

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q How does Waiariki welcome international students?

Upon your arrival into New Zealand we can arrange to pick you up at Auckland or Rotorua Airport if you request it. The International Team will meet with you on your first day and ensure that you are given all the necessary information you need to begin your course and to settle into Waiariki and into Rotorua. Waiariki promotes a bicultural vision and all new students are welcomed at the start of their course with a pohiri (traditional Māori welcome ceremony) at Tangatarua Marae.

## Q Who is the International Team and how can they help?

Based in the International Centre, our friendly team members can speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi, Oriya, Bengali, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, French and Māori. They provide a full range of pastoral care and specialist services such as:

- accommodation support, airport pickup, orientation, banking and general advice, cultural and personal support
- specialist services for applications, enrolments, online student visa applications, graduate job search visas, medical and health insurance
- Waiariki is an official IELTS Testing Centre to provide proof of English competency for entry into mainstream qualifications
- You are welcome to call in at any time during weekdays

## Q Where can I stay?

### Hostel

Waiariki House provides quality accommodation at reasonable rates. The hostel is located in the heart of the city, just a short walk from many amenities and an easy city bus ride to the Rotorua campus. Waiariki House provides a clean, safe, secure and friendly atmosphere. Waiariki House is a privately owned company independent from Waiariki Institute of Technology, and is our preferred hostel. Students from many countries, including New Zealand, stay at and enjoy Waiariki House – the best of both worlds – independence and support. Sign up for a minimum of one semester accommodation at Waiariki House and get a special rate.

### Homestay

New Zealand families provide homestay accommodation for students who prefer to live in a family setting. This is a good way to improve your English and learn about New Zealand culture. All homestay families have been interviewed by Waiariki to ensure they meet the Ministry of Education requirements for hosting students.

## Q Can I work while studying in New Zealand?

If you wish to work in New Zealand, the minimum legal pay is NZ\$13.00 per hour (before tax). Advice on rights to employment in New Zealand while studying is available through the Immigration New Zealand website: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).

## Q How much does it cost to live in Rotorua?

Rotorua is a less expensive city to live in compared to the major cities like Auckland and Wellington. It is important that you are financially prepared for your stay in New Zealand. Some typical costs are (in NZ\$):

### Waiariki House

Starting at \$137 per week (contact International Centre for options)

### Homestay

\$195 per week

### Bus rides

Free for Waiariki students, within Rotorua, seven days a week

### Medical & travel insurance

\$507 per year, shorter periods will be less

### Airport transfers

Auckland airport shuttle \$120, Rotorua airport, approx \$20

### One-time administration fee

\$150

### Recreation centre fee (optional)

\$50 per year

### Other costs

If you are planning to live independently (not in a hostel or homestay), you should expect to incur the following approximate expenses, based on a per-week basis (in NZ\$):

Shared accommodation	\$90-150
Rent for a one-bedroom flat	\$130-200
Electricity and gas	\$20-35
Food	\$60-80

Also allow for other expenses such as telephone and entertainment.

## Q What kind of support can I expect from Waiariki?

- Drop-in support of our friendly International Team, as detailed above
- The Library Learning Centre offers a full range of resources available for your study needs
- Learner Support is available for extra assistance outside of class, to develop study and English writing skills and test techniques for exams
- Health and Counselling – confidential comprehensive health services are available on campus
- Access to computer suites to work on assignments outside class hours
- A café and restaurant are conveniently located on campus
- Waiariki's Rotorua campus supports a wireless network, so you can bring your own computer if you wish
- Students' Association (WITSA) membership is included in your fees. WITSA is run by students for students, providing social activities, academic and personal help

## Q What medical and travel insurance do I need?

The cost is \$507 per year. International students must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while studying in New Zealand. Uni-care is our preferred insurance provider. It

is important to understand the inclusions stated in their Policy wording for the New Zealand Student Plan on the Uni-care website: [www.uni-care.org](http://www.uni-care.org).

Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If you receive medical treatment during your visit, you may be liable for the full costs of that treatment. Full details on entitlements to publicly funded health services are available through the Ministry of Health website: [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz).

Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand, but you may still be liable for all other medical and related costs. Further information can be viewed on the ACC website: [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz).

## Q How do I know I'm getting a high quality education and support from Waiariki?

Waiariki is a government-owned tertiary education provider registered with the New Zealand Government and holds Quality Assured status.

Waiariki has agreed to observe and be bound by the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students published by the Minister of Education. Copies of the code are available from this Institution or from the New Zealand Ministry of Education website: [www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/international](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/international).

## Q What social activities are available to take part in?

Numerous sports clubs, student events and special events take place on Waiariki campuses throughout the year. These provide great opportunities for you to have fun while meeting people and making new friends. The International Team publishes an annual calendar of events and activities that you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The new Waiariki Community Recreation Centre on the Rotorua campus provides a gymnasium, weights room, squash court, and fitness classes. Sports clubs in badminton, basketball, football and more are included in the affordable membership fees.

As a tourist town, surrounded by natural beauty, the city hosts many fun activities and events, geothermal features, water activities on many lakes, mountain biking, river kayaking and rafting, golf, summer tramping, athletic competitions and Māori cultural activities. Some of New Zealand's best beaches are within a one-hour drive. In just two and half hours from Rotorua, you can be skiing on majestic snow capped mountains.

## Q What are the rules of New Zealand immigration?

Full details of visa and permit requirements, advice on rights to employment in New Zealand while studying are available through the Immigration New Zealand website: [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz).