

# NEW ZEALAND

## Spring and Year 2012 Program Guide





## LINKS TO CONTENT

### Your UCEAP Network

UCEAP Online . . . . .	1
Local UCEAP Support . . . . .	1
Study Center Abroad . . . . .	2
New Zealand University Contacts . . . . .	3

### Academic Culture

Glossary of Academic Terms . . . . .	4
Program Description . . . . .	4
Course Information . . . . .	4

### Extending UCEAP Participation

Plan Ahead . . . . .	5
----------------------	---

### Cultural Awareness

Educate Yourself . . . . .	6
Personal Research . . . . .	6
Travel Guides . . . . .	7

### Arrival Information

Travel Documents . . . . .	8
Student Visa Requirement . . . . .	8
Packing Tips . . . . .	8
Climate and Dress . . . . .	8
Metric System . . . . .	9
Official UCEAP Start Date . . . . .	9
Traveling to New Zealand . . . . .	9
Financial Aid Students . . . . .	10
UCEAP Orientation . . . . .	10
Host University Orientation . . . . .	11

### Financial Information

Understanding Your Finances . . . . .	12
MyEAP Student Account . . . . .	12
UCEAP Student Budget . . . . .	12
Handling Money Abroad . . . . .	13
Financial Aid Students . . . . .	13
Banking . . . . .	13
ATM Card . . . . .	13
Financial Obligations Abroad . . . . .	14

### Communications Abroad

Time . . . . .	15
Mail . . . . .	15
Shipping . . . . .	15
Computer Access & Use . . . . .	15

### Housing & Meals

Where Will I Live? . . . . .	16
The University of Auckland . . . . .	17
Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students . . . . .	17
University of Canterbury . . . . .	21
Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students . . . . .	21
Lincoln University . . . . .	22
Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students . . . . .	22
Massey University . . . . .	23
Palmerston North Campus . . . . .	23
Wellington Campus . . . . .	23
Auckland Campus . . . . .	23
University of Otago . . . . .	24
Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students . . . . .	24
The University of Waikato . . . . .	26
Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students . . . . .	26
Victoria University of Wellington . . . . .	27
Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students . . . . .	27
Meals . . . . .	29
Food . . . . .	29
Restaurants . . . . .	29
Tipping . . . . .	29

### Extracurricular Activities

Student Unions and Clubs . . . . .	30
Outdoor Activities . . . . .	30
Recreational Travel . . . . .	30
Lodging While Traveling . . . . .	30
Holidays and Business Hours . . . . .	30

### Health

Medical Resources . . . . .	31
Insurance . . . . .	31

### Safety

Crime . . . . .	32
Earthquakes/Natural Disasters . . . . .	32
Extreme Sports . . . . .	33
Traffic and Transportation Safety . . . . .	33
Race Relations . . . . .	33
Emergency Contacts . . . . .	34
What Constitutes an Emergency? . . . . .	34
In an Emergency . . . . .	34

The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,\* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

\*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.



► Scan to get this guide on your smart phone.

## YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

### UCEAP Online

Bookmark your [Participants](#) program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the [UCEAP New Zealand page](#).

### Local UCEAP Support

#### Campus EAP Office

The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

#### UCEAP Systemwide Office

The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

**Program Advisors** communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.

**Operations Specialists** coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.

**Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students' academic records.

**Student Finance Accountants** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

#### Contact Information

##### Operations Specialist

Jeanie O'Connell

**Phone:** (805) 893 5926; **E-mail:** [jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu)

##### Program Advisor

Hugo Márquez

**Phone:** (805) 893-5926; **E-mail:** [hmarquez@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:hmarquez@eap.ucop.edu)

##### Academic Specialist

Lisa Read

**Phone:** (805) 893-2810; **E-mail:** [lread@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:lread@eap.ucop.edu)

##### Student Finance Accountant

Sylvestre Blondiaux

**Phone:** (805) 893-6156; **E-mail:** [stufinance@eap.ucop.edu](mailto:stufinance@eap.ucop.edu)

##### UCEAP Systemwide Office

6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200

Goleta, CA 93117-5823

**Phone:** (805) 893-4762; **Fax:** (805) 893-2583

## Study Center Abroad

Professor Ivan Reilly, from the University of Auckland, administers UCEAP programs on site in New Zealand. Professor Reilly serves as the UCEAP Liaison Officer and advises students on academic matters, assists with housing problems, and provides information on cultural events. On-site staff routinely monitor local and international conditions and provide support, counseling, and safety advisories.

### Key UCEAP Study Center Contacts

**Office Phone:** (calling from the U.S.) – 011 64 9 373 7599 ext. 88786

**Office Fax:** (from the U.S.) – 011 64 9 373 7457

Emma Luxton-Reilly, UCEAP Programme Coordinator

**Phone** (calling from the U.S.): 011 64 9 373 7599 ext. 88786

**Emma's e-mail:** [e.luxton-reilly@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:e.luxton-reilly@auckland.ac.nz)

Professor Ivan Reilly, UCEAP Liaison Officer

**Urgent/after hours; Ivan's cell** (calling from U.S.): 011 64 21 300 712

**Urgent/after hours; Ivan's cell** (calling within New Zealand): 021 300 712

**Ivan's e-mail:** [i.reilly@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:i.reilly@auckland.ac.nz)

### Study Center Location on Campus

NZ UCEAP Study Centre

Fisher International Building, Building 804, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

18 Waterloo Quadrant

The University of Auckland

Auckland 1142 NEW ZEALAND

### Address for Regular Mail

Professor Ivan Reilly

University of Auckland

Department of Math

Private Bag 90219

Auckland Mail Centre

Auckland 1142 NEW ZEALAND

### For DHL and FedEx Deliveries

Prof. Ivan Reilly, NZ UCEAP Study Centre

Department of Mathematics

Room 321, Level 3, Building 810

1-11 Short Street

University of Auckland

Auckland, New Zealand

### Phone Number Codes

U.S. international code . . . . . 011

(dial this to call from the U.S.)

New Zealand country code . . . . . 64

Auckland city code . . . . . 9

### Approximate Time Difference

19 hours, April through September

21 hours, October through March

## New Zealand University Contacts

After you have received an offer letter from your host university, feel free to communicate directly with them.

### The University of Auckland

Susanna Sabbage  
360° Auckland Abroad  
The University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-9) 923-4371

**Fax:** (011-64-9) 303-5934

**E-mail:** [s.sabbage@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.sabbage@auckland.ac.nz)

### University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Dr. Anna Foster  
International Office  
University of Canterbury  
Private Bag 4800  
Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-3) 364-2987 ext. 7947

**Fax:** (011-64-3) 364-2171

**E-mail:** [anna.foster@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:anna.foster@canterbury.ac.nz)

### Lincoln University, Christchurch

Diane de Haan  
Study Abroad and Global Mobility  
Student Services  
Lincoln University  
PO Box 84  
Lincoln 7647  
NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-3) 325-3838 ext. 8483

**Fax:** (011-64-3) 325-3850

**E-mail:** [diane.dehaan@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:diane.dehaan@lincoln.ac.nz)

### Massey University, Palmerston North

Jenny Loveday  
International Office  
Massey University  
Private Bag 11222  
Palmerston North 4442, NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-6) 356-9099

**Fax:** (011-64-6) 350-5698

**E-mail:** [J.M.Loveday@massey.ac.nz](mailto:J.M.Loveday@massey.ac.nz)

### University of Otago, Dunedin

Celia Corteletti  
International Office  
University of Otago  
PO Box 56  
Dunedin, NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-3) 479-5293

**Fax:** (011-64-3) 479-8367

**E-mail:** [celia.corteletti@otago.ac.nz](mailto:celia.corteletti@otago.ac.nz)

### The University of Waikato, Hamilton

Mohamed Kamal  
Waikato International  
The University of Waikato  
Private Bag 3105  
Hamilton 3240, NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-7) 838-4667

**Fax:** (011-64-7) 838-4269

**E-mail:** [mohkamal@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:mohkamal@waikato.ac.nz)

### Victoria University of Wellington

Fiona Mann  
Victoria International  
Victoria University of Wellington  
Level 2, Easterfield Building  
Kelburn Parade, Gate 4, Kelburn Campus  
PO Box 600  
Wellington, 6140 NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-4) 463-6794

**Fax:** (011-64-4) 463-5056

**E-mail:** [Fiona.Mann@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Fiona.Mann@vuw.ac.nz)

- For information about grades, see the [Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#).

#### UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*Don't hesitate to visit the professors—even just to chat. They enjoy it, expect it, and like hearing the ideas of Americans.*

*Don't freak out at the reading lists given for each lecturer or the fact that you don't get a syllabus with reading dates—you'll figure out for each course what you need to do and when.*

*I found that from the start, students and other academics were interested in American viewpoints, attitudes, and perceptions. The people are very aware, and the interest is genuine.*

*Don't be lazy. There are no midterms, sometimes few papers to write, and optional tutorials. It's easy to get behind. Grades rest on final exams. They're all in essay format and cover a plethora of information.*

*Massey University classes were interesting and informative. Maori classes were unique. Many professors were helpful and considerate, especially those in the Chemistry Department.*

”

## ACADEMIC CULTURE

University education in New Zealand is highly specialized and courses tend to be designed for advanced students. Because the normal undergraduate degree program is a three-year program, third-year courses in New Zealand correspond to UC fourth-year advanced courses and generally require more previous knowledge than those at UC. Consult with your UCEAP Liaison Officer or host university academic advisor about the background required for particular courses, especially before enrolling in third-year courses.

Courses are typically categorized to correspond to your level of study. New Zealanders refer to course levels as stages or parts (e.g., a part one or stage one course is designed for first-year New Zealand students). Instruction is divided into lectures, seminars, tutorials, and labs or practicals. The tutorials are small discussion groups during which students take short exams, write and analyze papers, and discuss lectures and readings.

Advanced classes frequently follow the seminar format. You are expected to have strong writing skills and be more academically independent than what is usually expected at UC.

### Glossary of Academic Terms

Although we share the English language with them, New Zealanders do not always use the same words in the same way. Below is a brief glossary of some particularly confusing terms that are useful in the realm of New Zealand academia.

NEW ZEALAND	UNITED STATES
Course	Degree program or program of study
Calendar	Student handbook or university catalog
Paper	Course
Faculty	College or school within the university
Points	Units

### Program Description

In this program you enroll in host university courses in your major or related fields, or in special-interest courses relating to New Zealand. You will meet with an academic advisor at the host university who will help you finalize your course of study based on your preparation and the actual course offerings for the year.

### Course Information

While on UCEAP, you are required to take a full-time course of study and enroll in a minimum of 21 to 24 UC quarter units each term. The number of courses you take depends on your host university and the courses you've selected.

The usual course load is approximately four classes per semester, but this varies by university and the specific courses selected. First-year New Zealand courses will usually appear on the UC record as lower division, while second- and third-year courses will usually translate to upper-division courses at UC. Consult a department advisor regarding the background required for particular courses, especially those offered at the third-year level. You will be given considerable flexibility in planning your academic program, but you should plan carefully and be aware of course prerequisites. Follow the advice of the International Office staff on course difficulty and course load.

## EXTENDING UCEAP PARTICIPATION

### Plan Ahead

It may be possible to extend your UCEAP spring participation and stay in New Zealand for a full year. If you are considering this opportunity and would like to apply for an extension:

- Prior to departure submit a Departmental and College Pre-Approval to Extend Form (DPA) to UCEAP.
- Once abroad, send an e-mail to the UCEAP Liaison Officer to initiate the extension process.

Both the UCEAP Systemwide Office and the Study Center must approve your extension request. Approval is based on a number of factors, including your academic performance, the support of your home campus department, and available space at the host university.

Once your extension is approved, UCEAP will notify your UC campus registrar and Financial Aid Office. For information about the steps you need to take with regard to finances, see the [Extension of Participation](#) chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



*New Zealanders are very open to conversation and helpful. People are considerate and genuine. The most difficult challenge for me was to be as open.*

*Just go out and experience the culture of the country. Go everywhere, do everything, and really make the most out of your experience.*



## CULTURAL AWARENESS

### Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with New Zealand and your new host city and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as [Lonely Planet](#), are excellent resources. You can keep up with current events in New Zealand by reading articles in magazines and newspapers, such as the [New Zealand Herald](#).

You will also need to understand the local culture and history. *The Penguin History of New Zealand* by Michael King is useful. These other sources should help you prepare prior to departure.

### Personal Research

Before going to New Zealand, it is important to know at least some basic information about the country and its people. Below is a list of 20 questions that will test your knowledge of New Zealand:

1. Who is the prime minister?
2. On what system of government is the country run?
3. What currency unit is used?
4. What are the three main islands that comprise New Zealand?
5. What are the two main bodies of water that surround the country?
6. Is January or July considered the middle of winter?
7. What type of climate does the country have?
8. What is the country's largest export?
9. What is the capital city?
10. What is the largest city?
11. What is the population?
12. What is the general history?
13. What is the name of the country's indigenous culture?
14. What kind of greeting is the *hongi*?
15. What is a Pakeha?
16. What is a Kiwi (in addition to the fruit)?
17. What are the country's official languages?
18. What are the country's main religions?
19. What are some of the popular sports?
20. What is New Zealand named after?

If you cannot answer these questions, spend some time researching New Zealand. As a UCEAP participant, you are a “foreign guest” representing the UC system. It is not necessary to know everything, but you will find it tremendously helpful to have a solid working knowledge about New Zealand's government and history.



**UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...**

“

*Travel a lot and learn as much as you can about New Zealand and its people.*

”

**Travel Guides**

These other resources will help you prepare for your departure:

- *Fodor's New Zealand*
- *Insight Guide to New Zealand*
- Lonely Planet's *A Travel Survival Kit* and the walking guide *Tramping in New Zealand*
- *Traveler's New Zealand*
- *Frommer's, Insiders', and Michelin Guides*

- Additional information about passports, visas, and other required documents is provided in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and [Predeparture Checklist \(PDC\)](#).

#### UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



*Take what you really think you will need, but don't over-pack. I was a "better safe than sorry" person. Wrong move! You'll regret it, won't need it, and won't want to lug excess baggage around.*

*Be sure to take one good outfit for going to the opera or theater.*

*Take some medical supplies with you that you're familiar with for colds, sore throats, and upset stomachs. It's a lot easier to have them than to have to deal with the pharmacy when you're not feeling well, especially when you first arrive.*



## ARRIVAL INFORMATION

### Travel Documents

#### Student Visa Requirement

In order to study in New Zealand, you must obtain a student visa from the New Zealand consulate. For directions, see the [New Zealand Immigration](#) website. Once you have received the Letter of Offer from your host university and are ready to complete your student visa application, you will submit it to the [Los Angeles](#) consulate.

If you are a non-U.S. citizen, contact the New Zealand consulate to learn about special entry requirements related to your citizenship. The application process for non-U.S. citizens often takes much longer than for it does for U.S. citizens. To avoid delays that could affect your ability to participate in UCEAP, start the visa application process right after you receive the Letter of Offer from your university.

### Packing Tips

#### Essential

- Your favorite personal hygiene products to last the first two weeks abroad (shampoo, toothpaste, cosmetics, etc).
- Any medical supplies or prescriptions you require
- Umbrella and a raincoat
- One warm coat or jacket
- Gloves or mittens
- Lightweight clothing, shorts, and T-shirts
- Casual clothing that can be layered
- Warm clothes for a cold winter (especially if you are studying in the South Island); homes in New Zealand do not have central heating
- One formal outfit for formal events
- Extra pair of tennis or running shoes
- Backpack
- Books

#### Optional

- Athletic gear and workout clothing
- Sleeping bag
- Lightweight gifts for hosts and new friends (for example, CDs, t-shirts with state or UC logo, or California scenic calendars).

#### Climate and Dress

New Zealand's climate ranges from subtropical in the north to cool in the south. The seasons are reversed—summer begins in December and winter begins in June. Summers are long and warm. Rain falls throughout the year, with more rain in the winter. New Zealand winters are generally mild. Since the academic year runs from mid-February through late November, you will miss most of the warmer weather.

- The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for the purchase of clothing abroad.

**UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...**

*There is a high dress standard for going out. Sandals and T-shirts won't cut it.*

*The cost of clothes and shoes in New Zealand is outrageous! Don't plan on buying anything of the sort—especially athletic gear. Had I known the prices, I would've brought with me brand-new clothes, an extra pair of tennis shoes, and more workout clothes.*



The first three months in New Zealand will be warm to mild, with frequent periods of short-duration rain. The months from June through September are generally cooler, with temperatures averaging in the mid-50s on the North Island and the low 50s on the South Island. On the South Island, you will need to add layers for warmth, both in and outdoors since homes in New Zealand do not have central heating. Since rain is unpredictable and can come at any time, an umbrella and a raincoat are essential, as is at least one warm coat or jacket and a pair of gloves or mittens for cold evenings.

Winter apparel is usually layered; men wear sweaters (called jumpers by locals) under suit coats and women wear cardigans, jumpers, or suits. Also plan to take lightweight clothing. Shorts and T-shirts are common in the summer.

Neat, casual dress is generally adequate for all but the most elegant restaurants or entertainment venues. Some universities hold balls during the year at which formal wear is required. Clothing costs abroad are generally no less than in California.

Clothing items such as T-shirts, running shoes, and athletic wear are especially expensive. It is best to pack your favorites from home.

Unless otherwise noted, bedding is not required, but a sleeping bag is recommended for traveling or for use as an extra comforter, especially in the colder areas of New Zealand.

**Metric System**

Measurements are metric in New Zealand. All highway signs (distance, speed, etc.) are expressed in kilometers, weather forecasts give predicted temperatures in degrees Celsius, weights are expressed in kilograms or tonnes, and liquid volume is in liters.

**Official UCEAP Start Date****Traveling to New Zealand**

You must make your own travel arrangements to Auckland, New Zealand. You will be crossing the International Date Line. When departing from the West Coast, you will need to allow about three calendar days for the flight (e.g., leave LAX on January 30 to arrive in Auckland on February 1). You are strongly urged to purchase a changeable airline ticket.

You are advised to avoid Fiji on the way to New Zealand. In recent years, Fiji has experienced political problems including coups and their aftermaths, and severe weather conditions, including tropical cyclones. Flying to New Zealand via Fiji can cause unfortunate delays in your arrival for the program. If you wish to visit Fiji, consider doing so on your return flight.

Because flights are sometimes changed or canceled, you should confirm your flight schedule about two weeks before departure.

Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them or customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.

### Financial Aid Students

Your financial aid package is based partly on the student budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare amount in the budget is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to New Zealand. If your travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the program budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the campus Financial Aid Office can guarantee the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.

### UCEAP Orientation

The program begins with a mandatory orientation in Auckland. Orientation sessions cover issues of practical concern and provide information on New Zealand, the academic program, and the role of UCEAP in your participation.

You must be in residence at the orientation site below on or by the evening of February 1, 2012, when the first UCEAP orientation event takes place. Detailed arrival information and specific meeting times will be provided closer to the time of departure. If you are unavoidably delayed, contact Professor Reilly (see contact information in the [Your UCEAP Network](#) chapter of this guide).

Orientation is held at:

The University of Auckland  
Grafton Hall of Residence  
40 Seafield View Road  
Grafton, Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

**Phone:** (011-64-9) 373-3994

**Fax:** (011-64-9) 377-9134

**E-mail:** [graftonhall@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:graftonhall@auckland.ac.nz)

Room and board will be provided at Grafton Hall during the UCEAP orientation (five nights beginning the evening of February 1). If you plan to arrive before the official UCEAP arrival/start date, you are encouraged to stay at Grafton Hall (at your own expense) on a pay-per-night basis. Contact Grafton Hall directly to tell them your arrival time; be sure you mention that you are part of the University of California UCEAP group. Meals are available and luggage can be stored at the facility during pre-program travel to other areas.

As stated in the Student Agreement, failure to appear at the orientation site by the date and time specified by UCEAP is cause for dismissal from the program (see the Arrival Information on the Predeparture Checklist, Participants web page).

The start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances, and you are responsible for making modifications in your travel itinerary to accommodate such changes. UCEAP is not responsible for any unrecoverable transportation charges incurred for independent travel arrangements. In order to be kept informed of any program changes, update [MyEAP](#) with any changes in your address, phone number, or primary e-mail. You are expected to check e-mail announcements from UCEAP regularly.

### Host University Orientation

In addition to the UCEAP orientation, each host university will hold its own orientation. Check your host university's website for the date of the international students' orientation and the semester start date. Both UCEAP and host university orientations are absolutely mandatory and each offers different information. The UCEAP orientation date is set to accommodate varying orientation and semester start dates of several universities. This may result in a gap between the end of your UCEAP orientation and the beginning of your host university orientation. **Budget for the possibility of a time lapse** between UCEAP orientation and your host university orientation. You will be responsible for personal expenses during this break, including lodging, food, and transportation.

► It is important that you carefully read all of the information available in the [UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad](#) and discuss it with the person who will assist you with your finances while you are abroad.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after EAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to EAP
- EAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on EAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

### MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

### EAP Student Budget

Carefully review your [UCEAP Student Budget](#).

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your EAP Student Budget frequently.

#### Instructions

- **Download** and **print** your EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your EAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the [Money Matters](#) chapter of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad* and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the [EAP Financial Information](#) web page.

- ▶ The official currency unit in New Zealand is the dollar (NZD\$).

## Handling Money Abroad

Before leaving the U.S., exchange U.S. \$50 to \$100 for New Zealand dollars at a bank (the process may take a week or longer). Besides providing an opportunity to become familiar with the foreign currency, the funds will be useful on arrival for snacks, transportation, and unexpected purchases. It may be possible to exchange money at the airport after arrival, but exchange rates are often unfavorable and the office may not always be open.

Take enough money to cover expenses for the first two months; it usually takes that long to become financially established. Travelers checks remain the safest form of currency for traveling and they can be exchanged almost everywhere. International postal money transfers usually take seven to ten days to arrive; cable transfers take three to four days.

## Financial Aid Students

Receiving financial aid on time can be a problem abroad due to delays in processing and mailing checks. Be knowledgeable about your program fees and understand how your financial aid will be applied toward these fees. Disbursements can be issued only after the financial aid package is approved and fees have been met. If you are in the year program, you are responsible for applying for your financial aid for the coming academic year. Contact your UC campus financial aid officer for acceptance information. It is wise to establish plans to receive backup funding and temporary loans to cover emergencies that may occur while you wait for financial aid disbursements.

## Banking

It is possible to open savings and checking accounts after arrival. There are banks on or near most university campuses. Because interest rates vary, it usually pays to shop around for the most suitable bank. Once an account has been established, it is easy to cash international money orders, U.S. traveler's checks, and checks from the U.S. for a small fee.

Checking accounts in New Zealand are more costly than in the U.S. There is no such thing as free checking (although it may be possible to arrange special student accounts with low fees); however, checks are easier to use and cash. By law, checks must be deposited into the account of the person or company named and cannot be cashed by an individual. This is particularly useful when checks are issued to large organizations or businesses.

Banks issue statements only if there has been activity in the account. Banks in New Zealand usually do not return checks to customers, but this can be arranged by request. Banks usually are open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday and are closed on Saturdays and special bank holidays. You will need to close all accounts before you leave New Zealand.

## ATM Card

Past participants report that the best way to obtain money is through an ATM. In New Zealand it is just as easy to use an ATM as it is at home. ATM cards provide a convenient way to get cash. It is also easy to tell where the card is accepted by matching the logos on the ATM card with those displayed on the ATM.

To use an ATM card, you must have an account at a bank or credit union in the U.S. (open one prior to departure if you do not have one already). The card is usually connected to a checking or share draft account. Check with the bank to make sure you can use an ATM to access funds in New Zealand. Banks issue a personal identification number (PIN) with ATM cards. This should be all that you need. Once abroad, you can use the ATM card to withdraw money from a U.S. account. There is no waiting period; money deposited in the U.S. is immediately available for withdrawal abroad. There may be limitations on the amount of cash accessible per transaction and there may be fees. Check with your bank to see what options are available and note your bank's fax or e-mail in case any problems arise.

### **Financial Obligations Abroad**

You are responsible for paying your debts abroad. The program is impacted when students fail to settle debts. If you leave unpaid charges abroad, you are subject to disciplinary financial and academic penalties imposed by the University of California.



- Approximate time difference: 19 hours, April–September; 21 hours, October through March

## COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

### Time

New Zealand is located within one time zone. When California is on daylight saving time and New Zealand is on standard time (for example, in September), New Zealand is 19 hours ahead of California. When California is on standard time and New Zealand is on daylight saving time (October through March), New Zealand is 21 hours ahead of California.

### Mail

Mail service within New Zealand is comparable to other world postal operations. Airmail service to the U.S. is reliable, with letters arriving in about 5 to 15 days. Post offices in New Zealand are generally open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 8 p.m. on Fridays.

### Shipping

Remember that what you ship abroad must later be shipped back home.

Shipping often results in more expense and trouble than anticipated. Take a good look at what you plan to ship and decide if the items are really necessary and worth the effort and expense. Do not ship computers, laptops, or cameras, especially if the items are new (they may be subject to expensive duty charges). It may be less expensive to pay the airline an excess baggage fee than to ship goods abroad (and pay customs duty upon arrival).

If you are unable to stay within the airline luggage restrictions and feel it is absolutely necessary to send goods abroad, you can ship items through the U.S. Postal Service, surface mail, international freight forwarders, or cargo services of international air carriers. Be aware that there are customs restrictions depending on the service used.

All packages must be sent directly to your residence or some other prearranged location. You may only have packages sent to the Study Center if you are placed at the University of Auckland, where the Study Center is located. Packages will not be forwarded to other cities.

You must be present when shipped luggage arrives abroad. Study Center offices will not collect luggage shipped in advance, and staff will not pick up luggage that must be claimed at a customs office or dock. Luggage must not be sent to in-transit locations.

### Computer Access & Use

Computer labs are available at all universities. After arrival, you can ask your advisor, either in the International Students Office or in your major department, about e-mail accessibility. Overall, the host universities have good computer facilities available to students.

If you own a laptop, take it to New Zealand. Professors usually require typed papers and computer facilities are crowded toward the end of the term.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

A great resource to find flatmates is [Trademe.co.nz](http://Trademe.co.nz) (NZ's Ebay); this would've been helpful in seeking out alternate, cheaper housing.

”

## HOUSING & MEALS

### Where Will I Live?

You are responsible for selecting, securing, and paying for your housing (even if you are on financial aid). Each university has a housing office where you can obtain information about on- and off-campus housing. The most practical accommodations are at the university colleges and halls of residence. Most UC students live in university halls of residence or other university-managed facilities, at least for the first term. UCEAP students have also rented private flats (apartments) and shared rental houses. These vary in quality and cost and are at a premium near the universities, but most students have reported good experiences with private rentals.

University-specific housing information is usually included with the orientation packet and acceptance letter from your host university. (If housing information is not included, contact the host university directly and request the information.) Carefully note the duration of accommodations contracts; the duration may be for a full year and you may be responsible for that entire time.

University accommodations are generally closed during holidays and other times when the university is not in session. At some host institutions, extra lodging costs are charged during orientation, school breaks, and holidays.

To follow are brief descriptions of halls of residence accommodations at each host university.

## The University of Auckland

Three residence halls (**Grafton Hall**, **International House**, and **O'Rorke Hall**) are available. These halls provide three meals a day, seven days a week; sporting facilities (cricket, rugby, netball, etc.); single or double bedrooms; and the opportunity to take part in campus life, social events, and sports tournaments. The residence halls, particularly Grafton Hall, are the best housing choice for study in Auckland.

There are also several university-managed facilities near the campus. See student comments below for more details.

Some students choose to rent or share a private flat off campus. Since you arrive prior to the Auckland semester start date, you are in a good position to locate a private rental.

### Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students

#### O'Rorke Hall:

- 5-minute walk to city campus
- A newer facility among the halls
- Very social atmosphere
- Kiwi/Maori cuisine in the dining hall
- Strict rules about visitors and overnight guests

#### Grafton Hall:

- About a 15–20 minute walk to campus or to city shopping
- Convenient buses central to area
- Near the Auckland Domain (public park)
- Catered meals and cleaning services
- Known for friendly and helpful staff who take a personal interest in residents
- Social atmosphere; the hall sponsors many events and activities including dance parties, scavenger hunts, outings, holiday celebrations, costume parties, formal dinners, etc.
- Facilities include a lounge, game room, music room, study floor, basketball/tennis court, lawn area, dining hall, and TV room with a large projector and screen (great for movie nights)
- Residents include about 250 undergraduates of all grade levels and grad students; good mix of Kiwi and international students
- High demand for this hall; apply early

#### Parnell Student Village:

- About a 15–20 minute walk to campus
- Right next to Newmarket, the Auckland Domain, and the museum
- Each flat comes fully furnished and houses 4–6 people
- Rooms are singles
- No meal plan (self catered), but you have your own kitchen
- Property has a yard complete with barbecue and volleyball net
- Residents include international and Kiwi students
- Open to both undergraduate and graduate students

**Unilodge:**

- Privately owned building near the university campus
- Very close to the supermarket in downtown Auckland
- Self-catering flats
- Average cost is about NZD\$215/week for a studio apartment
- Excellent security
- Known for being clean
- Minimum noise levels
- Shared kitchen facility, which includes a cooking range
- Stovetop included in suites, but not in the studio flats

**International House:**

- University-managed facility
- Conveniently located close to campus
- Enforced rules such as noise restriction and locked doors after 10 p.m., alcohol bans during exams, and supervision (RAs and Admins)
- Catered, communal meals in a cafeteria (no kitchen or cooking facilities)
- Residents include a mix of first-year Kiwi students and international exchange students
- Social atmosphere; easy to meet a lot of friends at hall events and parties (theme parties, volleyball tournaments, film nights, pool games, etc.) and trips to local sites such as the zoo
- Facilities include a study room and music room with two pianos and a drum set
- Deluxe double rooms are generous size with private bathroom and entrance
- Students often complain about the food, but appreciate that they don't have to cook

**Wellesley Student Apartments:**

- An AUT building (Auckland Technical University)
- Most likely room with AUT and other American students (not a diverse mix of people)
- Apartments are spacious and the location is prime

**14 Whitaker Place Flats:**

- University housing off campus
- A 5-10 minute walk to campus
- Self-catered
- Good for mature/independent students
- Fully furnished single, private bedrooms
- Wireless/Cable Internet included
- Flats include private kitchen, bathroom, and living room
- Bedding and dishware provided
- Relatively safe

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*If you plan on going out to eat a lot, you might want to look into flatting or Huia so that your food costs aren't included.*

”

- Laundry wash/dry is NZD\$2 each
- Reasonable rent
- A great place to feel a part of a community (organized events—though not as many as the dorms provide)
- Majority of students are international, but also a mix of Kiwis

**Empire Apartments:**

- Located right off of Symonds St., in between the International House and the 14 Flats
- This building is in association with Columbia Apartments and Princeton Apartments
- About a 10-minute walk to the City Campus
- Water, garbage, electricity, and weekly cleaning service included in the fees
- All linens are provided and changed weekly
- Kitchenette facilities include two heat plates for cooking, microwave, and a small mini fridge; Kitchenware provided: plates, cutlery, pots, pans
- Flats shared between three students, private rooms
- Three room sizes to choose from: small, med, and large with a king bed (the large room is about NZD\$200/week)
- Relatively new furniture
- Large comfortable beds
- Building accommodates students only
- There's a little bottle shop downstairs and a full bar/restaurant and convenience store next door
- Laundry facilities in the building (NZD\$3 per wash and NZD\$3 per drier)
- Internet is paid on a weekly basis and charged by the GB (about NZD\$10 a GB)
- No community in the building (no organized social events like the dorms provide)
- Students complained that management is disorganized
- Spa/pool facilities

**Huia Residence Hostel:**

- Located at the corner of the bridge and Grafton Road, and close to the university, the Auckland Domain (park), Mt. Eden, and Hobson Bay
- Right across from the link bus stop (convenient for grocery trips)
- A social environment; it helps students acclimate quickly
- Single, private rooms
- Strict no alcohol policy
- Very clean and inexpensive
- Optional meal plan; you can do your own cooking and grocery shopping
- Kitchens on each floor with 10 burners for cooking, a microwave, hot-water heater, toaster, sink, and freezer (the rooms had refrigerators)
- Bedding (sheets and pillows), towels, kitchenware (cooking utensils, pots/pans) provided

- Practice room with a piano, lounges on each floor with satellite TV, and downstairs common area with a pool table, couches, and large TV for movies or sports
- Not ideal for upper-classmen as it feels like a freshman dorm (i.e., it's highly regimented, there is less freedom )
- No Internet
- The demographics are roughly half international students of all class standings (many Americans and Canadians) and half Kiwi 1st-year students
- Free movie rental setup with a good selection of DVDs
- Many students complain about the 24-hour helicopter landing pad on top of the adjacent hospital

**Private Accommodations:**

**Homestay:** "I lived with a family in Hillsborough, which was a great experience spending most of my time with Kiwis. However, Hillsborough was rather far away (about a 30–40 minute bus ride) which made it difficult to spend evenings with other students my age. Living with a family also made it easier to be living in a foreign country without my own family and they were able to show me around parts of Auckland and NZ that I might not have seen without them."

**Private flat:** "I lived in a flat for my time in Auckland. During orientation I searched for flats online and found one close to campus and town very quickly and easily, it was just a matter how much I was willing to pay. I enjoyed living in a flat mostly because it wasn't the dorms, which weren't appealing to me. It was nice having a place of my own without a bunch of freshmen and made it feel more like I was really living in New Zealand. I found flatting to be pretty inexpensive and definitely a positive experience overall. I ended up living with a Kiwi student who I met only through the listing of the flat. It ended up working out really well. The only real drawback to flatting I've seen is that it hasn't been as easy to meet Kiwi students as it may be in the dorms. It was really nice, however, to have a place to be able to offer to other Americans to stay if they were passing through Auckland or as a place to get together with other exchange students outside the dorms. If you're up for finding a flat during the month or so you have in New Zealand before school starts (like I said, finding a flat isn't a problem) and don't feel like the added stresses of electricity and internet bills would bother you, then I'd definitely recommend flatting."

## University of Canterbury

You may live on campus or seek independent accommodation. On-campus housing consists of university halls of residence or university flats located adjacent to the campus. Hall accommodations are in single or double rooms and a full meal service is provided. Flats consist of six single bedrooms with shared kitchen, living room, and bathroom facilities. Flats are self-catering, but there are also cafeterias nearby in the student union. While every effort will be made to accommodate your preferences, you cannot be guaranteed your first choice of housing.

### Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students

#### Ilam Apartments:

- Apartment-style housing offered by University of Canterbury
- Located across the street from the university
- 10-minute walk to classes, the gym, grocery store, and Bush Inn shopping complex
- There are bus stops, restaurants, and shops all nearby.
- Buses pick up on both sides and are super convenient as you can check their arrival time online
- Moderately priced compared to UC, but expensive compared to other student housing in NZ (about NZD\$180–250/week)
- Rental agreement is lease-only (beware of harsh penalties for breaking the lease)
- Very clean and well taken care of
- Decent sized rooms, each with a large, opening window and a heater
- Internet is pay-by-data, which isn't uncommon and pretty fast
- The refrigerator is 3/4 size
- Dominated by American exchange students
- Maintenance comes fast if you have a problem
- Most of the housing only has a microwave oven, not a full oven
- Very social and easy to make friends who like to travel (RAs organize events if you want to take part)
- If you want to live with Kiwis, look on "[trademe](#)" and try to find a flat

## Lincoln University

You may live in a hall of residence or university flat. The flats shared by five to six people are furnished and either double or single rooms. Senior students may have self-catered rooms within the halls.

### Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students

#### Farm Road:

- Apartment-style housing unit at Lincoln University
- About a 10 minute walk to class and 3-minute walk to the gym
- Coed housing (four flatmates per apartment)
- Good chance you'll live with Kiwis
- Private rooms, shared kitchen, living room, and bathroom
- Wood-burning fire place, room for a small garden, a washer and dryer, and access to a clothes line

#### Stevens Hall:

- Dorms (all single rooms)
- Catered hall
- Comprised primarily of older exchange students and young Kiwis; meeting interesting exchange students and sharing common experiences was convenient
- Convenient for the hall activities

#### Centennial Halls:

- Five Centennial Halls
- Bus system into Christchurch is great and the township is only a short walk away
- Self-catered flats close to campus
- Dormitory quad/suite with six singles
- Private rooms of a good size
- Kitchen and bathroom (no living room within flat)
- Common area with a TV and couches for all of Centennial to share
- Mostly international students living there (great for getting to know people from around the world)
- Only one Centennial building made up of first-year Kiwi students

**Private Accommodation:** “I would recommend living either on campus (self-catered dorms), in Lincoln township, or in Riccarton. I would not recommend living in Christchurch City, which I did for the first several months. It is about a 45-minute bus ride from the city center, which is a long journey to do everyday—plus daily bus fare gets expensive. Riccarton is about 30 minutes. I would also recommend not getting a place alone—it’s just too much of a hassle to deal with having all of the lease issues and bills. Several people I know who’ve lived on campus wished they were off campus, just because it’s pretty small and they felt like they never got to leave school; however, I think that there were a lot of positives for those people as well and there is a lot going on at the campus. I now live with classmates in a house in Lincoln, which I think is ideal. It’s about a 15-minute walk from home to class, and I like living with Kiwis and learning more about the NZ culture.”



## Massey University

### Palmerston North Campus

Most UCEAP students will be located on the Palmerston North campus. You can live in a catered, single-room hall of residence or a self-catered flat on campus. The catered halls offer one or two meals a day, seven days a week. The self-catered flats consist of five to six single furnished bedrooms with shared kitchen, living room, and bathroom facilities.

If you want to mingle with local students, the catered accommodation is a better option. Keep in mind that the local students are first-year students (approximately 18 years old). Power is included.

**Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students:** “Palmerston North was a nice central place to live at because it made jumping to other places over the weekend very easy. Having lived in on-campus housing, I can say that living with younger students can either make you feel young again or like the grandma of the bunch. So choose housing carefully according to whether you’d like to relive all the chaos of past dorm experiences or if those really hard classes you’ll be taking require more Zen-like environments.”

### Wellington Campus

Students live in self-catered apartments a few minutes from the campus. The apartments consist of five single furnished bedrooms with shared kitchen, living room, and bathroom facilities.

Power and phone service are additional charges. You are encouraged to stay in the university apartment since inexpensive accommodation in Wellington is difficult to find.

**Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students:** “I spent the fall semester living at ‘The Cube Complex,’ Massey/Wellington’s 9th floor “modern” apartment building. I lived on the top floor in a 5-person flat. We had a glorious view of Wellington Harbour from our lounge window, but for the first three weeks of my time there the elevator was out of service, and hiking 9 flights got to be a little old after not too long. The Cube seemed to be populated predominantly by incoming Kiwi freshman, and rowdy parties were common. I found myself spending most of my time with other (older) international students, who had gotten more partying out of their systems, but also made some great Kiwi friends in the building. I appreciated having my own room (all the rooms in the Cube are singles, though apartments vary in number of rooms). In the winter, the rooms got very cold, as there is no heating in the Cube (perhaps this is normal?). In retrospect, I’m glad I lived in the Cube because of the great friends that I made, and the feeling of inclusion in the university environment. However, if I were to do it again, I might choose either a smaller, cozier residential complex, or an apartment.”

### Auckland Campus

Students live in self-catered university apartments a few minutes from campus. Flats consist of four to six single furnished bedrooms with shared kitchen, living room, and bathroom facilities.

Power and phone service are additional charges. There are free shuttle buses from the accommodation to the campus. You are encouraged to stay in the university apartment since inexpensive accommodation in Auckland is difficult to find.

## University of Otago

You can choose to live in a catered or non-catered hall of residence located a short distance from the main campus and city area, or in a shared student flat (apartment). You are also welcome to arrange temporary accommodation in advance and look for more permanent accommodation after arrival in Dunedin.

The February semester of any academic year is Otago's busiest semester. There is pressure on the available student accommodations close to campus at this time of year and you may find it difficult to secure suitable and affordable accommodation close to campus. Most accommodations are located close to campus and it is unnecessary to drive or use public transport to and from the university (students usually bike or walk). The halls of residence are centrally heated, but if you stay in a flat or apartment you will find it necessary to purchase a space heater and warm bedding (there is no central heating in Dunedin), and to bring warm clothing.

### Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students

#### University Flats:

- Mostly international students and a few Kiwi students
- Private rooms
- Fully furnished
- Flats are usually pretty nice, close to campus, and often in complexes with other University Flats
- You have the option of choosing how many people you want in your flat (6 is the maximum)
- Spacious, clean, modern, and relatively affordable
- Residents pay for water, electricity, food etc.
- No insulation or central heating
- A lot of independence
- Easy application process; you find out housing assignment before arrival in Dunedin
- A really good place to meet people (social experience)

#### Toroa International House:

- Short walk from campus and close to downtown, nightlife, supermarkets, etc.
- As a residence hall, there are rules and regulations to abide by (e.g., no parties three weeks before exams, playing music too loud, rules for cleaning the bathroom, kitchen, etc.)
- It is warm, comfortable, well-organized, and spacious
- Staff are incredibly helpful and the resources available are unparalleled
- Great common room with movie selection, plasma TV, BBQ, pool & foosball tables
- Numerous planned events and activities create a sense of community
- 120 residents with an international feel
- Flats are well equipped with a full kitchen
- Linens provided
- Heaters make it very comfortable during the cold winter months

- The rent is expensive, but a lot is included; Toroa charges a single rate for all the heating, water, electricity, and lockout rescues, while regular flats make you pay as you go
- Gates surround the entire perimeter of the grounds
- Good academic support network
- Most of the time Toroa is a quiet community (if you're one to party often, Toroa might not be the right choice)

**Private Accommodation:**

"I chose not to arrange accommodation before I got to NZ, because I had a friend's house to crash at while I searched for housing. The Otago accommodation office had a list of people looking for flatmates. It was a tad stressful, having only a week before school started, but I found a place within a five-minute walk to Uni (on Union St. West). It's a large house with "studio" rooms. There are 8 rooms in the main house, and 5 rooms in the back house. I live in the back, and go inside the main house to use the kitchen, laundry, etc. Since it's a studio I have a fridge, microwave, and kettle in my room, but other than that, it's just a normal room.

"Cons: It's rather expensive. I pay NZD\$180 a week (but that's still cheaper than what I was paying in California!).

"Pros: Central heating included. I was warm all winter long! And I think that made a huge difference in my experience. Also, cleaners come twice a week and clean communal areas.

"There are definitely pros and cons between living in a regular flat and living in an international hall. Since I'm here for a year, it's nice to have a quiet place to come back to, and there aren't parties all the time to distract me. That is also a con, because it was a lot harder for me to meet other international students and find friends that were just as motivated as me to go on trips on weekends. However, I have made a lot of Kiwi friends. Living in a house with studio rooms also means there isn't any 'flat drama,' which tends to happen when people end up with flatmates they don't get along with."

"I decided to find a room outside of the university-owned flats in an attempt to keep myself from only socializing with other Americans. While I succeeded in that, I think it had more to do with my joining the tramping club than who I was living with. The pros of my situation include cheaper rent than those living in the university-owned housing, a more central location, and getting to know one of my flatmates. However, there were many cons. These include a very small room (for which I was paying slightly less than my flatmates who had rooms 2 or 3 times the size of mine), incredibly cold temperatures in the house in the winter, faulty plumbing, and putting up with my flatmates' dirty dishes. I believe that most of this can be chalked up to the fact that I did not know any of the people in the house prior to moving in and was not able to see the house itself, save for a few pictures I was sent. I think you take more of a risk when you live outside of the university-owned flats. I suppose the take home message is that finding a private room in a flat is like any other risk: there can be big rewards or big losses."

## The University of Waikato

You may live on campus in a single room in a university hall, in a flat (apartment), or in a rented room in Hamilton. There are four halls of residence: Student Village, College Hall, Orchard Park, and Bryant Hall.

All halls except Orchard Park, which is self-catering, offer a communal dining room, lounges, separate TV rooms, laundry facilities, central heating, and linens and blankets.

### Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students

“The housing situation in New Zealand is really relaxed. Don’t stress on finding a place before you get there. It is quite easy to find a flat or a dorm. It depends on what your preferences are. I chose to live in a flat because there was no big town centre. I lived in Raglan for the first semester and then moved to Hamilton for the second. The most helpful suggestion I can give you about flatting is to bring heaps of warm clothes and prepare for a cold winter. The insulation in New Zealand flats isn’t good and they have no central heating. It’s not uncommon to be able to see your breath in your own house. Just crank up the space heater and get used to it. Besides you don’t want to spend that much time in your flat anyway; go travel and see the country.”

“I lived in a private residence with other EAPers. It was really cheap and really nice to be able to cook our own food. I would recommend trying to live with some Kiwis in addition to just Americans.”

## Victoria University of Wellington

It is recommended that you live in a residence hall. Independent housing in Wellington is expensive and difficult to find.

You are eligible to apply for accommodation to all the halls of residence offered at Victoria University. There are several catered and self-catered halls from which to choose.

### Quick Facts Shared by UCEAP Students

#### University Hall—Study Abroad apartments:

- Big rooms in a nice house
- Great location; proximity to Victoria is 5-10 minute walk and close to Zealandia nature area that offers a less urban backdrop
- Easy to connect with other study abroad students as well as Kiwi flatmates that are fun to hang out with
- A lot of Americans

#### Waiteata Apartments:

- The location is perfect; close to the Kelburn campus and an 8-minute walk downhill to the heart of town
- Easily accessible to buses/cable car
- Close to the Sunday market (corner of Vivian and Willis) with fresh and cheap produce every Sunday, and other great food places: Aro Fish n' Chips, French Bakery
- Cozy 4–5 person flats
- Nice size rooms and shared bathroom
- Self-catered (cook your own food)
- No-charge laundry facilities
- Free university Internet through Ethernet (con: uni Internet doesn't allow access to IM or Skype)
- Perfect for older, independent students who want to socialize/have fun, but still have space to get work done
- Great place to meet people from all different countries and cultures
- If you are looking for the crazy dorm experience, this is not the place for you
- Coming from anywhere, you have to climb up the steep hill or stairs and you're usually carrying things; it's a mission but great exercise

#### Stafford House:

- 15–minute uphill walk to campus and the Botanic Gardens, 20–minute walk to the main downtown area (coffee shops, bars, clubs); and the New Zealand Parliament is only half a block away
- About three hundred residents
- Very small 3-bedroom flats
- Fully furnished with a washer/dryer, bedroom furniture, and kitchen with basic cooking and cleaning supplies (no oven)
- Always clean and warm, even in the winter
- About one third of residents are American or international students (the rest are Kiwis)

- Well maintained building and excellent management and staff (RAs care about keeping Stafford a healthy and safe place)
- This is not a place to party
- Strict rules about visitors and noise
- If space and rules don't concern you, Stafford is the place to be in terms of location, health, and community

**Ustay:**

- Conveniently located near campus and downtown
- Double studio rooms include a kitchenette and bathroom
- Many first-year Kiwis were as excited to make new friends as I was

**Taranaki 217:**

- Clean and quiet
- About a 10-minute walk from downtown Wellington
- Located right by Massey University, but a bit of a walk to Victoria University's Kelburn campus
- Access to a large, fully equipped kitchen, a common room with a TV, and a small, green courtyard
- Single room includes in-suite bathroom plus furniture, including a small refrigerator, and a queen-sized bed
- Rent for a single room was about NZD\$185/per week
- No events or activities for meeting people
- Applications can be found online

**Private Accommodation:**

“Instead of going with one of the many student accommodations/hostels, I chose to get to Wellington and try to find my own accommodation. I looked on [trademe.co.nz](http://trademe.co.nz), which is the equivalent of Craigslist. I looked on trademe during January before I headed over to NZ, and there were countless listings of people who needed flatmates. However, once I arrived in Wellington right before university started in late February, the demand for housing had drastically risen and the flat hunting became very competitive, especially since I wasn't going to be staying for an entire year. So I ended up living in a backpackers for about three weeks while I scoured trademe every day and went and looked at countless flats all over the city.

“Fortunately I did find housing, though, with two awesome Kiwi girls from Wellington. The flat was perfect, located centrally on upper Cuba Street so I was only twenty minutes from campus and basically right in the heart of town. I really enjoyed having my own flat as opposed to living in university-run housing because I am very independent and like doing my own thing. I heard from several friends that stayed in Stafford House or one of the other Uni-owned buildings that there were strict rules about visitors and after-hours, and most of them got tired of that, especially since they were adults of 21 years old. The only thing I would recommend if you chose to find your own flat is to attend the welcome week activities and try to meet as many people as you can in the first few weeks because you do miss out on meeting people by opting out of student housing. Other than that I thought it was great, plus by walking the city so much trying to find flats, you really learn your way around your new temporary home rather quickly.”

## Meals

### Food

Beef, lamb, chicken, and fresh fish are abundant, while pork is less popular and expensive. Fresh vegetables are available throughout the year. Dairy products are plentiful and reasonably priced. New Zealand has good domestically produced and imported cheese. Yogurt, sour cream, whipping cream, and cottage cheese are also available. Butter is inexpensive, usually costing about the same as table margarine. Table margarine is made from vegetable oil and is similar to American margarine, except it is not as flavorful. Cooking margarine is made with animal fat, which is not wise for those who watch cholesterol.

### Restaurants

Restaurants are plentiful and widely varied in cuisine, ambience, and price. First-rate restaurants are usually comparable in cost to American restaurants. Drive-in or fast-food restaurants are rare; American-style fast food can be found in “milk bars.” Mexican cuisine generally is not available. Although there are such familiar establishments as McDonald’s, Pizza Hut, and KFC in major cities, you will also discover new foods like meat pies and New Zealand fish and chips. Sandwiches are available at many small shops at lunchtime. Many restaurants are closed on Mondays and reservations are essential on weekends at popular locations. Many of the best bargains are found at BYO (bring your own) restaurants. Various guides to dining out are available at newsstands or bookshops. Many pubs, especially in the city center, offer counter lunches and meals in addition to drinks.

### Tipping

Tipping is not a usual practice in New Zealand. Locals almost never tip for service. Tipping taxi drivers is optional. It is unnecessary to tip in bars or cafeterias, and barbers and hairstylists do not expect to be tipped.

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...



Dunedin is the best city for students in New Zealand. If you're there for a year, join the tramping club, kayak club, or a sports team. It's a great way to meet Kiwis.



## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Student Unions and Clubs

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while abroad is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community.

Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations; attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles; and get the most out of your time abroad.

Some New Zealand universities offer membership in student unions. A union membership fee usually allows access to films, dances, concerts, sporting events, and sporting equipment at reduced rates. With a university identification card, you may get discounts for most commercial films, performances, and exhibitions.

### Outdoor Activities

Young people in New Zealand are very outdoors-oriented. There are many opportunities for hiking (called tramping), mountain climbing, nature walks, “orienteering,” sailing, bird watching, fishing, beach activities, and water sports. Every university has a variety of sports and outdoor clubs. UCEAP alumni advise joining one or more clubs, which offer excellent social outlets as well as affordable opportunities for outings and for rental of all kinds of gear (sports equipment is expensive in New Zealand).

### Recreational Travel

- ▶ The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel abroad.

#### *Lodging While Traveling*

There are various kinds of international youth travel associations and youth hostel associations in New Zealand. A useful resource is the [Youth Hostels Association of New Zealand](#) website.

#### **Holidays and Business Hours**

New Zealand national holidays include: New Year's Day (January 1); Waitangi Day (February 6); Good Friday; Easter Monday and Tuesday; Anzac Day (April 25); Queen's Birthday (first Monday in June); Labor Day (last Monday in October); Christmas Day (December 25); and Boxing Day (December 26).

In addition to the national holidays, each New Zealand province observes its own local holidays. There are also bank holidays and occasionally proclaimed holidays over the Christmas break. Universities usually close between Christmas and New Year's.

Stores often stay open until 9 p.m. on Thursday or Friday. Most stores close on holidays. Neighborhood grocery stores stay open longer, but they are not as competitive as major supermarkets.

Bars usually close at 10 p.m. Although hours vary by region, stores are usually open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.



- In addition to the following sections, read the **Health** and **Safety** chapters of the *UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad*.

## HEALTH

### Medical Resources

The standard of medical care in New Zealand is very good and comparable to the United States. Emergency services are extensive, reliable, and very efficient. If you feel sick or have a medical emergency, seek medical attention and contact the Liaison Officer immediately. The Liaison Office can recommend a clinic to visit, get the necessary medical insurance claim forms to complete, and assist if arrangements need to be made with your professors for an extended absence from class.

### Insurance

While abroad, you must be covered by two insurance policies. The **UCEAP Insurance Plan** is paid by the University of California and required for all UCEAP participants. Your host university in New Zealand also requires supplementary coverage. Payment for the New Zealand insurance is included in your UCEAP fees. If you receive an invoice from your host university for a separate insurance policy, disregard the invoice (unless you are attending the University of Canterbury).

- **Exception: Students at the University of Canterbury will pay their supplementary coverage directly to the university during enrollment.**

## UCEAP STUDENTS SAY...

“

*I definitely felt a lot safer in New Zealand than in California. Even in the biggest city, Auckland, violent crimes are not as common as in San Francisco or Los Angeles.*

”

## SAFETY

### Crime

Crime rates in New Zealand are low but have increased in recent years. It is considered by the U.S. Embassy as a medium-threat crime environment. The majority of crimes in New Zealand are crimes of opportunity. Due to unemployment rates, street crime in the major urban areas—such as theft from vehicles, pick-pocketing, and scams—is a routine occurrence, and foreign tourists are frequently the victims. The major urban areas—Wellington, Auckland, and Christchurch—continue to lead the country in criminal activity and associated arrests. Observe the same precautions with your personal safety and possessions as you would in California or in any other major urban area:

- Use common sense and take personal protective measures.
  - Avoid walking in isolated, unlit areas at night; do not use shortcuts.
  - Keep a basic First Aid kit for use in emergencies.
  - Report any theft or crime to the police immediately.
  - Along with personal safety measures, consider having a good-quality, loud, rescue whistle easily accessible for enhanced security. The loud sound of a self-defense whistle or a personal alarm can cause temporary disorientation and signal for help, giving you the necessary time to get away.
- In an emergency, the fire department, police, ambulance, and Land Search & Rescue (LandSAR) can be reached by dialing 111 from any phone.

### Earthquakes/Natural Disasters

The possibility of natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, is one of the greatest threats facing New Zealanders. New Zealand, especially Wellington, experiences numerous earthquakes throughout the year. In 2010 and 2011, several large earthquakes and aftershocks occurred in the Canterbury (Christchurch) region and resulted in widespread damage to infrastructure, injuries, and deaths.

New Zealand's North Island contains a number of active and dormant volcanoes. Although the probability of an eruption affecting a large area of the North Island is relatively low, the probability of an eruption occurring sometime in the future is high.

The New Zealand government, through its Ministry of Civil Defense, promotes emergency preparedness of all people within New Zealand, urging people to take personal responsibility for their safety and security in the event of a natural disaster. New Zealand has Civil Defense centers throughout the country to serve as command posts and assistance centers during a natural disaster.

The U.S. Embassy in Wellington urges travelers to visit the [Ministry of Civil Defense's website](#) for specific preparedness information.

## Extreme Sports

UCEAP strongly discourages participation in extreme adventure sports, such as bungee jumping, sky diving, rappelling, climbing, motorcycling, and kayaking. Injuries and even death result from participation in such activities. If you choose to engage in such activities, use caution and common sense. Never participate alone, always carry identification, and let someone else know where you are at all times. Before kayaking, check the river conditions and wear a life jacket. When hiking, rappelling, or climbing, carry a First Aid kit, know the location of the nearest rescue center, and bring a friend along.

## Traffic and Transportation Safety

All traffic travels on the left in New Zealand. Exercise extra caution when crossing streets on foot. Public transportation is reliable with outstanding safety records and few security concerns except pick-pocketing. The roads in New Zealand are well signed and maintained.

## Race Relations

The Human Rights Act of 1993 is an Act of the Parliament of New Zealand which deals with discrimination. Even though New Zealand is widely considered to have the best race relations in the world, according to a 2010 report released by the NZ Race Relations Commissioner, Asian New Zealanders and international students continue to experience racial discrimination and harassment.

## Emergency Contacts

### What Constitutes an Emergency?

Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

### In an Emergency

Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

#### If you are in the U.S.

- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

#### If you are abroad

- Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency, contact the UCEAP Liaison Officer at 021-300-712. If for some reason you cannot reach the Liaison Officer at his emergency contact number, call the UCEAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762.
- If necessary, contact the U.S. Consulate General in Auckland:  
U.S. Consulate General Auckland  
Citigroup Centre  
23 Customs St. East, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Private Bag 92022  
Auckland, New Zealand  
**Phone:** +64 (0) 9 303-2724  
**Fax:** +64 (0) 9 303-1069  
**Web:** [newzealand.usembassy.gov/consulate-general-auckland.html](http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/consulate-general-auckland.html)

#### Business Hours Emergency Assistance

**Phone:** +64 9 303 2724 ext: 2900\*

#### After Hours Emergency Assistance:

**Phone:** +64 4 462 6000 (leave a message, and the Duty Officer will return your call)

► **\*Note:** These contact details are for U.S. Citizen queries only.