University of California Education Abroad Program

VISA INFORMATION

New Zealand Universities Program: Fall, Spring, and Year 2013-14

In order to study in New Zealand you must apply for and receive a student visa from the New Zealand Consulate-General in advance of your arrival. Read about the student visa on the New Zealand immigration website, and note the special heading for Exchange Students on that page (all UCEAP students going on this program are exchange students, not “fee-paying students”).

See the student visa requirements including the health and character requirements. Read the Student Visa Guide carefully before you begin your application and use it for reference as you complete the application.

If you are staying in New Zealand longer than 12 months OR present risk factors for TB (by their definition – see list of low risk countries on page 12 of the Student Visa Guide), you will be required to submit a Temporary Entry X-ray Certificate. Pages 11-12 of the Student Visa Guide (sections C7 – C12) will help you determine whether you need to submit the chest x-ray certificate or not.

Though rare in the case of a UCEAP student, it is worth noting that if you intend to stay in New Zealand for more than 12 months, you must submit a General Medical Certificate and a Temporary Entry X-ray Certificate.

See the step-by-step instructions when you are ready to begin your student visa application. You will apply as an exchange student. (Please note: the box for exchange students on the document checklist is somewhat misleading, as you DO need to submit additional documentation. You must submit proof of your ability to sustain yourself financially while in New Zealand).

Direct any further questions to the New Zealand Visa Application Center (VAC):
(The Immigration Office reminds us that 95% of applications submitted there are processed in ten days. They request that we not inundate their office with inquiries about the status of visa applications, as it slows down application processing time across the board).

NON-U.S. Citizens: Visa requirements, application procedures, and processing times vary by country of citizenship. Contact the New Zealand Consulate-General in Los Angeles right away to find out what you need to do to apply for your New Zealand student visa.

U.S. Citizens: Follow the application instructions on the immigration web pages linked above. They are fairly clear. Contact the NZ Visa Application Center at the link above if you need more details.

The following tips are presented to help you complete your application:

- To determine the dates of your study program, refer to the Calendars tab on the New Zealand Participants Page of the UCEAP website.
- Be prepared to attach two passport-sized photos to your application (4.5 cm x 3.5 cm).
- You must submit your actual passport. The visa will be stamped in your passport.
• Include a pre-paid, self-addressed courier envelope for the return of your stamped passport. If you do not include your own, the visa processing service will charge you $30.00 for the return delivery. Do some price comparison and see which option you prefer.

• Include a copy of the “Participation Letter” from the Systemwide Office of UCEAP as well as a copy of the Offer of Place from your host university (these will serve as evidence that you have been accepted to an approved student exchange scheme, a requirement you will note on the visa application checklist for exchange students).

Lettered items in the application that might confuse you:
• Item B5: Leave blank unless you have an immigration adviser.
• Item B6: You can enter Professor Ivan Reilly in this section and give the address and telephone number of the EAP Study Center in Auckland. Under “Relationship” write “Exchange Program Representative”.

Prof. Ivan Reilly, Liaison Officer NZ EAP Study
Centre Department of Mathematics
University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142, NEW ZEALAND
Phone: (011-64-9) 3737599 x 88786

• Item E1: Check (“tick”) that you are applying for a student visa while outside New Zealand. As for the date of entry, you may be entering New Zealand just in time for the official EAP arrival date, or you may be planning to enter New Zealand a little earlier. Enter the date according to the Calendar tab on your UCEAP Participants’ Page (or your earlier travel plans).
• Section F states that it only applies to PhD, scholarship, and fee-paying students. We heard from several fall students that they want you to fill this section out anyway, including section F5, the Financial Support section.
• For F4, in the first column give the host university to which you were referred, then list the NZ town or city in the second column, and, lastly, write Exchange Programme in the third column, including this note, “Specific subjects will be finalized after arrival”.
• For F5, choose the option that best fits with your financial picture while abroad and provide the requested financial documentation described in the NZ student visa application checklist. If you are unclear what documentation immigration wants from you to verify your financial means, please give them a quick call at 855-844-2835.
• Application Fee: U.S. citizens residing in the U.S. do not pay a visa application fee for the student visa (although other service fees are charged – see below). Citizens of other countries going on the program, please see the Fees Guide.
• CHARGES and AUTHORIZATION FORM: Although US citizens do not pay a standard visa application fee, all applicants will pay a processing fee of $38.00 to the Visa Application Center (VAC) for services. In addition, if you do not include a pre-paid courier envelope with your application, you will also need to include the courier fee for the safe return of your stamped passport. If you DO include your own pre-paid, self-addressed courier envelope, the VAC will waive the $30.00 courier charge. If you live near Santa Monica you can drop off or pick up items in person.
Submit an Authorization Form to authorize payment by credit card.

Submit your visa application and materials to the:

New Zealand Visa Application Center