



Auckland City Guide

A practical guide for international students
in Auckland, New Zealand



New Zealand Aotearoa

Settling in:

- Accommodation options
- Student health insurance
- Banking
- Foods and Shops

Exploring Auckland

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- Events and Festivals
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IDP Auckland

- Our team and services



Welcome to

Studying in a new country is both exciting and challenging!

This guide will help you get the most out of your time in Auckland; from getting to know the lifestyle, fun places to visit, accommodation, how to find a casual job and more. Our friendly IDP Auckland Counsellors are here to support you on your study journey too.

If you have questions about life in New Zealand, course/university opportunities or visas, we're here to help. Don't be shy, call, email us or book a counselling appointment online.

For your convenience, virtual appointments are also available via Zoom.

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Known as the "Land of the Long White Cloud", New Zealand is one of the world's most beautiful countries.



New Zealand is a great destination for international students, offering a world-class educational system. All of its institutions adhere to global standards, regularly tested and monitored by government to ensure a consistently high level of education wherever you choose to study.

IDP's office is located in Auckland - New Zealand's largest city and a place where you can experience a big city lifestyle as well as the peace and quiet the country is famous for.

Built around a series of extinct volcanoes on the edge of a natural harbour dotted with picturesque islands, Auckland is rich in history and offers a fantastic quality of living whether you prefer daytime activities or a busy night life. Auckland is also one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world, so don't feel too surprised if a stranger starts chatting with you while you're waiting for your bus.

All major suburbs and malls are within 30 minutes to one hour's travel by either public transport or car, so there's no excuse to hang around campus all the time.



Best wishes for your studies!



Accommodation

This guide will help you get the most out of your time in Auckland; from getting to know the lifestyle, fun places to visit, accommodation, how to find a casual job and more.



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Mount Roskill/Three Kings

Mount Roskill and the neighbouring suburb of Three Kings are on the south-west side of Central Auckland and have great bus networks connecting to the Central Business District (CBD).

Birkenhead/North Shore

Across the Auckland City Harbour is the area known as the North Shore. The Northern Motorway connects the North Shore to the CBD with a designated bus lane so you're less likely to get stuck in traffic if you catch the bus rather than drive. It can also be really nice crossing the harbour into the city every day.

Pakuranga

Pakuranga is a neighbourhood suburb between East Auckland and the CBD. It's a 10-minute drive to the CBD while also being only 10 minutes to the heart of East Auckland, an area well-known for its extensive selection of Chinese cuisine and Asian supermarkets.

Eden Terrace

Eden Terrace is an area with many apartments for rent, conveniently located near the city with great transport links including trains into the CBD as well as other nearby popular suburbs. It's also walking distance to the city, so it's great for those sunny Auckland days.

Half Moon Bay

Half Moon Bay offers traditional neighbourhood living and a traffic-free transport option to get into Central Auckland, with ferries running regularly from the Half Moon Bay Marina to the CBD.



Transportation

Getting around in a new city can be challenging as you familiarise yourself with the city layout. Thankfully, Auckland has a lot to offer when you're ready to explore beyond the CBD.



Get a transport (AT HOP) card

You can buy an AT HOP card wherever you see signs with “AT” advertised on the pavement. Once you have your travel card, register at the AT website and set up the auto top-up function. This way, when your card balance goes below a certain amount, it will auto top up using your debit/credit card and you won’t find yourself unable to travel. Ferries and cycling are other ways to travel in the city.

For a list of stores offering the AT HOP card, go to:

<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/at-hop-card/where-to-buy-and-top-up/>

i Please take note that you will need a AT HOP Bus card to make any journey in Auckland. Single tickets cannot be bought on the bus or train.



Download AT Transport app & AT Park app

Driving in Auckland

Make sure you have full car insurance and a NZ legal driver’s license prior to driving. Ensure any vehicle you drive has a current Warrant of Fitness (WOF) and is registered with the NZTA to be considered a legal vehicle, otherwise your insurance will be invalid.



Student Health Insurance



International Student Health Insurance

It helps cover you for medical expenses whilst you're studying in New Zealand, including:

- GP/Doctor or Specialist visits (e.g. X-rays and blood tests)
- Hospital visits
- Some of the cost of prescription medicines

If you have a medical emergency

If you have a life-threatening medical emergency, go to your nearest public hospital emergency department or call 111 (Emergency Services) immediately for help.

Get in touch with your university for their preferred healthcare insurance.



Banking

One of the most important things to do when you arrive in New Zealand is to open a bank account. Learn how to do international money transactions, paying your bills and manage your everyday expenses.

✓ 1. Choose your bank

New Zealand offers various banks for International students to choose from.



✓ 2. Choose an account

1. **Everyday Account** The most common bank account type, used for day-to-day expenses.
2. **Savings Account** This is where you can store money that you don't need to use straight away.

✓ 3. Opening a Bank Account

Opening a Bank Account

Take your passport into the Bank. Often, there are exclusive offers available for students.

i Make sure you bring student ID, passport, visa and letter of enrolment when you visit the bank.

✓ 4. Tips

Tips: Consider the closest branch or ATM After you finish studying, switch to a "Graduate" account (if available in your bank) Get familiar with bank words such as "overdraft". It's possible to open a bank account before you arrive in New Zealand. Check the bank website to find out if this is possible.





Shopping

An important part of our lives, shopping! There are major shopping centres, supermarkets and homeware stores around Auckland that you might like to visit. Eat your favourite food from your home country in Auckland. There are some great international grocery stores and restaurants to explore.

	Name	Address
A popular place for shopaholics, you'll find everything from luxe to bargain finds on this street.	Queen Street, High Street and Chancery	Auckland CBD
	Auckland Night Markets	Mt Wellington, Botany, Henderson, Papatoetoe, Pakuranga, Birkenhead
Find everything including French, Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese and Hungarian cuisine.	Auckland Night Markets	Mt Wellington, Botany, Henderson, Papatoetoe, Pakuranga, Birkenhead
Auckland's most colourful and diverse street popular among international students, artists, musicians and writers	Karangahape Road	Auckland CBD

Major Supermarkets



Major Shops for homewares, clothing and other everyday items



Major Department Stores





Major Festivals in Auckland

Auckland is a popular place for events and festivals including the arts, live performances, exhibitions and cultural celebrations.



✓ Pasifika Festival

Representing 11 nations including Aotearoa (New Zealand), Samoa, Tonga, Cook islands and Fiji, the Pasifika Festival is the largest festival of its type in the world that celebrates the vibrant cultures of the Pacific nations.

✓ Auckland lantern festival

New Zealand's largest cultural festival, the iconic Auckland lantern festival celebrates the Chinese New Year in style. The festival features hundreds of beautiful lanterns, live performances, and plenty of food.

✓ Diwali Festival

Diwali is the Indian festival of lights that features live music, dance, and hands-on family-fun crafts. The festival signifies the triumph of light over darkness and is an important festival, especially among the Indian community.



Day Trips From Auckland

1. Explore The Farmers Market At Matakana

The picturesque Matakana farmers market is blessed with both beautiful sights to admire but also boutique food shops and vineyards to sample that perfect glass.

2. Gaze Into The Heavens At The Great Barrier Island

Head to the Aotea Great Barrier Island for some remote viewing of the Dark Sky Sanctuary for a magnificent gaze into the heavens on moon chairs and even hot chocolate and home-baked brownies to fill your tummy.

3. Shoot Breathtaking Photos At Murrays Bay

Visiting a scenic location is great, but why not learn and develop a valuable skill, photography, that you can use on every vacation!

4. Visit Dormant Volcanoes At Rangitoto Island

Rangitoto is Auckland's most iconic island and is only a short ferry ride away. Emerging 600 years ago, this volcanic trip is one that you should take to really appreciate the majesty of mother nature.





Making New Friends



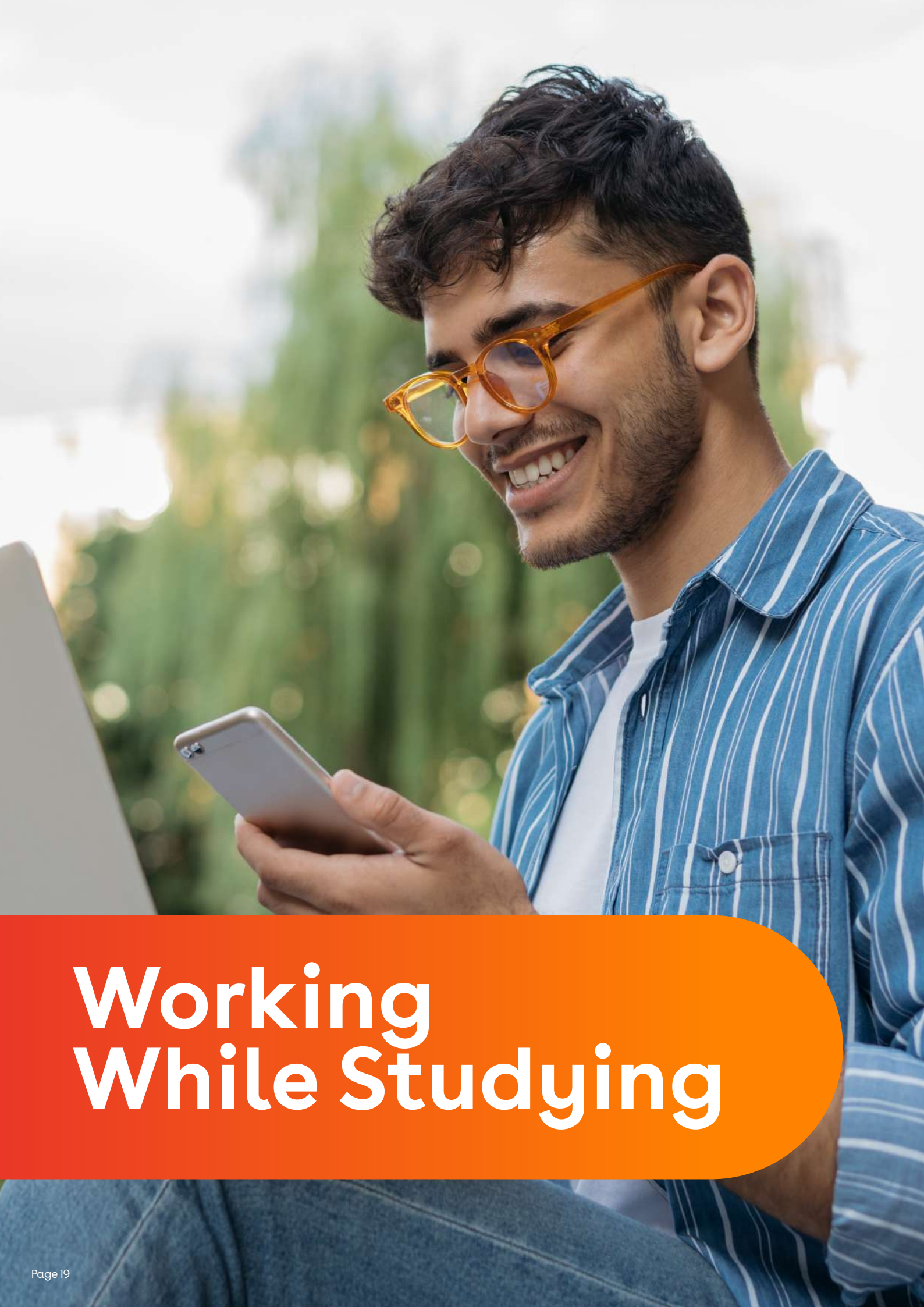
Being in a new city, away from your family and friends, you will want to meet like-minded people. Follow our tips for socialising and you will be surprised in how making friends is easier than expected!

Sharing accommodation is a great way to make friends. In student accommodation, you'll often be living with students who study nearby or even at the same institution.

Student clubs - Many institutions have their own clubs or societies. You can find clubs with specific interests like Harry Potter, badminton, Mahjong, debating, beauty, getting fit and many more.

Meetup.com and Eventbrite.co.nz make it easy to find people who share the same interests/hobbies. It's fun to keep up your hobbies in your new city, and even better to find friends to share the experience with.

Volunteer in the community: The volunteer organizations always need more help and it's a great way to meet other like-minded people. Volunteering New Zealand is also a popular platform for finding volunteer work.



Working While Studying



As an international student on a student visa, you're able to work 20 hrs a week in New Zealand. Casual employment while studying is a good way to learn about Kiwi culture and meet people. It helps to build a network outside of your university friends, develop communication and life skills, as well as earn extra money.

i Be mindful if you have any work restriction on your visa and ensure to check your visa conditions. Check your visa to see how many hours you can work per week. If you want to work in New Zealand, you will need to register with Inland Revenue (IRD) and request an IRD tax number. You will need you passport details and visa. It only takes a few days to get a number. For more information visit:

<https://www.ird.govt.nz/situations/work-or-study-in-new-zealand>

Looking for a job in a new country can feel daunting, but don't hesitate to drop your resume and ask.

The hospitality industry is a great place to start and many popular venues will welcome international students. Don't be afraid to drop your resume or ask directly at shops and restaurants.

You can also use popular online job search websites like Seek, LinkedIn or Indeed



North & South Island

Study in North Island

Wellington City (or Welly as it's fondly called by the locals) is the capital of New Zealand. The city is well known as 'the windy city', in addition to being a cultural hub of art, food and music and the home of New Zealand's government. Be sure to visit New Zealand's national museum, Te Papa and Mount Victoria when you're in the city.

Hamilton is located in the heart of the North Island, only a 1.5-hour drive or bus ride from Auckland and located near many scenic towns and outdoor adventure hotspots. From traditional Maori villages to Hobbiton, Hamilton has several scenic places to visit.

North Island is home to several popular universities including AUT university, Massey University, The University of Auckland, The University of Waikato and the Victoria University of Wellington.

Study in South Island

Not only is Christchurch the largest city in the South Island, it is also the fastest-growing city with bustling arts, entertainment and culinary options – so you'll get to explore the natural beauty of New Zealand while enjoying an urban and hip lifestyle. Visit the Botanic Gardens and head the famous Farmer's market when you're in the city.

Dunedin is a small city of approximately 120,000 people but don't let that fool you. Dunedin is a top choice for international students who are looking to get away from an urban and fast-paced lifestyle while experiencing the prestige of a world-class education. Spend a day at Koekohe Beach and visit the Orokonui Ecosanctuary when you're in the city.

North Island is home to several popular universities including Lincoln University, University of Canterbury and the University of Otago.

IDP Education services for international students

IDP Education offers a full suite of services for study in New Zealand, as well as English language testing (IELTS) and visa advice. We support you with essential services you'll need while living abroad, like medical insurance, accommodation and banking.

IDP is a lively network of students, alumni and employers, buzzing across New Zealand. When you arrive, we'll connect you with other IDP students through welcome events.

Office details and location

📍 Level 2, 10-14 Lorne Street, Auckland 1010

☎ 0800 678 362

✉ info.auckland@idp.com

If you have questions about how to navigate through all that's happening in New Zealand, course opportunities or visas, speak to us.

Call, email us or book a counselling appointment online.





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