Study Abroad

USAC New Zealand Semester Long Programs 2020
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Congratulations on being accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire study abroad program with Massey University, through USAC. Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

- Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field
- Increasing understanding of different cultures
- Enhancing personal development
- Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture
- Gaining self-confidence and independence
- Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

Use this program-specific guide with the more general resources in your BlugoldsAbroad account. While this guide contains the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email information throughout the semester, and we encourage you to do your own research, also, using the web resources listed towards the end of this guide, as well as others that you find. Contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff or your peer advisor with your specific questions.

Questions only you can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, and wish to challenge yourself in a new environment?

2) How can you best prepare to meet your goals within the context of this program? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in New Zealand culture, yet you are going with a group of American students, how can you insure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of publication, though changes may occur at any time.
**ACADEMICS**

Additional information on topics such as maintaining program eligibility, registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, course equivalencies, grades, transcripts and service learning is in the Academics section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Pre-departure Planning**

Please see the New Zealand Academics Page, on our website, for details on how to plan your courses. There are details on how your courses will transfer back to UWEC.

**New Zealand Terminology**

Massey University uses terminology that you may not be used to. See the chart below to help you navigate the new words:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Familiar term</th>
<th>New Zealand term</th>
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<td>Major</td>
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**Credits and Course Load**

**Semester Students:**
You will enroll in four courses, each worth 15 Massey credits (equal to 3 UWEC credits). This means you will transfer back 12 UWEC credits.

All classes need to be based at one campus as it isn’t possible to travel to other campuses.

Keep in mind:

- The classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation.
- Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and must be approved in advance by the CIE and Massey.

**Registration for Massey Uni**

On your application directly to Massey, you listed courses that you were interested in taking. Massey will pre-enroll you into courses. Once you are fully accepted by Massey, you will receive an email from them with information on how to log in and view your Massey portal. Once you are logged-in, you will be able to view which courses were approved and add/drop courses as needed. Even if you were approved for two courses, you might not be able to take both due to timetable conflicts. You should always have alternative courses in mind.

Students attending in the spring will be able to log in in October once you have received your Massey Portal log-in and have returned your Offer of Place. Students attending in the fall will be able to log in and register as soon as you have your login details from Massey. Once you return your Offer of Place to Massey, you’ll have access to an online Inbound Welcome Guide that will give you instructions on how to add/drop courses.

**Dropping/Adding Courses**

**Semester students:**
You will have approximately 2 weeks to add/drop/change courses once you arrive on-site in New Zealand.
**Grades**

Below you will find the grade conversion for Massey University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Massey grading system</th>
<th>UWEC equivalent</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+, A, A- First Class Pass</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B- Second Class Pass</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C, C- Pass</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P Ungraded Pass</td>
<td>CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AEG Aegrotat Pass</td>
<td>IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Ungraded Fail</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Fail</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Low Fail</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NF Not Finalized (grade not available yet)</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNC Did Not Complete</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WD Withdraw from the paper</td>
<td>W</td>
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Keep in mind that in the New Zealand system, students start from zero and build up to earn their grade. Receiving C’s is very common and obtaining all A’s is almost unheard of.

**Note:** UWEC students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail. Grades from USAC are figured into your UWEC GPA and posted to your UWEC transcript. No exceptions will be made.

**Transcripts**

*Please see the [Academics section of the Study Abroad Handbook](#) for important information if you are graduating, transferring or applying for a competitive major such as Nursing or Education at the end of your term abroad.*

A Massey transcript will be sent to USAC, and then to UW-Eau Claire, roughly two months after the end of the semester. Because this is later than the end of the UW-Eau Claire semester, your MyBlugold CampS account will initially indicate “NR” (not reported). This will be changed once the transcript arrives. If you are a senior studying abroad for your last semester, you will need to delay your graduation by one semester following your return from New Zealand.

If you are asked to complete a transcript release form by USAC, have the transcript sent to the Center for International Education (see Contacts page for full address). UWEC cannot post grades that were first sent to a student.

**NZ Academic System**

The New Zealand education system is modeled after the British system, which means that there is a very strong emphasis on individual, self-directed study. You may notice that the amount of classroom contact time is less than what you are used to in the U.S. There is also a greater emphasis on academic specialization rather than devoting your studies to general studies.

In order to be successful, you will need to take initiative to learn the material and participate in class. For example, you are expected to read and print the syllabus BEFORE the first-class meeting. There may even be some expected reading before the first day. If you notice yourself struggling in this learning environment, there is a tutoring center on each campus and they can provide support and review your work. Again, it will be your responsibility to seek out assistance.

Your classes will be comprised of lectures and tutorials. Lectures are usually held with a larger number of students and your tutorials will consist of fewer students and allow you a chance to ask more in-depth questions. Lectures will have very little interaction between the student and professor, so you will want to be sure you attend the tutorials.
Your classes will have various assignments, essays, labs, etc. throughout the semester, as well as a three-hour final exam. Your final exam is usually 40-60% of your final grade.

Also, in the New Zealand system, the lecturer, who teaches the class, is not the person who evaluates your exams. In order to avoid any kind of personal bias, there is a separate group of professors who do the formal evaluation of exams.

**Service Learning**

There may be opportunities to get involved in the local community. The Massey Uni staff will notify you should anything come up but if you are looking for something specific, you should seek at the staff to inquire.

**MONEY MATTERS**

*UWEC information about making payments, when they are due, withdrawal and refund deadlines, financial aid, general scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in the Money Matters section of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

**Cost Estimate**

You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the New Zealand brochure page. Be sure you are looking at the correct term. The cost estimate includes what you pay to UWEC, what you pay to USAC, what you pay to Massey, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

**USAC Payments & Refund Policy**

For questions about paying your USAC fees, please contact the USAC accounting person listed in your Gateway account. You can pay with credit card, check, or money order.

In addition to the UWEC refund policy outlined in the "Money Matters" section of the Study Abroad Handbook, USAC has its own financial policies related to payment, cancellations, and changes. Information about the withdrawal deadlines and penalties are in the USAC Program Agreement and USAC Financial Agreement in your Gateway account.

**Housing Costs**

You will pay all housing costs directly to the housing provider at Massey.

**Currency Exchange**

The currency of New Zealand is the New Zealand dollar (NZD or NZ$). One NZD has 100 cents. There are coins in the form of 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, $1, $2. There are notes (bills) in $5, $10, $20, $50, $100. The notes are all different colors, so it is easier to tell which one you are grabbing. Fun fact, the bills in NZ are waterproof! Which makes sense as it is surrounded by water.

You can find current exchange rates at http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/.

**Cost of Living**

In general, you will find prices to be more expensive than in the U.S. due to New Zealand having to import almost everything.

Goods and service tax (GST) is a 15% tax added to most goods and services in New Zealand, including some imported items. For an idea of what everyday costs you may encounter, check out this website: https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Wellington
Scholarships

USAC Scholarships: USAC offers a variety of scholarships. For information, visit USAC’s Scholarship website. You will see optional scholarship applications on your USAC Gateway account when they open. You can apply for all scholarships you are eligible for and can be awarded more than one scholarship.

Scholarships for UWEC students on USAC Programs: USAC also offers an Affiliate Scholarship just for UWEC students on a USAC program. You will be considered for this scholarship when you complete the UWEC Study Abroad Foundation Scholarship application. The number of awards varies by term. Amounts vary between $200 - $500.

Money on Arrival
A general recommendation is to travel with the equivalent of $100-$200 dollars in your host country currency when you arrive. Obtaining NZD may be hard while in the states, so you should find an ATM shortly after arriving to withdraw some NZD.

Credit Cards and ATMs
Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted credit cards abroad. In NZ you can use a card almost everywhere and cash is actually becoming less preferred. Most credit cards do charge a fee or percentage for the currency exchange rate. Notify your credit card company prior to departure of where you will be travelling.

Debit cards are usually the best option for withdrawing money while abroad. Be sure you know the 4-digit pin for your card and ask your bank what the withdrawal fees are. You may also want to know your daily limit. Your bank may charge transaction fees for each foreign transaction, so you should try to limit the frequency of your ATM withdrawals. Your bank may have global partners that allow you to withdraw for fewer fees, so take note if any banks are partners with your bank. ATMs are plentiful in NZ so you should not have a problem accessing one.

Traveler’s Checks
Traveler’s checks are increasingly rare and difficult to use so it is not recommended. They generally must be cashed at a major bank, although in some countries, post offices also offer this service. You must have your passport with you. Most banks charge a fee for cashing the checks; it can vary widely. Before cashing a check, ASK what the fee is.

Make sure you record your check numbers and keep the numbers separate from the checks, in case you need to get them replaced.

Tipping in NZ
Tipping is not that common in NZ and is really only saved for times where service was exceptionally outstanding.

Health & Safety

General information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health & Insurance and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Centers for Disease Control
The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has vaccination suggestions, how to stay healthy when abroad, and health information specific to New Zealand. You can review the CDC site for New Zealand.
Due to an increasing measles and mumps cases worldwide, we strongly encourage all students to check their vaccine history to see if they have had the MMR vaccine.

**Insect Bites**
Insect borne diseases, particularly from mosquitoes, are present worldwide. See the CDC recommendations on avoiding bug bites for detailed information.

**Medical/Mental Health Availability in New Zealand**
Quality medical care is widely found in New Zealand. The access to care is available in all Massey University locations. If you are traveling in the rural areas, access to care may be more limited.

Each Massey campus has health care and counseling facilities that students are able to use. Counseling services are available at every location.

Medications are also readily available, although the name of the medicine may be different than in the U.S.

**Counseling Resources:** If you would like to see a therapist while abroad, and prefer to not see someone on Massey’s campus, we can work with CISI to identify therapists in New Zealand. Start this process before you go, or afterwards, by contacting your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

**Health Insurance in New Zealand**
Massey University requires that all international students have StudentSafe/Allianz insurance. This is included in your USAC program fees.

At this time, CISI has not been approved as an alternative insurance policy, so StudentSafe must also be purchased.

**CISI Insurance in New Zealand**
If you have an accident or become ill while studying in NZ, you **may have to pay the price of the medical service up front**. You will then file a claim through CISI, the insurance provided through the UW System for partial or full reimbursement in accordance with plan coverages.

**Services for Students with Disabilities**
Massey University offers support for students with registered disabilities. To learn more of what is offered, **see here**. If you would like services, when abroad, you will need to make sure you are registered on UWEC’s campus as Massey will need to see that documentation. Please contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator for more information.

It is also important to look at the level of accessibility in New Zealand in general. To find more information on the topic, please see the “Laws and Special Circumstances” tab on the **U.S. State Department Country page**.

**Safety in New Zealand**
Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in New Zealand can be found in the **State Department Consular Information Sheet**. Safety in-and-around New Zealand will be discussed during orientation in NZ.

Just as you need to do in any U.S. city, you will need to take safety precautions while walking and traveling around NZ. Using your common sense at all times will aid you well. Avoid
unlighted areas at night when you are walking around the city, and do not walk or take buses alone at night – especially women. Don't take any unnecessary risks!

The greatest risk you face in NZ is that of transportation-related injury, particularly as a result of motor vehicles. NZ drives on the left side of the road, so this can be an adjustment for students. Be sure to look both ways when crossing the road.

**NOTE:** Both men and women should be aware of their safety at all times. In the past, men have been just as susceptible as women to potential risks. As U.S. Americans, you may stick out as "foreigners." The best advice is to be aware of your surroundings, listen to your instincts, and use your common sense.

Pick-Pocketing: Pick-pocketing is common on public transportation and at popular tourist sites. To reduce the risk, do not have your phone or other valuables out in public spaces. An iPhone is a target for pick-pocketers. If you carry a purse, make sure it is across the body and has zippers. Keep your wallet in a front pocket, not a back pocket. Only carry small amounts of cash on you to minimize loss. Using a money belt under your clothing is another way to prevent valuables from being stolen.

Hiking: If you decide to hike, please make sure you hike with a buddy and let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return. While hiking, be aware of the weather as it can turn very quickly.

High Risk Activities: New Zealand is known for offering some high-risk activities such as parasailing, hang gliding, bungee jumping, white water rafting, etc. Should you choose to participate in any high-risk activity, please note that your CISI insurance will not cover any injuries/liabilities that result in this activity. Participating is at your own risk.

**Earthquakes:** The majority of New Zealand is vulnerable to earthquakes, and therefore potential tsunamis. This release of energy in earthquakes sometimes results in tsunamis.

**During an earthquake:**
- Stay calm
- Do not use an elevator or try to evacuate the building
- Distance yourself from glass, bookcases, and partitions that could fall
- If you are next to a door, open it
- If it is not possible to access a secure area, try to find a corner or a firm counter under which to take shelter and cover your head
- Do not attempt to rescue any objects
- Remain alert to gas leaks, pipe breaks, and short circuits
- Do not leave the premises immediately; wait until the earthquake stops

**After an earthquake:**
- Note that after an earthquake, there will be aftershocks
- Identify evacuation routes; follow evacuation signs placed visibly in each area
- Proceed without running down hallways, stairs, and patios and head to the outside of the building
- Never use the elevator
- Do not light matches, candles, or other objects that create the risk of fire or explosion
- Pay attention to obstacles
• When leaving the building, use caution as there could be falling objects
• After evacuation, do not re-enter the building until receiving express permission from university authorities

Always follow the recommendations and instructions given by local law enforcement and the campus community.

**Emergency Contacts**
General emergency procedures are described in the Study Abroad Handbook, and the Massey international staff is available if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at the Orientation 2; be sure to keep it in your wallet at all times. The information is also on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

**911 Equivalent in New Zealand**
If you are in an emergency situation in New Zealand, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in New Zealand is 111. We suggest you save these numbers in your cell phone in case you need to use them quickly.

**Marijuana and other Illegal Drugs**
The possession and use of marijuana is illegal. Even carrying it on your person can be considered drug trafficking. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in New Zealand are severe and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. U.S. citizenship offers no protection if you break a New Zealand law. There is NOTHING the CIE, USAC, Massey University or the U.S. government can do if you are found in violation the law.

In addition to legal penalties, you are putting yourself at risk of robbery or assault, or you may get a much more dangerous combination of drugs than you thought you were buying.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**
Passport information is included in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact the CIE for more information about the following topics.

**Visa**
A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country.

Although the CIE and USAC will provide information, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date about student visa requirements for New Zealand, and to apply for and receive a visa in a timely manner. Please read the “Visa” section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what you should do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

U.S. citizens, who want to study in New Zealand, will need to obtain a visa prior to arrival in New Zealand.

**Visas for Travel to Other Countries**
If you plan to travel outside your host country while abroad, you should verify visa requirements for each country you will visit by contacting the nearest consulate for that country, or your travel agency. Australia does
require U.S. citizens to have a visa for tourist travel.

**Packing Tips**

There is general packing information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook, and you will get a suggested packing list for New Zealand at Orientation 2 and USAC will post a packing list to your Gateway account. In addition, you should know the following:

**Weather**

Keep in mind that since New Zealand is in the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are opposite those in the United States. If you are arriving to New Zealand in February, it will be late summer. If you are arriving in July, it will be the middle of winter. It can be quite rainy in New Zealand in the spring. The North Island (where all locations are) has fairly moderate weather, whereas the South Island can have more extreme conditions.

Summer (December – February) in New Zealand is moderate to hot. In most places you will want to wear shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, dresses, etc. You may need a lighter jacket at night or if you go into the mountains.

Fall (March – May) in New Zealand is a little cooler than summer, but still wonderful. You will want light pants or shorts, some t-shirts, and longer sleeved shirts. As it begins to cool off, you will want sweaters and warmer pants.

Winter (June – August) in New Zealand brings snow to the South Island and rain to the North Island. You will want jeans, long-sleeve shirts, sweaters, thermals (if going into mountains), thick gloves, and hats.

Spring (September – November) in New Zealand can be cold, frosty, but also clear and sunny. You will want to be prepared for all weather scenarios. Jeans and items that can be layered are the best options.

Always keep in mind that New Zealand weather can change in a matter of minutes. If you are going hiking or camping, be sure to be prepared for different weather situations.

**Clothing**

Your peer advisor will give a suggested packing list at your second group meeting later in the semester prior to departure.

If you are going to be abroad during the winter months, you will want to make sure you pack accordingly. You will have heat in your accommodations, but you may find buildings to be drafty and cooler.

Students abroad over the summer months will not have air conditioning in their accommodations. While it doesn’t get overly hot, you may want to pack accordingly.

In general, you will find that NZ students dress nicer than US students when going to class. You won’t see students wearing sweatpants or loungewear to class. Nice jeans, sweaters, nice tops, etc. are more common. Because you will deal with a range of temperatures, bring clothes that you can wear or take off in layers.

**Converters & Adapters**

New Zealand electricity runs at 230/240 (US is 120) volts. The outlets will require a different shape of plug, so you will still need to bring a plug adaptor.
If you plan to bring a hair dryer, razor or other appliance from the US, you will need to buy both a voltage converter and a plug adapter. Another option is to buy the appliances after you arrive. It isn’t recommended that you bring these items as past students have commented on how they have over heated or stopped working and were ruined. Many students usually purchase a cheap product once they arrive in the country.

If you plan to bring your laptop abroad, check the power cord to see acceptable voltage inputs and outputs. If it includes 230 volts, you will only need to use a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

If you have several US appliances you plan to use abroad, consider bringing a power strip, also. You will still need to have a voltage converter in order to plug it into the wall.

If you plan to travel, you will want to make sure you have adaptors that will work in each country as they aren’t all the same.

**Do Not Bring**
Do not bring expensive cell phones, jewelry, or other luxury items that can be lost or stolen. If you do decide to bring items that are expensive to replace, you may want to consider personal property insurance for your time in New Zealand.

**GETTING TO NEW ZEALAND**

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

USAC will also post a detailed “Flight Guide,” around 5-6 months before the program begins, to your USAC Gateway account.

**Travel Arrangements**

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to New Zealand. Airline tickets are not included in your USAC program fees.

You will need to book your own flight and arrive prior to the mandatory orientation. **There is a $200 fee for students who miss orientation!** It is strongly recommended that you book round trip airfare, as you will need to show proof that you are exiting New Zealand. If you don’t purchase round-trip airfare, you will need to have supporting documents showing you have enough funds to book a return ticket. There have been cases where students aren’t allowed to board their flight, to New Zealand, without a round-trip ticket.

Most international flights will first land in Auckland.

The fastest and easiest way to get to Palmerston North is by a one-hour flight from Auckland domestic airport, flying with Air New Zealand. If you don’t want to fly to Palmerston North, you can take a train or bus from Auckland, but this can take 8-12 hours.

The fastest and easiest way to get to Wellington is by a one-hour flight from the Auckland domestic airport. Alternatively, you can take a train or bus from Auckland, but this can take 10-14 hours.

If you decide to fly to Palmerston North or Wellington, be sure you verify which airports you land into/depart out of in New Zealand. If
you need to switch airports, be sure to give yourself enough time to go through customs, obtain your bags, and make your way to the other airport.

**Early Arrivals**
USAC strongly discourages students from arriving early. If you decide to arrive early, you will need to find and pay for your own accommodations. You should not expect to have any assistance upon arrival and should be prepared to deal with any issues on your own.

**Airport Pick-Up Service**
Airport pickup is available for Auckland (Albany) and Palmerston North (Manawatu), but for a pickup to be guaranteed, you must complete and return an arrival collection form to Massey University at least two weeks prior to your arrival in New Zealand. In the USAC Flight Guide (on your Gateway Account), there is a link for requesting the pickup service. Your pickup will be either at the destination airport, bus or train station.

**Auckland students:** Students can request airport collection. Students will be met by a shuttle and taken to their accommodations. There is a $75 NZD fee for this and you pay the shuttle driver.

**Palmerston North Students:** Students can request to be picked up at the airport, train or bus station in Palmerston North. This service is free of charge. You can only request a pickup on the dates that are advertised, and it is only available between 8am-8pm. You will be notified of the dates after your acceptance.

**Wellington Students:** Students will need to find their own way to campus. Massey will provide information on how to get from the airport to the campus. Taxis and Uber will be an option.

**Late Arrivals-Expected and Unexpected**
If you don’t arrive as scheduled, for any reason, you will be responsible for arranging and paying for your transfer from the airport. Again, watch for detailed instructions in the USAC Arrival Guide.

**Important reminder:** Write down your apartment address on a piece of paper, in case you need to give it to a cab driver on arrival.

**Leaving Your Host City**
Return airport transportation isn’t included in your program fees and you will need to find your own way to the airport on your last day.

**SETTLING IN Orientation**
You will have a mandatory orientation program upon arrival to your Massey University location in New Zealand. The orientation will introduce you to the university and its services, as well as to your host city in general. You will learn how to use public transportation, purchase a cell phone (if you want), learn where to eat and learn about safety issues to be aware of, etc. You will also finalize course registration at orientation. There is a $200 penalty for not attending the entire orientation.

Students attending Palmerston North MUST register for orientation. In your Offer of Acceptance, there will be more details on how to do this.

**On-Site Support**
Massey University has an international office on each campus that will provide support. If any
questions or concerns arise, reach out to the onsite staff! They are there to assist you, but they will not actively seek you out to make sure everything is going okay.

**Local Transportation**

Taxis are also plentiful and relatively inexpensive. Be sure to watch the meter to make sure it is being used properly. Many taxis wait at taxi stands around the city, but you can also hail one if it drives by.

Uber is common in New Zealand and the CIE cannot guarantee that Uber use is safe.

Depending on the city you are in, there may be cable cars, trains, or trams to help navigate the city. Many students opt to purchase a bike or walk to most places.

**Getting Involved**

Each Massey Campus also has a Student Association that provides students the chance to join clubs or other sporting clubs. You will find out more information about this during orientation in New Zealand. Joining a student org is another way to explore New Zealand as many clubs offer cheap excursions.

Each Massey Campus has a gym that you are allowed to join. There is a membership fee if you decide to join.

New Zealand’s landscape makes it one of the best outdoor playgrounds in the world. There will be hiking for all fitness levels. You can take a quick bush walk or go on one of the many “Great Walks.” Some walks may even lead you to sites where the *Lord of the Rings* was filmed. Be sure to hike with a buddy and let someone know when you leave and plan to return.

**Volunteer**

If you want to get to know the local community even better, you should consider volunteering. During your Massey University orientation, they will talk about ways you can volunteer.

Volunteer projects will be available based on current need in the community. Hosting a volunteer requires time on the part of the organization to plan projects for and supervise that volunteer, so please take your commitment seriously. Otherwise, community partners may not be willing to host volunteers in the future. Also, volunteering requires you to take initiative. The more you are willing to invest in the experience the more rewarding it will be!

**Housing**

**USAC:** See the USAC Housing Guide in your Gateway account for additional general information on housing, how to apply for housing, as well as cancellation policies.

**Arranging Housing Semester Students**

It is your responsibility to secure your housing at Massey University. Please follow all instructions that Massey University provides you once you are accepted into the program. **Housing is on a first come-first serve basis so failure to apply for housing in a timely manner could result in you having to find your own housing off campus.** All housing fees will be paid directly to Massey University.

All university housing is within walking distance from each campus. In Auckland, housing is on campus. In Palmerston North, housing will be on or very close to campus (2-10 minutes’ walk). Housing in Wellington is usually off campus but between 5-10 minutes’ walk.
You will have a single room in a shared apartment. You may have between 3-5 roommates. Please note that roommates are co-ed and can be other international students as well as New Zealand students at Massey University. Students who live in the apartments are typically first year students (18-19 years old), as it is very common for students to move off campus after their first year.

**What's Provided?**
You may need to provide your own towels. Bedding and linen can be provided at each location if requested in advance. Bedding packs are mandatory at The Cube (Wellington Campus). There are a lot of inexpensive places to purchase linens when you arrive if you don’t wish to purchase a linen packet.

**Meals & Snacks**
Some locations may offer a meal plan, but not all will. If you’d prefer housing with a meal plan, look for “catered.” Options listed as “self-catered” means that there isn’t a meal plan and you will cook your own meals. Palmerston North and Auckland will have catered options in addition to self-catered, but Wellington only has self-catered options.

Catered halls are not similar to the catered halls you are familiar with at UW-Eau Claire. Catered halls in New Zealand tend to be open for fewer hours and offer a smaller choice of food options. Most students will be on self-catered plans. Your apartment will have the facilities to cook your own meals, but you will need to supply your own utensils/cooking supplies. Students are advised to wait until they arrive before they purchase cooking materials, as your roommate might already have supplies they’re willing to share. Often times, many students enjoy self-catered as it allows you to save money and eat what you like, when you would like.

**Laundry**
Laundry facilities will be nearby, but you will need to pay to use.

**Internet Access**
There are computer labs across campus that you will have access to. If you want to bring a laptop, you will have internet connection available to you in your housing, for an extra fee. There will be free Wi-Fi hotspots around campus, and town. If you bring your own laptop, be sure to exercise caution with it. Some past students have obtained personal liability insurance for protecting their valuable, but that is at your own discretion.

**Housing Costs**
**Semester students:** housing costs are NOT included in your USAC program fees. You will pay all housing related fees to the appropriate New Zealand office/department.

**COMMUNICATION**
Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer app-based phone services (SKYPE, What’s App, Facetime, etc) is in the **Contacts & Communication section of your Study Abroad Handbook.**

**Time Difference**
The local time in New Zealand is 17 hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is Wednesday at 2:00pm in Eau Claire, it is Thursday at 7:00am in New Zealand. [https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/new-zealand](https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/new-zealand)
**Email/Internet Access**

On campus, you will have access to free Internet. You will be given a Massey username and email account, so be sure to forward that to an email account that you check frequently.

You will have access to the internet in your accommodations either through an Ethernet or Wi-Fi and it will be an additional fee.

**Cell Phone Information**

Cell phones are just as common in New Zealand as they are in the U.S. If you want to bring your U.S. cellphone, **you will need to check with your carrier to see if there are international plans and to have your phone unlocked.**

Cell phones are affordable and can also be purchased once you arrive. Most plans allow for pay-as-you-go so it can be more affordable and easier to do this.

**Calling from the U.S.**

From the U.S. to New Zealand. First dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you must dial the country code for your host country. Country codes can be found in the front of phone books or online at [http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/](http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/). Then you dial the rest of the number.

**Snail Mail**

International airmail typically takes 7-10 days (or longer) to reach most locations. It is not recommended to send or receive anything of real value, as customs may put a hefty customs fee on it. Know that anything you send or receive is subject to being searched by customs.

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**New Zealand Slang/Maori Language**

Even though you are studying abroad in an English-speaking country, there are many differences you will notice. One difference is the slang. Here are some common words you may hear:

- Kiwi: referring to a New Zealander, or the country’s national bird. For the fruit, they say kiwifruit
- Sweet as – an expression meaning it was really good – “my day was sweet as”
- Jandals: flip flops
- Dairy: convenience store, corner store
- Macca’s: McDonalds
- Togs: swimsuit
- Bonnet & boot: Hood & trunk of a car
- Bugged: very tired
- Fizzy drink: soda
- Hot chips: French fries
- Chocka Block: crowded/busy
- Jumper: sweatshirt
- Not even: no way/that’s not true
- A feed: a meal
- Heaps: a lot/very
- Zed – the letter Z (in the US we pronounce it Zee; in New Zealand it is Zed (like Ted)
- Tramping - hiking
- Whittakers – New Zealand for chocolate. It’s a local brand
- L&P: Lemon and Paeroa, a popular soft drink you must try!
- Pineapple lumps – chocolate coated lumps of pineapple flavoured confection (a must try!)

Maori Words:

- Aotearoa – New Zealand (literally means long white cloud)
- Kia ora – hello
- Ke te pai – I’m good
- Waka – canoe but commonly used to describe any moving vehicle
- Aroha – love
- Haka – war dance with actions
- Iwi – tribe
- Pounamu – greenstone

**TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD**

See additional information in the Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook.

**Optional Excursions**

Massey University’s international office may plan some occasional optional trips to go on. These are usually really affordable and are a great way to see the country. In addition, many student organizations will plan camping, hiking, etc. trips.

**Travel Outside of New Zealand**

If you plan to travel outside of New Zealand, you will want to research if any visas or certain vaccinations are required.

**Air Travel**

If you plan to travel by plane, Air New Zealand is by far the most common airlines in New Zealand. There are additional budget airlines you can also find. The airports in New Zealand are unique in that if you are flying on a plane that has less than 50 people and in a smaller city, you won’t go through security. This can be a weird process for Americans, but just follow what the locals and airline staff do. Just be careful on what the luggage size and weight restrictions are as every airline is different.

**Camping**

If you plan to camp in New Zealand, be sure you understand where you can and cannot camp. There are many areas that offer free or affordable camping, but you can’t just camp anywhere you’d like. This site is great for figuring that out.

**Camper Vans**

It won’t take long, after you’ve arrived in New Zealand, before you see camper vans. These are very popular with backpackers and tourists as it allows for you to drive and see the country. The CIE, USAC and Massey are not liable should you rent a van. Renting a camper van is at your own discretion. We advise the upmost safety be taken into consideration if you think about doing this. Keep in mind the driving is on the left side of the road which can lead to issues arising.

**Hop-On Hop-Off Buses**

If you’re not keen on doing a camper van (we don’t blame you), you can do a Hop-On Hop-Off bus as well. This still allows you the freedom to travel and navigate on your own schedule.

**HISTORY**

New Zealand has a rich history for being such a small country at the bottom of the South Pacific. The following information is from the New Zealand Now.

**First Settlers**

The first ancestors of New Zealand are the Maori people who are said to have arrived between 1200-1300 AD. They discovered New Zealand as they explored the Pacific Ocean, navigating by the ocean currents and wind and stars. The term Maori didn’t exist until the Europeans arrived.
It wasn’t until 1642 when the first Europeans (the Dutch) started to arrive. Then it was 127 years before another European came to New Zealand, in 1769. This was James Cook. After that, European whalers and sealers visited regularly and then traders became to come. In 1830, the British felt pressured to end the lawlessness of the country and stop France from making New Zealand a colony.

**Treaty of Waitangi**

“On February 6, 1840, William Hobson, New Zealand’s first governor, invited Maori chiefs to sign a treaty with the British crown. The treaty was taken all around the country and more than 500 chiefs signed the treaty. The treaty governs that the relationship between the Maori and everyone is protected. This is done by:

- Accepting that Maori iwi (tribes) have the right to organize themselves, protect their way of life and to control the resources they own
- Requiring the government to act reasonably and in good faith towards Maori
- Making the government responsible for helping to address grievances
- Establishing equality and the principle that all New Zealanders are equal under the law.”

Applying the treaty influences life in New Zealand in many ways:

- Parliament: Maori representation is guaranteed with reserved seats
- Waitangi Tribunal: researches and makes legal decisions on cases where Maori land and other resources were taken illegally or unfairly in the past
- Fisheries: Maori have significant control and rights to these
- Language (te reo): is an official language along with English and New Zealand sign language. You will see and hear te reo all around you.

**Wars and Growth**

There was increasing pressure for the Maori people to sell their land for European settlement. This led to a conflict in the 1860’s and war broke out on the North Island. During the 20 years of war, a lot of Maori land was confiscated or bought.

The South Island, at this time, was seeing a lot of settlement growth. Gold was found in Otago in 1861. In the 1870s the government helped thousands of British come to New Zealand and start a new life.

The economy was dependent on agriculture and because of this, much of the forest that originally covered New Zealand was cleared. During the two world wars, New Zealand sent thousands of men over to fight. The 1915 landing at Gallipoli in Turkey is seen as a coming of age for New Zealand. It established ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corp) and the special relationship with Australia. ANZAC day is now celebrated on April 25th to commemorate the Gallipoli landing.

New Zealand did side with America in Korea in the 1950s and again in Vietnam in the 1960s.

**CULTURE**

**Government**

New Zealand is a parliamentary democracy (similar to the UK and Australia and Canada). The prime minister is determined by who leads the political party or group of parties (coalition) with the majority of seats in the House. The prime minister is the most important in day to day national government, but above them is the
Head of State. Currently, that is Queen Elizabeth II, the British Queen.

There are two tiers of government in New Zealand, Central and Local. Central makes decisions that affect New Zealand as a whole. Local looks after the interests and needs of specific communities through regional, city and district councils. People decide on the central government by democratic vote, every three years.

More about the intricacies of the government can be found here: https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/history-government/our-constitution

**Social Change**
New Zealand was the first country in the world to grant all women the right to vote (1893). New Zealand is becoming known for its advanced viewpoints on women’s rights. Current prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, has been making waves. Presently, employees are entitled to take maternity leave for up to 18 weeks and they will still receive a government funded parental leave salary. Employers must also keep their job open so that the person can return to it after their leave. The current prime minister is working to get the paid leave up to 26 weeks by 2020.

**Sport**
The All Blacks are the only rugby team you will want to care about when in New Zealand. Rugby is a way of life in New Zealand. You will have many opportunities to watch or play it. You might want to brush up on your rugby knowledge before heading to New Zealand. Currently, Amazon Prime has a series called “All or Nothing: All Blacks” that follows the team around for a year. It is worth the watch.

**The use of “as”**
New Zealanders are known for adding “as” to many expressions. “Sweet as” is the most common but any adjective can be added before the “as.” Sometimes people will say “dark as” meaning it is dark in here. “Sweet as” can be a response for almost anything – it can mean, okay, awesome, etc. Awesome is another word that will be overused by Kiwis. Here is a great blog that talks about phrases and what Kiwis are actually saying: http://www.mynewzealandcampervantrip.com/about-new-zealand/10-silly-things-kiwis-say/

**The Hongi – Maori Greeting**
This is a traditional Maori greeting. When meeting Maori people, you press your noses and foreheads together and share in “the breath of life.” While this can be uncomfortable for many people, it is a sign of respect when meeting Maori people.

**Marae – Maori Meeting Grounds**
A marae is a Maori meeting grounds. It is a fenced in complex that will have carved building and ground that belong to a certain iwi (tribe) or whanau (family). The Marae is used for meetings, celebrations, funerals, workshops, etc. As a visitor, you are encouraged to participate in a powhiri, a formal welcoming ceremony before you can enter the Marae. If you have the chance to participate in a powhiri, it can be a great cultural experience.

**Ta Moko – Maori Tattoo**
Traditionally, Maori men received moko on their faces, buttocks and thighs. Women usually wore moko on their lips and chin. It will reflect the individual’s ancestry and history. In the past, it was a sign of social rank, knowledge, skill or eligibility to marry. You will most likely
see someone, at some point, that has facial moko as some people still participate in that practice.

Maori tattoos hold a lot of special meaning and if you are a non-Maori person, you should do a lot of research as to why you shouldn’t (or should) obtain a moko. It can be offensive for non-Maori people to obtain certain tattoos out of ignorance of the significance it holds to the Maori people. You are encouraged to not get a moko.

**Haka – Maori War Dance**
The haka is the dance you will see if you ever watch an All Blacks match. The players do it before each match.

The haka is an ancient Maori war dance and was used on the battlefield but as well as when people came together in peace. It is meant to exhibit the tribe’s pride, strength and unity. There will be strong foot stomping, tongue protrusions and body slapping while chanting. The words being said relate back to the tribe’s ancestors and history. Today the haka is done at important ceremonies and celebrations. If you are invited to attend a haka, you should definitely do it, as it is a cultural experience that New Zealand is known for.

**Tiaki Promise**
New Zealand prides itself on the strong connection it has to the land and the responsibility to care for it. From a young age, children are taught to care for the land. They believe that if you look after the land, it will look after you and future generations. When in New Zealand, you should respect all rules for the land and culture. If you decide to go camping or hiking, be sure to take out everything you bring in. Do not leave a trace. Also respect the trails and stay on the designated trails.
## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<th><strong>Massey University</strong></th>
<th><strong>NZ Embassy in U.S.</strong></th>
<th><strong>UW-Eau Claire</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Greg Hoff</td>
<td>37 Observatory Cir NW</td>
<td>After Hours Emergency</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:studyabroad@massey.ac.nz">studyabroad@massey.ac.nz</a></td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>(715)577-9045</td>
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<tr>
<td>011-64-6356-9099, ext. 83915</td>
<td>202-328-4800</td>
<td>Remember that in most cases,</td>
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<td><strong>USAC Central Office (US)</strong></td>
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<td>Ryan Sullivan</td>
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<td>If you have an after-hours</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ryan.sullivan@usac.edu">ryan.sullivan@usac.edu</a></td>
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<td>+(64)(9) 303-2724</td>
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<td>Emergency, After Hours:</td>
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Remember that in most cases, local contacts are best in local emergency situations.

If you have an after-hours emergency that can be helped on the U.S. side, please call University Police at the number above. Calls can be made to this number 24 hours a day. You may get an answering machine; however, an officer is alerted as soon as you have left your message. Be sure to give the officer the phone number you can be reached at, as well as what type of assistance you require.
# Web Information: New Zealand

## City
- Palmerston North: [http://www.manawatunz.co.nz](http://www.manawatunz.co.nz)
- Wellington: [https://www.wellingtonnz.com](https://www.wellingtonnz.com)
- Auckland: [https://www.aucklandnz.com](https://www.aucklandnz.com)

## Culture

## Country
- New Zealand Newspaper: [http://www.stuff.co.nz](http://www.stuff.co.nz)
When past participants of the New Zealand program were asked to sum up their experience, here is what they said:

The time will go by so fast! Make the most of it!

I lived in Ferguson hall at Palmerston North and I really liked it. It was self-catered and I really got to know my roommates.