Online study in 2021 and 2022

Frequently asked questions for new international students studying online programmes, offshore

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 is 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 is the tuition fee discount?

The University is offering a 20% tuition fee discount to all new international students who start their qualification online outside New Zealand in 2021 and 2022.

How do I apply for the tuition fee discount?

There is no need to apply – it will be applied to the tuition fees when you choose the papers (units/modules) that you enrol in with us.

How much is the tuition fee discount?

The actual amount will depend on the number of papers (units/modules) you enrol in for 2021 and 2022.

How many papers do I need to enrol in to get the discount?

There is no minimum requirement to be eligible for the discount. International students who enrol online do not need a student visa while they study online, so you can enrol in as many, or as few, papers as you feel comfortable with.

If you wish to study full time, we suggest you do four papers (60 points) in a trimester.

How do I receive the tuition fee discount?

We will make you an offer for a qualification based on the full indicative tuition fees but in the offer letter we will include information on the 20% tuition fee discount.
Once you accept your offer and choose your papers, we will calculate your fees with the 20% discount added. To complete your enrolment online, you will need to pay your tuition fees.

Please download the Offshore/online Students Enrolment Guide further information about accepting your offer, paper selection and completing your enrolment.

Do I receive the tuition fee discount if I study on campus?

The discount only applies to students who are offshore and are studying online. Once borders open and you are able to travel to New Zealand, your tuition fees will revert to our published on-campus tuition fees.

Will I receive any benefits when I transfer to study face-to-face in New Zealand?

The University will award you a one-off grant of NZ$2,000 when you transfer to one of our two campuses in New Zealand (Hamilton or Tauranga). This travel and accommodation grant is to help you with any additional costs that you may incur as a result of travelling to New Zealand. Costs may include managed isolation and securing accommodation. The travel grant is also offered to students who are studying the University of Waikato College online programmes.

Will students who are progressing from the University of Waikato College programmes be eligible for the 20% tuition fee discount?

Yes, if you have completed a programme through the University of Waikato College and are progressing to another qualification at the University you will be eligible for the 20% discount. This is provided that you are studying online and are offshore.

Are there any other costs associated with online study?

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.

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 2021 and 2022?

To see the most up-to-date list of programmes that are available in 2021 and 2022 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?

*This statement has been provided by INZ:*

With regards to eligibility for post study work rights, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) have advised that students who commence their studies online from overseas and then transfer to study on campus in New Zealand at a later date are eligible to apply for post study work rights, but they must still complete 30 weeks of full-time study in New Zealand. This applies for students who may have a student visa already, or those who do not hold a visa when they commence offshore.

The key policy requirement for post study work rights is that you have spent at least 30 weeks in New Zealand studying full time, so if you have started offshore and online you will need to be in New Zealand studying for at least 30 weeks in order to be eligible for a post study work visa. That means that you will need a student visa to allow you to study in New Zealand, if you don’t already hold one.

Commencing your study offshore online does not guarantee that you be granted a student visa. You must still meet the normal immigration requirements of a student visa application (such as funds, health and character requirements). Please note that your ability to transfer to New Zealand to continue your study on campus depends on New Zealand border restrictions.

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

At this point in time, all INZ offices outside of New Zealand are closed due to COVID-19 so they are not processing student visas at the moment. In August 2020 INZ announced that it was not accepting any visa applications until November 2020. INZ has since extended this date to the end of February 2022. At this stage we have not received any official advice regarding a further extension.

The University or your agent will let all you know when you can apply for a student visa. The University will also send regular updates to our online students regarding visas and New Zealand borders.

**What happens if I start online, and then when it comes time to join classes in person in New Zealand, my visa is declined?**

Your tuition fees (excluding the Student Services Levy) will be refunded if your visa is declined and, as a result, you are not able to continue your studies onshore in New Zealand. You must be able to provide evidence of this and submit the appropriate documentation from Immigration New Zealand.

An international fee refund will not be provided if your visa is declined on the basis of

- Fraudulent documentation
- Your medical check reveals a pre-existing condition
- Immigration New Zealand deem that you have insufficient funds to fund your studies.
No additional costs associated with online study will be refunded, such as computer hardware or software expenses, the purchase of materials, printing, internet usage etc.

No transcript, certificate or qualification will be issued or awarded to you if you choose to apply for a tuition fees refund.

**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.

For students applying for an Approval in Principle (AIP) with Immigration New Zealand, once the University has added and approved your onshore papers, you will receive an Enrolment Agreement which will show the tuition fees. You can pay the required amount after you receive your AIP to complete your enrolment.

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.

The relevant information can be found on the INZ website at: https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/full-fee-paying-student-visa