

GREENHEART TRAVEL

High School Abroad

New Zealand



Curriculum Guidelines





OVERVIEW OF NEW ZEALAND'S SCHOOL SYSTEM

Since New Zealand is situated in the Southern Hemisphere, the academic year coincides with the calendar year: it starts in the end of January and finishes in December.

There are 2 semesters per school year, each divided into 4 terms. Usually there is a vacation break of about 10-14 days between each term. The summer vacations are the biggest school holidays (period of 6/7 weeks). In general, school vacations in general are in April, July, and September. Students who go on an exchange program to New Zealand come back with a thorough understanding of New Zealand culture.

Schedule

In general, the school day begins at 8:40am each morning (except Wednesdays at 9am) with the school open for students from 8:10am; middle school classrooms (Years 7-10) will be open to students from 8:25am. All students should be on school grounds by 8:30am. The school day ends at 3pm (unless it's a wet day – rainy day-- with a 2:40pm finishing time).

Subjects in New Zealand

There are three grade levels in the New Zealand high school:

- First year (11th grade)
- Second year (12th grade)
- Third year (13th grade)

The students will choose courses from subjects, which may include:

Art	Math	Information Sciences	Food Technology
Languages	PE/Health	Social Science	Gateway (Career Studies)

The above subjects are an example of those available for a 9th – 13th Grader. The amount and level of classes that a student takes is dependent on the school and the student.

Transcripts

You will be able to get a transcript for this program, but the student is in charge of talking to the local school about the transcript before leaving the program.

School Uniforms

School uniform is not compulsory in all New Zealand schools. This will depend entirely on what school the student is matched up with. Until the student knows what uniforms are or aren't necessary, we suggest they expect that they will need to wear one. School uniform is not compulsory in all New Zealand schools. This will entirely depend on what school the student is matched up with. Until the student knows what uniforms are or aren't necessary, we suggest they expect that they will need to wear one.

Extracurricular Activities

Every school offers an extensive co-curricular program providing students with the opportunity to participate individually or as a team member in many school based activities including music bands, drama productions, sports, and adventure activities. All students are encouraged to participate. A variety of state, national, and international competitions provide further challenges, testing the abilities, skills, and knowledge of students in many areas including academic excellence, sports, enterprise and leadership.

Transportation

If the student is close enough to school they could walk or bike (bikes are not normally provided). Transportation could be on the city bus or sometimes school buses. This depends on the location of the student's home in relation to the school. The student is expected to pay for their transportation.

Lunches

Families provide all meals included in the program: breakfast, a packed lunch, and dinner. The student will need to make their lunch from the family kitchen. If there are certain dietary restrictions, the student will have to make special arrangements with the family.

All schools have a cafeteria if it is necessary to buy anything at school. In this case, the student will have to pay for their lunch. The host family will NOT reimburse or pay for such lunches. The only exception is if the host family does not have food in the house and the student is asked to pay for their own lunch at school. However, this is a rare occurrence.

What Should I Do Next?

The best next step would be to meet with your high school guidance counselor or administration to discuss your interest in going abroad. Every school handles exchange students, transfer credits and going abroad differently so there isn't an "average" process that you can be guided through.

You should bring this document with you to the meeting with your counselor so they can get a better idea of what types of classes you would be taking abroad. This helps create a plan for possible transfer credits. During your meeting, you should ask about what credits you need to graduate and if any of those can be fulfilled from transfer credit abroad.

Application Process with Greenheart Travel

We don't usually recommend starting the application process before meeting with your guidance counselor because we want to ensure that you receive sufficient credit from your time abroad. After you meet with them or have a better idea of your school's process, let us know! Our [application process is online](#) and happens in several steps, so it is pretty straightforward and we can help you start whenever you're ready.

In addition to completing an application, you will also be required to submit documents. You can be collecting the documents during the application process, but all documents will be due 14 days after you submit your deposit. The following documents will be required for all destinations:

- Letter of Recommendation (from a teacher, coach or guidance counselor)
- Transcript
- Dear Family Letter (one written by student, one by a parent)
- Parent Questionnaire
- Medical Form
- Copy of your passport

There may be additional paperwork required for specific destinations. Your program manager will inform you of what those documents are during the application process.