first New Zealand university was established in 1870. Today there are 8 universities in New Zealand.

The typical undergraduate program lasts three years (except for some technical degrees or those which require additional certification like nursing, medicine, education, law) and includes much more academic specialization than is usual in American colleges and universities. New Zealand students generally concentrate on their major in the first year since there is not a "general studies" requirement as at most U.S. four-year institutions. Therefore, introductory subjects may be more difficult than at your home university. In general, you should be prepared for some differences between the New Zealand and the U.S. academic systems and be aware that you will experience a period of adjustment.

### Teaching Style

In New Zealand, a student's academic schedule fluctuates between lectures, tutorials (small group sessions), laboratory work, seminars and library study. You may find that you have fewer class hours than in the U.S. but you are expected to do a lot more private study and spend a lot more time in the library. This may seem more like graduate work so expect long studying hours, especially in the sciences.

LECTURES: The core material of the subject is nearly always given in lectures. In popular subjects, a hundred or more students may attend a lecture. In less popular subjects the lecture may have only a small number of students present. In a lecture there is little, if any, interaction between student and lecturer. The material is usually presented in the form of a monologue from the lecturer, perhaps supported by slides and videos.

#### TUTORIALS and LABS:

Your opportunity for discussion will occur during the tutorial, which has a smaller number of students, and where the tutor and the students engage in a dialogue relating to the content of the course. Whereas you are not expected to speak in lectures, you are expected to speak in tutorials. Your participation is important. Science, psychology and technology subjects, also have lab sessions. Language subjects usually require time in the language lab.

### Basic Academic Terminology

As you discovered while filling out your study abroad application, the academic terminology used in New Zealand differs from that used in the U.S. Below are some general terms used in New Zealand. To find out about other New Zealand terminology used by your overseas university, refer to your University-specific guide:

<u>New Zealand</u>	<u>United States</u>
Unit / Paper	Course
Calendar	University Catalog
Course	Entire degree
Point	Credit
Stage	Level
Weighting	Credits
College	High School

## Assessment (Grading)

For your class grade, you may be expected to concentrate your academic efforts in library research and writing. It is not uncommon to have a large percentage of your grade based upon only one or two exams. The tutorials may require you to prepare material, present a paper, read articles or participate in group discussions.

Though many subjects are assessed by written assignments only (essays, papers, presentations), some also require you to pass final exams. Exams can last up to three hours in length. Some may be “open book” exams. In other cases, you may be given a topic or questions beforehand. In most, however, the exam will be closed book. In New Zealand the final exam may count for a larger proportion of your grade than in the U.S. (up to 60% of your grade).

The credits and grades earned on a DU program will appear on your DU transcript. They will not count as “pass/fail.” In order for the credit to apply to your general degree, you must pass with a “D” or better. However, in order for the credit to apply to your major or minor, you must generally pass with a “C-” or better. While the credit earned is considered DU credit and the grades you receive will appear on your DU transcript, these grades will not be figured into your DU cumulative GPA.

To figure out how your NZ grades translate to DU grades, please refer to the chart below. This information was extracted from World Education Services (WES) [International Grades Conversions](#). However, please note that university grading scales differ among institutions, and this is to serve only as an example.

New Zealand	U.S. Grade Equivalents
A	A
B	B
C	C
Restricted or Compensation Pass	D
D & E	F

## Course Load & Credits

You will take between 3 to 5 courses per semester. You must enroll for at least the minimum number of credits to remain a full-time student at your host university. Dropping below this number will put you in violation of your visa status and may result in your deportation.

Credit Equivalencies*	Ratio	Credit Points (1 course)	DU quarter hours
University of Auckland	0.4	15	6
University of Otago	0.4	15	6

*\*The equivalency noted here is not always exact for each course, rather this should serve as a general estimate of the number of credits that you will receive at DU. The credit points indicated above are illustrative of a typical course, however course values will vary. Last updated 10/11.*

## Learning Disabilities

If you have special needs regarding assessment, such as reading assistance, or note taking assistance, please inform your DU Study Abroad Program Coordinator and DU’s Disabilities Services Program. You should also indicate this information on your green Medical and Special Needs Information sheet you received with your DU study abroad acceptance letter.

Disability services are available in New Zealand; however, you must give your documentation to the NZ university's disabilities services office so it may determine for which accommodations you are eligible in New Zealand. If you plan to request accommodation for a disability, you must do so now because waiting until after your program starts to disclose may result in you not receiving the accommodations you requested.

## Living in New Zealand

### **Flatting**

At your New Zealand university, you may live in a flat (apartment or shared house) with domestic or other international students. Since you may not have the experience of living independently yet, you should think about the potential challenges posed by this type of living arrangement.

As a participant on a DU program, you must live in DU-arranged student housing during your program. If you decide against living in DU-arranged housing, or if you choose to leave, you will assume the additional cost of your new housing.

DU will pay for you to move into your student housing up to two nights prior to your orientation, *only if available*. For example, if your host university's housing opens one day prior to orientation, you will need to move in on that day. Please check with your host university to be sure you understand your move-in date.

Please note that, in most cases, students are responsible for paying for their refundable security/damage deposit directly to their housing in New Zealand.

### FLAT MEETING

During your first week with your new flatmates you should meet as a group and discuss preferences, responsibilities, and arrangements for paying any shared expenses. Some questions to ask each other are the following:

1. Will there be quiet hours in the flat?
2. What are the meal arrangements for the flat? Who will cook group meals? Who will pay for group meals? Who will shop for group meals or shared flat food?
3. What is the level of cleanliness acceptable to all flatmates? How will you handle cleaning of the flat? Which are group chores and which are individual chores?
4. Will there be a policy on visitors to the flat (duration of stay, extra costs incurred)?
5. How will you handle flat bills, such as telephone, cable, electricity, and internet? (if applicable)
6. How will you sort out flat disputes? If the flat cannot sort out a dispute, to whom will you turn to help resolve it?

### HEATING

A common source of disagreement between U.S. students and their New Zealand (or other international) flatmates is temperature. While a U.S. student may be used to a 68-72 degree room at all times, students from other countries may find this to be extravagant and unnecessary. Bringing along additional warm clothing is one easy solution for you; another is having a good sleeping bag. Alternatively you could purchase a space heater in New Zealand and offer to pay the additional cost on your flat electricity bill associated with use of this space heater. (The local electric company can provide an estimate on the extra cost for a particular appliance.)

### BILL PAYING

Your flat may have shared bills or expenses. If you are expected to contribute to any flat expenses, you should review the invoices or bills before paying. If your flatmate(s) ask you to pay but do not automatically give you the invoice or bill, just ask to see it before paying. This is simply a matter of good financial management.

If you are unsure about the fairness of what you are asked to pay or if your flatmate(s) won't show you the invoice or bill, talk to the International Office at your host university for guidance on how to proceed.

### DAMAGE & UNPAID BILLS

The University of Denver has contracted on your behalf for your flat. Though in most cases, students pay the security deposit / bond directly; it may be possible that DU must be billed for the deposit directly (this depends on the housing facility). In these cases, should there be any damage to your flat, the cost for that damage is taken from the bond money DU gave to the flat management. You will then owe that money to DU plus the cost of wiring and at the current exchange rate (i.e. it will cost you more if you leave behind unpaid damage costs than if you paid for the damage on site). Similarly, if you leave behind unpaid bills, you will then owe that money to the University of Denver. Failure to pay will result in a hold on your DU account and your inability to register for classes at DU.

### BEHAVIOR

If you're old enough and mature enough to live independently, you should act accordingly. You need to respect quiet hours, guest policies, and other rules of the flat complex. Your mature behavior ensures that DU can continue housing its study abroad students in those flats.

Have respect for the flat management team. If you do not agree with the flat management about certain issues, please let DU's Office of International Education know the details of the disagreement so it may intercede.

*HINT:* If you do not agree with the stated charges for certain services provided by the flat complex, do not use those services. Please do not use those services and then refuse to pay saying the cost is too high.

### **Fitness Center Membership**

The New Zealand government heavily subsidizes university education for its citizens. This means that some on-campus facilities, such as the fitness center, charge for student usage. Therefore, when budgeting for study abroad, consider whether you plan to use the fitness center. You can generally find usage rates on the overseas university's website by searching for "sport" or "fitness."

### **Internet**

As with the fitness center, you may have to pay for internet usage at your program location. Some universities have unlimited internet usage when you are in the university computer lab; some universities give you up to a certain amount of downloads on your account for free.

If there is internet available in your housing, you will most likely pay for your internet usage. Because many other DU study abroad students will be in homestay or other accommodation situations without internet access, DU decided it would not be fair to foot the internet bill for some students, but not others.

*HINT:* While email is a great way to keep in touch with family and friends back here, too much time spent on IM or email will prevent you from having a full study abroad experience.

### **Meeting Kiwis**

A major goal of study abroad is to develop cross-cultural understanding. In addition to achieving academic success, you should strive to meet New Zealanders and get to know their culture. Successful strategies for meeting the locals include the following:

1. **Make an effort.** Because the universities host new study abroad students each semester (some of who promise to keep in touch with the locals but never do), the New Zealand students may not immediately try to befriend you. As the "outsider" you must show that you want to meet the locals and get to know their culture. Be friendly and genuine.

2. **Join an organization.** Each of the universities has a student union or student guild which oversees clubs and societies on campus. The university's sport center should also have a listing of social sport clubs which you can join.
3. **Stick around.** While you may be tempted to head out every weekend to travel around the country, doing so will greatly impede your chances of making friendships with local students. Constantly talking about your travel, particularly about expensive excursions, will also turn off the local students, who typically will not have as much spending money as an American study abroad student.
4. **Be respectful.** Compare and contrast gets old fast. Talking non-stop about your personal belongings, including cars and other expensive items in the U.S., will merely reinforce stereotypes about Americans and prevent you from getting to know New Zealanders.
5. **Know your politics.** Most likely you will be asked by New Zealanders about your political stance. Questions about your political views generally will be well-intentioned and made by people genuinely interested in hearing your perspective. Be careful not to get offended or defensive when these questions arise. Also, try not to compare and contrast governments. Your best move is to remain open-minded in political discussions.

Keep in mind that you are only there for a short time so you want to make the most of your time in New Zealand.

## Health & Safety

### Health Insurance

DU has purchased a required New Zealand health insurance coverage for you called StudentSafe. You have received information on StudentSafe in your acceptance materials from your host university; and you will receive more detailed information about it during your on-site orientation. **Please note that StudentSafe insurance only covers you in New Zealand.**

Even with your NZ insurance policy, we require that you DO NOT cancel your U.S. insurance policy while you are abroad. It is important for you to maintain coverage in the case that you travel to other countries outside of New Zealand or if you have to come home mid-term for any reason. DU's health insurance is valid overseas and can provide additional coverage while abroad. If you typically waive DU health insurance, we recommend that you contact your current health policy provider to find out what type of coverage it offers while abroad (especially if you plan to travel outside of New Zealand).

The required International Student Identification Card (ISIC) provides you with some supplemental emergency health coverage.

### Vaccinations

No vaccinations are required for travel to New Zealand. If you plan to visit other countries while you are abroad, check with one of the following to find out what vaccinations, if any, may be required:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- City and County of Denver Public Immunization Clinic, 303-436-7230
- DU Health Services, 303-871-2205



### Emergency Number

“911” is the emergency number in the U.S.; however, it is not a valid number overseas. **The standard emergency phone number in New Zealand is 111.**

### U.S. Embassy & Consulate General in New Zealand

Americans living abroad are encouraged to register with their nearest embassy or consulate through the U.S. State Department's website. By doing so, you will receive updated information on travel and security within the country to which you are heading. You also make it easier for the U.S. embassy (and your family) to locate you in case of emergency or disaster. To register, go to: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

The U.S. Consulate General in Auckland is located on the third floor of the Citibank Centre, 23 Customs Street East, between Commerce and Queen Streets. The telephone number is (64)(9) 303-2724. The fax number is (64-9) 366-0870. <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/index.html>.

The U.S. Embassy is located at 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington; the telephone number is (64)(4) 462-6000. The fax number is (64)(4) 471-2380. For after-hours emergencies anywhere in New Zealand, a duty officer can be contacted by telephone. Persons seeking after-hours assistance may call (64)(4) 462-6000.

## Crime

Crime in New Zealand is comparatively low but has increased in recent years. The most prevalent crime is theft or attempted theft from cars, camper vans and hostels. To help protect against theft, do not leave passports or other valuable documents in unattended vehicles. Violent crime against tourists is unusual.

The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

To help prevent loss of your passport, you should apply for an 18+ Card when you arrive in New Zealand (<http://www.hanz18plus.org.nz/>). Your 18+ Card will serve as your personal identification for everyday use. Your passport should be stored somewhere secure for use only when traveling.

## Medical Facilities

Quality medical care is widely available, but waiting lists exist for certain types of treatment. Serious medical problems requiring hospitalization and/or medical evacuation to the United States can cost thousands of dollars. Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for health services.

## Natural Disasters

Some heavily populated parts of New Zealand are located in an area of very high seismic activity. The U.S. State Department offers the following resource to help you plan in the case of an emergency overseas: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies\\_1212.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1212.html)

## Traffic Safety and Road Conditions

All traffic travels on the left in New Zealand, and many roads are only two lanes. Cars turning left must yield to oncoming cars turning in the same direction. This is especially important to remember on two-lane roads. Proceed carefully through intersections and be wary of drivers who may run yellow and red lights. Drivers should use caution to avoid animals when driving in rural areas. **Pedestrians are advised to look carefully in all directions before crossing a street or roadway, and to use crosswalks. Traffic always yields to the right and pedestrians do not have the right of way except at crosswalks... and usually not even then!**

Drivers yield to all traffic crossing or approaching from the right, and the speed limit is 100km/hr on the open road and 50km/hr in urban areas. Multi-lane motorways and expressways form the approaches to urban areas, and most highways are two lane roads. Signposting follows standard international symbols and all distances are posted in kilometers (km).

Drinking and driving laws are strictly enforced in New Zealand.

### RENTING OR BUYING A CAR

According to the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT), the single greatest cause of death and serious injury abroad is road accidents. These far exceed deaths resulting from disease, violence or terrorism- so use your best judgment if you choose to drive and know the risk you are taking. Students can legally drive in New Zealand for up to 12 months if they have either a current driver's license from their home country or an International Driving Permit (IDP). Recent law changes mean that all drivers, including visitors from other countries, must carry their license or permit when driving. You will only be able to drive the same types of vehicles you are licensed to drive in your home country. The average age to rent a car in NZ is 21.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Some previous study abroad students decided to buy cars to use during their stay in New Zealand. **The University of Denver and the Universities of Otago, Canterbury, and Auckland do not encourage this practice because it is often difficult to know the quality of the car one is purchasing and because driving in another country can be difficult and dangerous. Mountain driving conditions can be particularly treacherous.** Nonetheless, we provide the following websites to help you make an informed decision about whether to pursue this option:

[www.ltsa.govt.nz/index.html](http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/index.html)

Provides information on buying and selling, Warrant of Fitness (WoF) inspections, vehicle registration and road rules

<http://www.ltsa.govt.nz/roadcode/index.html>

Provides information on driving tips, signs and signals, driving conditions, and vehicle requirements

### **Criminal Penalties**

While in a foreign country, a U.S. citizen is subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in the United States and do not always afford the protections available to the individual under U.S. law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than in the United States for similar offenses. Persons violating New Zealand's laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs in New Zealand are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and fines. Vessels used to import or convey prohibited drugs are liable to be seized.

## Communication

### How to Call Home

First things first - call home as soon as you can after arrival because your family is anxious to hear from you. Give your family your abroad phone number, email address and mailing address so they know how to reach you in the event of an emergency.

To make a direct call to the U.S. using a phone that provides a direct dialing option, dial: 00+1+ area code + phone number

To help you call home or to help your family call you, please refer to the following link for detailed dialing instructions: [www.countrycallingcodes.com/](http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/).

### CALLING CARDS

Pre-paid calling cards in New Zealand are inexpensive, while calling rates with cards from the U.S. are much higher. Therefore, we recommend you get a calling card when you arrive in New Zealand. Cards can be purchased almost anywhere: at the airport, newspaper shops and markets.

If you prefer to use your U.S. calling card, you can access the following long distance carriers while in New Zealand. You will need to provide your calling card number if charging the call to your personal account or hold for an operator if you are calling collect.

- AT&T            000-911
- MCI             0-800-99-77-44 **or** 000-912
- Sprint          000-999 **or** 08-00-768-77

### TIME DIFFERENCES

Whatever calling method you choose, consider the time difference before you dial. During *Mountain Standard Time (MST)*, which goes from last Sunday of October to first Sunday in April, New Zealand is 20 hours ahead of Denver.

During *Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)*, which goes from first Sunday in April to last Sunday in October, New Zealand is 18 hours ahead of Denver.

For other cities, check out <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>.

### Mobile Phones

Most U.S. cell phones do not work in New Zealand. If you must have a mobile phone, it is best to purchase it while in New Zealand. Keep in mind that it may be cheaper to 'rent' a mobile phone rather than buy one. Ask any former study abroad students who may still have their New Zealand cell phone if they are interested in selling it to you.

### Email

You will have access to your DU account while abroad. Your New Zealand university may also provide you with a local email account. Please make sure that you continue to check your DU email account regularly (or forward it), as this is how the Office of International Education will most likely maintain communication with you. Keep in mind, however, that you may or may not have internet access in your housing, and you will likely have to pay for internet use both on- and off-campus. Check your housing and host university's websites to find out about internet access where you'll be studying.

## Money

### New Zealand Currency

The New Zealand currency follows a decimal system. The New Zealand Dollar (NZD\$) is divided into 100 cents. Notes come in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 and differ in color and size. Coins come in \$1 and \$2 dollars and 50c, 20c, 10c, and 5c and differ in color and size. Start to familiarize yourself with the currency, both notes and coins, as well as exchange rates. Check out <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> to figure out conversion rates.

We suggest you carry a small amount of local currency before you leave, \$80 to \$120 New Zealand dollars, for the first few days, and especially if you plan to arrive on a weekend. You can exchange money at a U.S. bank or airport before departure or at a New Zealand airport upon arrival.

### Bank Account in New Zealand

You have the opportunity to open a bank account while in New Zealand. A bank account will allow you to keep your money in a safe place and avoid some ATM fees. Information about how to open an account at a local bank will be provided by your host university upon arrival during Orientation Week.

If you open up a bank account in New Zealand, your family can transfer money from a bank in the U.S to your bank in New Zealand. Ask your bank in the U.S. and the receiving bank about the service charges that may apply to this transfer.

### ATM & Credit Cards

Make sure you know how to contact your U.S. bank from overseas. Find out if they offer a 24 hour customer service help line and **what their emergency phone number is for calls from outside of the U.S.** (1-800 numbers do not work outside of the U.S.) If your bankcard is lost or stolen, you should notify your bank immediately.

Most credit cards, such as MasterCard, Visa or American Express, can be used in New Zealand, as well as worldwide. ATMs are widely available. International credit cards and ATM cards will work as long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded. Check with your bank before leaving home.

If your credit card is lost or stolen, you must contact the financial institution that issued your card immediately and report it lost or stolen. You should keep a copy of your financial institution's name, its customer service phone number and your card account number in a convenient place -- separate from your card. Within New Zealand, contact the global customer service phone numbers below:

- American Express 0-800-443-211
- MasterCard 0-800-44-9140
- VISA 0-508-600-300

We recommend that you keep a copy of your travelers' check numbers, passport, credit card numbers, insurance contact numbers, and airline tickets in a separate place from the originals. You should also leave a set of copies at home with your family.

### Travelers' Checks

Another safe way of carrying the bulk of your money is the secure form of travelers' checks. It makes no difference which brand you choose, as long as they are insured. Please be aware of the charges involved when buying or cashing either U.S. or host country travelers' checks. Make sure you keep track of the travelers' check numbers in a location separate from your checks and also keep a back up copy at your New Zealand residence so you have the necessary information if they are lost or stolen.

**Cashier's Checks, Money Orders, Personal Checks**

We do not recommend taking cashier checks, money orders or personal checks. Although banks will accept your checks, they will not give you cash for them until they have cleared through the whole banking network, which usually takes 6-8 weeks or longer.

## General Information

### Electricity

Electricity in New Zealand is 220-240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. This means that if you plug your 110 hair dryer directly into a New Zealand plug it will BURN OUT. Transformers are therefore required. Make sure, however, that the transformer you bring is configured for the three pin New Zealand plug. If you cannot get one of these in the U.S. (try a Brookstone store), consider buying one upon arrival to New Zealand. Because some hairdryers and curling irons will get dangerously hot, even when using adaptors, consider purchasing these items upon arrival.

If you buy appliances in New Zealand, you will almost certainly have trouble running them when you get back to the U.S.

### Weather

As you may already know, the seasons are reverse of those in the United States:

- Autumn: March to May
- Winter: June to August
- Spring: September to November
- Summer: December to February

	<u>Autumn</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Summer</u>
<u>Auckland</u>				
Max	66	57	63	72
Min	56	49	52	61
<u>Dunedin</u>				
Max	60	51	57	67
Min	49	38	43	55
<u>Wellington</u>				
Max	61	52	57	66
Min	53	45	49	57

Although you may equate “rainforests” and “beaches” with the tropics, you will not experience warm tropical weather in your host city. As New Zealand is a southern hemisphere country, the further south you go, the further you are from the equator and the cooler the weather.

Pack according to the seasonal conditions of your host city. This means bringing warm clothing, including hats, gloves, and scarves. Your warmest sweaters and trousers will also be necessary. Fleece is a practical accessory as is an umbrella. Even within your housing, you may find the temperature colder than you’re accustomed to in the U.S. A good sleeping bag and a pair of thermal underwear will help combat the cold. Libraries are popular havens in colder weather because they are generally well heated.

Weather can change quickly in New Zealand, particularly in the mountains. A perfect hiking day may turn dangerously cold or stormy within a matter of hours. Therefore, always tell someone where you’re going and try to travel with experienced local hikers/snowriders.

While your host city may not have as many days of sunshine as Denver, you must wear sun block and sunglasses whenever you are outside because there is a hole in the ozone layer above New Zealand. UV levels are high, too, because there is relatively little pollution overhead.

For further information about the weather conditions, check out [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com). If you refer to New Zealand weather sources, the following temperature conversions will help you:

- Fahrenheit to Celsius: Subtract 32 then multiply by 5/9
- Celsius to Fahrenheit: Multiply by 9/5 then add 32

To help you remember approximate temperatures in Celsius, consider that::

- Water freezes at 0° Celsius: 32° Fahrenheit
- Water boils at 100° Celsius: 212° Fahrenheit
- Normal body temperature: 37° Celsius/98.6° Fahrenheit

## Kiwi Slang

Following are some words and phrases you may hear while in New Zealand. Start practicing your Kiwi slang now so you can better understand your new classmates (vocabulary provided courtesy of *Sarah Henderson's Guide to Kiwi Slang*).

**Ads** - TV commercials, advertisements

**Anklebiter** - toddler, small child

**Aotearoa** - Maori name for New Zealand meaning land of the long white cloud

**Arvo** - afternoon

**Bach** - holiday home

**Banger** - sausage, as in bangers and mash

**Barbie** - barbecue

**Big smoke** - large town or city

**Bit of dag** - hard case, comedian, person with character

**Bloke** - man

**Boy-racer** - name given to a young man who drives a fast car with a loud stereo

**Bring a plate** - means bring a dish of food to share

**Bugger** - damn!

**Bungy** - kiwi slang for elastic strap, as in Bungy Jumping

**Caravan** - mobile home that you tow behind your car

**Cardi** - cardigan

**Cast** - immobilised, unable to get to your feet

**Cheers** - thanks

**Cheerio** - goodbye

**Cheerio** - name for a cocktail sausage

**Chocka** - full, overflowing

**Chook** - chicken

**Chick** - slang word for woman/female

**Chips** - deep fried slices of potato but much thicker than a french fry

**Chippy** - builder, carpenter

**Chrissy pressies** - Christmas presents

**Chuddy** - chewing gum

**Chunder** - vomit, throw up

**Cockie** - farmer

**Cotton buds** - Q-tips

**Creek** - small stream

**Cuppa** - cup of tea, as in cuppa tea

**Cuz** - cousin, family

**De facto** - name used for a couple who are not married but are living together

**Ding** - small dent in a vehicle

## PROFILE – NEW ZEALAND

**Dole** - unemployment benefit  
**Dodgy** - bad, unreliable, not good  
**Down the gurgler** - failed plan  
**Drongo** - stupid fool, idiot  
**Drop your gear** - take your clothes off, get undressed  
**Dunny** - toilet, bathroom, lavatory  
**Duvet** - quilt, doona  
**Ear bashing** - someone talking incessantly  
**Entree** - appetizer, hors d'oeuvre  
**Fizz Boat** - small power boat  
**Fizzy drink** - soda pop  
**Flannel** - wash cloth, face cloth  
**Flat** - apartment, name for rental accommodation that is shared  
**Flicks** - movies, picture theatre  
**Flog** - steal, rob  
**Footie** - rugby union or league, as in "going to watch the footie"  
**Full tit** - going very fast, using all your power, as in "he was running full tit"  
**G'day** - universal kiwi greeting, also spelled gidday  
**Get the willies** - overcome with trepidation  
**Going bush** - take a break, become reclusive  
**Good on ya, mate!** - congratulations, well done, proud of someone  
**Good as gold** - feeling good, not a problem, yes  
**Greasies** - fish and chips  
**Gumboots or gummies** - rubber boots, wellingtons  
**Handle** - pint of beer  
**Happy as larry** - very happy  
**Hard case** - amusing, funny person  
**Hard yakka** - hard work  
**Hollywood** - to fake or exaggerate an injury on the sportsfield  
**Home and hosed** - safe, successfully finished, completed,  
**Hoon** - young adult driving fast  
**Hosing down** - heavy rain, raining heavily  
**Hottie** - hot water bottle  
**How's it going mate?** - kiwi greeting  
**Iceblock** - popsicle, Ice Stick  
**Jandal** - thongs, sandals, flip-flops,  
**Judder bar** - speed bump  
**Jumper** - sweater, jersey  
**Kiwi** - New Zealander  
**Kiwifruit** - Brown furry skinned fruit, Zespri, Chinese Gooseberry  
**Kick the bucket** - die  
**Knackered** - exhausted, tired, lethargic  
**Laughing gear** - mouth, as in wrap your laughing gear around this,  
**L&P** - Fizzy soda water  
**Lift** - elevator  
**Lolly** - candy  
**Loo** - bathroom, toilet  
**Long drop** - outdoor toilet, hole in ground  
**Lurgy** - flu  
**Mad as a meat axe** - very angry or crazy  
**Main** - primary dish of a meal

### Links To More Information

Auckland Tourism: <http://www.aucklandnz.com/>

Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism: <http://www.christchurchnz.com/>

Dunedin Tourism Bureau: <http://www.dunedinnz.com/>

Visitor's Guide to New Zealand: <http://www.arrival.co.nz/>

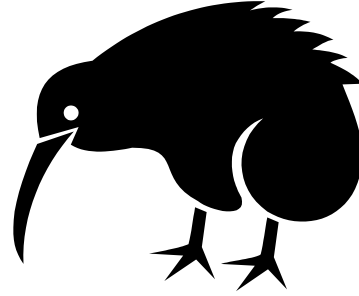
Lonely Planet Travel Links:

[http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_links/view.cfm?topicID=194](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_links/view.cfm?topicID=194)

**Maori** - indigenous people of New Zealand  
**Mate** - buddy  
**Motorway** - freeway  
**Naff off** - go away, get lost, leave me alone  
**Nana** - grandmother, grandma  
**Nappy** - diaper  
**North Cape to the Bluff** - from one end of New Zealand to the other  
**OE** - Overseas Experience, many students go on their OE after finishing university, see the world  
**Offsider** - an assistant, someone's friend, as in "we saw him and his offsider going down the road"  
**Old bomb** - old car  
**Oldies** - parents  
**On the never never** - paying for something using layby, not paying straight away  
**Open slather** - a free-for-all  
**Pack a sad** - bad mood, morose, ill-humoured, broken, as in "she packed a sad"  
**Pakeha** - non-Maori person  
**Panel beater** - auto repair shop, panel shop  
**Pav** - pavlova, dessert usually topped with kiwifruit and cream  
**Perve** - to stare  
**Petrol** - gasoline, gas  
**Piece-of-piss** - easy, not hard to do, as in "didn't take me long to do, it was a piece of piss"  
**Pikelet** - small pancake usually had with jam and whipped cream  
**Piker** - someone who gives up easy, slacker  
**Pinky** - little finger  
**Piss around** - waste time, muck around  
**Pisshead** - someone who drinks a lot of alcohol, heavy drinker  
**Piss up** - party, social gathering, excuse for drinking alcohol  
**Pissed off** - annoyed, angry, upset  
**Plonk** - cheap liquor, cheap wine  
**Pong** - bad smell, stink  
**Postal code** - zip code  
**Pram** - baby stroller, baby pushchair  
**Pressie** - present  
**Pub** - bar or hotel that serves liquor  
**Pudding** - dessert  
**Pushing up daisies** - dead and buried  
**Quack** - Medical doctor  
  
**Rark up** - telling somebody off  
**Rattle your dags** - hurry up, get moving  
**Rellies** - relatives, family  
**Ropeable** - very angry  
**Ring** - to telephone somebody, as in "I'll give you a ring"  
**Rubbish** - garbage, trash  
**Rust bucket** - decrepit motor car  
**Scarfie** - university student  
**Scull** - consume, drink quickly  
**Scroggin** - trampers high energy food including dried fruits, chocolate  
**Serviette** - paper napkin  
**Shandy** - drink made with lemonade and beer  
**Shark and taties** - fish and chips  
**Sheila** - slang for woman/female

## PROFILE – NEW ZEALAND

**Shit a brick** - exclamation of surprise or annoyance  
**Shoot through** - to leave suddenly  
**Shout** - to treat, to buy something for someone, as in "lunch is my shout"  
**Sickie** - to take a day off work or school because you are sick  
**Skite** - to boast, boasting, bragging  
**Sook** - cry baby, wimp  
**Sparkie** - electrician  
**Sparrow fart** - very early in the morning, sunrise  
**Sprog** - child  
**Squiz** - take a quick look  
**Steinie** - bottle of Steinlager, brand lager  
**Strapped for cash** - low on cash, no money  
**Stubby** - small glass bottle of beer  
**Sunday driver** - someone who drives very slow  
**Sunnies** - sunglasses  
**Ta** - thanks  
**Take-aways** - food to be taken away and eaten, fast food outlet  
**Tea** - evening meal, dinner  
**Tiki tour** - scenic tour, take the long route  
**Togs** - swimsuit, bathing costume  
**Torch** - flashlight  
**Tramping** - hiking  
**Twink** - white-out  
**Up the duff** - pregnant  
**Ute** - small pickup truck  
**Vege** - vegetables  
**Wally** - clown, silly person  
**Whinge** - complain, moan  
**Wobbly** - to have a tantrum  
**Wop-wops** - situated off the beaten track, out of the way location  
**Yack** - to have a conversation with a friend, to talk



For more information on New Zealand visit:

<http://www.state.gov/p/eap/ci/nz/>