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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

New Zealand

Visa Arrangements

Please be aware that Study Abroad Office staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes, and you should note the date of last revision at the bottom of this document. If you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate embassy or consulate directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

Before you can apply for your visa:

You must receive an *unconditional* offer to study your host university in New Zealand. You will receive an offer letter by email directly from your host university.

Preparing to Apply

As the semester begins in mid-July in New Zealand, we recommend you apply for your visa **immediately** on receiving your acceptance letter.

Immigration New Zealand is the body overseeing all applications. You can read full information about the student visa application process on the Immigration New Zealand website:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/study/application/>

You may now apply online for a New Zealand student visa. The application must be submitted online, and supporting documentation must be saved in pdf format and uploaded to your application. After applying online, you should send your passport, together with the confirmation page from your online application, to the correct Visa Application Centre. The passport must be received within 20 days or your application will be rejected.

In the UK, applications are lodged in London, at Immigration New Zealand's licensed processing centre:

<https://www.ttsnzvisa.com/gb-en/e-lodgement>

A complete application will include the following items:

1. Online application in most cases, although a paper application form is still available.
2. The appropriate fee, paid by debit/credit card if applying online.
3. An appropriate photograph: <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/acceptablephoto/>
4. The passport you will use to travel to New Zealand, valid for 3 months after your finish date.
5. Your unconditional acceptance letter from your host university.
6. Evidence of funding, eg copies of bank statements.

7. Proof of your intention to leave New Zealand.
8. In certain circumstances: medical certificate and chest x-ray certificate.

Note: you do not need to provide a police certificate, as you are not intending to be in New Zealand for longer than 24 months.

Health Requirements

If your length of stay in New Zealand is less than 12 months and you are travelling with a British passport you do not usually need to provide any kind of medical certificates. The exception is if you have spent more than three months living in a country that is not listed as a 'tuberculosis low risk' country on page 13 of the Student Visa Application Guide:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/8D76710A-1F4A-452F-8C5D-8663738F560A/0/INZ1013.pdf>

If this applies to you, you will need to provide a chest x-ray certificate. Your chest x-ray must be carried out by a provider approved by Immigration New Zealand. See this link for the list of approved providers, and search by 'England' rather than 'UK':

www.immigration.govt.nz/paneldoctors.

A study abroad year in the southern hemisphere can occasionally last for longer than 12 months, depending on the term dates of the host university. If you are applying to study in New Zealand for over 12 months you will need to provide a General Medical Certificate and a chest x-ray certificate. You can find full details about these two certificates on page 12 of the Student Visa Application Guide:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/8D76710A-1F4A-452F-8C5D-8663738F560A/0/INZ1013.pdf>

Financial Requirements and Evidence of Funding

You will be required to provide evidence that you are able to fund your year in New Zealand, and will be expected to show that you have access to \$15,000 NZD. See www.xe.com to convert currency. The easiest way to show evidence of funding is to provide copies of bank statements for the past six months, where the account balances total the equivalent of \$15,000. If the bank statement(s) are not in your name, your supporter should complete the Financial Undertaking form:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/study/canistudyinnewzealand/whatisrequired/financialregs.htm>

Proof of Intention to Leave New Zealand

This appears to be a new requirement for 2015, and the best form of proof is to show evidence of your return flight booking. If you are unable, or prefer not to, book your return flight before applying for your visa, then you must add the cost of the return flight into your financial evidence:

Visa Fees

The application fee for UK students applying in London is currently £140, plus a £18 service fee, and a courier fee if you wish your passport to be returned by mail.

Processing Times

The majority of visa applications are processed within 25 days. See:

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz/NR/exeres/E25F9AB6-BB4D-4D34-B469-85A974EF6DEF.htm>

Permission to Work

Once your course has started, the student visa allows you to work for 20 hours per week during term time, and unlimited hours during holidays.