

St Peter's School, Cambridge  
Est. 1936

# PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION



**St Peter's  
Cambridge**

APRIL 2022

NEW ZEALAND

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## WELCOME TO NEW ZEALAND

**New Zealand is a special place to visit, travel and study. It has beautiful beaches, lush forests, snowy mountains, rolling farmland, vibrant cities, are towns and friendly welcoming people.**

The population of New Zealand about 5 million.

New Zealand is a very popular place for international students. We have an excellent educational system that is recognised around the world.

We are very glad you are coming to New Zealand and spending time in one of our schools.

We hope you enjoy your time in New Zealand. You will have opportunities to learn different things, see amazing places and make new friends.





## NEW ZEALAND SEASONS AND CLIMATE

The average New Zealand temperature decreases as you travel south. January and February are the warmest months, and July is the coldest month of the year.

While the below temperatures are usual, the weather in New Zealand can change unexpectedly. Because of this, you should be prepared for changes in weather and temperature, particularly if you're going hiking or doing other outdoor activities during your time in New Zealand.

A helpful website to check the climate and weather in your region is available [HERE](#)



Spring 	Summer	Autumn 	Winter
September - November	December - February	March - May	June - August
Average daytime temperatures 16–19 °C (61–66 °F)	Average daytime temperatures 20–25 °C (68–77 °F)	Average daytime temperatures 17–21 °C (62–70 °F)	Average daytime temperatures 12–16 °C (53–61 °F)



## NEW ZEALAND CURRENCY

### Banking

New Zealand banks are open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Automated Teller Machines (ATM's) are widely available at banks, on main shopping streets and in malls.

International credit cards and ATM cards will work if you have a four-digit PIN code.

Please check with your bank before leaving home.

### Bringing cash into New Zealand

There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency you can bring in or take out of New Zealand.

However, if it is more than NZ\$10,000 in cash you must complete a Border Cash Report.

### Currency exchange

Foreign currency can easily be exchanged at banks, some hotels and Bureau de Change kiosks which are found in international airports and most city centers.

### Currency values

Coins have values of 10, 20, and 50 cents, \$1, and \$2 dollars.

Notes have values of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 dollars.

**Currency converter** - A helpful website to convert currency is located [HERE](#)

# VISA & IMMIGRATION

Before travelling to New Zealand, you need to make sure your passport is valid for at least three months longer than your expected departure date. If you come from a country that needs a New Zealand visa to enter, please be sure to apply in advance.

A helpful website to find out what you need to travel to New Zealand is: [www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa)

## Arriving in New Zealand

When you arrive in New Zealand you will need to complete a Passenger Arrival Card. This card must be completed accurately before you get to passport control. The cards are handed out on the flight. A helpful website to help understand the arrival card is: [www.customs.govt.nz/personal/travel-to-and-from-nz/travelling-to-nz/on-your-arrival](http://www.customs.govt.nz/personal/travel-to-and-from-nz/travelling-to-nz/on-your-arrival)

After you've cleared passport control, you should collect your luggage.

Once you have collected luggage, proceed through customs and biosecurity checks. To protect New Zealand and its environment, some items are not allowed into New Zealand, some have restrictions for entry or some must be declared. These include food, plants, animal products and outdoor recreational equipment.

### Things you cannot bring into New Zealand



All food items brought into New Zealand, even the smallest amount, need to be declared.

These items include:

- meat
- eggs
- dairy products
- dried mushroom and fungi
- honey and honey products
- seeds for human consumption and processing into food
- nuts, spices, herbs and unpopped popcorn
- dried, cooked or preserved fruit and vegetables
- fresh fruit or vegetables.

If you do not declare your items, you will be fined around NZ\$400.00 and the items will be taken from you.

Your flight into New Zealand will be either Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. The process into the arrival area is the same at all airports.

Complete a Passenger Arrival Card on board the flight.

Give your Passenger Arrival Card to the Immigration Officer at Passport Control.

The officer will check your passport, visa and Passenger Arrival Card. They may ask you questions like: Where are you going to be staying? Where was your last destination? Do you have any food with you? Have you visited New Zealand before?

After your passport and visa has been checked you will get an Immigration New Zealand stamp in your passport.

Your passport and Passenger Arrival Card will be returned to you.

Collect your bags from the baggage claim area.

Give your Passenger Arrival Card to the officer at the Customs and Biosecurity.

Your bags will go through an x-ray machine and inspectors might look in your bags.

Once you have been cleared by Customs and Biosecurity you will walk through the arrival doors.

Welcome to New Zealand!

# EMERGENCY CONTACTS

St Peter's will provide you with emergency contact numbers and people if you need help.

Staff are very good at caring for students from all around the world.

Please talk to someone at school about any worries or problems you have. Someone will be able to help you and sort things out.



## WHAT YOU SHOULD PACK

Below are some items we suggest you pack for your time in New Zealand. Depending on the time of the year you are coming, you will need to bring different things.

### Spring/Summer

If you are coming during our spring and summer months we suggest:

- swimwear
- sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- shorts and/or skirts
- t-shirts and/or short sleeve shirts
- jumper and/or sweatshirt
- light raincoat
- good walking shoes
- your choice of other clothing and footwear.

### Autumn/Winter

If you are coming during our autumn and winter months we suggest:

- warm waterproof jacket
- jumper and/or sweater
- long pants and/or jeans
- long sleeved shirt and/or t-shirt
- scarf, hat and gloves
- good walking shoes
- your choice of other clothing and footwear.

### Other Items

We also suggest you bring the following items:

- umbrella
- toiletries
- towel
- a few personal belongings to help your room feel like home.

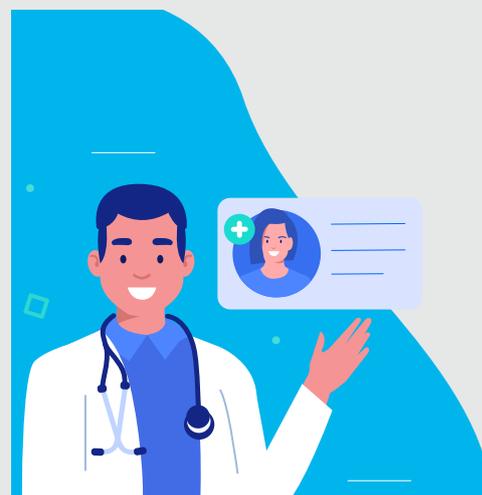
If you are bringing anything valuable (i.e. camera, phone, laptop etc), you **MUST** have copies of the purchase price (i.e. proof of purchase or receipt). You will not be able to claim for insurance if you don't have copies of the purchase price.

## TRAVEL AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

It is compulsory for international students to have travel and medical insurance. This means if you have to see a doctor you can claim back the costs of your appointment and medication or if you lose something (i.e. your camera) then this can be claimed too.

If you go to the doctor while you are in New Zealand, you will need to pay for the visit and then claim the cost back later with your insurance company.

Please note that if you have a current medical condition we **MUST** know about this for insurance purposes. To claim on your insurance, you must have your proof of purchase.





## LIVING IN CAMBRIDGE, NEW ZEALAND

Soon you will be arriving at St Peter's School in Cambridge. You will most likely be staying in one of the boarding house dormitories (hostels) on the campus at school. We also have homestay families that care for our international students on Leave Weekends and during the holidays. This is because the boarding dorms are closed during this time.

Here is some information to help you when you are at school

### Boarding House Rules and Information

Can be found [HERE](#)

### Homestay information

Can be found [HERE](#)

### Getting to school

If you are living in one of the school boarding houses, you can walk to school. It usually takes about 2–4 minutes to walk across the campus.

If you are living with a homestay family, you will either catch a bus to school or your homestay family may bring you to school.

### Food at school

At St Peter's, boarding students have access to the school dining hall. Students can visit the dining hall for breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day and sit together. It is a great way to catch up with friends.

If you are living in a homestay, you are also able to have lunch in the dining hall. You will have breakfast and dinner with your homestay family.

### Mobile phones

Students are not to use their phone while at school between 8.10am – 3.15pm each day. You can carry your phone, but you are not to use it to communicate with others until school finishes.

You can purchase mobile phone credit from the International Office.

## Visiting friends

In New Zealand many students spend time with their friends after school and in the weekends.

If you are invited to visit a friend's home, please ask their parent/s first to arrange a day and time. More information will be provided on arrival.

By spending time with friends, you will widen your cultural experience, improve your English and of course have fun spending more time with your friends.

## Please ask

If you are not sure about anything, please just ask.

In New Zealand it is a good thing to ask questions. If something upsets you, confuses you or makes you angry please talk with someone at your school.

Talking always helps.

# SCHOOL LIFE

## Orientation

St Peter's will have an orientation program to introduce you to your new school. The orientation program will help you prepare and understand your new school.

Your school might give you information about:

- what clothes to wear or if you wear a uniform
- time table and classes – what you might do during the school day
- your teacher/s
- what you can do during the morning and lunch breaks
- activities during school time and after school.

## School information

There are four school terms running from late January to mid-December with two-week breaks between them and a six-week summer break at the end of the year:

- Term 1: late January to early April - two week break
- Term 2: mid-April to early July - two week break
- Term 3: mid-July to late September - two week break
- Term 4: mid-October to mid-December - six week summer holiday

Physical discipline (e.g. smacking, caning or strapping) of students is not allowed in New Zealand. School punishments usually involve detention (staying in at lunchtimes or extra work).

New Zealand schools are well equipped with computers, Internet and technology.

They have lots of room for outdoor play and sport. Schools usually have their own playing fields and sometimes swimming pools.

Cultural activities are well catered for too.

Teachers support a wide range of activities after school hours such as coaching sports teams, leading drama clubs or school orchestras.

Students in New Zealand also get many opportunities for educational trips and visits.

## Expectations and behaviour at school

- Follow the school rules.
- Try new things – have a go.
- Try and make some friends from New Zealand.
- Use your English skills – have a try.
- If you are not sure about anything, please ask.

# KEEPING SAFE

New Zealand is known to be a very safe country to live and travel in. Though it is always a good idea to keep yourself safe. You can do this by:

- taking care of your property at school
- when crossing the road look to your right first, then left, then right again, before you cross.
- use pedestrian crossings when they are available, always check the cars have stopped first before crossing
- keep your mobile phone and wallet in a safe place, such as a bag or pocket
- be aware of people around you when using ATM machines
- don't carry large amounts of money, valuables or expensive jewelry with you
- at school, don't leave any money or your phone in your school bag
- if some of your possessions get lost or are stolen, please tell your teacher at your school, so they can help you.

# CULTURAL SHOCK

**Now that you are in New Zealand you will see that people and customs may be very different from what you are used to. Just remember:**

- during your stay you may have some difficulties and misunderstandings. This is normal and OK. Keep calm and an open mind to find solutions to problems you may have
- there will be new food and a new language to get used to. You might feel lonely, find it difficult to study and get used to your new environment. You may get tired of speaking and listening in English all the time. This is also OK
- when possible spend time with New Zealanders. They will be pleased to share their culture and answer questions. Don't be afraid of making mistakes
- find ways to keep in touch with family and friends at home. Sometimes you just need to talk with someone who knows and understands you.

**Congratulations on taking a risk and challenging yourself to travel and stay in a new country and culture.**

We wish you a happy and safe time in New Zealand and at your new school. We hope you enjoy trying and seeing new things, making new friends, sharing information about you, your country and culture and learning more about New Zealand, its culture and people.

# HELPFUL LINKS

For many international students and their families, life in New Zealand is quite different to the lives they lead at home. The following links provide useful information about life in New Zealand and will help you prepare for your time in a New Zealand school.

New Zealand Now:

[www.newzealandnow.govt.nz](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz)

This Government website share information about living, working, studying and investing in New Zealand as well as information about visas, job prospects and the great lifestyle here.

Education New Zealand/Nau Mai:

<https://naumainz.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz/>

Education New Zealand offers a valuable website to help you to prepare for coming to New Zealand to study.



International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)

<https://www.ibo.org/>

St Peter's is proud to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School.

The IB Diploma programme is highly regarded internationally

**100% PURE  
NEW ZEALAND**

100% Pure New Zealand:

[www.newzealand.com/int/](http://www.newzealand.com/int/)

100% Pure New Zealand offers some valuable suggestions and information about tourism opportunities for families while in New Zealand



Immigration New Zealand's Studying in New Zealand:  
[www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/  
options/study](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study)

This site offers information about studying in New Zealand, student life and working while studying. This site also offers information about visa options for students and families.

Study in New Zealand:

[www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz](http://www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz)

The official Government site for advice on studying abroad in New Zealand. This site offers information on a range of courses at universities, institutes and schools. You can also read student stories of real life experiences and learn important information about the costs of living in New Zealand.

Education New Zealand:

[www.enz.govt.nz](http://www.enz.govt.nz)

Education New Zealand (ENZ) raises awareness of New Zealand as a study destination and supports education providers and businesses to export their services and products



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

NZQA's Studying in New Zealand:

[www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand)

This site offers further information about New Zealand qualifications, secondary school and NCEA, Tertiary education and quality assurance of education in New Zealand.



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