

New Zealand Visa and Immigration-related Information

If you are planning on studying in New Zealand under the exchange programme, you will need to obtain an Exchange Student Visa. Holders of this visa are considered to be domestic students and as a result do not have to pay fees. They can also work up to 20 hours a week during the school term if they wish. In order to qualify for this visa, you must have been accepted into an approved student exchange scheme by a university in New Zealand and you must apply for the visa before you leave Ireland. For more information on the Exchange Student Visa, visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/exchange-student-visa>.

1. When to Apply

Once you have received notification from your host university in New Zealand that you have been approved on to an exchange programme, you can apply for your Student Visa. However, it is recommended that you do not apply more than 60 days before your exchange starts.

2. How to Apply

It is possible to apply online for your Exchange Student Visa by logging on to New Zealand Immigration at <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/exchange-student-visa>. As part of the application process, you will need to supply information that includes the details of the offer from your host university and your passport number.

3. Application Processing

Generally, a decision can be expected on an online application within 20 days. If you have all the correct documentation, your application should be approved without any difficulty. If New Zealand Immigration requires any additional information they will contact you directly with the contact details you provided them with in your application.

4. Preparing for departure

Ensure that you have printed out and brought all documentation provided to you by New Zealand Immigration, as well as your passport, before travelling. Please note that New Zealand has strict rules about bringing in any produce that could be a biosecurity risk, so do not bring any food or plants on your person. Also ensure that you have the contact details of someone from the international office of your host university before you depart.

5. Arriving in New Zealand

When you first arrive in New Zealand you will need to go through Passport Control and the Customs and Quarantine Inspection Service. You will also need your passport and a completed passenger arrival card, which you will be provided with on your flight. Answer all questions calmly and truthfully.