

*Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.*

A) Back at the University of Ottawa I major in Management Information Systems and Analytics in the Telfer School of Management. Auckland University of technology (AUT) has a major in Management Information Systems which is quite useful as they have similar classes. I got an email from the exchange coordinator from AUT about registering for classes. She stated that we could register for any of the business faculty courses if we have the pre-requisites for them. The business faculty includes economics and business courses. A regular semester involves 4 classes that are called papers in New Zealand. We could go through all the courses offered under the business faculty and pick which ones we wanted to enroll in. Since New Zealand has 5 year degrees, level 5 papers are about the equivalent to a 1<sup>st</sup> year course, level 6 to a 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and level 7 to 3 or 4<sup>th</sup> year respectively. The courses I picked were; Econ603: Introduction to econometrics, BSYS602: Business Data Management, MARS601: Data, Information and Knowledge, and BSYS704: Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

ECON603 involves a 2 hour lecture every week followed by an hour workshop led by a TA, like a dgd back at uOttawa. It has a midterm test worth 25%, an assignment worth 25% and a final Exam worth 50%.

BSYS602 involves an hour and a half lecture per week followed by an hour and a half workshop per week. It has weekly assignments due the day after the workshop but are very short and are doable in the workshop. There is a final group project, a midterm and a final exam.

MARS601 involves an hour and a half lecture per week followed by an hour and a half workshop per week. It also has a group project, a test on SPSS and a final exam.

BSYS704 has just a 2 hour lecture every week. There are weekly blog posts to make about the logistics in a country region that you are assigned. Weekly quizzes based on that week's lecture, a paper on an in-class activity, and a final applied project.

The nice thing is about picking your courses and only having 4 of them is that you can make a schedule that works well for you. For example, I had ECON603 on Tuesday, BSYS602 on Wednesday, MARS601 and BSYS704 on Thursday. I had my Monday's and Friday's free. It's nice to have one of those days free if you are planning some weekend getaways with other exchange students. Only having 4 courses gives you more freedom to do so.

*The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the **precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.***

B) AUT first semester of year starts in February so it gives students lots of time to prepare in advance to arrive. The Student Apartments opens on February 11 and you can move in anytime starting from that date.

The important dates are:

- Orientation starts Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> and goes until Friday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The 26<sup>th</sup> of February is the First day of classes.
- The 30<sup>th</sup> of March until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April is Easter break
- April 16<sup>th</sup> to the 27 is the Mid Semester break
- June 5-8<sup>th</sup> is a study break before exams
- June 11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> are the exam dates
- June 22 is the last day of the semester and the last day allowed in residence

The exchange coordinator will start contacting you around September for the exchange application and will stay in contact with you the entire time. The exchange application was due on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

We were reserved spots at the Wellesley Student Apartments and had to apply by November 1<sup>st</sup> to make sure you keep your spot. The sooner you apply the better.

Around November 1<sup>st</sup>, you will get an email from the coordinator about applying for courses and it's all done through her. It was due to her by the 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

They will also email you an offer of place for the university around October after the exchange application has been finished. It's best to sign that document and send it back to them as quick as possible.

They will keep you updated with emails throughout the application process so it's best to check your emails regularly and ask her any questions if you are unsure of what to do.

*Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.*

C) There isn't set list of procedures to follow. However, some things to do upon arrival is to get your student card from the student hub. The sooner you get it, the shorter the wait time will be. Another thing to get is the AT Hop card which the transit card for the busses. You will also have to register it for a concession fare. This makes the bus transport much cheaper than just paying cash.

There is a Facebook group for the exchange students for that semester. This link will be provided in an email from the exchange coordinator who you will be in contact with. This is a big source of activities that are hosted by the university and outside groups for exchange students. There is an exchange student bash within the first 4 weeks hosted by AUT. This will be posted on the Facebook group.

There are a few outside groups that host events. Got to Get Out has a bunch of adventures and small trips throughout the year. It's open to anyone to join and it's good to like their Facebook page to keep up with their activities. There is also Peter Pan Adventures which has their own activities. They will also post in the exchange Facebook group often with activities.

Course selection would be done before hand in November through the exchange coordinator.

*Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).*

D) New Zealand is a relatively expensive country to live in. First the airplane tickets are going to be around \$1,000 for a return trip. It can range from anywhere between 850-1500 for the return trip. I was lucky and flew from Vancouver for just over \$1,000. What some people have done is to buy a one-way ticket to Auckland and then leave the return open. A lot of students want to travel to Australia or South East Asia afterwards and would rather return from there. Alternatively, since the semester starts in mid-February, then you can always decide to travel beforehand a bit first. Either way, budget around \$1200 for a return trip if you don't plan on travelling anywhere else. Start looking at tickets as soon as possible and anything under \$1000 is a great price.

The Wellesley Student Apartments start out at \$5,156 NZ dollars for the semester for a small room and range to \$5,804 for a medium room and \$6,245 for a large room. I didn't consider any other housing because I just thought the residence would be the most convenient.

I never bought any textbooks for my classes, but there is a AUT textbook trade group on Facebook that has some decent prices. The textbooks in the campus store are normally \$100+

A lot of students will do mini weekend get-aways to places around the North Island. This normally involves renting a car and staying in hostels, or going camping. This trips can range from 40-100\$ depending how many nights you are away. There's lots of car rental companies around that have good deals when demand is low.

An average meal will cost above \$10. There are some cheap places to find to eat out, like dominos has 5 dollar pizzas. However, if you are planning on going to a restaurant, be prepared to pay around 12-17 dollars for a meal. There is also no tipping in New Zealand and the price that you see is the price that you will pay, taxes are already included. Grocery stores tend to be more expensive here as well for meats and vegetables. However, there are always deals going on too. Alcohol is very expensive especially hard liquor and a lot of restaurants will charge around \$10 for a glass.

The two-week break is a great time to go away to the South Island and if you are travelling for the full two weeks' budget around \$1700-\$2000. That should include hostels, flights down, car rental, gas money, activities, and food. It depends also where you want to go, there are cheap flights to Bali, around \$500 return and then living expenses there is quite affordable.

Just plan beforehand where you want to travel and make a budget so you know how much you want to spend. Think too if you want to visit any other countries before or after the exchange in NZ. I know a few people who are heading to South East Asia on their way home and that's always a good place to travel too. Just make sure to leave some money for the end to get home!

*Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).*

E) I've already explained that course registration will happen around November when the exchange coordinator emails you. The same thing with the housing deposit which will be in October so just keep a look out in your email box about those details.

The Visa documentation is very important because you will need it before you arrive. It's very simple to do and it's all online through immigration New Zealand. The study visa is valid for 6 months and it has the potential to be extended for 3 months with a holiday visa. The application online is easy to follow. You will need your proof of residence, proof of either a return flight, or sufficient funds to leave the country, proof of enrollment, and arrival date into New Zealand. I made my application quite late, around January 4<sup>th</sup> and I got it January 26<sup>th</sup>. I would suggest applying early December just to be safe, or apply whenever you are entering the country!

The Visa is also an electronic document that is tied to your passport number which makes it super convenient. Print the slip of paper that states you have the visa because the airline staff in Canada will ask to see it before you can check in. Just good to have it with you!

You will need insurance to visit New Zealand, the exchange coordinator will email you about that as well. The school offers insurance and it was \$310 New Zealand Dollars. They also have a list of other approved insurance providers and it's best to check those out if you want. I thought it was just more convenient to go with the school's insurance.

The most important thing about the application procedures that I can tell you is that keep checking your emails and if there is every any issue, email the exchange coordinator from AUT. They are happy to help and they provide a lot information.

*Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.*

F). The Wellesley Student Apartments are located on 8 Mount Street, Grafton, Auckland. Postal code is 1010. The residence is a block away from most of the city campus buildings where business faculty is located. Each apartment has 4-5 different rooms with a shared kitchen and common area. Each apartment also has 2 bathrooms which includes a shower in each. The kitchen includes cooking materials, a microwave, a fridge, and a stove top. The common area includes a television. There is also wifi in the residence. The bedrooms each include a bed, a closet and a desk to do work in.

During the application students, can choose to be put into a mixed gender or single gender apartment. There is a main common area for the entire residence in the lobby that includes a pool table, a common kitchen with ovens, table tennis, and an entertainment room. There are lots exchange students who decide to stay in the residence and it's super close to campus and downtown. It's quite convenient to be close to everything and the apartments are quite nice.

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*Other comments or recommendations.*

H) Just some other recommendations are that there can be midterms on the weekend right before the 2-week break, like the Saturday right before it starts. Just make sure to ask the professor if the syllabus says midterm test to be announced.

Classes are called Papers in New Zealand, and you only have to take 4 of them!

There are a lot of planned trips by travel companies, and while they do seem like fun, they are sometimes more expensive than just going on your own!

The only valid form of ID in New Zealand is either a passport, a NZ drivers licence, or an 18+ card. Your driver's licence will not work for proof of ID. You can get an 18+ card from the post office but it will cost about \$50. It is worth it because then you won't have to carry your passport everywhere you go.

The sun is brutal in the summer so make sure to use sunscreen when you're out.

When going through customs in New Zealand, make sure to declare everything you have. This includes any food you bring because you will get fined if you don't. Declare any camping gear and hiking boots too. They will just check and make sure it's clean. There's nothing wrong with declaring items! Just make sure that you do, they are super friendly at customs if you follow the rules.

*Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.*

1) New Zealand has been absolutely amazing so far. The beaches are just incredible on the North island and everywhere you go there's a beach to explore. I've honestly enjoyed every moment of it so far. Auckland is a nice city to be in because it's close to a lot. My favorite thing has been the weekend trips out of the city to the wonderful places in the North Island. From surfing lessons, to hiking, to remote beaches, to white water rafting. There is just so much to do. I recommend New Zealand to anyone wanting to go on exchange. The people here is so friendly and there is an abundance of activities to do. Classes are going well and I feel like there is a lot of support from the faculty at the university. Honestly truly love the experience so far, and we're only 5 weeks into classes. There is still so much to explore.