Waipapa Taumata Rau
University of Auckland

Preparing for life & study in Aotearoa New Zealand

Student and Scholarly Services

13 November 2026

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Housekeeping

- Ask questions using the Q&A feature. We answer the questions in the Q+A window or live during the webinar
- You can “like” other people’s questions, if you have a similar one or are really interested in hearing the answer
- Avoid sharing personal information (e.g. ID number or Username) when asking a question as it may be visible to all participants
- This webinar is being recorded, and you will be able to watch it again in the next few days on our website
- The presentation will be made available for download in the next few days
- We will email both links to you as soon as they are ready

Session overview

- Welcome – Haere Mai
- Preparations for departure
- Navigating your study life
- Staying connected
- Life in Auckland and New Zealand
- Resources and contact details
- Question time

Preparations for departure

Student visas

- You need an appropriate visa to enter and study in New Zealand
- Submit your visa application through the Immigration New Zealand Online portal
- Apply early to ensure processing is completed in time for you to be in New Zealand by start of semester, preferably orientation week
- Majority of students will apply as “fee paying” student visa category
- Use our step-by-step guides for instructions and required paperwork



NZeTA, visitor and working holiday visas

- If you study a programme that **is longer than three or six months in total** (applies to most University programmes), you should wait to enter New Zealand on the appropriate student visa.
- If you travel to New Zealand visa-waiver or on a visitor visa with the intent of applying for a student visa onshore, you may not be considered a genuine visitor which may result in problems with future visa applications
- You will not be able to start your studies until you have a visa with the appropriate study conditions, which may cause a delay and issues with access to university services



Visa information

Find out how to apply for your student visa with step-by-step instructions, facts about Post-study work visa regulations and other useful information relating to your immigration status.



How to apply for a student visa

Find out how to submit your student visa application to Immigration New Zealand with our detailed guides.

Take the next step



Frequently asked questions

We collated a series of questions and answers to help you understand the visa process for international students.

Get the answers



Visa evidence

You have to supply evidence of your visa to the University so we know you are eligible to study.

Submit your visa



Work after study

If you want to stay in New Zealand to work after your studies, you need to fulfil all the requirements.

Discover more



Part-time enrolment

There are a few important things to know when considering studying part-time as an international student.

Read more



Visa webinars

Details about our upcoming visa information events to help you prepare for future visa applications.

Find out more

How to apply for a student visa



How to apply for your student visa as a new student

Step-by-step guidance to apply for your University of Auckland visa.

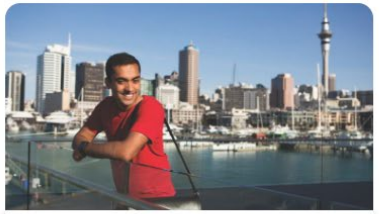
Find out more



Applying for student visa as a continuing student

Use this guide if you need to renew your visa or have studied with us in the past.

More information



Student visa applications for PhD students

Guidance for international PhD candidates to submit your student visa application.

Get started

www.auckland.ac.nz/visa-information

Studentsafe
Medical & Travel Insurance

Inbound University

Health and travel insurance

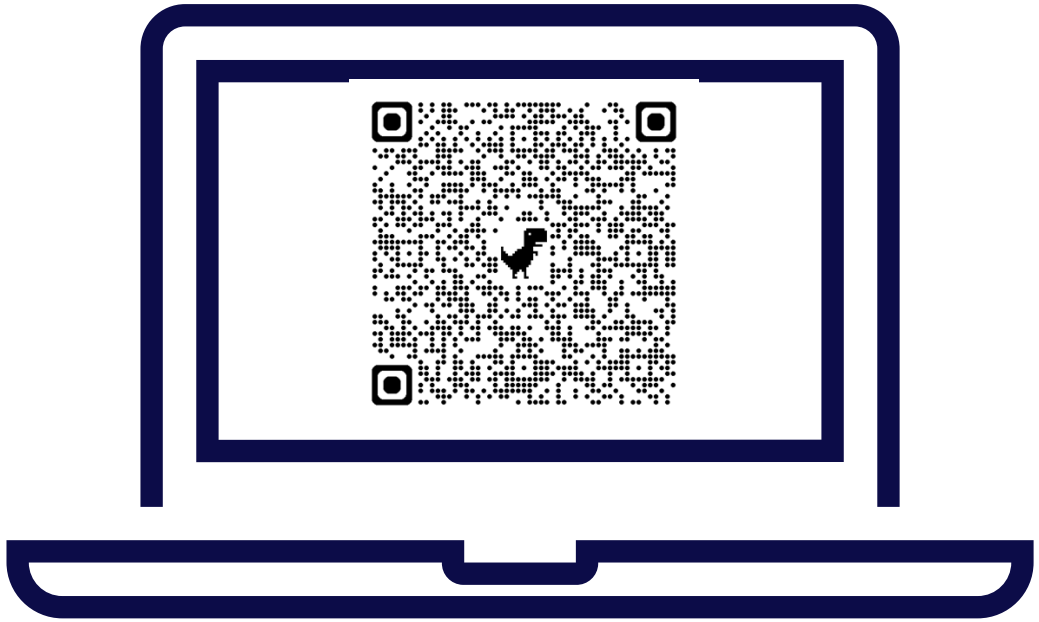
- **Compulsory** for all international students in New Zealand
- **Part of your visa conditions**
- You are **automatically charged** with this insurance when you enrol in your courses (within 24-48 hours)
- **Studentsafe Inbound University** is the name of the policy
- You need to pay the insurance fee together with your tuition fees
- Insurance **cover usually starts 31 days prior to the start of term**, including transit from your country of origin to New Zealand
- Your **Student ID number** is also your insurance number
- Individual insurance certificates are emailed to your university email address in week four after term start
- If you need proof of your insurance prior to that, you can download the group policy document



InsurancesafeNZ
Brought to you by: Marsh

Pre-existing medical conditions

- You are **not** automatically covered for pre-existing medical conditions
- Refer to the policy document to know what is considered a pre-existing medical condition
- To receive additional cover for pre-existing medical conditions you need to submit a Medical Risk Assessment form
- You must submit this form within 31 days of arriving in NZ
- Read the info on our website carefully



Pre-existing medical conditions

Family insurance

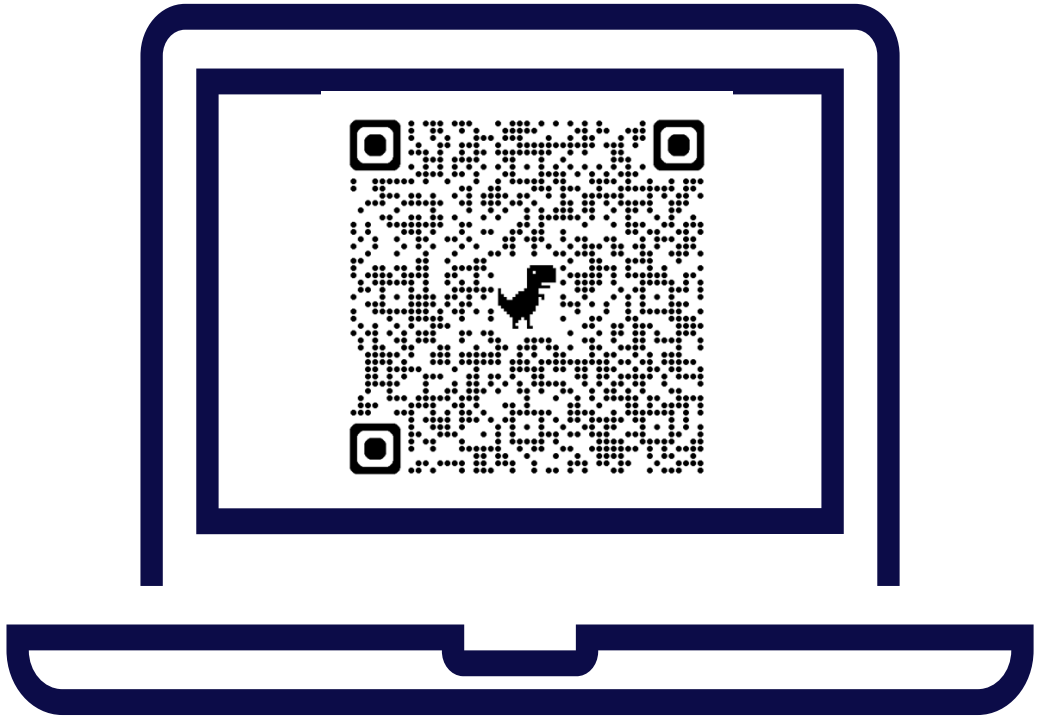
- You can add immediate family member(s) such as your child, children or spouse to your Studentsafe Inbound University policy at an additional cost
- Deadlines apply – usually second Friday of the term
- Highly recommended if immediate family members joining you permanently or for a long period in NZ
- **Reapply each new enrolment term**

Family insurance

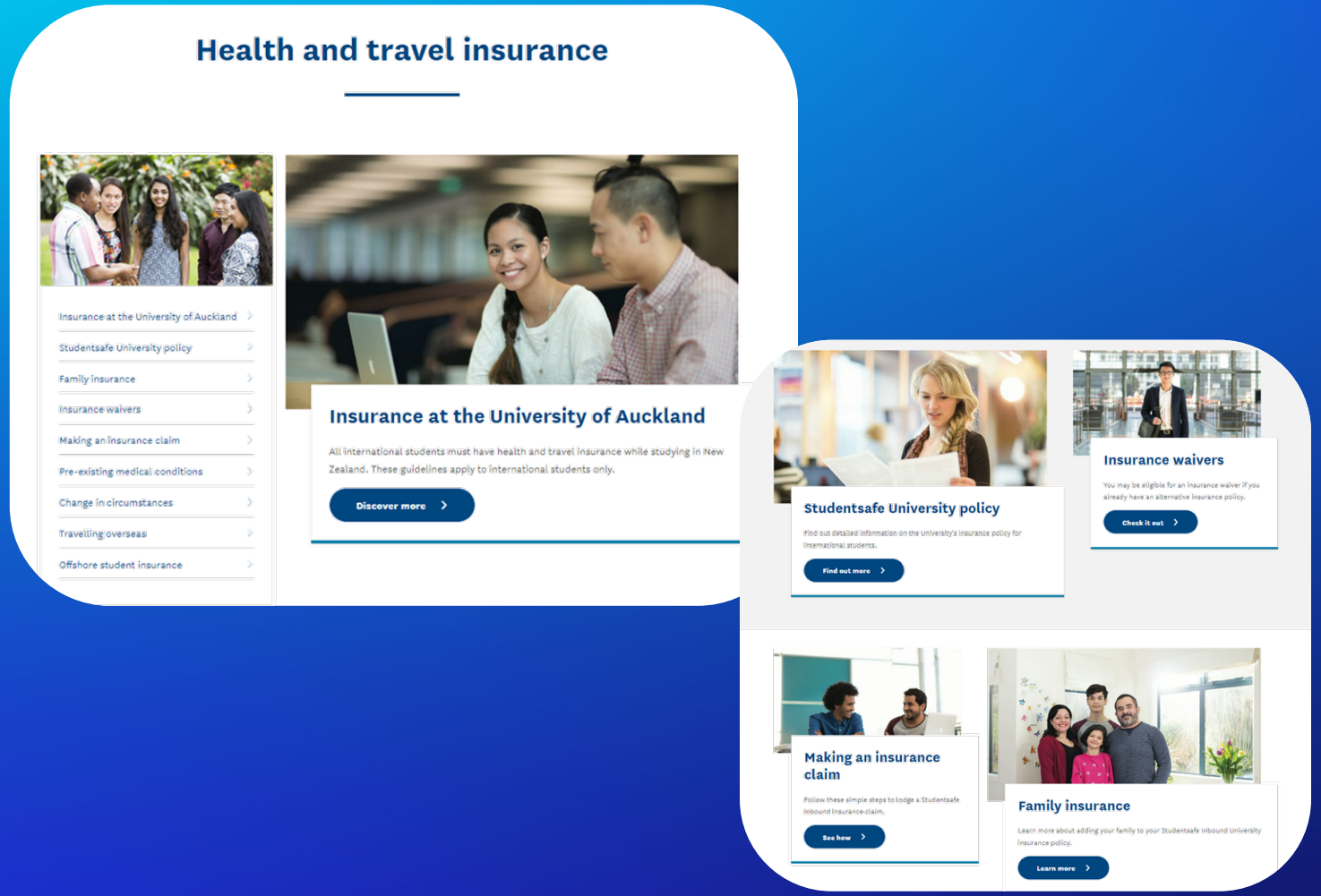


Insurance waivers

- You may be eligible for an insurance waiver if you already have a **compliant alternative insurance policy** that can be used **instead of Studentsafe Inbound University**
- The list of compliant alternative policies and other criteria for an insurance waiver can be found on our website
- Deadline: Second Friday after term start



Insurance waiver



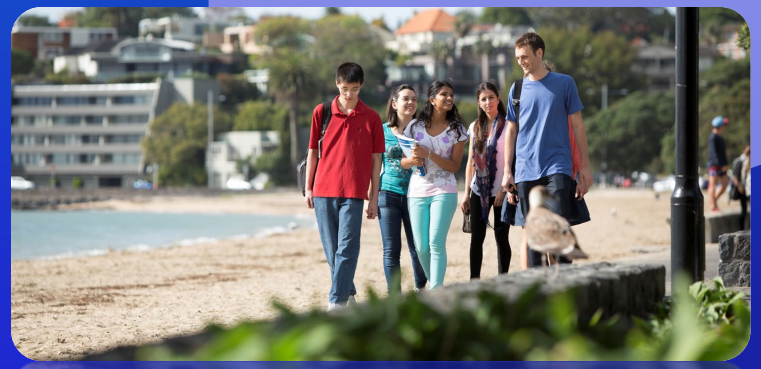


www.auckland.ac.nz/is-insurance

Packing your luggage

Clothing

- **Warmer months** (Nov-April): lightweight clothing, beach clothing and swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses
- **Cooler months** (May-Oct): Warm clothing, hat, scarf, gloves
- University students in NZ have a casual standard of dress
- Bring some smart clothing for formal events, presentations, or job interviews.



Medicine

- Ensure you have access to any prescription medication you need: **Bringing medicines into New Zealand**

When bringing prescription medication into NZ:

- Declare the medicine on your passenger arrival card
- Bring a copy of the prescription, or a letter from your doctor (in English)
- Keep the medicine in its original container
- Have no more than a 3 months supply

Appliances

- Electricity is supplied throughout NZ at 230/240 volts (50 hertz) and power outlets only accept flat two or three pin plugs.
- You will need an adaptor for any appliances you bring from home.
- You can buy this when you arrive or before you leave your home country.
- We recommend to buy small appliances (such as a hairdryer) when you get here rather than bringing them with you.





Customs and Biosecurity

Prohibited Items

NZ has strict laws on what you are permitted to bring into the country. Items that are prohibited/restricted include:

- Drugs (unless they have been prescribed to you)
- Firearms and weapons
- Flammable goods (such as gas cookers or lighters)
- More than NZ$10,000 in cash (or the equivalent in a foreign currency)
- Animals or insects (alive or dead)
- Feathers, shells, plants, or flowers
- Fresh foods, including meat and fruit
- Some packaged goods, such as certain cheeses

Biosecurity



To keep the country free from pests and diseases, strict quarantine laws are in place at all New Zealand international airports.

You must:

- Declare all food, plants, and animal goods upon arrival
- Any camping equipment, hiking boots, or sports gear needs to be inspected
- Failing to declare biosecurity risk goods, even if by accident, can result in an instant NZ$400 fine
- Ministry for Primary Industries has further information, available in several languages.

Arriving in New Zealand

- Your visa will already be checked when you board your flight to NZ
- Upon arrival in NZ ensure you have completed the **New Zealand Traveller Declaration** – you can start completing the form 24 hours prior to commencing your trip
- Have all your important documents available either on your phone or printed – make sure you can access them in case you haven't got internet access
- You will clear Immigration first
- Once you have your luggage you clear customs and biosecurity
- Once that is complete you have entered NZ



Tip: NZ border staff are usually very friendly and welcoming. Ask them if you are unsure about anything

Travelling to New Zealand?

You'll need to do a **New Zealand Traveller Declaration** (NZTD).

Start now

TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

New Zealand Traveller Declaration | Whakapuakanga Tangata Haere ki Aotearoa

Getting to your accommodation

After completing all entry formalities, you enter the arrival hall where you will have different transport options to choose from to get to your accommodation

- Public transport
- Rideshare
- Taxis or shuttle service

- The staff at the Airport Help Desks will also be able to assist
- Public transport will be limited late at night or for early morning arrivals
- Familiarise yourself with the different options prior to departure
- Ensure you have your accommodations correct address handy



Accommodation options

University accommodation

- Catered and self-catered options
- Walking distance to campus
- Utilities such as water, electricity and internet are included
- Built-in resident support
- A vibrant social experience
- Study areas for focus
- Free Recreation Centre membership
- Safe and secure
- Laundry facilities







Accommodation options

Non-university accommodation

- Renting a studio or apartment
- Flat sharing or 'flatting'
- Hostel facilities
- Homestay and host families

Important advice:

- View the property **in-person**
- Have a **written tenancy contract**
- **Read** the contract **before** signing
- Know your rights and respnsibilities
- Ask questions

Temporary accommodation

There may be a situation where you will need to book some temporary accommodation before moving into something long-term.

- Hotel or motel
- Hostel or backpackers
- Bed and breakfast



More info

Navigating your study life

Enrolment – new international students

- New international students do not need to be enrolled in their courses when applying for their student visa
- But you need to enrol early so you don’t miss out on your desired courses
- You must be enrolled in at least **three courses (or a minimum of 45 points**) per semester, to be eligible for a student visa.
- Enrol in the full academic year if possible or as soon as enrolments open

How to enrol: www.auckland.ac.nz/enrol



IT Essentials

Logging in

- Username (UPI) and password
- Username was sent to you after you completed your application for admission
- Password you created when you applied for admission – always keep private

Student Services Online

- Enrolment, finances, timetable, grades
- Keep contact details up to date - ensure to add NZ address when you arrive
- Also referred to as SSO

Student email

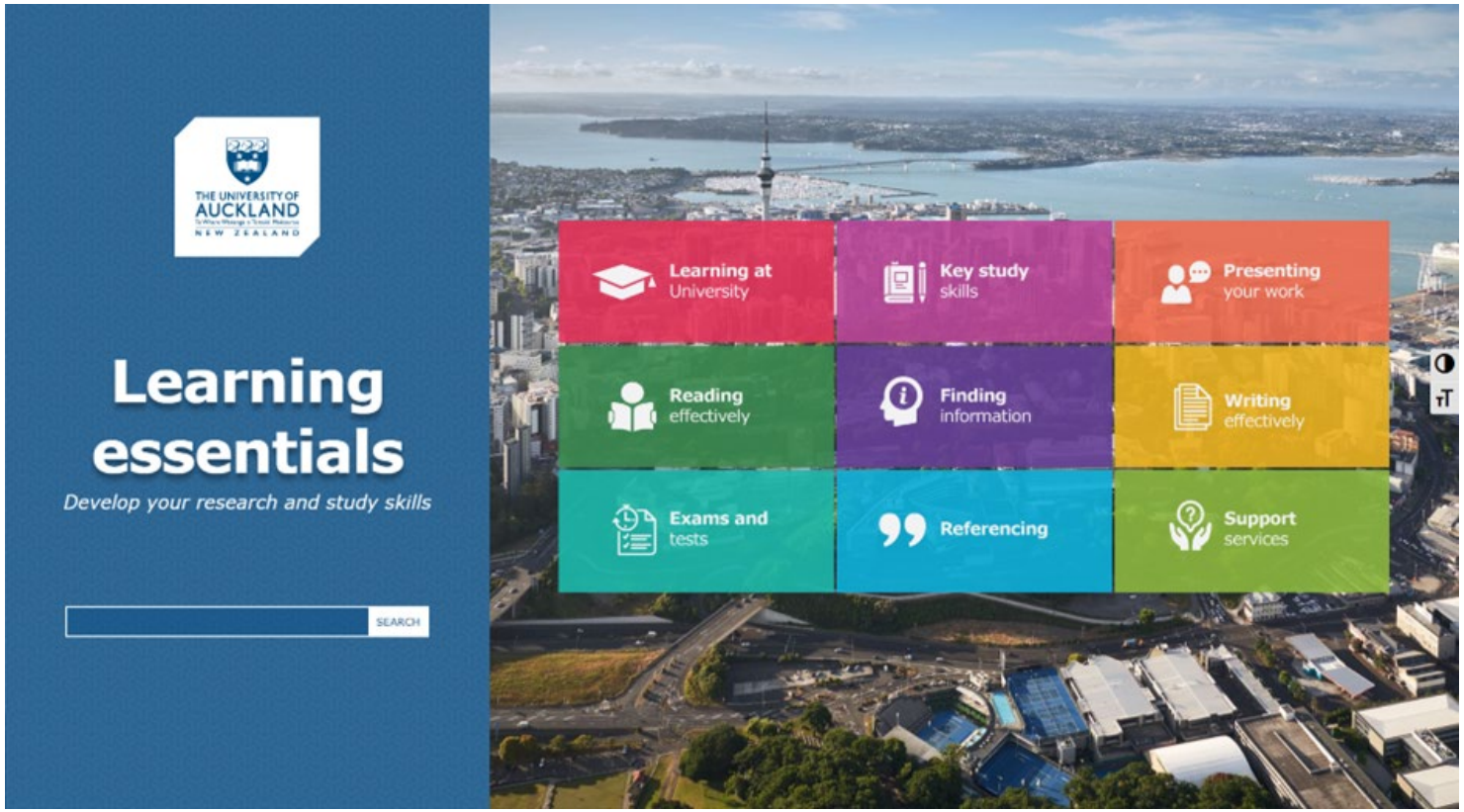
- Check regularly
- Activated 24 hours after you enrol in a course
- Your email will be <username> @aucklanduni.ac.nz.

Canvas

- University's web-based learning management system
- Info about your courses, access reading materials, learning resources
- Tests, participate in online discussions, and communicate with your lecturers, tutors, and classmates

What to expect of the University learning environment

- Groups work on assessment tasks is normal
- Lecturers provide some direction and will also expect independent work
- Think critically and creatively
- Class discussion are common – it is expected students add o them
- Ask questions if you are unsure about something – in class or during office hours
- Referencing is essential
- Using good academic English
- Explore the resources that assist you in achieving the above



www.learningessentials.auckland.ac.nz

Academic integrity

What is academic integrity?

- Honesty that you have in your studies and assessments
- Key foundation to being a member of the University's academic community
- Having academic integrity shows that you respect the work of other people, such as their:
  - Ideas
  - Words
  - Image
  - Code



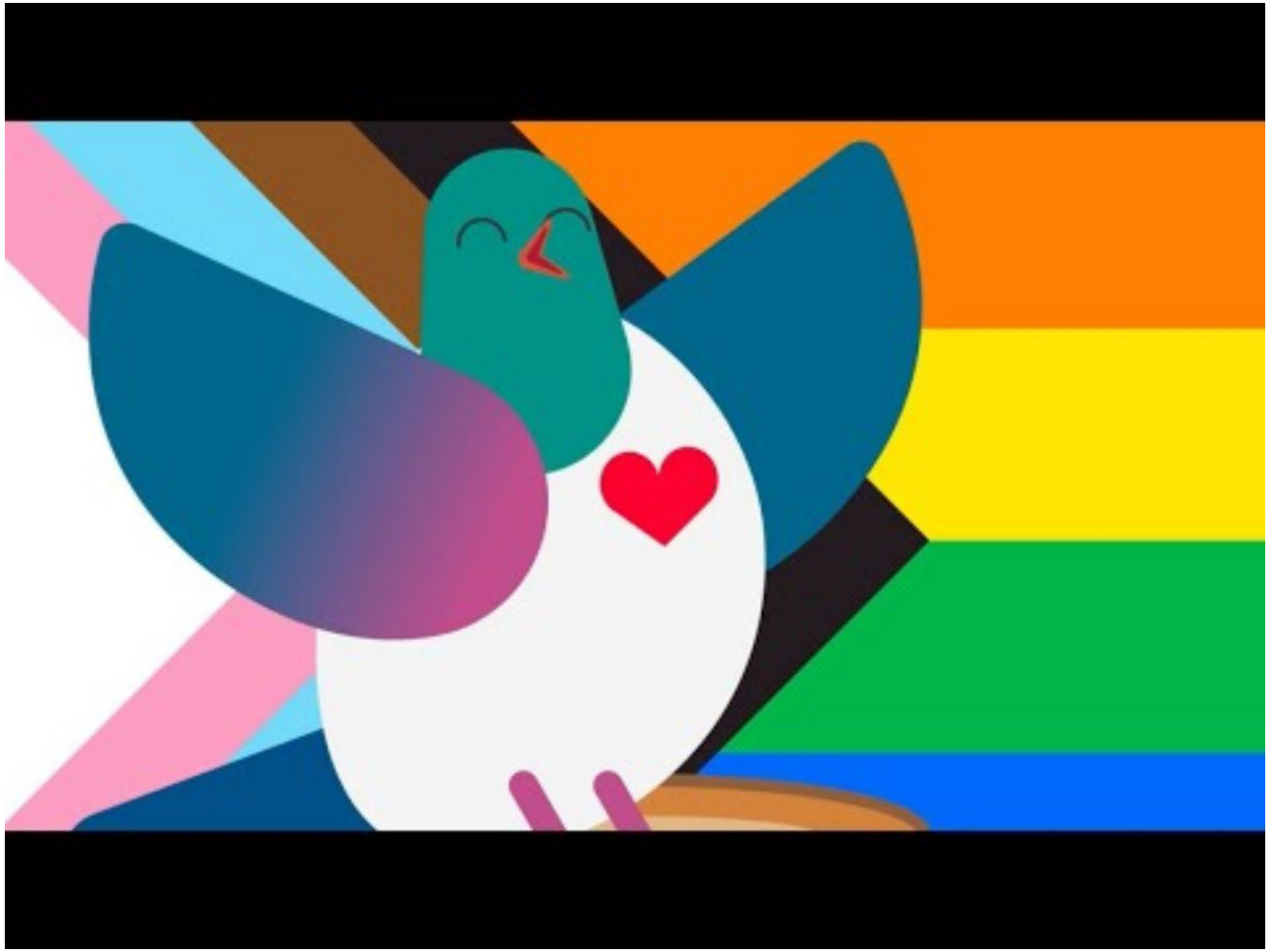
Academic Integrity Course

- You are automatically enrolled into the online Academic Integrity Course or ACADINT A01
- You need to complete it in your first semester – it is compulsory for all new students
- The course is designed to increase your understanding of:
  - Academic integrity
  - University rules regarding academic conduct
  - How we manage academic misconduct

Staying connected and getting support

Student support services

- Visas & insurance support
- Academic & learning support
- Physical & mental wellbeing support
- Careers & employability support



https://youtu.be/zP2GS66lAac

Student Hubs

- Student information centre
- Course selection, enrolment, degree planning and structuring your studies.
- Advice with fees, transcripts, and visa enquiries.
- University support options, including connection to wellbeing, disability, and engagement services
- Library services and student IT support.
- Campus cards, AT Student Concessions



www.auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs

Campus Life

- Orientation week with dedicated sessions for international students
- More than 200 students run clubs, associations and societies on campus
- Buddy programme for international students
- Study spaces around campus
- State of the art wellness and recreation centre: Hiwa
- Social events
- Cafes and food court
- Childcare facilities at an additional cost



Orientation

Semester Two 2026:

- Tuesday 14 July – Postgraduate Orientation
- Wednesday 15 July – International Orientation
- Thursday 16 July – Undergraduate Orientation

International students should attend International **and** Postgraduate or Undergraduate Orientation.

Quarter for 2026:

TBC – in the week before the quarter starts (28 Sept)



Life in Auckland and New Zealand





https://youtu.be/112AxylmdBc

Cost of living

Varies between countries due to differences in pay, taxes and the availability of goods and services. It changes over time because of inflation, economic conditions and shifts in supply and demand.

To calculate your cost of living, consider these expenses:

- housing - rent payments
- food - groceries and dining out
- transportation - public transport, vehicle expenses
- health care - insurance, medical costs
- utilities - electricity, water, internet.

Useful resources to check out:

- Cost of living in New Zealand - INZ
- Cost of living – NauMai NZ
- Cost of living in Auckland - UoA
- Comparison University accommodation vs renting non-university accommodation

Transport options

Auckland Transport (AT)

- Auckland's public transport provider
- Full-time students can get 40% with their student concession
- Buses, trains, ferries
- Buy and set up AT HOP card with student concession in the first few days after arrival
- Download the AT Mobile App





Other modes of transport

- Car
  - Ensure you are holding a valid driver's license, certain conditions apply to drive on an overseas licence → check NZTA.govt.nz
  - Familarise yourself with the roads and weather conditions in NZ
- Bicycles and e-Scooters – wearing a helmet is compulsory, road rules apply
- Walking
- Auckland is very hilly

Banking, tax and employment

Opening a bank account in NZ – what you need?

- Passport details
- Proof that you are an enrolled student in New Zealand (e.g. Offer of Place or a student identity card)
- Proof of address (check with the bank directly what documents they accept)
- Your Tax Identification Number from your home country
- You can start this process from your home countries



Banking in New Zealand

Tax and employment

- Adhere to the work conditions in your work visa;
- Minimum wage: NZD$23.50 per hour before tax
- If you want to work, you'll require an IRD (Inland Revenue Department) number, this will be your NZ tax number
- You can apply for one once you have opened a bank account and you need:
    - Passport details,
    - Most recent overseas tax number,
    - Your INZ Application Number (from your visa letter),
    - Your NZ bank account number and your name on the account

Safety advice and emergency services

111 Emergency services

- Police
- Fire Service
- Ambulance
- If you have difficulty hearing or talking on the phone you can register here for the 111 TXT service.

105 Non-urgent incidents

- Incident already occurred; no immediate danger
- E.g. stolen/lost phone; break-in and the offender is not there anymore
- Police reports: www.police.govt.nz/use-105

09 3737599 ext. 85000 University Security

The crime rate in NZ is lower than in many other countries, and we're known for being a peaceful country where you can be out freely without being scared.

- It's still important to be careful, use common sense and make sensible decisions about what you're doing and who you're socialising with
- If you're feeling unsafe or scared you can call the police for free.
- It will work for free from any phone (even if you are out of credit)
- Police officer are friendly and approachable, reach out if you need them
- **More information: Staying safe in New Zealand**

Additional resources

International Student Support

- All UoA support services are available to our international students - please reach out to them
- Dedicated Student Support Advisers for international students within Te Papa Manaaki | Campus Care
- Visa and insurance compliance team



int-questions@auckland.ac.nz



NAUMAI NZ

'Nau mai' is a Māori phrase of invitation and welcome.

As an international student this is your place to learn about Aotearoa New Zealand, find the information and advice you need, and connect with and explore your new home away from home.

Join the community



Scan the QR code and find even more information about living in Auckland and New Zealand

Exploring Auckland and New Zealand

Visit Auckland

Heart of the City

Our Auckland

Auckland Regional Parks

Auckland Transport (AT)

NauMaiNZ

Tourism New Zealand

Visitor Information Centres (i-Site)

Department of Conservation



Staying safe in Aotearoa

New Zealand Police

Fire and Emergency NZ

Health New Zealand

Scamwatch

Department of Conservation

DriveSafe

New Zealand Transport Agency

Drowning Prevention Auckland/NZ

Surf Life Saving NZ

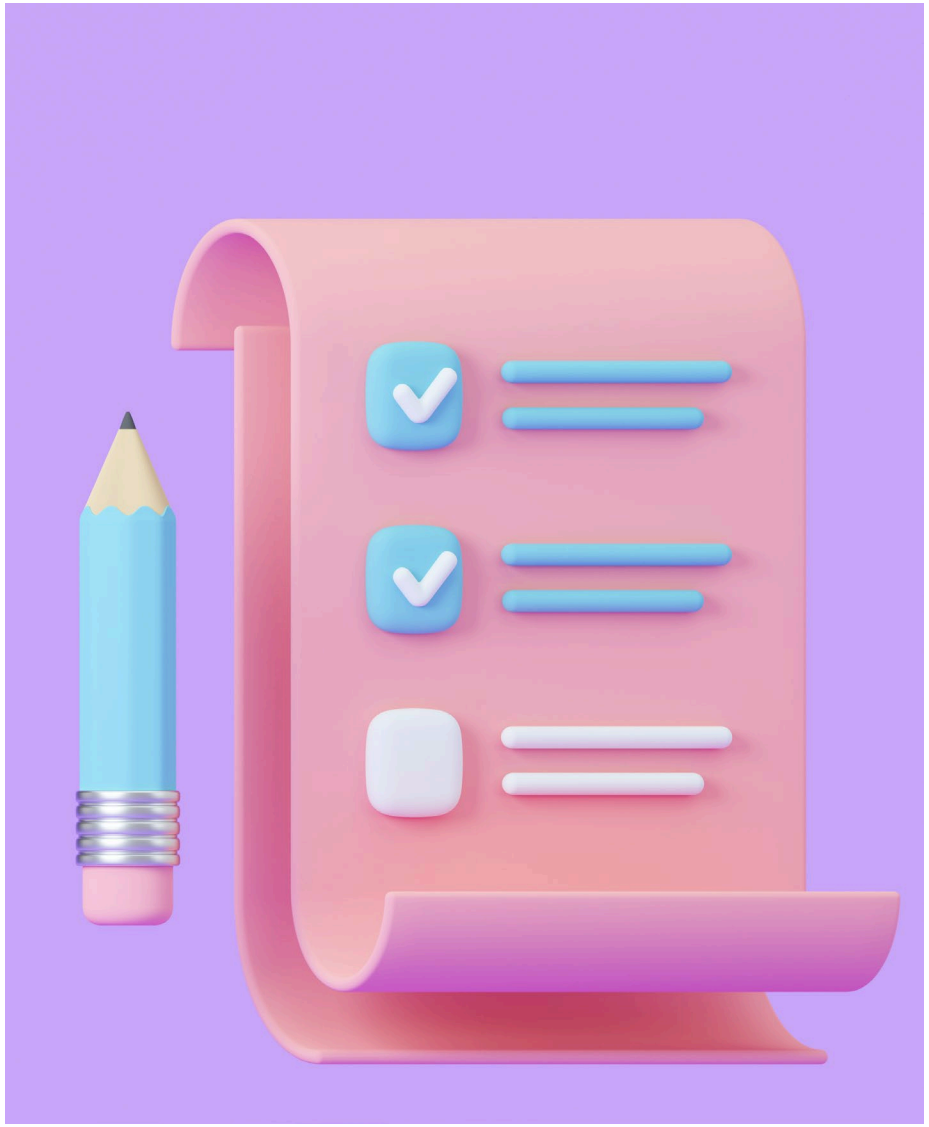
Safety in the outdoors



What’s next

Next steps

- ✓ **Accept your offer** by the deadline
- ✓ **Prepare your visa application** as soon as possible – this should be submitted by now
- ✓ **New student emails** – will be send to you with valuable information to give your studies the best start
- ✓ **Enrol** in your courses
- ✓ Arrive in Auckland in time for **Orientation**:
  - ✓ Week prior to term start



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University of Auckland

The slides and recording of this webinar will be uploaded here in a few days:


Waipapa
Taumata Rau
University
of Auckland
Ngā mihi mō ngā tau kei mua i te aroaro
Good luck for the future
See you soon in Auckland!