Online study in 2023

Frequently asked questions for new international students studying online programmes outside New Zealand

When can I come to New Zealand to study?

New Zealand borders have been fully open since 31 July 2022. Visa applications from international students that are outside of New Zealand are being processed since 1 August 2023. We look forward to welcoming you on our campuses again!

However, the University of Waikato is still offering a limited number of programmes that students will be able to join our online intake in February 2023.

A selection of programmes will continue to be available for online study in future intakes, for students who prefer to study flexibly.

Please note: Any student who starts online and intends to transfer to campus mid-trimester must be enrolled in a minimum of 45 points for that trimester.

What can I study in my undergraduate degree?

As much as we would like to, we are not able to offer all papers (units/modules) within every major online. Some papers may be electives or a minor subject. In the Bachelor of Business, for example, you might study a Communications paper but your major in Marketing. You don’t need to worry because the Bachelor of Business has room for papers outside your major or compulsory papers. Different programmes have different requirements though so you will need to check which papers are available within your programme.

Have a look at the online study paper selection information on our website.

Feel free to speak to our dedicated staff about this.

Is there any reason why my programme would not go ahead?

Our ability to deliver papers online will depend on the number of students that we can enrol in each paper (units/modules). There is a chance that we may not enrol enough students to deliver some of our papers. In this case, we will offer you alternatives and do our best to find something that works for you.

To help us, please accept your offer and commit to your qualification as soon as you can. This helps us to understand if we have enough students to deliver our courses.

What are the costs associated with online study?

Besides the tuition fees, all students of the University are required to pay a Student Services Levy while they are studying. This levy covers the cost of accessing many of our services online.

Updated December 2022
Do I need medical insurance?
While studying offshore, there is no requirement to hold medical insurance.

When you come to New Zealand to resume your studies face-to-face, a fee for medical and travel insurance will be added to your offer letter and tuition invoice. This is a requirement for your international student visa.

There is more information about medical insurance for overseas students, including associated fees here.

What programmes are available online in 2023?
To see the most up-to-date list of programmes that are available in 2023 please visit our website.

It is important to understand that not all these programmes are available to be completed online. We have noted which programmes can be completed fully online on our website.

I want to get a post study work visa. How do I ensure that I am still eligible for this visa if I start my studies online?
On 11 May 2022, the New Zealand Government announced changes to post study work rights and students’ eligibility for this. For a full summary of this information you must refer to the Immigration New Zealand website.

Post study work visa eligibility changes
Students will continue to be eligible for post study work rights if they are studying a bachelor’s degree, bachelor honours degree, postgraduate diploma, master’s or doctoral degree that they have studied full time in New Zealand for a minimum of 30 weeks.

For students undertaking a qualification at Level 7 and below (excluding bachelor’s degrees), they will only be eligible for post-study work rights if the qualification is relevant to an occupation on the Green List. This includes Graduate Diplomas and Diplomas at Level 7.
For more information, please refer to the Qualifications Eligible for a Post Study Work Visa.

Duration of post study work visas changes
For students who have studied a qualification eligible for post study work rights, the duration of post study work visas will now match the duration of a student’s study in New Zealand, except for masters and PhD students who will continue to be eligible for a three-year post study work visa.

For example:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme of study/Qualification</th>
<th>Minimum time spent studying full time in New Zealand</th>
<th>Duration of post study work visa under new settings</th>
<th>Prior settings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 7 non-degree or lower qualification, that is linked to an occupation on the Green List</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>1 year (a previous regional incentive granting an additional year for study outside of Auckland expired Dec 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree L7</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 weeks</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>90 weeks</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Postgraduate diploma L8</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s degree L9 (coursework and research)</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD L10</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**One post study work visa per person**

International students will no longer be able to apply for a second post study work visa following additional study.

**Implementation**

The changes apply from the date of announcement, 11 May 2022, though there are some transitional arrangements.

**Transitional approach**

Any student who is already enrolled in (or has an Offer of place for) an eligible programme/qualification under the old settings **AND** who either holds a student visa for that specific programme or had applied for a student visa for that specific programme on or before 11 May 2022, will be considered under the old post study settings.

To be considered under old settings a person must also apply for a post study work visa before 11 May 2025.

**Changes to funds requirements**

Funds requirements for student applicants have been raised. The changes apply to all student visa applications received on or after 31 July 2022.
• Tertiary and English language student visa applicants will need to show cost of living funds of NZD$20,000 per annum for study that is 36 weeks or longer (up from NZD$15,000).
• This amount will be pro-rated for shorter lengths of study.

Students will need to pay the first year’s tuition fees, or the tuition fees for the first programme (whichever is the shorter) and they will need to prove living cost funds requirements for the same period.

These funds requirements will be reviewed every three years to ensure that students continue to have reasonable expectations about the cost of living in NZ.

The Immigration New Zealand website has been updated with the latest information on these announcements.

When should I apply for a student visa to travel to New Zealand?

The visa processing is open. You can apply for a visa any time from 1 August 2022 onwards. We recommend that you allow three (3) months for your visa to be processed.

I am planning to study a qualification worth 120 points. I will do 30 points online before I travel to NZ to complete my programme on campus so will only have 90 points to complete when I come to New Zealand. Will I still be eligible for a student visa?

Yes. You are eligible for a student visa if you study at least 90 points over two trimesters. Please read the question below for important information on this.

Will I still be eligible for a post study work visa if I only study 90 points onshore?

The Immigration New Zealand Post Study Work Visa Policy requires you to study full-time in New Zealand for 30 weeks. If you complete 90 points over two trimesters in New Zealand and you hold a single student visa for this study, you will meet this requirement.

Will I still be eligible to work during my studies if I only study 90 points onshore?

Yes, if you are studying a programme that’s at least 120 points in total and you studying for 8 months or more (over two trimesters), you will be eligible to work 20 hours a week during term time and full-time during the school holidays.

The end date that is stated on my offer letter is different to the actual end date of my programme if I commence online. What should I do?

Our online offer letter reflects the normal duration of your programme. Offer letters are what we provide to new students, for them to use to obtain a student visa. As you will be a returning student when you commence onshore, you will use your Enrolment Agreement to
apply for your student visa, not an offer letter. This document is what Immigration New Zealand refer to as a ‘confirmation of enrolment’.

This document will be generated once you have chosen your onshore papers and have paid your fees. Your Enrolment Agreement will show the number of papers you have chosen, the fees you have paid, the location of your study and the duration of your study. You will be eligible for a full year student visa if you are enrolled in and have paid for at least 90 points over two trimesters. If you only enrol in and pay for papers in one trimester then you will only obtain a visa for six months.

If you have longer than 6 – 12 months left to study, the University will provide you with a letter that indicates your revised finish date which you can provide to INZ.

Note that, in order to be eligible to apply for post study work rights, students must be studying in New Zealand on a single student visa so students need to enrol (choose their papers and pay) for a full year.

This confirmation of enrolment should be submitted to Immigration New Zealand to support your visa application. The University has consulted with Immigration New Zealand and they have advised that this document is what is required.