



**nmit**

Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology  
Te Whare Wānanga o Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui

# International Student Guide 2020

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## Welcome

Kia Ora  
E ngā mana, E ngā reo, E te Iwi tēnā tātou

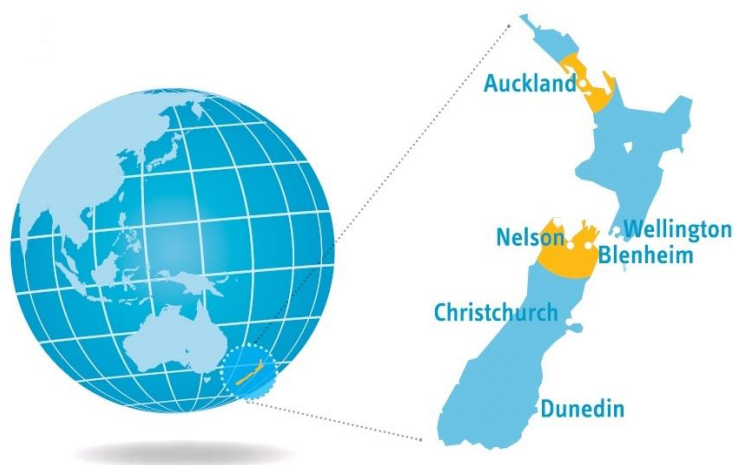
As an international student at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) you'll enjoy a world class education in one of the most beautiful and dynamic regions of New Zealand.

Students choose NMIT for its outstanding facilities, wide range of programmes from certificate to postgraduate level and high standards of achievement - NMIT is rated Category 1 status, the highest possible, by the New Zealand Qualification Authority. Our programmes are designed with industry to create work-ready graduates that meet local and international job market needs. We have been educating successful graduates since 1905. As an NMIT graduate your qualification is internationally recognised and will serve you well wherever you are in the world - I know you'll find the future you deserve, right here, at NMIT.



Liam Sloan  
Chief Executive

## Geographical Location



### TRAVEL TIMES

#### By air (direct flights):

Auckland > Nelson	1 hour 15 minutes	839 km
Wellington > Nelson	25 minutes	206 km
Auckland > Blenheim	1 hour 20 minutes	760 km
Wellington > Blenheim	25 minutes	127 km

#### By car:

Nelson > Blenheim	1 hour 30 minutes	114 km
Woodbourne > Blenheim	10 minutes	8.5 km
Nelson > Christchurch	5 hours 30 minutes	416 km
Marlborough > Christchurch	5 hours	362 km



### Nelson Campus

NMIT's main campus is located in Nelson's vibrant city centre. Known for its festivals, markets and lifestyles, you'll join around 4,000 other students who have also chosen to study at NMIT. Population: 93,000+ with 46,000 living in Nelson City.

### Marlborough and Woodbourne Campuses

From the breathtaking beauty of the Marlborough Sounds to its rugged mountain ranges, fertile plains, intricate waterways and thriving aviation, aquaculture and viticulture industries, Marlborough has a lot to offer with its water, wilderness and wine. Population: 45,000 with around 31,000 living in Blenheim City.

## Pre Departure Checklist

- Travel documents (air tickets)
- Passport with current visa label
- NMIT Offer and Receipt documents
- Academic records (or certified copies)
- Drivers licence (if you have one and must have a copy translated in English)
- Medical and travel Insurance documents (if you have organised your own insurance)
- Curriculum vitae (translated in English if you wish to work and your visa allows you to work while you are studying)
- Open New Zealand bank account from home country (see section on Banking in New Zealand on the next page)
- Essential clothing
- Medical records and personal medication prescribed by your doctor (if required)
- Contact details of your friends and families
- Familiarise yourself with NMIT, visit [www.nmit.ac.nz](http://www.nmit.ac.nz) or like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nmitnz> or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nmitinternational/>
- Familiarise yourself with your rights as a tenant if you choose to stay in a rental property, visit <https://tenancy.govt.nz/>
- Information on life as an international student in New Zealand, visit [NauMai New Zealand](http://NauMai New Zealand).



## Accommodation and Airport Transfers

### Accommodation

Finding the right accommodation is very important for the success of your studies. NMIT's International Support Team can organise your accommodation in a homestay or a backpacker hostel. Accommodation options vary depending on where you will be studying, select a campus below for more information about options and costs:

- [Nelson](#)
- [Marlborough](#) (including RNZAF Base Woodbourne)

Or make an [accommodation request online](#).

### Complimentary Airport Transfers

We offer an airport pick up service to meet you on your arrival which will transfer you to NMIT or your accommodation. It is important that you advise your flight details to us **at least 5 days** in advance of your arrival. To request a pick up, please complete [an online request](#).

## New Zealand Customs Declaration

New Zealand has strict laws to protect its agricultural industries from imported pests and disease. If in doubt, before you leave please see the official New Zealand Customs website for exact information: <http://www.customs.govt.nz/Pages/default.aspx>. On arrival at a New Zealand international airport, please pay careful attention to making your customs declaration. There are very strict laws governing custom declarations which must be filled in accurately. Otherwise, you may face potential fines or penalties. Please carefully read the "What you must do to protect New Zealand" brochure that was sent with your Offer Documents or click on the link below to read more information from the Biosecurity New Zealand website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec>

## Banking in New Zealand

All international students who have a visa valid for less than 6 months MUST open a bank via the Migrant Banking team PRIOR to leaving their country of origin. The student must receive their bank account number as the final step in the process. If they do not have a bank account number, the process has not been completed.

Any International Students who have a visa valid for less than 6 months WILL NOT be allowed to open a bank account on arrival in New Zealand, if they have not completed the process in their country of origin.

If you want to open a bank account once you arrive in New Zealand, the bank will need identification, such as your passport and proof of your address (your New Zealand residential address). You may need to make an appointment before you open your bank account.

It is not safe to carry large amounts of cash with you. Please deposit the funds into your bank account as soon as possible.

Banks are normally open from 9:00am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday and ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines) operate 24 hours a day.

Click to [read further information regarding transferring money to New Zealand before and after you arrive](#).

## Arrival and Your First Few Weeks at NMIT (Orientation)

Read your Offer Document to check where to go on your first day. Please remember to bring your passport with you so we can finalise your enrolment. Arrive on time to finalise your enrolment at NMIT because we have scheduled an orientation programme for you.

After you have finalised your enrolment:

- English language students will have an English competency test to evaluate which is the best class for you to begin with.
- Mainstream students will go to their relevant programme areas and be met by administration teams

The International Support Team will:

- accompany you on a Campus tour where you will be introduced to relevant staff, see NMIT's facilities
- provide information on safety and wellbeing
- if needed, arrange a tour of the local area
- help you set up a bank account
- help you purchase a SIM card for your mobile phone

A NMIT Student Identification Card (SID) will be processed for you. This is useful for many things: loaning books from the library, logon for computers, photocopying, obtaining discounts on things like cinema tickets, food etc. If you lose your SID card, please see Information and Enrolment Centre at Nelson Campus or Marlborough Campus. You will be charged \$15.00 for a replacement SID card.

We will also introduce you to some key community groups who are willing to help you get closer to our community and participate in fun activities outside of NMIT.

## Personal Details

It is a legal requirement that NMIT has accurate contact information for you in case of an emergency. Please ensure that you keep all your address and contact details up to date. You will be able to update your personal details once you receive login access.

## Important Dates and Holidays

Refer to [Key Dates](#) on NMIT's website page for semesters, terms and graduation ceremonies dates.

## Student Discounts

As a Student Identification Card holder, you are entitled to a range of discounts in local business from cinema tickets to food and clothes. Check out the list in the SANITI diary or go to the [SANITI Discount Directory web page](#) for more details.

Lending money to friends can cause problems and should be avoided. The borrower may not be able to pay it back as promised and friendships can be ruined, leading to stress and unhappiness. If you have any financial worries, you are welcome to discuss them with either NMIT's Student Support team or SANITI who will give you advice and help you to get back on track.

## Student Recipes

Make your own sandwiches, refill your water or juice bottle or make your own coffee for lectures. Use Nelson's Wednesday or Saturday markets to buy cheap vegetables and fruit, buy own-brand labels in the big stores. Pick up a decent cookbook in a garage sale, or at a second hand shop, and get staples like rice in bulk. Check out [Student Recipes](#) for some cheap and easy ideas for cooking your own food.

## Student Support

NMIT's Cultural Advisors are on hand to assist you with the following:

- Adjustment to student life
- Connections to people of your culture
- Balancing your study with work and family commitments
- Pacific Island support
- Relationship issues
- Access to free counselling
- Career guidance
- Referrals to community and government agencies
- Health concerns and medical referrals

The Student Services team are located in the Library Learning Centre (LLC) at Nelson Campus and Marlborough Campus. They can be contacted at [internationalssupport@nmit.ac.nz](mailto:internationalssupport@nmit.ac.nz).

You may be interested in the [Nelson Multicultural Society](#) who may be able to connect you with one of the many cultural groups living in Nelson.

## Learning Support

The learning advisors are here to advise and assist you with any aspect of your learning. The team offers one-to-one training as well as a range of seminars or small group training sessions.

Their aim is to help students to become independent effective learners.

Our tutors can help you with:

- Computer skills
- Interview training
- CV writing
- Maths
- Learning styles
- Writing skills
- Planning essays or assignments
- Time management
- Research skills



You can make an appointment with the appropriate tutor in regards to general skills, academic writing or maths, or download one of our many hand-outs from the student hub of the NMIT website.

## Off-campus Counselling Services

NMIT students have free access to a counselling service provided by OCP, a professional company that offers the services of a team of independent counsellors and psychologists throughout New Zealand. First language support is available for international students.

Through this service you will be able to address issues such as:

- Personal or study stress
- Relationship problems
- Conflict situations
- Anxiety/depression
- Grief/loss
- Violence
- Harassment
- Personal trauma
- Addictions
- Budget advice

To find out more about free counselling sessions contact 0800 377 990 or visit [www.ocp.co.nz](http://www.ocp.co.nz).

## Information and Enrolment Centre

The Information and Enrolment Centre provides centralised processing in applications, enrolment, re-enrolment, withdrawals, transfers and refunds for all students. The team will also assist you with visa applications and medical or travel insurance. They can be contacted by [international@nmit.ac.nz](mailto:international@nmit.ac.nz).

## IT Support and Learner Library Services

IT support can assist with:

- Login and password issues - you may need to present your Student ID
- Technical problems relating to using NMIT services
- Basic issues on personal devices

During 8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

### **Nelson Campus**

Learner Services

Nelson Library Learning Centre Ground Floor

### **All campuses**

Phone: 03 539 5477 or 0800 422 733

Email [helpdesk@nmit.ac.nz](mailto:helpdesk@nmit.ac.nz)

After-hours

[Freephone 0800 NMIT IT \(0800 664 848\)](tel:0800664848), available 24/7

Phones to contact the Service Desks are available in Nelson A & G blocks and Library Reception, as well as the Marlborough Learning Hub.

View the NMIT Student IT Support FAQs [here](#).

## SANITI

SANITI is your fun, friendly and independent student association; providing events and services to NMIT students on all campuses. The team is located on the Nelson Campus and visits the Marlborough, and Woodbourne Campuses regularly. SANITI is run by students. Their services include events, support, advocacy and assistance with employment and an effective voice for students.

For further information about SANITI like them on Facebook: [facebook.com/SANITINZ](https://www.facebook.com/SANITINZ) or visit their website <http://www.saniti.co.nz/>.

## Library Learning Centres

### **Library Learning Centre (Nelson Campus)**

The three level Library Learning Centre is our buzzing onsite learning hub - a great place to study, research or work together. Downstairs you'll find the Fishbowl Computer Café where you can access your online course material or surf away. With campus-wide free WIFI you're online anywhere in an instant.

### **Café and Library (Marlborough Campus)**

Take some important time out at our onsite café, or hit the books in our library - you'll find the right spaces to study and relax here on campus. You're also online instantly with free campus-wide WIFI.





## Learning in New Zealand

Learning in New Zealand will be different to what you are used to.

Adult learners are expected to take responsibility for their learning with emphasis on overall individual development.

As a student you can expect to study on your own after class hours to meet the academic requirements. Individual or group assessments are a common feature with occasional written exams or quizzes depending on your study area. Students are expected to apply principles of learning and produce independent work rather than replicating classroom learning in writing.

Tutors are very approachable and generally addressed by their first names rather than salutations.

### Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes any breach of any rules relating to the conduct of tests or examinations and any dishonest practice occurring in the preparation or submission of any work (whether during an examination or not) which counts towards the attainment of a grade in any course or otherwise occurring in connection with any summative assessment.

Dishonest practice includes cheating, plagiarism, submitting work which has been jointly prepared for presentation (in circumstances where this has not been communicated to students as legitimate) or which has previously been submitted elsewhere and using notes during a closed book test.

Refer to [Section 3](#) of the Academic Statute for further information on Academic Regulations.

## Student Visas

### Student Visa

We are required to take a photocopy of your student visa and the title page of your passport. These copies are required to comply with the The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016 and Immigration New Zealand. We can help you change or extend your student visa and insurance during the time you study at NMIT. If you need help with your visa, please contact the International staff at the Information and Enrolment Centre in A Block, Nelson Campus ([international@nmit.ac.nz](mailto:international@nmit.ac.nz)).

Dependent on the programme you are studying, you **may be** allowed to work for up to 20 hours per week. Please ensure you adhere to your conditions on your visa label.

### Renewing your Student Visa for the following year/s

In order to renew your student visa for the following year/s, you must provide the following:

- 1 Offer and Receipt Documents
- 2 Bank statement/s that shows:
  - a debit transaction that your fees and insurance has been paid for the year **and**
  - transactions for the last three months **and**
  - maintenance funds of NZD\$15,000 per year (or NZD\$1,250 per month) **plus**
  - either an additional NZD\$1,000-\$2,000 for Outward Travel **or** return ticket home
- 3 Attendance record
- 4 Academic results
- 5 If required, a support letter from your programme area that provides an explanation of why you did not complete more than 75% of your courses last year and/or did not attend all of your classes.
- 6 Payment of NZD\$150.00 (online application) or NZD\$277.00 (manual application).

### **Class Attendance and Progression**

To maintain your eligibility to hold a Student Visa, you are required:

- to **attend all classes** unless there are genuine reasons for absences
- make satisfactory progress on the programme you are enrolled on. You must pass at least 75% of your courses per semester.

If you do not attend all classes or make satisfactory progress, Immigration New Zealand can revoke your Visa. It is your responsibility to comply with the requirements to hold a student visa, and it is extremely important that you do so, as it may affect any future visa applications and your studies in New Zealand.



If you are sick and unable to come to classes, you must inform your tutor, student advisor or programme area administrator. If you plan to be absent (eg for travel or other reasons) you must seek approval from the Programme Manager **before** you take your leave.

### **Resit/Repeat Course Fees**

Failed courses must be repeated and usually incur payment of full course fees.

## **Medical and Travel Insurance**

### **Medical and Travel Insurance**

International students, including groups of students, must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while in New Zealand. NMIT will automatically arrange [insurance coverage](#) for all students with Allianz. Students can choose their own insurance company, however it must comply with the minimum standards required by The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016. If you arrange your own insurance cover, you must supply your Certificate of Insurance and Schedule of cover, in English, to the Information and Enrolment Centre. Once the insurance policy has been evaluated and confirmed as meeting the minimum standards required by the The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016, the policy taken out by NMIT on behalf of the student will be cancelled with the fees refunded to the student.

### **Claims Information**

Once you have started your studies, all claims are managed by the Insurer to ensure smooth and prompt claim settlements. Allianz is responsible for ensuring that claims handling performance is maintained to the highest standard. Where a claim is particularly complex, Allianz will use its expertise to assist you in gaining a fair outcome.

If you need to make a claim, download a [claim form](#) and complete it in full. Email the form together with your receipts and any supporting information to: [claims@insurancesafenz.co.nz](mailto:claims@insurancesafenz.co.nz)

If you require any assistance, please email their Help Desk [claims@insurancesafenz.co.nz](mailto:claims@insurancesafenz.co.nz). Provided you supply your bank details on the claim form, the settlement can be direct credited to your bank account. The Insurer processes many thousands of claims each year and when the correct information is supplied by you on the claim form, settlement of the claim is very prompt.

### **Eligibility for Health Services**

Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If you receive medical treatment during your visit, you may be liable for the full costs of that treatment.

Full details on entitlements to publicly funded health services are available through the [Ministry of Health](#).

### **Accident Insurance**

The Accident Compensation Corporation provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand but you may still be liable for all other medical and related costs.

Further information can be found on the [ACC website](#).

### **How to Make an Appointment to See a Doctor**

To see a doctor or health professional in New Zealand, you need to:

- Make an appointment (by phone is ok)
- Attend the appointment at the agreed time, pay for your consultation yourself (payment required ranges from NZD\$60.00-\$120.00 per consultation)
- Keep your receipt of payment, you can then claim this money back through your student insurance
- If specialist treatment is required your doctor will make a referral for you to the appropriate medical provider

**The hospital will not see you for a consultation without first obtaining a referral by your doctor (unless you are involved in an accident or emergency).**

Each region has a District Health Board (DHB) that manages the services provided in that area. To find out what services a DHB provides, visit their local website.

A full [list of the DHBs](#) with their web addresses can be found on the Ministry of Health's website.

### **Emergency and Non Emergency**

If you have a serious accident and need urgent medical attention you must go the Accident and Emergency department at the nearest hospital or **dial 111** and ask for an ambulance.

For non emergency situations, please visit the [list of the DHBs](#) to find the nearest after hours duty doctor service.

### **Healthline**

If you or a family member is feeling unwell and you're not sure what to do, call Healthline on 0800 611 116. It's free and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Registered nurses will offer advice on what to do.

Healthline also offers a Well Child telephone advice service for parents and caregivers of under five year olds with questions about parenting or health matters.

Visit [www.healthline.co.nz](http://www.healthline.co.nz) for more information.

### **Pregnant Students**

Immigration New Zealand provides [this information](#) about maternity services if you are pregnant or become pregnant while studying at NMIT. Please also see NMIT's [policy](#) for students who need to take leave during their studies.

## Working and Study

As an international student in New Zealand you may be able to work up to 20 hours a week and full-time during the scheduled breaks.

The main purpose of a student visa is to allow international students to study full-time in New Zealand.

However, depending on your study programme you may have an opportunity to work while you study. Many students find part-time employment in the hospitality and service industries including restaurants, bars and supermarkets.

NMIT's student association, SANITI, has a full-time Employment Coordinator to support students to find work by offering CV writing and interview skills training as well as up-to-date local job news.

In New Zealand there are laws to protect our workers, and this includes international students. Find out more about your rights and responsibilities working in New Zealand at [www.nzstudywork.com](http://www.nzstudywork.com).

For those eligible to work, the following websites can be very helpful:

- [www.seek.co.nz](http://www.seek.co.nz)
- [www.trademe.co.nz](http://www.trademe.co.nz)
- [www.sjs.co.nz](http://www.sjs.co.nz) (Student Job Search)

For the current minimum wage rates, go to Employment New Zealand - [Current Minimum Wage Rates](#).

## Learning and Teaching Policies and Procedures

The [Learning and Teaching policies and procedures](#) relate to the delivery of learning and teaching at NMIT.

Below is a list of some of the policies:

*Learning and Teaching:*

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Assessment](#)
- [Copyright Guidelines for Students](#)
- [International Student Special Leave](#)
- [Learning and Teaching at NMIT](#)
- [Examination Guidelines](#)
- [Recognition of Academic Credit Policy](#)
- [Recognition of Academic Credit Procedure](#)
- [Student Charter](#)
- [Student Rules](#)
- [Withdrawal from NMIT Programmes and Courses](#)

*Safety, Health and Wellbeing*

- [Safety, Health and Wellbeing](#)

*Academic Statute:*

- [Academic Statute](#)



## The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016

NMIT has agreed to observe and be bound by The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016, often referred to as the 'Code of Practice 2016' published by the Minister of Education.

Copies of the Code of Practice 2016 are available on request from this institution or from the [NZQA website](#).

The Code of Practice 2016 sets standards for education providers to ensure that:

- high professional standards are maintained
- the recruitment of international students is undertaken in an ethical and responsible manner
- information supplied to international students is comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date
- students are provided with information prior to entering into any commitments
- contractual dealings with international students are conducted in an ethical and responsible manner
- the particular needs of international students are recognised
- international students are in safe accommodation
- all providers have fair and equitable internal procedures for the resolution of international student grievances.



The Code of Practice 2016 also has [a process for students to go through if they wish to make a complaint](#) about the treatment by their education provider.

## Complaints Procedure

If you have a problem, follow the steps below:

1. Talk to the person first, can it be resolved easily?
2. If you would like to speak in confidence to someone, please see the Learner Services team or contact [SANITI](#).
3. If the issue is still not resolved, you can pick up a complaint form from the Learner Services team with instructions on how to file a complaint.
4. A member of staff will then be in contact with you to arrange a meeting.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the complaints procedure, you may then take your complaint to [iStudent Complaints](#).

You can find more information on the Complaints Procedure in the **The Education (Pastoral Care of International Students) Code of Practice 2016** given to you during your orientation, or you can ask for a copy of this Summary from Student Support Services.

## Fees, Charges and Refunds

### Payment of Fees and Charges

A completed 'Confirmation of Acceptance' form received by NMIT is a contract from the student to pay the enrolment fees and charges due for the stated length of the study contract. Enrolment fees and charges must be paid in full before the start date of the programme, or by any earlier date as specified. Fees not paid by the due date may incur a Late Payment Charge. No student shall be enrolled unless all approved fees and charges have been paid to Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. Where payment is unable to be made in New Zealand dollars, US dollars will be accepted.

### Refunds of fees and charges

All refund applications should be in writing to the Information and Enrolment Centre Manager, with any supporting documentation as stipulated by the Information and Enrolment Centre Manager.

### Refund Eligibility Table

Reason for requesting a refund	Documentation student must provide	Timing	Refund	Charge (NZ\$)
NMIT withdraws an offer of place or is unable to provide the programme.	No documentation required	Before programme start	Full refund of enrolment fee	Nil
NMIT withdraws an offer of place on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information supplied by a student or student's agent.	No documentation required	At any time	NMIT reserves the right to retain the fees and charges paid.	\$150
Initial visa application for new students is not granted by Immigration New Zealand (INZ)	Withdrawal notification in writing. Written confirmation from INZ declining visa application	Before programme start date	Full refund of enrolment fee	\$150
		After programme start date	Partial refund of enrolment fee at the discretion of NMIT	\$150
Subsequent visa application for returning students is not granted by Immigration New Zealand (INZ)	Withdrawal Form must be completed before departure from NMIT.  Written confirmation from INZ declining visa application (for example: INZ decline reason: breach of visa conditions from previous visa or concerns with funds)	Before programme start date	Full refund of enrolment fee	\$150
		After programme start date	No refund	Nil
Visa is terminated by Immigration New Zealand (INZ)	Student advises NMIT in writing	During the programme	No refund	Nil
Student issued with a Deportation Liability Notice (DLN)	Original copy of the Deportation Liability Notice	During the programme	No refund	Nil
Student is not able to study due to misconduct	NMIT's Misconduct Disciplinary Panel Meeting letter	During the programme	No refund	Nil
Student no longer wishes to study at NMIT (including students who have been issued with an NMIT visa)	Notice of withdrawal in writing	3 or more weeks before programme start date *	Full refund of enrolment fee	\$350
		Less than 3 weeks before programme start date *	90% refund of enrolment fee	\$350
		After programme start date	No refund	Nil
	No notice of withdrawal or deferral in writing	After programme start date	No refund	Nil
Exceptional Circumstances (for example serious illness)  Please note: Visa terminations and Deportation Liability Notices are not exceptional circumstances	Documentation supporting an application for a refund.  Documentation stipulated by the Head of Department.	At any time	The amount and approval of any refund is at the discretion of the Director of Finance and Business Improvement in consultation with the Head of Department.	\$350

\* Or by reason of individual contract exception.

NMIT reserves the right to amend these charges or make other charges.

## New Zealand Law

The New Zealand Police website have a safety guide for visitors to New Zealand.

In New Zealand, bribing a police officer is not acceptable. Offering money to a police officer is a crime.

Click on this link: <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/keeping-safe/visitors-safety-guide> to view information on:

- Keeping yourself safe
- Keeping your stuff safe
- Keeping safe around alcohol
- Keeping safe on New Zealand roads
- Keeping safe outdoors and around water
- Keeping your credit cards and identity safe
- Keeping safe via text messaging



### Keeping yourself safe

The emergency number for fire, ambulance and police is **111**. Calls are free. There are [police stations](#) in all main towns and cities and in many rural areas.

Tips:

- Don't walk alone late at night and avoid unlit areas.
- Don't carry lots of cash, valuables or expensive jewellery with you.
- New Zealanders are very sociable but you need to be sensible. Avoid accepting drinks from strangers and don't leave your drink unattended.
- Be aware of people around you when using ATMs (cash machines) and hide your PIN.
- Hitchhiking or accepting rides from people you don't know is not recommended. If you do decide to hitchhike, Police strongly advise you not to travel alone.
- Make sure there is always someone who knows where you are going and when you should arrive at your destination.
- Harassment is a crime and everyone in New Zealand has the right to live free from harassment. For further information, visit <http://www.cab.org.nz/vat/gl/laws/Pages/Harassment.aspx>

### Keeping your credit cards and identity safe

- Be careful who you give personal information to.
- Minimise the number of cards and ID you carry in your wallet.
- Keep an eye on your credit card every time you use it and make sure you get it back as quickly as possible. Try not to let your credit card out of your sight.
- Keep your credit cards in a purse or wallet close to your body where it can't easily be snatched away.
- Shield your credit card number and PIN so that others around you can't copy it or capture it on a cell phone or other camera.
- Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately.

### Road safety

There are a few things that you may not be used to when driving in New Zealand. For example:

- we drive on the left side of the road
- using a hand-held mobile phone while driving is illegal
- one lane bridges are common in New Zealand, keep left when exiting

Before you start driving in New Zealand, it is important to understand how to keep safe on our roads. The NZTA has produced a must-read booklet about driving in New Zealand. It explains everything you need to know about staying safe and obeying New Zealand's driving laws. The [booklet](#) is available in 14 languages.

Everyone in a vehicle must wear a seat belt in New Zealand. Child restraint seats must be used for all children until 7 years of age. New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has more information about child restraints.

Don't drink or use drugs and then drive - the laws against this are strictly enforced in New Zealand and penalties are severe. For drivers under 20 years old, there is a zero alcohol limit. This means you are not entitled to drive if there is any alcohol in your blood or breath. For drivers aged 20 years and over, the alcohol limit is 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood or 250 micrograms per litre of breath.

### **Alcohol**

We have a drinking culture, but it is fine to have a non alcoholic drink when you are socialising. The legal age for buying alcohol in New Zealand is 18. There are strict rules against providing alcohol for people under that age.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is increasingly rare in New Zealand and prohibited in public buildings, including bars and restaurants. Generally people are expected to smoke outside. If you want to smoke, it's polite to ask the people around you if they mind, even if you are outside.

### **Keeping safe outdoors**

Living in a country with such spectacular scenery and so many recreational opportunities, you may well find yourself spending more time in the great outdoors. If and when you do, you need to respect a few basic safety rules. To start with, our weather can be very changeable, so you need to be prepared for every eventuality. If you're planning an outdoor trip or adventure, make sure you're familiar with the safety basics. There's an outdoor safety code available online you should check. Along with information on how to stay safe on land, snow, water or in the air, there are simple safety codes you should always follow, as well as links to related safety organisations in New Zealand.

### **Discrimination**

In New Zealand it is unlawful to discriminate against people, or treat them differently. The law states that no one may discriminate against another person because of their gender, religious belief, race, disability or sexual orientation. If you believe that you have been the victim of discrimination you should speak to NMIT's Student Support Team straight away. For more information visit: [www.speakout.org.nz](http://www.speakout.org.nz) (Nelson).

### **If you are arrested**

The law says you must tell the police your name and current contact details. However, if you are arrested you should immediately ask for a solicitor or lawyer. Refusing to answer questions or saying the wrong thing may cause problems later in court so you should have a solicitor present to give you advice before you speak. The duty solicitor is free while you are in the police station. You also have the right to have one phone call made on your behalf. Use the phone call to contact a friend or relative to let them know what has happened. If you are summoned to appear at court - it is very important you attend. Please contact the Student Support Team or SANITI for further advice and support.

### **Gambling**

If you are concerned about a gambling problem, free help is available. Please talk to a member of the Student Support team, SANITI or check-out the following website: [www.gamblingproblem.co.nz](http://www.gamblingproblem.co.nz)

### **New Zealand Now Website**

The [New Zealand Now Website](#) is your guide to living, working and studying in New Zealand. This New Zealand Government website is packed with useful, reliable information to help you get settled.



## Māori Culture

Understanding New Zealand - and New Zealanders - means understanding the influence of Māori people and culture.

### About the Māori people

Māori are the indigenous people of New Zealand. Their language - Te Reo - is an official language of the country along with English and sign language. Nearly 700,000 people in New Zealand are Māori. That's more than one in seven of us. While the best way to learn about Māori culture is to experience it first hand, Te Ara Encyclopedia has some excellent reading. It covers the history of Māori arrival and settlement and an overview of Māori culture to the present day. It also discusses 'biculturalism' and how the relationship between Māori and Pakeha (Māori term for people of European descent) has changed over time.

For further information, please go to: <https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/settling-in/maori-culture>

## Facebook Insights on International Students

ENZ's social media team have compiled some useful insights from the [Study in New Zealand Facebook page](#).

With the rise of Facebook Messenger picked as a social media trend for 2017, ENZ's social communities team have been analysing students' messages to the Study in New Zealand Facebook page they've received since November. The team identified trends and summarised the most common enquiries about New Zealand education levels, course info as well as the top countries that these student enquiries came from.

For further information, please go to: <https://enz.govt.nz/news-and-research/ed-news/facebook-insights-international-students-and-nz/>

## Multilingual Earthquake and Tsunami Safety Messages

Civil Defence resources on earthquake and tsunami safety are now available in 22 languages to help keep everyone safe.

The 7.8m Kaikoura earthquake, tsunami, and aftershocks in November 2016 highlighted New Zealand's risk of natural disaster. While we can't predict when one will happen, recognising the warning signs and knowing the correct, life-saving action to take during a disaster can keep you and your loved ones safe.

In December, Civil Defence launched the earthquake and tsunami safety campaign, including a suite of resources such as posters and factsheets in 22 languages, which can be found on their website [here](#) (scroll to the bottom for the translated resources).

Here are quick links to the posters and factsheets in English:

[Drop, cover, hold fact sheet \(.pdf 2mb\)](#)

[Long or Strong: Get Gone fact sheet \(.pdf 1.9mb\)](#)

To keep your community safe, particularly those new to or visiting New Zealand, these posters and factsheets should be displayed in visitor centres, accommodation (both in rooms and common areas) as well as tourist attractions. Banner advertisements and videos are also available to share.

## Buying a Car

Used cars for sale can be found on the Internet at [www.autotrader.co.nz](http://www.autotrader.co.nz) and [www.trademe.co.nz](http://www.trademe.co.nz). Trademe is an auction site (it's the New Zealand equivalent of ebay). Most of the cars for sale on Trademe are offered by used car dealers at a fixed price. Some cars are auctioned or offered at fixed prices by private sellers.

When you buy a car in New Zealand, both you and the seller are required by law to notify Land Transport New Zealand of the change of ownership within seven days of the sale. If you buy a car from a dealer, they may complete some or all of the change of ownership process on your behalf. If they are doing your paperwork for you, check with them that they have actually done it. All cars for sale should have a newly issued WoF (issued within the last month).

You can check the history of used cars by purchasing a [VIR](#) (NZ\$30) or an [AA Lemoncheck](#) (NZ\$25). These checks enable you to check the odometer history and to discover whether the person selling the car is the actual owner. You can also find out whether the seller has an outstanding loan on the vehicle. Make sure you run the check on the same day as you purchase the vehicle. Whoever you are buying from, you could take along a mechanic to inspect on your behalf, or arrange for the vehicle to be inspected at an [AA testing centre](#) prior to handing over your money.

## Etiquette

In New Zealand it is very good manners to say "thank you" when someone does something for you, and to say "please" when you ask for something. "Thank you" is said frequently - not just a nod of the head or a smile but the word "thank you".

If you have done something wrong by accident, a simple "I'm sorry" followed by an explanation often clears up any misunderstanding or bad feelings.

Some, but not all, New Zealanders shake hands when they are first introduced. Keep your handshake short and firm.

Try to look at the person you are talking to. This might be very difficult for you at first but in New Zealand it is considered rude not to look at the person you are talking with.

An arm-length distance should be kept when you have a conversation with others to respect people's "personal space".

Speak politely to shopkeepers. New Zealanders do not usually negotiate the price of an item unless the item is very valuable or they are buying a lot of something.

Return anything that you have borrowed clean and as soon as possible. Ask "how long can I borrow this for?" or "when would you like it back?"

When someone says "No", the person means "No". Please accept the person's decision when they say no.

If people are speaking too quickly ask them to "please slow down".

If you're not sure of anything ASK!



## Kiwi Slang Guide

Below are a few New Zealand slang words to help you adjust to Kiwi culture:

Awesome	Fine, excellent
Bach	A holiday home (also known as a crib in the South Island)
Barbie	Barbecue (also written as BBQ) - food cooked outside over a charcoal or gas fire
Bro	Term of address for a male friend or relative
Bring a plate	Everyone brings food to share. Don't bring an empty plate.
Bush	New Zealand's native forest
Bushed, had it	Exhausted
BYO	Bring Your Own. A BYO restaurant is a restaurant that allows customers to bring their own wine to drink with their meal.
Choice	Fine, excellent
Crook	To be ill or unwell. Also means a thief
Cuz	Term of address for friend or relative
Dag	An amusing person, a character
Dude	A cool or good looking male
G'dday	Greeting meaning hello
Gumboots	Waterproof rubber boots (called Wellingtons in Britain)
Grog	Alcohol
Hard case	A tough but likeable person, an eccentric person
Heart of gold	Describing a person who is very kind
Hook up	Meet up or join in
Hoon	A noisy person, a lout
Jandals	Rubber sandals or thongs (called flip flops in Britain)
Kiwi	New Zealand native bird symbol. New Zealander
Lolly	The usual word for a confection or sweet
Mate	A friend, also a term of address
Mission	An adventure
Mongrel	A term of abuse or contempt for a person
Munted	To be broken or distorted
Narley	Cool, good
Nerd	A boring person
No worries	Common phrase of agreement
On to it	Efficient or intelligent
Potluck dinner	Everyone brings prepared food to share with all the guests
Pub	A bar where alcoholic drinks are served over the counter
Rapt	Very pleased
She'll be right	Everything is going to be OK
Smoko	Coffee or tea break
Snowed under	Usually has too much work or responsibility
Sticks	Remote or rural district, the countryside
Stoked	Very excited
Sweet as	Great
Swot	Study hard, especially before an exam
Ta	Thanks
Togs	Swimming costume
Tucker	Food
Uni	University
Veggies	Vegetables
Wicked	Fine, excellent
Wop-wops	Remote or rural district, the countryside

## Telephone and Communications

The country calling code for New Zealand is +64.

### Using a land line phone

There are a number of fixed line operators to choose from if you are looking to use a land line (including Internet) in your own house:

- Spark (<http://www.spark.co.nz/home/>)
- Orcon (<https://www.orcon.net.nz/>)
- Vodafone New Zealand (<https://www.vodafone.co.nz/>)

Numbers starting with the prefix 0800 or 0508 are usually free of charge and can be made from anywhere in the country.

### Using a mobile phone

Mobile numbers in New Zealand usually have a prefix of 021, 022, or 027. Mobile coverage is good in the main urban areas but can be patchy in remote or rural areas. If you are looking to use a mobile phone in New Zealand, there are currently three operators to choose from:

- 2degrees (<https://www.2degreesmobile.co.nz/>)
- Spark (<http://www.spark.co.nz/home/>)
- Vodafone New Zealand (<https://www.vodafone.co.nz/>)

You can bring your mobile phone from overseas, but you will have to have it modified with the addition of a SIM card. If your phone currently uses a SIM card, a New Zealand SIM card can most likely replace your current one to use your mobile phone on either of Spark, 2Degrees, or Vodafone network. Any Spark or Vodafone shop, found in most centres, will be able to assist. Cost is about \$35 plus a prepaid system that can be topped up at any post office or newsagent. Spark do not modify other phones, and require you to purchase a phone from them. You can also rent a phone from Vodafone ([www.vodarent.co.nz](http://www.vodarent.co.nz)) with pick-up and drop-off of the handsets at major airports. This can be arranged in advance over the internet.

### Using pre-paid telephone cards

There are a number of pre-paid telephone cards available in New Zealand. They can be purchased from post offices, newsagencies and hostels. They vary in value from \$5.00-\$50.00 and can be used from any private or public telephone.

Costs vary, so it pays to shop around. To make a call, you first dial the local or toll-free access number, followed by the PIN (Personal Identification Number) on the card. Recorded messages will tell you how much money remains on the card.



## Graduation

Graduations are the most important days in NMIT's calendar. The ceremonies are recognition of your achievement and hard work, combining academic formality with the celebration of you as a graduate, your families and friends. NMIT has a Nelson graduation, a Marlborough graduation, and the Te Toki Pakohe graduation.

Visit <https://students.nmit.ac.nz/graduation/> for more information on graduation.



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