



STUDYING IN  
**Wellington**



**Study in  
Wellington,  
New Zealand.**  
Make it here.

**WellingtonNZ.com**



# Kia ora and

# congratulations!

You've chosen to study in the most liveable place in the world. This guide is designed to help you prepare for life and study in Wellington.

IMAGE / Grace Gemuhluoglu

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## About Wellington

Wellington is New Zealand's capital city, located in the centre of the country and the very bottom of the North Island. Wellington has the best of both worlds, with its vibrant, energetic city centre surrounded by stunning harbours and green hills. The Wellington region has an estimated population of 542,000 people and includes Wairarapa, Kāpiti Coast, Porirua, Hutt Valley and Wellington City.

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 [WellingtonNZ.com](https://WellingtonNZ.com)

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## Climate

Wellington is known for its windy days but the saying also goes, "you can't beat Welly on a good day!". The capital enjoys a temperate and often sunny climate. The warmest month is February, the coolest is July.



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## Getting to Wellington

Many international flights arrive at Auckland or Christchurch Airports and you will need to get a connecting flight to Wellington. You will need to collect your bags, pass through New Zealand customs and go to the domestic terminal to catch your flight to Wellington (this flight takes approximately one hour).

Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington airports have free Wi-Fi and stores where you can buy a New Zealand SIM card for a mobile phone.

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## Getting from the airport

Wellington Airport is just 15 minutes' drive from the CBD so getting to and from the airport is a breeze. Taxis to the city cost around NZ\$35-40 or for a few dollars more, ask the driver to take the more scenic route into the city around the bays. Ride share apps including Ola, Uber, and Zoomy can be used for airport pick-ups and drop-offs, or pre-book a shuttle before you arrive for door-to-door service.



DID YOU KNOW

Wellington enjoys  
around 2,110 sunshine  
hours a year



DID YOU KNOW

Flying to anywhere in  
New Zealand from  
Wellington takes  
less than 90 minutes



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## New Zealand Culture

When you move to New Zealand, it will take you time to adjust - some students adapt quickly, others find it more difficult. It's normal to feel homesick or out of place but know that New Zealand is a friendly place and your schools, host families and Kiwi friends are here to help you feel at home.

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## Māori culture and customs

New Zealand Māori culture is important and valued. Māori have their own language, food and customs that you will learn about while living in New Zealand. When you arrive at your school it is likely you will receive a pōwhiri (welcome) which will include speeches in Te Reo Māori (Māori Language), waiata (songs) and hongi (pressing noses in greeting).

This is done to make you feel welcome. It may be different to anything you've seen or experienced before but it is important to be respectful during the event. Someone from your school or international student programme will discuss the process with you before you go through pōwhiri.

There are some Māori customs which are used in New Zealand daily life. It is important to learn these:

- Try your best to pronounce Māori words correctly. If you don't know the correct way to say something, just ask.
- Do not sit on tables or anywhere that food is prepared.
- Protect the environment around you. It's important not to litter or leave your waste out in nature.
- If entering a wharehau (Māori meeting house) you should remove your shoes.

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 [WellingtonNZ.com/experience/see-and-do/experience-maori-history-in-the-capital/](https://WellingtonNZ.com/experience/see-and-do/experience-maori-history-in-the-capital/)



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## Nele Hollopp | Aged 17

*Year 13 at Wellington High School | From Berlin, Germany*

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### **What are the differences between your classes/teachers here in Wellington compared to back home?**

It is much easier to talk to the teachers here, because they treat you as equal to themselves and are very supportive.

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### **Are you thinking of staying in Wellington to study after college at a university or tertiary institution? Why?**

I would love to get tertiary education in Wellington because there are so many different opportunities for studying and the student life is great.

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### **What was the biggest cultural difference you noticed between your home country and Wellington/New Zealand?**

In New Zealand everyone is really friendly and helpful, no matter if you are lost in the streets or trying to make new friends!

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### **What is your one top tip for someone coming to study in Wellington?**

Go and explore the city as much as you can. Even if you think you have already seen everything, you can find something new every time!

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### **What is your favourite thing to do in Wellington?**

I absolutely love to ride the Cable Car up to the Botanic Gardens and have a picnic up there!

## Wellington - New Zealand's safest city

The 2021 Safe Cities report ranked Wellington 7th in the world for overall safety, making Wellington the safest city in New Zealand to live, study and work. Our region prides itself on making sure everyone in our community feels safe and at home.

Wellington has more than 80 nationalities represented in the region. We hold public celebrations for cultural holidays throughout the year including Matariki (the Māori New Year), Chinese New Year, Diwali and the Japan Festival.

Wellington has a welcoming LGBTQI+ community. The city hosts an annual pride festival and other community-organised events throughout the year. Most secondary and tertiary providers have an LGBTQI+ student club and some schools and universities have specialist services and staff members to assist LGBTQI+ students.

Student clubs are a key part of student life in Wellington. There are international student and cultural clubs you can join. There are also a range of other clubs for sports, food, arts, culture and politics that all students are welcome to join, or you can create your own. These are a great way to make new friends and find people who have similar interests to you. Ask your school/provider about how you can join student clubs.



# Your first months in Wellington

The fun things to see and do in your new home



01

Visit the national museum, Te Papa Tongarewa – Museum of New Zealand, and discover our national and natural treasures. Free entry.

IMAGERY / Grace Gemuhluoglu



02

Discover the best view of the city from the Mount Victoria Lookout. You can walk, cycle, or drive to the top of "Mt Vic" and get 360-degree views of the city and harbour.

IMAGERY / Grace Gemuhluoglu



03

Ride the Wellington Cable Car, which opened in 1902, up to the Botanic Garden and Carter Observatory.



04

Pick a Wellington team to support and go watch a live game. In Wellington, our teams are the Hurricanes (rugby), Pulse (netball), Phoenix (football) or Saints (basketball).



05

Find the perfect flat white (coffee) at one of the region's hundreds of cafes. Or if you don't like coffee, try a hot chocolate!

IMAGERY / Celeste Fontein



06

Visit ecosanctuaries like Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne, Kapiti Island, Matiu-Somes Island and have close encounters with native New Zealand birds.



07

Explore the Wētā Cave – a free museum showing off some of the characters and costumes from the studio responsible for making the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movie trilogies.



08

Get breakfast from the Sunday morning Harbourside Market and find fresh produce, seafood and other locally made products.

IMAGERY / Nicola Edmonds



09

Meet the meerkats or feed a Capybara on a Close Encounter at Wellington Zoo. Student discounts available.

IMAGERY / Johnny Hendrikus



10

Head to Cuba Street, the heart of Wellington city, for vintage shopping, delicious food, music and entertainment. And get a photo of our famous Bucket Fountain.

IMAGERY / Grace Gemuhluoglu



11

Enjoy Wellington's music and cultural festivals, like CubaDupa and Newtown street festivals, Matariki (Māori New Year) and Chinese New Year.



12

Explore the region's best hikes and walks. Whether you're looking for an afternoon study break or a day-hike, there are so many trails for you to try.

IMAGERY / Johnny Hendrikus



13

Get a free guided tour of Parliament. Wellington is the capital city of New Zealand and the main location of the New Zealand government.



14

Learn more about Wellington's Māori culture and history with guided tours from local iwi (tribes) through our city, nature reserves, Parliament and national museums.

IMAGERY / Johnny Hendrikus



15

Go for a stroll or ride your bike along the waterfront to take in the views, see sculptures, enjoy a locally made gelato on the golden sand at Oriental Bay, and take a selfie at the colourful boatsheds.

IMAGERY / Grace Gemuhluoglu



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## Health and Mental Health services

Most education providers have medical and counselling services available to students on-campus. For primary and secondary students, these services are additional to signing up to a General Practitioner's (GP's) office. Tertiary students are encouraged to sign up to their institute's healthcare services, which provide subsidised appointments for physical and mental health.

There are also free health and mental health support lines available:

- Call Healthline free on **0800 611 116** for health advice and information
- Youthline is a support service created to specifically support young people in New Zealand going through hard times. Free call **0800 376 633**, free text **234**, email **talk@youthline.co.nz**
- Text **1737** to be connected to a trained counsellor. This service is free to all New Zealanders (international students included) and can be accessed 24/7.



DID YOU KNOW  
**Dial 111 in any  
emergency**

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## Embassies

More than 50 countries' embassies are represented in Wellington.

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 *Search for your embassy: [Mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies](https://mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies)*

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## Emergency services

You can dial 111 in an emergency and be connected to the Police, Fire Department or Ambulance services.

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## Earthquakes

Wellington does experience earthquakes and it's important to be prepared. All schools and public buildings will have their own safety procedures which they will tell you about.

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 *Disaster preparation: [getthru.govt.nz](https://getthru.govt.nz)*

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## Reporting crime

If you have been a victim of a crime, New Zealand Police are there to help you. In an emergency, dial 111, however if you'd like to report a crime you can contact your nearest police station.

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 *List of police stations: [police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations](https://police.govt.nz/contact-us/stations)*



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## Heng Lay | Aged 19

Year 12 at Wellington College | From Siem Reap, Cambodia

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**What was the biggest cultural difference you noticed between your home country and Wellington/New Zealand?**

Wellington is a lively city and people like to socialise and hang out with friends on the weekend. Whereas Siem Reap is quite a touristy place where people are a lot busier during the weekend

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**What is your one top tip for someone coming to study in Wellington?**

Connect with as many people as you can – it will help you to fit in quickly.

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**What were your first impressions of Wellington as a city/region?**

My first impression of Wellington City is that it is small but with a lot of activities to do and places to see.

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**What are the differences between your classes/teachers here in Wellington compared to back home?**

The classes over here have less students, whereas back home there are more. Teachers here are very lovely and considerate towards their students, as they are back home too.

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**Are you thinking of staying in Wellington/New Zealand to study after college at a university or tertiary institution? Why?**

After college, I will go to university here in New Zealand because the education system is of a high standard and ranks in the top 500 in the world.





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## Accommodation

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

#### HOMESTAY

Many international students stay with New Zealand families, called host families. Your school's international director or homestay coordinator will match you with a host family and will be the main contact if you have any problems during your time in New Zealand.

#### SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Some schools provide on-site accommodation, known as boarding houses or hostels. Hostels are run by on-site staff who provide pastoral care and support for learning, as well as food and board.

#### APPROPRIATE SUPERVISION

In New Zealand, children under the age of 14 should not be left in the home alone, at any time. Host families must make other arrangements for children in their care, if they will be away overnight and the student will not accompany them.

Many schools require international students who are 18 years of age or older to abide by the same rules as students who are under 18. Students must abide by all school policies and procedures.

### TERTIARY

#### STUDENT HOSTELS/APARTMENTS

Most universities and tertiary education institutes have student halls or hostels. These range from catered halls, which include meals, planned activities and pastoral care, to self-catered apartments where you can live independently. Tertiary students also have options to live with a homestay family if they choose.

#### RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

If you are a secondary student, you must be 18 or over and have your school and guardians' permission before you can live on your own. It is difficult to secure a rental property without attending a viewing in-person - you may need to organise someone to look at the property on your behalf if you have not yet arrived in the country.

Rental houses are regulated by the New Zealand government. You must sign a lease agreement and pay a bond fee before moving into a rental house.

#### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

New Zealand has specific laws around renting which require landlords to provide a certain quality of housing and amenities. Tenancy Services provides free advice on your rights and responsibilities when renting.

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 [Tenancy.govt.nz](https://www.tenancy.govt.nz)

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 [Find rental accommodation: Trademe.co.nz/property](https://www.trademe.co.nz/property)

There are also community Facebook pages where people list rooms and houses for rent - search Vic Deals or Flatmates Wanted in Wellington on Facebook.

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## Getting around in Wellington

Wellington is very easy to get around. There are excellent public transport options and many students choose to walk or cycle to class each day.

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### Public transport

All students are entitled to a student discount for off-peak travel on Wellington trains and buses.

You can travel by train to and from Wellington Central and the Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Porirua and Kāpiti Coast. You can buy a pre-paid train pass at Wellington Railway Station or bring cash on board to pay for your ticket.

Buses in Wellington are safe and reliable and there are specific routes that go past universities and schools in the city.

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

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### Snapper cards

You can use a Snapper card to tag on and off any Wellington City buses. Fares are more expensive if you pay by cash.

There are Snapper cards for primary and secondary students (green) and adult Snapper cards (red) which tertiary students can purchase. Some school IDs act as Snapper cards so check with your school before purchasing your own.

You can register your Snapper card online and top up payments online.

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<https://www.snapper.co.nz/>

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### Private cars

You must have a full New Zealand or international driver's license and full car insurance to drive in New Zealand.

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## Important rules for driving, cycling and walking in Wellington

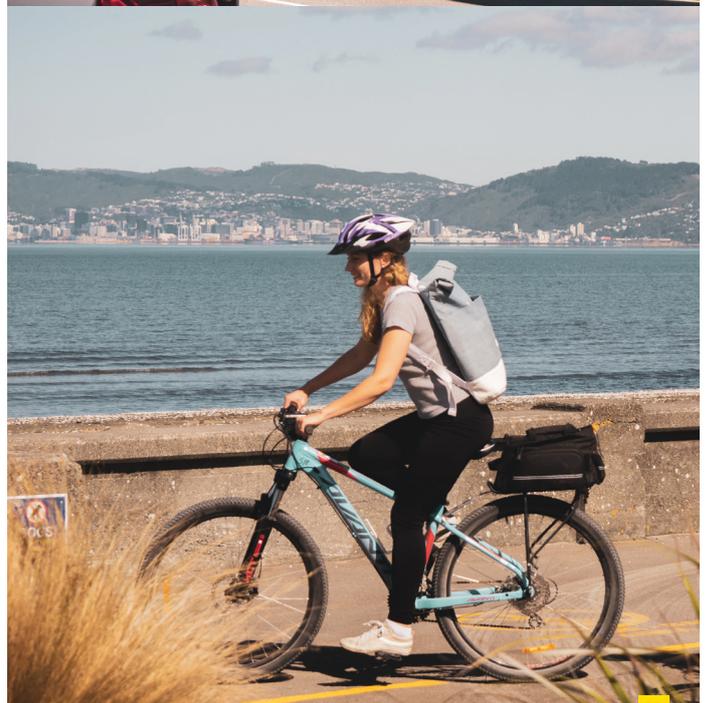
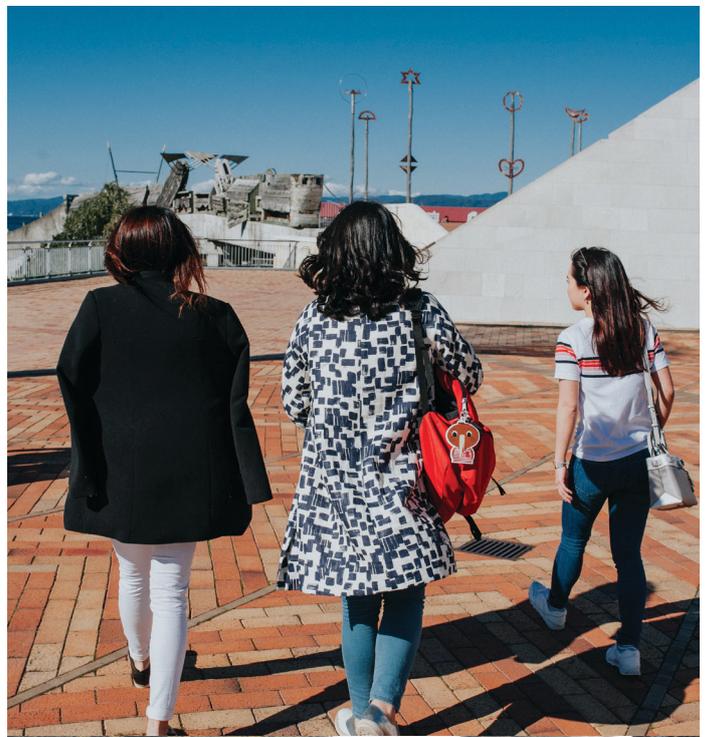
- In New Zealand we drive, cycle and walk on the left side of the road.
  - Wellington city has marked cycle lanes which you must stay within when riding on the road.
  - To cross the road safely, use the pedestrian crossing or cross at traffic lights.
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[nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode](https://nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode)

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IMAGERY / Top: Carissa Corlett. Bottom: Johnny Hendrikus.





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## Money

Students may want to open a New Zealand bank account for insurance payments, income or allowances, and purchases while they're studying here.

You can register for a New Zealand bank account before you arrive in the country but will need to go into the bank branch with documentation that proves your identity (passport) and permanent address (letter sent to your Wellington address from your school or institute), to activate it.

Regular EFTPOS cards are available for students aged 13 and over. Debit and credit cards are only available to students aged 18 and over.

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## Emergency money transfers

If money needs to be sent urgently from overseas, students and their families can use Western Union. It is a safe, fast and reliable way to get funds from overseas.



<https://www.westernunion.com/nz/en/home.html>

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## What is the cost of living in New Zealand?

Discover the average costs of rent, groceries and goods, and how that compares with New Zealand, with this Comparable Living Costs calculator



[newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/money-tax/comparable-living-costs](https://newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/money-tax/comparable-living-costs)

IMAGERY / Above: Jeff McEwan.

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## Working on a student visa

There may be restrictions on how much you can work while studying in New Zealand. You are eligible for part time work only if you are 16 years or older and in Year 12 or above.

Schools recommend that you should not work more than 10 hours a week during term time.

For specific visa working rights:



[immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study/working-during-after-your-study/working-on-a-student-visa](https://immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study/working-during-after-your-study/working-on-a-student-visa)



WANTING TO WORK IN NEW ZEALAND?

You will need to apply for an IRD number.



[ird.govt.nz/managing-my-tax/ird-numbers/ird-numbers-for-individuals](https://ird.govt.nz/managing-my-tax/ird-numbers/ird-numbers-for-individuals)



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## Make the most of your time in Wellington

Choosing to study in Wellington will set you apart as a well-rounded, capable and future-focused student. As a student here in New Zealand's creative capital, you will have access to a number of free experiences to ensure you get the most out of your studies and time here.

Whether you want to brush up on your CV or interview skills or connect with previous international students who can pass on their inside knowledge to help you succeed while studying in Wellington, there are a range of programmes we offer to help you while you are studying here.



<https://www.wellingtonnz.com/work-and-study/study-in-wellington/international-student-programmes/>

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## Wellington International Student Excellence Awards

The annual awards, organised by WellingtonNZ, recognise high-achieving international students in the Wellington region who excel academically, in the arts, sport, community or online.

The awards also celebrate the achievements of domestic students who support international students, international graduates in the workforce and employers within the region who give opportunities to international graduates.



[WellingtonNZ.com/excellence-awards](https://WellingtonNZ.com/excellence-awards)

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## Shamanthi Jayawardena | Aged 25

*Studying Masters of Global Marketing at Victoria University of Wellington | From Colombo, Sri Lanka*

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### What was the biggest cultural difference you noticed between your home country and Wellington/New Zealand?

In New Zealand, people are not treated differently based on profession, job level or social standing and hierarchies are almost non-existent as there's much more interaction between the top level and the low level in work, study or in any social setting.

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### What are the differences between your classes here in Wellington compared to back home?

Wellington is home to many experienced lecturers from around the world and I was amazed by how much this helped me to overcome siloed thinking.

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### What is your one top tip for someone coming to study in Wellington?

Wellington is a multicultural city, so don't be afraid to put yourself out there and make an effort to get to know people from different backgrounds and cultures for a truly global learning experience.

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### Are you thinking of staying in Wellington after your studies to work? Why?

Yes, because my experience so far concludes that if you have the skill and the will to do something, you can make it happen in Wellington.

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### Where is your favourite place to explore (be outside in nature)?

Mt Victoria and Mt Alfred! Can't get enough of the bush walk up to the top and every time I go there, it's a mini adventure as I always stumble upon a new track.



## Manidu Abeygunawardena (Dee) | Aged 31

*Studying Masters of Global Business at Victoria University of Wellington | From Colombo, Sri Lanka*

### What was the biggest cultural difference you noticed between your home country and Wellington/ New Zealand?

Being an individual. The main cultural difference I noticed was people in New Zealand like to be independent most of the time, whereas in my country most of the time people like to be together or in communities.

### What is your one top tip for someone coming to study in Wellington?

Make sure you find an apartment or place to stay before you arrive so you have a place to stay.

### What were your first impressions of Wellington as a city/region?

A compact cute little city that makes you feel like walking always.

### What are the differences between your classes here in Wellington compared to back home?

In my country most of the time teachers spoon feed students. Whereas here they advise, clarify and let students do the research.

### Are you thinking of staying in Wellington after your studies to work? Why?

Yes, I will be staying after studies as I want to experience working in the corporate industry in Wellington. Besides, I love Wellington and the nature that surrounds the city more than any other place in New Zealand.



## Build your future in Wellington

Once you come to Wellington, you will never want to leave. Our schools prepare you for tertiary and post-graduate learning, and exciting job opportunities.

Our three universities are all ranked in the top 3% in the world, and each university is also ranked in the top 100 in the world for one or more of its specialist areas. We have two institutes of technology and numerous private tertiary institutions that specialise in subjects including culinary skills, performing arts, art and design, and technology.

There are also many language schools in order to improve your English while you are studying here.

## Internships and graduates programmes

Gain valuable experience in New Zealand workplaces through internships, work experience and graduate programmes. These programmes are a mixture of paid and unpaid opportunities to work for New Zealand companies and can be completed during study breaks, summer holidays and after graduation. There are many programmes available, some specifically targeted at top Wellington industries like Information and Communication Technology.



[WellingtonNZ.com/workplace-internship](https://WellingtonNZ.com/workplace-internship)



DID YOU KNOW

NZ has been voted the number 1 country in the world for preparing students for the future

## CODE OF PRACTICE

All international students enrolled with a New Zealand education provider are covered by the New Zealand Government's Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice.

This legislation outlines the level of care that education providers and their agents must provide to international students while they live and study in New Zealand.

In general, as an international student you can expect that:

- The quality of teaching and learning you receive will meet high educational standards
- The marketing and promotional information you receive about education institutes is complete and accurate, so you can make a well-informed decision about where to enrol
- Education providers' agents give you reliable information and act with integrity and professionalism
- You will receive enough information and support to help you with your enrolment, including understanding the legal obligations you have, and that you will receive all the proper documentation
- You are welcomed and have enough information, guidance and support to help you settle into your new life in New Zealand
- Your student and home environments are safe

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

It is important to follow the correct process to make a complaint.

### 1. Make a complaint with your education provider

Your education provider is your first point of contact for any complain you have, including any complaint about the agents your provider uses.

All New Zealand education providers must have a complaint process you can go through, and they must tell you what that process is. Follow that process to see if your complaint can be resolved by the provider.

### 2.If your complaint is not resolved – contact NZQA

If your education provider has not resolved your complaint, and you wish to pursue the complaint further, then you can contact NZQA. NZQA is a government organisation and can provide you with an independent assessment of your complaint. They will either investigate your concerns or advise you on what you can do next.

You can submit your complaint query on the NZQA website or contact NZQA on 0800 697 296

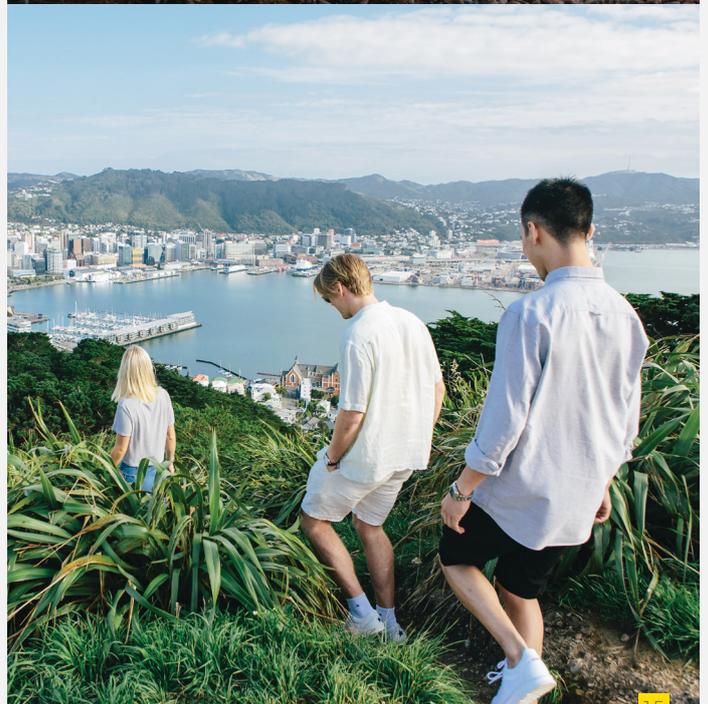
If it is a financial dispute, you can contact FairWay Resolution. This is a free, independent service. You can contact FairWay Resolution on 0800 77 44 22 or go to [www.fairwayresolution.com/istudent-complaints](https://www.fairwayresolution.com/istudent-complaints)

Read the full Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021. A more up to date link: [https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Providers-and-partners/Code-of-Practice/Tertiary-and-International-Learners-Code-2021/NZQA\\_Pastoral-Care-Code-of-Practice\\_English.pdf](https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Providers-and-partners/Code-of-Practice/Tertiary-and-International-Learners-Code-2021/NZQA_Pastoral-Care-Code-of-Practice_English.pdf)

## Your place for information on life as an international student in New Zealand



[NauMaiNZ.StudyinNewZealand.govt.nz](https://www.nauMaiNZ.StudyinNewZealand.govt.nz)



LEGEND

-  State Highway
-  Railway
-  Interisland ferries
-  Airport
-  Regional i-SITEs
-  Classic NZ Wine Trail



**DRIVE TIMES FROM WELLINGTON**

PETONE	15KM	13 mins
LOWER HUTT	16KM	20 mins
PORIRUA	21KM	20 mins
UPPER HUTT	33KM	35 mins
ŌTAKI	75KM	57 mins
PARAPARAUMU	50KM	45 mins
WAIKANE	60KM	60 mins
GREYTOWN	76KM	1 h 10 mins
MARTINBOROUGH	81KM	1 h 15 mins
MASTERTON	100KM	1 h 35 mins

