

SU-in New Zealand

This document serves as a resource for you to help your student as they prepare to study away. Your student has all of this information.

The semester before your student studies away, they will be provided with information regarding the GO Long Process Overview and a Program-specific resources. These cover the next steps in the GO process.

Students should refer to their acceptance documents for exact program dates. The academic calendar in New Zealand is quite different than Susquehanna. Typically Fall semester (Trimester B) runs from early July to early November. Spring Semester (Trimester A) runs from mid-February to late June.

Check out the Study Abroad brochure [posted on Waikato's website](#) to learn a bit more about the program.

Application Process

Your student needs to apply directly to University of Waikato through their study abroad office. The application is started through a link on their GO portal, and accessed through this [application](#). They apply as a study abroad student (not an exchange student).

During the application process, which is due October 1 for Spring and April 1 for Fall, students will select courses (called "papers" in New Zealand) within the online application system. They will also need to provide an official transcript - order online [HERE](#) and will need to upload a scan of the passport photo page.

Courses at the University of Waikato

All courses (called papers) that the University of Waikato offers are available to study abroad students. You can search for papers [here](#). Clicking on the name will show the number of points that the paper will count for, the times that the paper will be offered and an outline of what the paper will cover, the professor(s) and tests throughout the course of the paper.

- Study abroad students can take up to 60 New Zealand credits, called "points," worth of papers.
- 100-level (first-year) papers are typically worth 15 points and 200-level, 300-level and 400-level papers are typically worth 20 points.
- Susquehanna University requires students to enroll in a full course load (at least 12 US credits) at the host institution. The number of courses you take depends on the credit value of the courses you select.
 - 15 Points = 4 U.S. semester credit hours
 - 20 Points = 5 U.S. semester credit hours
- Spring students will need to look at papers (courses) in **A Trimester (Feb-June)**
- Fall students will need to look at papers (courses) in **B Trimester (July-Nov)**
- Pay attention to any papers that have pre-requisites as they may have to get permission to take those papers.

Students will select courses (papers) within the online application system. Reminder: make sure the courses in the online Waikato application are the ones they have included in the course approval process through GO - there is some information [HERE](#).

Required Course: A [Māori Studies](#) course or an [internship](#), see examples of internships [HERE](#)

For students planning to enroll in an internship for credit, please note that Waikato has reserved the right to initiate a NZ\$500 withdrawal fee from the internship program if a student withdraws their application after the final application closing date.

Housing at the University of Waikato

As a SU student at the University of Waikato's Hamilton campus, students are required to live [on-campus](#), unless they are opting for a homestay.

Housing is very competitive so your student will need to have the housing application early and can start their housing application as soon as you have received acceptance into the program and get instructions on how to register for housing. Application [here](#).

Students will likely stay in College Hall. This is the second largest hall on campus, has fully-catered meals and close to all of the sports facilities. They also have TV rooms, a computer room, bike and storage sheds, a small library and laundry facilities (washing machines, dryers and irons).

There is a meal plan with College Hall. Students can eat at one of the campus dining options including a food court, Indian cuisine, a sushi bar, Greek food and multiple quick-service cafes. They can provide catering to cover a wide range of dietary requirements including vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, dairy free, and Halal.

Homestay Option: Students will have their own room and meals are provided. You are expected to keep your room clean and tidy and help with other household duties. Contact the GO Program if your student is interested in this option.

* The housing costs on your budget sheet are confirmed costs. If you choose a more expensive housing option, you will be charged the difference.

Visa Requirements

In order to study at the University of Waikato, your student will need to get a student visa. Visit the International Office [Immigration New Zealand](#) website for visa requirements and necessary documents. Select "Fee Paying Student Visa." They have helpful guides to use, such as: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/forms-and-guides/inz1013.pdf>

There is visa fee waiver in place for study abroad students coming from the US. There is no cost for the visa at this time, but they may be charged a "tourism levy".

*note that visa information is provided based on US citizenship. Students holding a non-US passport should consult with the host consulate for any visa considerations. Here is the link to the Immigration NZ fees finder, if you hold a passport outside of the US: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/tools-and->

[information/tools/office-and-fees-finder](#)

The process is completely online and students should receive their visa within 20 working days.

After Acceptance:

After your student's application has been reviewed, they will be sent an offer letter by email which will contain the course titles for which they have been pre-approved.

Note: For this Program, you are required to pay the University of Waikato directly the refundable 400.00 NZD "bond" fee associated with your housing, and the NON-refundable 150.00 NZD admin. fee associated with your housing. You will be asked to pay these online via credit card when you are accepting your accommodations offer from Waikato.

Susquehanna University will be billed directly for your tuition and remaining housing costs and your SU account will reflect those charges. You should only pay the bond and administrative fees – nothing else.

At this point, the Waikato's local program coordinators will be sending emails with valuable pre-departure information about everything from packing and selecting courses to the airport experience. This includes a Pre-Arrival Guide which will give some important information before departure and upon arrival. The first week of the program is reserved for orientation.

Insurance: To complete enrollment at the University of Waikato, international students are required to have appropriate medical and travel insurances for the duration of their stay in New Zealand. These insurance policies must comply with the New Zealand Government Codes, and the University is responsible for ensuring all international students have insurance at the time of enrolment. This insurance is provided automatically as part of the program.

Booking flights and Arrival information:

Students are responsible for booking their own flight to New Zealand and back. They should book the flight after receiving the official acceptance letter from the University of Waikato and have confirmed program dates.

If you'd like to use a travel agent to assist with travel planning, Student Universe (studentuniverse.com), Travel Time (trvltime.com) and STA Travel (<http://statravel.com/airfare-deposit-program.htm>) have been used by students in the past. If not using a travel agent, we recommend booking airfare directly with the airline rather than a third-party website.

The major international airport in the north island of New Zealand is Auckland International Airport, over an hour bus ride from the University of Waikato. Hamilton Airport is close to the University of Waikato (about nine miles away) but please note that the airfare will be much higher than flying into Auckland.

Regardless of which airport your student will fly into, the University of Waikato typically offers free airport pick-up with a shuttle service to bring them to campus. They do need to complete an arrival form that the University of Waikato will send them. If they do not complete this form, they must make their own transportation plans to campus.

Students are responsible for arranging their own travel to the airport at the end of the program.

Students will receive separate move in instructions from the Housing Offices.

Once they arrive on campus, they will need to “enroll” at the University. Enrolment is the formal process where you tell the University of Waikato that they have arrived. [For more information the enrollment process visit the Waikato website.](#) The first week is dedicated to orientation:

- Attend Academic Orientation
- Attend International Student Orientation.
- Complete enrolment and collect Student Identification Card (ID Card)
- Buy your tickets for international student day trips
- Attend other sessions during Orientation week that may help prepare for life and study in New Zealand

Other Matters:

Packing: Pack all essential items in your carry-on (medicine, jewelry etc.). Refer to the guidelines for bringing liquids in a carry-on (<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/liquids-rule>) as well as the airlines' luggage weight limits. We have additional resources posted in your students' application regarding some tips for Traveling and Packing.

Medication: For prescription medicines, students must either bring enough with them for the duration of the semester. Note that some medications are prohibited by New Zealand, including many medications for the treatment of attention deficit disorders. Please reach out to a physician to determine a plan of action. We recommend that your student has a written prescription with them as they may be asked for it by customs officials.

Money Matters: We recommend having some local currency. ATMs are also readily available throughout New Zealand and they can withdraw NZD (New Zealand Dollar) from ATMs. Students should inform their bank about all travel plans, and also find out whether the bank and credit card issuers charge international transaction fees.

Travel Day:

Your student should carry their passport, acceptance letter, student travel visa letter (the letter from University of Waikato), Program Contact and Arrival Instructions in their carry-on luggage. DO NOT CHECK THEM!

We recommend arriving at least three hours before an international flight is scheduled to board to give time to get through airport security, bag check, etc. If the flight is delayed or cancelled, contact the travel agent or airline where you booked the ticket to be put on the next flight and alert the host program/university of any travel delays.