



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

NEW ZEALAND

# STUDY ABROAD AND EXCHANGE GUIDE





*Front cover photo: Hamilton Campus University of Waikato  
This photo: Raglan beach, Waikato (credit: Hamilton & Waikato Tourism)*

# Kia ora, Welcome to the University of Waikato

Where academic excellence meets stunning natural beauty!

We're committed to ensuring you have an enjoyable and rewarding academic experience at Waikato, no matter how long or short your time with us. You'll be studying at a world-ranked university along with 12,500 students, including over 1,500 international students.

Nestled in the heart of New Zealand and the mighty region of Waikato, our university offers a vibrant and inclusive community for students from around the globe.

Whether you're drawn to our world-class research facilities, stunning campuses, or the warmth of Kiwi hospitality, you find endless opportunities to learn, grow and thrive.

Join us on a journey of discovery, innovation, and cultural exchange at the University of Waikato, your gateway to a brighter future!

Ko Te Tangata | For The People



# Why choose Waikato?



## World-class education

Placed 281st globally by QS World University Rankings 2026

# #1

## Research excellency

#1 for research in New Zealand by QS World University Rankings 2026\*



## Clubs

80 different clubs



## Student Support

Dedicated International Student Support & Careers Service



## Two campuses

Study in Hamilton or Tauranga, the fastest growing cities in New Zealand



## Ranked Subjects

15 subject areas are ranked among the best in the world



*\*Based on citations per faculty*



# Welcome to New Zealand

New Zealand is a small yet mighty country located in the South Pacific; our closest neighbours include Australia and Fiji. Our claims to fame include kiwis (the bird and the fruit!), Sir Edmund Hillary, the All Blacks rugby team, Sir Peter Jackson, Taika Waititi, Lydia Ko, Steven Adams, and Lorde – to name a few.

A study and travel experience in New Zealand is transformative. You'll join a world-class education system, meet friendly locals, see amazing sights and enjoy a healthy balance between life and studying.

In our culture, we celebrate our indigenous people, Māori, and their cultures and traditions are woven into various aspects of New Zealand life. At the airport, spot Māori translations on signage, and during your travels take the opportunity to watch a spine-tingling haka (traditional war dance) performance.

New Zealand boasts a mild climate, with warm summers and "chilly", but not freezing winters. That said, there is plenty of snow on the mountains in winter.

At the University of Waikato, experience all of this and more. We can't wait to meet you.

**Peaceful:** 3rd safest in the world (2025 global peace index)

**Stunning landscapes:** go from mountains to beaches to forests in one afternoon

**Population:** 5.3 million

**Official languages:** English, Te Reo Māori, NZ Sign Language

**Happiness:** we're a happy bunch, ranking 11th happiest country (World Happiness Report 2026)

**Integrity:** 4th least corrupt country in the world (Corruption Perceptions Index 2025)

**Innovation:** 'thinking outside the box' is the New Zealand way of life



*Credit: Tourism NZ*

# Discover New Zealand



**Tongariro**



**Wanaka**



**Lake Taupō**



**Auckland**



**Rotorua**



**Otago**

*Images credit: Tourism New Zealand*

The University of Waikato

# Discover Waikato



**Hobbiton**



**Waitomo Caves**



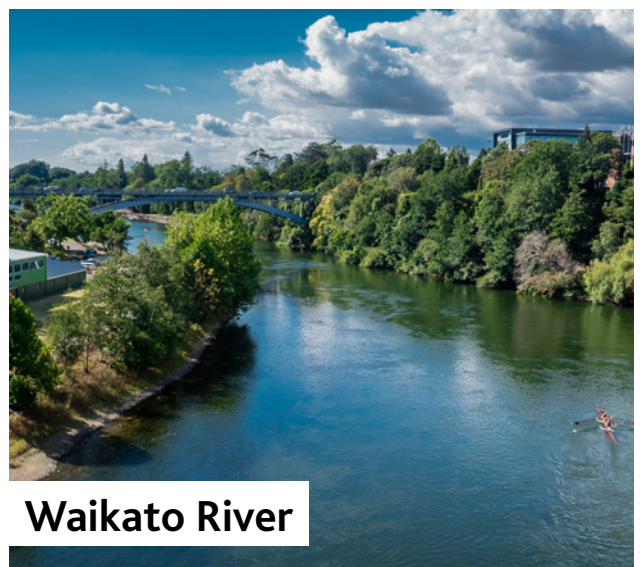
**Surfing at Raglan**



**Hamilton Gardens**



**Balloons over Waikato**



**Waikato River**

*Images credit: Hamilton & Waikato Tourism and Tourism New Zealand*

# Two cities, two campuses

## Hamilton

Hamilton is New Zealand's fourth largest city and the perfect launching point for exploring the North Island.

### Central location

Hamilton is well positioned near the centre of the North Island. It's close to New Zealand's biggest city, Auckland, as well as beautiful beaches, native forests, and snowy mountains.

### Affordable cost of living

Hamilton has the perks of city life with lower prices when compared to larger cities. Rent and food costs are lower, and half price bus travel is available for university of Waikato students.

### Café culture

Hamilton is one of New Zealand's fastest growing cities and as the city grows, so do the number of cafés and restaurants. The suburb of Hamilton East is close to campus and full of great options including locally made ice-cream, quirky cafés, and vintage shops.

### Raglan beach

The cool little town of Raglan is a 45-minute drive from Hamilton. It is home to world renowned surf beaches, being famous for its left hand break, and has some of the best fish and chips in the country.

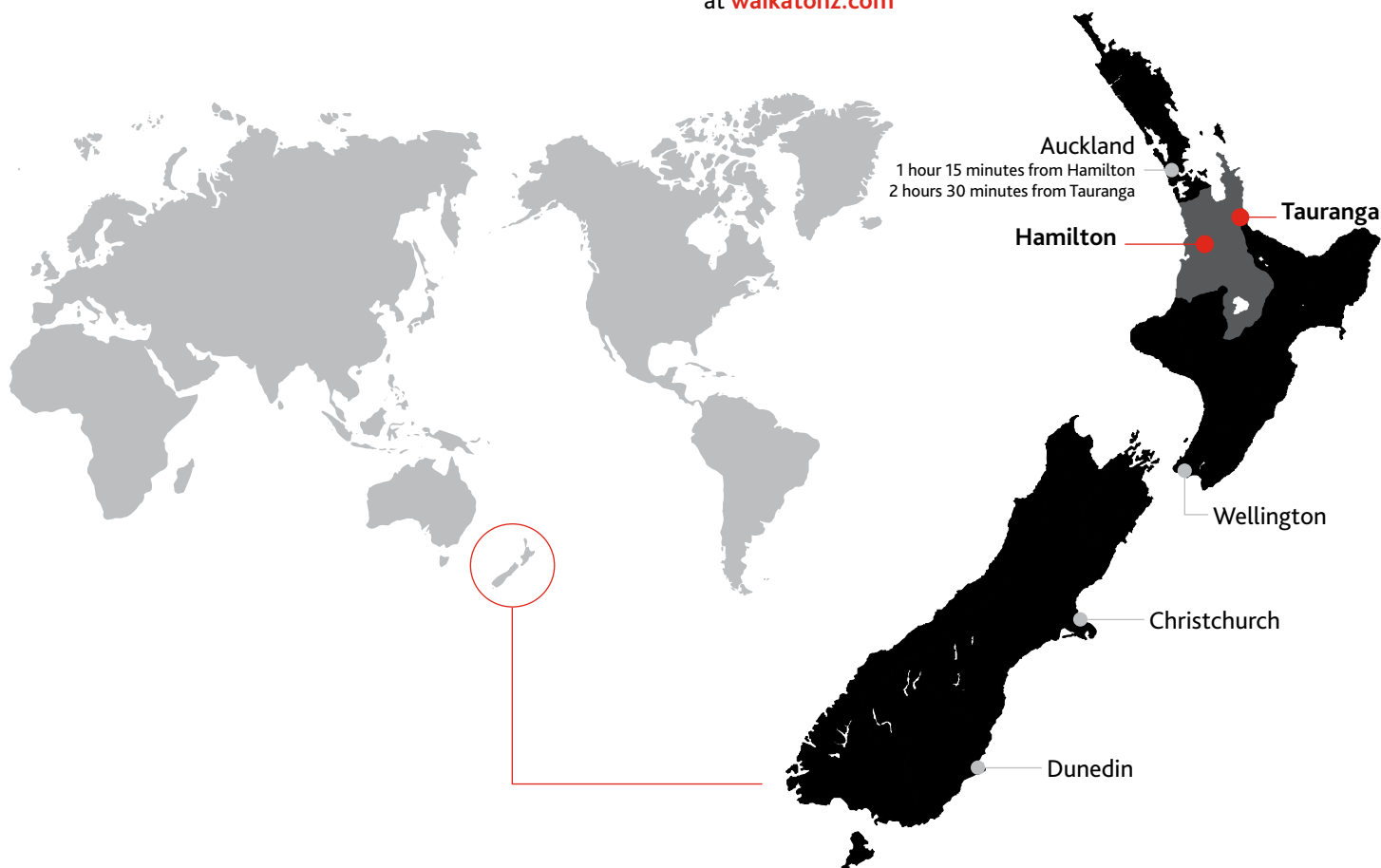
### Rugby

Hamiltonians love their rugby – playing, watching and talking about the game. A rugby game at Waikato Stadium is a popular activity, with student tickets beginning from NZ\$15.

### Hiking

The Waikato region is known for its untouched nature and rolling green hills. There are lots of popular hiking trails to try such as Hakarimata Summit Track, Blue Spring, and Mt Te Aroha Summit Track.

Find out more about Hamilton and the Waikato region at [waikatonz.com](http://waikatonz.com)





## Tauranga

Tauranga is one of the most sought-after locations to live in New Zealand - combining beautiful beaches, a relaxed lifestyle, and world-class university study.

### State-of-the-art campus

Opened in 2019, our Tauranga campus is our second and smaller campus, offering a distinctive study experience shaped by place, people and possibility. Purpose-built for connection, it brings together students, researchers, industry and community in an environment where ideas are shared, practical learning is encouraged, and real impact is made. It is a perfect choice for students wanting a more independent and close knit study experience.

### Coastal Marine Field Station

The University of Waikato is one of the premier universities in New Zealand for multidisciplinary aquatic science. The Field Station is a hub for a wide range of ground breaking research focused on marine biology and coastal processes, including marine biodiversity, coastal erosion, environmental monitoring, aquaculture, and ecotoxicology.

### Explore

With kilometres of golden coastline, Tauranga, Mount Maunganui and Pāpāmoa offer some of the best beach days in New Zealand. Sunrise swims, long walks on Main Beach and afternoon surfs are part of everyday life here. The Mount's beach is regularly recognised as one of the best in the South Pacific.

### Coastal living

The region offers an abundance of trails, waterfalls and reserves to explore. Whether you prefer relaxed coastal walks or more challenging day hikes, Tauranga provides endless reasons to get outside and enjoy the Bay of Plenty's enviable climate.

Find out more about Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty region at [bayofplenty.nz](http://bayofplenty.nz)



Credit: Tourism NZ



Coastal Marine Field Station  
30 min walk

Domain  
7 min walk

Waikareao Estuary  
Walkway  
10 min walk

Tauranga Art  
Gallery  
5 min walk

Main City Bus Stop  
1 min walk

CBD Wharf & Shops  
6 min walk

Tauranga  
Campus

Selwyn Street  
Accommodation  
6 min walk

Durham Mews  
Accommodation  
2 min walk

The Gym  
6 min walk



Tauranga CBD Wharf

Credit: Tauranga City Council



# Areas of study

## Arts, Psychology, Social Sciences, and Law

Anthropology  
Arts and Social Sciences\*  
Chinese  
Climate Change  
Creative Writing  
Creative Media  
Digital Learning  
English  
Ethics  
Forensic Psychology  
French  
Gender and Sexuality Studies  
Geographic Information Systems  
Geography\*  
Global Arts  
History  
International Languages and Cultures  
International Relations  
Japanese  
Law\*  
Linguistics  
Media Production  
Music  
Philosophy\*  
Political Science  
Population Studies  
Psychology\*  
Public Policy  
Relational and Inclusive Practices  
Screen and Media Studies  
Social Policy  
Sociology\*  
Spanish  
Theatre Studies  
Writing Studies

## Business & Management

Accounting\*  
Agribusiness  
Banking, Finance and Technology  
Business\*

Business Analytics  
Communication  
Digital Business  
Economics\*  
Finance\*  
Global Markets  
Human Resource Management  
International Management  
Leadership  
Leadership and Communication  
Marketing  
Management and Sustainability  
Public Relations  
Strategic Management  
Supply Chain Management  
Tourism and Hospitality Management

## Computing and Mathematical Sciences

Applied Computing  
Applied Digital Communication  
Communication Design  
Computer Science\*  
Data Analytics  
Embedded Systems  
Esports  
Industrial Design  
Interface Design  
Mathematics  
Media Design  
Practical Mathematics and Statistics

## Education

Education\*  
Education and Society  
Human Development  
Māori Education

## Engineering

Chemical and Biological Engineering  
Civil Engineering  
Electrical Engineering  
Electronic Engineering

Engineering  
Environmental Engineering  
Materials and Process Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering  
Mechatronics Engineering  
Software Engineering

## Health

Biomedical Sciences  
Community Health  
Health Promotion  
Healthy Active Living  
Human Development  
Human Performance Science\*  
Population Health  
Sport Development and Coaching\*

## Māori and Indigenous Studies

Māori Language/Te Reo Māori  
Māori and Indigenous Studies  
Pacific and Indigenous Studies

## Science

Animal Behaviour  
Aquaculture (Marine)  
Biochemistry  
Biomedical Sciences  
Chemistry  
Crime Science  
Earth Sciences  
Ecology and Biodiversity  
Electronics  
Environmental Planning  
Environmental Sciences  
Geology  
Materials Processing  
Materials Science  
Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Science

*\*Globally-ranked subject areas (QS World Subject Rankings 2026)*

# Looking for something a little different?

We offer a range of interesting courses, including some that are distinctly New Zealand.

- Climate Change
- Crime Science
- Culture and Power in the Pacific
- Education and New Zealand Society
- Esports
- Freshwater Ecology
- Introducing the Māori World
- Introduction to Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Studies: The Climate Change Crisis
- International Relations: The Context, Theory and Practice of New Zealand Foreign Policy
- Kapa Haka: Noble Dances of the Māori
- Māori and Treaty History in Professional Practice
- Māori and Pacific Health and Wellbeing
- Marine Ecology
- New Zealand Politics and Policy
- Pacific Migration, Diaspora and Identity
- Planning in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Planning for a Changing Environment
- Sustainability in Māori, Pacific and Indigenous Contexts
- Terrestrial Ecology

## Impact Lab

The Impact Lab bridges academic learning with practical experience. Students enrolled in this programme work in multi-disciplinary teams to tackle real-world sustainability challenges throughout a trimester. Each team has students from a variety of study areas, and one or more staff mentors from either across the university or locally.

### Past projects include:

- Climate literacy training for globally mobile students
- Transforming waste into eco-friendly gold
- Saving plywood cut-off's at Action Manufacturing to reduce excess
- Investigating sustainable transport options for students
- Rejuvenating the Trees at the Meteor event for all locals to enjoy

Find out more [waikato.ac.nz/impactlab](https://waikato.ac.nz/impactlab)

## Paper Catalogue

[papers.waikato.ac.nz](https://papers.waikato.ac.nz)

We use the term 'papers' instead of 'courses'.



# Your Waikato experience

Gain real-world work experience by interning, researching, or volunteering while studying abroad at the University of Waikato.

## Study Abroad and Exchange

### Academic Year

The University operates with a trimester based academic year:

- A Trimester: February to June
- B Trimester: July to November

The core academic year is made up of A and B Trimesters, each offering an 18-week long experience from arrival to departure.

### Academic Credit and Workload

A typical full-time workload at Waikato is 60 points per trimester (4 papers at 15 Waikato points each).

Minimum enrolment is 45 points and maximum is 60 points per trimester.

In general, 15 Waikato points = 3 or 4 US credits, or 7.5 ECTS, but please seek further guidance from your home university.

When choosing your papers, be sure that they are taught in your chosen campus and trimester.

A 15 point paper equates to 150 hours of study.

See more about how to read the paper codes, levels, and the types of assessments used in our papers:

[waikato.ac.nz/infonew](http://waikato.ac.nz/infonew)

### Entry Requirements

- Please note: our partner universities often require a minimum of a B-grade average or equivalent for enrolling in study abroad and exchange programmes.
- English proficiency (if applicable): [waikato.ac.nz/intundergrad](http://waikato.ac.nz/intundergrad)
- Completed at least two trimesters/semesters at your home university when you start your studies at Waikato.

## Study + Intern

Looking for international work experience? The Study + Intern programme allows you to work part-time with a local organisation on a specialised project and gain valuable experience in your field of study. You'll acquire practical skills, and enhance your employability, both at home and in New Zealand. Open to all majors and both study abroad and exchange students can apply.

### Internship Experience

Time per week: 15 hours, spread over 2-3 days (the days will depend on your scheduled academic class times)

Total time at internship (unpaid): 180 hours

Workload: You will be enrolled in your academic courses while also interning part-time in a local organisation, please note that this will mean a higher workload overall.

### Optional Academic Credit

You have the option to earn academic credit for your internship experience officially represented on your Waikato transcript.

You will need to leave space for one (1) of your papers to be your subject-specific internship paper.

**Credit:** 15 points at 300 level (3-4 US credits or 7.5 ECTS)

For internship placement cost and other details, please visit our website.





## Study + Research

Want to apply your science knowledge to hands-on research and learning? Experience a science research environment, hone your ability to conduct research, all while learning from subject experts.

### Programme Highlights:

- Papers: SCIEN 301 (group) or 313 (individual): Undergraduate Research Project (15 points)
- B trimester only (July-November)
- Several projects to choose from (group) and in some cases the flexibility to choose your own research topic (individual)
- Integrate and synthesise prior knowledge and learning, while working effectively in a team environment to contribute to a substantive project
- Work with world-renowned faculty in areas of animal behaviour, chemistry, coastal processes, earth sciences, ecology and biodiversity, environmental sciences, hydrology, and more.

## Study + Volunteer

Contribute to the Waikato Region all while gaining work-ready skills through volunteer activity, university participation, and workshop attendance. The University of Waikato Employability Plus Award (EPA) gives students the opportunity to work with partner organisations or contribute to campus events.

Partner organisations include Blind Low Vision NZ, Girl Guiding New Zealand, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice Waikato, Red Cross, and Refugee Orientation Centre.

### Programme Highlights:

- Be a part of the university experience. Join a club, be a class representative, mentor, or help out at campus events
- Receive an official supplementary record to go alongside your transcript
- Participate in as many opportunities as you can to really make your CV stand out.

Learn more at: [waikato.ac.nz/abroadstudy](https://waikato.ac.nz/abroadstudy)



## English + Study Abroad

Students who don't quite meet our English language entry requirements for study abroad are encouraged to enrol in our English + Study Abroad programme.

Improve your English by enrolling in an English language programme at The University of Waikato College in order to meet entry requirements for our trimester Study Abroad Programme. Eight to ten weeks of study (one block) is equivalent to a 0.5 increase in IELTS level. Please note, this programme is only available to students who are fee-paying trimester study abroad students. Exchange students are unable to participate due to visa restrictions.

### **B trimester - Study Abroad**

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#### **May – June**

Eight week intensive English language programme at The University of Waikato College

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#### **July – November (B trimester)**

Papers in various subjects at the University of Waikato

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### **A trimester - Study Abroad**

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#### **November – January**

Ten week English language programme at The University of Waikato College

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#### **February – June (A trimester)**

Papers in various subjects at the University of Waikato

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See pricing and entry requirements at [waikato.ac.nz/abroadstudy](https://www.waikato.ac.nz/abroadstudy)

## Short Programmes

The University of Waikato offers a range of short programmes designed to provide focused, practical learning experiences that cater to various professional and student interests. Programmes span from a few days to several weeks, and cover areas such as marine science, education, and indigenous. Highlights of these short programmes include industry-relevant content, expert instruction from experienced faculty, and the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning. Participants can benefit from the university's strong connections with industry and its commitment to delivering high-quality, accessible education.

### **Current programmes on offer:**

- Marine Science for Conservation
- Education Internship
- Te Ao Hurihuri (indigenous to indigenous engagement)
- Faculty-Led and Customised

Visit [waikato.ac.nz/abroadshort](https://www.waikato.ac.nz/abroadshort)

# Student support and health support services

Students can access a range of health services at both Hamilton and Tauranga campuses, including general practice (GP) doctors, sexual health services, vaccines, violence prevention, mental health services, and wellbeing tools and strategies.

## International Orientation

Your first week at Waikato will be our Academic Orientation, which includes sessions specifically for study abroad and exchange students to make you feel right at home. Begin the week with a traditional Māori pōwhiri (welcome) at our campus marae (meeting grounds), complete your enrolment at the student centre/library, enrol in papers and become familiar with your new local study spots and relevant academic divisions. Your classes will start the week after the Academic Orientation.

## International Student Support

Our dedicated International Student Services Office provides assistance to help you make Waikato your home.

The International Student Advisors are here to support you with your adaptation to New Zealand, and answer your questions you may have about your time studying at the University.

The International Student Services Office also organises on-campus and regional events to help you make new friends and see more of New Zealand.



# Sport and Wellbeing



## Sports

Whether you're a high performing athlete or want to try something out for the first time, from traditional sports such as rugby, netball, or cricket to more niche sports such as Esports, fencing, and parkour, there is something for everyone!

Visit [waikato.ac.nz/clubs](https://waikato.ac.nz/clubs)

## Wellbeing Hub

The Wellbeing Hub is a space for all students to chill, participate in activities, study and generally take time to rest and recharge.

Visit [waikato.ac.nz/wellbeing](https://waikato.ac.nz/wellbeing)

## Adams Centre

For high performing athletes, the University of Waikato Adams Centre, in Tauranga, offers world-class facilities, equipped with the latest in sports science and research capability.

Visit [uowadamshpc.co.nz](https://uowadamshpc.co.nz)

## Unirec

Based at the Hamilton campus, Unirec provides a great range of exercise facilities and expertise to students and staff. With a sports hall, classes, reformer pilates, cardio and weights room, personal trainers, and a traditional gym.

Visit [unirec.co.nz](https://unirec.co.nz)

## Facilities

Waikato boasts the largest sports fields out of all other NZ universities. Students have access to squash courts, an outdoor fitness area, tennis, netball and basketball courts, among many other outdoor facilities!

Visit [waikato.ac.nz/sportsfacilities](https://waikato.ac.nz/sportsfacilities)

## Wahine (women) movement

Wāhine is the māori word for women – join the Waikato Wāhine Movement, designed to get women moving their body, their way. With dedicated women only events and training opportunities, meet the amazing women at Waikato while moving your body!

Visit [waikato.ac.nz/wahine-move](https://waikato.ac.nz/wahine-move)

# Accommodation

Living on campus provides the ultimate Kiwi student experience - it's a great way to meet new people and immerse yourself in student life. Plus, you're never more than a 10 minute walk from class. If you're looking to improve your English or want a home away from home, try a homestay and live with a New Zealand family.

## Hamilton accommodation

### College Hall

College Hall is the largest hall and most recently renovated. It has modern lounges on each floor for study and leisure. It's close to the schools of Management, Education, and Law, as well as the sports courts.



### Student Village

Student Village is unique in that students live in pods of six residents meaning your pod becomes like your family while you're in the hall. It is located closest to the schools of Arts and Sciences, UniRec gym, Student Centre, and Village Green.



### Bryant Hall



Bryant Hall is the smallest hall, creating a tight-knit community of residents and staff who all look out for each other and are focused on balancing study and the student lifestyle. It's close to the schools of Arts and Sciences, UniRec gym, Student Centre, and Village Green.



### Knighton Road Apartments

This brand new accommodation is for students who want more independence while still living on campus. Great for meeting people, cooking your own meals and having your own space



 Fully catered  Self-catered

## Orchard Park 🏠

Orchard Park is designed for students who want to live in a flatting situation with a good balance between meeting new people and being independent, while enjoying the security of being on campus. All rooms at Orchard Park are self-catered. Each cottage has its own living, dining and kitchen areas, and there is a recreation room for all residents to use. Orchard Park is popular with second to fourth year students, international and postgraduate students.



## Bleakley Place Apartments 🏠

Live like a local student in a flat (house) located across the road from the university. Each student will have their own bedroom, and will share living and kitchen spaces with their 'flatmates'.



## Tauranga accommodation

### Selwyn Street Studios 🏠

Our newly-built studios are located just a 5-minute walk from our Tauranga Campus. Students enjoy views over the harbour and the privacy of their own en-suite bathroom. Rooms also include a king single bed, desk, chair, bookshelf, wardrobe, mini fridge and there's free Wi-Fi. This complex is self-catered.



### Durham Mews 🏠

Durham Mews is just a 2-minute walk from campus and offers six three-bedroom flats. It's a great option for students in their second year and beyond who are looking for a bit more independence while still staying connected to uni life.



# How do I apply?

- 1 The first step is to talk to your home university's education abroad office or your chosen education consultant. They will be able to advise you of their internal processes and make sure you meet their requirements to study abroad.
- 2 Check that you meet our entry requirements listed on the page titled "Your Waikato Experience" (page 14 in this guide)
- 3 Visit [waikato.ac.nz/abroadbefore](https://waikato.ac.nz/abroadbefore) to learn more about the steps required to study at Waikato.
- 4 Once you feel confident that you are ready to apply, head to [waikato.ac.nz/abroadapply](https://waikato.ac.nz/abroadapply) to learn how to submit your application online.
- 5 After you have received your offer, follow the steps described on [waikato.ac.nz/abroadoffer](https://waikato.ac.nz/abroadoffer) to continue your enrolment.

## Application deadlines

Check with your home university, as they likely have an earlier internal application deadline. Deadlines applicable to the applications for Enrolling, Accommodation, and the Study + Intern Programme are listed below:

### Nomination deadline

- A Trimester (February – June): November 1
- B Trimester (July – November): April 1

### Application to enrol to study

- A Trimester (February – June): December 1
- B Trimester (July – November): May 1

# Living Costs and fees

## Tuition and Fees

Study abroad students pay a fixed study abroad fee that includes:

- Tuition
- Student Services Levy
- Official Transcript
- Airport pick-up on arrival (if applicable)

Exchange students are not required to pay tuition to Waikato, as this is paid by your home university.

## Other costs

All international students are required by New Zealand law to purchase student health insurance.

Scan the QR code to visit our Fees & Costs page.



# Get in touch

📞 +64 22 011 2519

✉️ [studyabroad@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:studyabroad@waikato.ac.nz)

🌐 [waikato.ac.nz/go/studyabroad](http://waikato.ac.nz/go/studyabroad)

📷 @WaikatoInternational

📘 @WaikatoUniversity

📺 @TheUniversityOfWaikato





THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*  
NEW ZEALAND

FOR THE PEOPLE  
**KO TE TANGATA**

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