



# Victoria University of Wellington | Te Herenga Waka

## 2024 Exchange Programme Factsheet

Located in the geographic, political and cultural centre of New Zealand, Victoria University of Wellington offers an outstanding academic community with a strong global perspective. We have three main campuses in Wellington, all only a few minutes' walk to the city centre. You'll also find Wellington is the ideal student location—fun, friendly, safe and with the best of New Zealand's natural beauty on its doorstep.

### Quick Facts

- Approximately 22,000 students, including international students from about 100 countries
- Ranked in the top 2 percent of the world's 18,000 universities and, in 15 subject areas, among the top 1 percent of the world's universities (2023 QS World University Rankings)
- Encourages students to develop global skills through studies and extracurricular programmes such as the unique Wellington International Leadership Programme
- Eight faculties\*: Architecture and Design, Business and Government, Education, Engineering, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, Science

\*Some partner universities may have agreements with specific faculties only

### Relevant Websites

- ✓ [Victoria University of Wellington](#)
- ✓ [Key Dates](#)
- ✓ [Exchange Information](#)
- ✓ [Exchange Restrictions](#)
- ✓ [Grading Scale](#)
- ✓ [Living in Wellington](#)

## Academic Year 2024

### Trimester 1, 2024 (February- June)

- — Nomination deadline: 18 November 2023
- — Application deadline: 1 December 2023
- — Exchange orientation: 19 February
- — Classes start: Monday, 26 February
- — Mid-trimester break: 29 March- 15 April
- — Last day of classes: 31 May
- — Exam period: 10 - 22 June

### Trimester 2, 2024 (July - November)

- — Nomination deadline: 18 April 2024
- — Application deadline: 1 May 2024
- — Exchange orientation: 1 July
- — Classes start: 8 July
- — Mid-trimester break: 17 August - 1 September
- — Last day of classes: 11 October
- — Exam period: 20 October - 2 November

Students should not confirm return ticket dates until the exam timetable is released. Exams dates cannot be changed. The University has a third trimester that runs from November to February and is known as the summer trimester. Exchange students cannot apply for admission for the third trimester. Students staying for two trimesters starting in Trimester 2 will take a break over the summer period and resume study at the start of Trimester 1.

# VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Our students come from about  
**100**  
countries  
around the world

**Top 1%**  
of the world's universities in  
15 subject areas  
(QS World University Rankings by  
Subject 2023)

**ZERO**  
**CARBON** BY 2030



**Top 100**  
in the world in  
7 subjects  
(QS World University Rankings  
by Subject 2023)



**#1** IN NEW ZEALAND FOR  
**RESEARCH INTENSITY**  
(Latest Performance-Based Research Fund Quality Evaluation)

**2,000** of our **22,000** students  
are international students  
**8** teaching faculties  
**43** research institutes  
**4** libraries  
**140+** clubs and societies



**3 CENTRAL  
CITY CAMPUSES  
IN WELLINGTON**



**KELBURN**



**PIPITEA**



**TE ARO**



“Victoria University of Wellington’s excellent research facilities, approachable academic staff, and overall culture of friendliness and support really made it stand out compared to other schools. I love my daily commute along the coast. I’ve also really loved the café culture.”

**Georgia Westfall**  
International Student



## Application Procedures

All students must be nominated to Victoria University of Wellington by the home university's Exchange Office before their application documents are submitted. Please email [student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz) first to check how many of your students we can accept if we have not advised previously.

Please ensure that all documents have been stamped, dated, and signed by the home university's Exchange Office as being true copies of the originals, or clearly state in your email that you have sighted the original document. You can find more information about certification [on our website](#).

- ✔ [Application form](#). The nomination section must be completed by the home university's Exchange Office.
- ✔ A certified photocopy of the student's passport.
- ✔ A certified copy of academic transcripts at tertiary level, translated into English by the university or other official bodies (online translation or translation by the students cannot be accepted).
- ✔ Evidence of English proficiency. Please refer to the Study Abroad and Exchange Apply & Contact page to see if this is required for your university by selecting your exchange programme and country location of your university. You can provide your English results after we assess your application.
- ✔ Architecture and Design students are required to submit a portfolio of their work. The portfolio should include drawings and work that best represent the student's strengths. These can be technical drawings, design work, sketches, photographs and more artistic pieces. The portfolio can be in any format (i.e. folder, CD, website - digital copies are preferable) and should be an accurate representation of your skills set to date.

Please refer to the [Study Abroad and Exchange Restrictions](#) page to check which courses are restricted or have additional document requirements.

## English Language Proficiency Requirements

### Undergraduate

- TOEFL: minimum score of 80 for the internet-based test.
- IELTS: minimum overall score of 6.0 with no sub score below 5.5 (must be the academic test paper).
- PTE: 50 with a minimum of 42 in a 'Communicative' score.

If you're planning to study teaching, you need to have a minimum IELTS overall band of 7.0 with no sub-score below 7.0

We also accept the Duolingo English Test to meet the general English requirement for most undergraduate programmes. You will need to achieve 110 overall and good scores in each sub score.

Some partner universities have a previous arrangement which allows their exchange office to provide a letter "guaranteeing a sufficient English level to undertake a full course load at Victoria University of Wellington" in place of the tests above. This letter should explicitly attest to a level of English proficiency with reference to a recognised framework such as the CEFR, or a grading scale used by IELTS or TOEFL, and show that the level of the student's English proficiency is equal to or higher than the requirements stated above.

For further information about entry requirements, please visit [our website](#) or contact [international@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:international@vuw.ac.nz)

### Postgraduate

- TOEFL: minimum score of 90 for the internet-based test with a minimum of 20 points in writing.
- IELTS: minimum score 6.5 overall with no sub-score below 6.0; PTE 65 with a minimum of 58 in a 'Communicative' score.
- PTE: 58 with a minimum of 50 in a 'Communicative' score.

Specific Law Requirements:

- TOEFL: minimum score of 100 for the internet-based test with a minimum of 25 in writing.
- IELTS: minimum score of 7.0 overall, including a writing sub-score of 7.0 and no sub-score below 6.5.

**Testing scores must be less than 2 years old at the time of application.**

## Course Information

**Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 45 points in order to be considered a full-time student and meet NZ visa requirements. 60 points (3-4 courses) per trimester is the maximum and recommended course load for exchange students.**

1 credit point at Victoria University of Wellington is equivalent to 0.5 ECTS.

Information about courses offered each year can be found on our [Course finder](#) and [Study Abroad and Exchange](#) pages.

Not every course is offered every year/trimester, so students may need to search a little to find where their course is.

### Faculty Course Listings

Detailed course outlines are not released for the current trimester until classes begin, however, students are encouraged to refer to previous course outlines available from some Faculty websites.

- [Wellington Faculty of Architecture and Design](#)
- [Wellington Faculty of Health](#)
- [Wellington Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#)
- [Wellington Faculty of Law](#)
- [Wellington Faculty of Engineering](#)
- [Wellington Faculty of Science](#)
- [Wellington School of Business and Government](#)

### Transcripts

One official digital transcript will be sent to the student after final grade release, only at the end of a student's exchange period. Transcripts will be withheld if the student has any outstanding fees with the University. In the case that additional copies are required, students can request an additional copy from the Victoria University of Wellington website for a small fee.

[Victoria University of Wellington Grading Scale](#)

## Accommodation

University accommodation is guaranteed for all Exchange students who apply by the dates below. Student Accommodation at Victoria University of Wellington is very competitive. This means that students may not be placed in one of their initial choices for accommodation.

It is particularly competitive for students coming for a single exchange term during Trimester 1 (February start) at Victoria University of Wellington. An additional levy on the university accommodation price is also incurred for these students (10%) to cover the increased administrative costs caused by the five-month contract and subsequent replacement for the room. This additional levy does not affect single term exchanges starting in Trimester 2.

Please inform your students of the accommodation options, and discuss the different possibilities with them. You are welcome to discuss any concerns with the Wellington Global Exchange office at Victoria University of Wellington.

All students 20 years of age or over will only be offered self-catered halls.



### Accommodation Application Deadlines

- Trimester 1, 2024 (February start): hall applications open 1 August 2023, due 1 October 2023.
- Trimester 2, 2024 (July start): hall applications open 1 April 2024, due 1 May 2024.

Applications are still taken beyond this point, but students are not guaranteed offers.

### Applying for Accommodation

[Accommodation website and application](#)

[Accommodation guide](#)

- Students should apply for their accommodation as soon as possible and not wait for acceptance to Victoria University of Wellington.
- Full-year accommodation from T2 to T1 is possible.
- Please be sure to state any health, religious or dietary requirements if you will need special accommodation during your stay.

It is unlikely students will be offered another place in university accommodation if they decline their first offer of accommodation. Students should submit their accommodation application by the deadline in order to be considered in the first selection round and have the best chance of being placed in university accommodation.

All questions regarding accommodation applications should be directed to the [Accommodation Service](#). We do not process accommodation applications and therefore have no impact on processing times.

## Student Services and Support

The Student Health Service, Counselling Service, Disability Support Services and Student Learning Support are available for exchange students. The International student support team includes Student Advisors who are here to help with any academic and personal concerns students face.

Students are introduced to the different services and support available to them during their orientation and enrolment. Services include an [International Buddy Programme](#), where the team will connect you with a current student at Victoria University of Wellington.

Please see [Before you start studying](#) for further information on our pre-arrival services.

### Wellington International Leadership Programme

WILP is a free, co-curricular and interdisciplinary programme focused on global citizenship and intercultural competence. Explore a diverse range of seminars, speaker events and experiential learning opportunities, while connecting with other students from around the university! We offer a short version of the programme especially for exchange students studying with us for one or two trimesters.

[Read more about WILP](#)



## Insurance Fees and Additional Costs

All international students are automatically signed up to the Studentsafe Inbound University insurance and pay for this upon enrolment at Victoria University of Wellington. This policy provides comprehensive cover throughout the course of study, and also covers the insured student's travel to New Zealand and time spent in New Zealand up to 31 days before the start of their courses. This retrospective cover is provided automatically, irrespective of whether the student has paid the insurance premium in advance or not.

**Note: All other universities in NZ currently offer Studentsafe Insurance as their affiliated insurance.**

[Requests for exemption](#) from Studentsafe in place of other insurance policies may be considered if submitted to [International Student Advisor](#) at least 2 weeks before arriving in New Zealand. The alternative policy must meet all of our requirements which at present not many other insurance providers are able to fulfil. Victoria University of Wellington recommends Studentsafe Inbound University insurance, a comprehensive, Code-compliant insurance designed and supported by all New Zealand universities. It is provided by Allianz.

Refer to the [Studentsafe Inbound University](#) policy and [Insurance](#) for more information.



### 2024 Insurance Rates

One trimester (up to 6 months or duration of visa): NZD\$405

Two trimesters/full-year (up to 12 months or duration of visa): NZD\$810

### Additional Fees & Cost of Living

Students are responsible for course-related costs (such as lab fees, etc.) which vary depending on the course and which must be paid to the University. Students also need to purchase their course-related materials as required (text books, student notes, stationery, etc.).

For budgeting advice, please refer to the [Students' Financial Survival Guide](#).

Approximate cost of living per month in New Zealand is \$1666NZD. Please make sure students are able to financially support themselves whilst here as their student visa may not enable them to work.

## Visa Information

Apply online for an Exchange Student visa through [Immigration NZ](#).

## Contact Information

### Agreements Contact

Internationalisation Programmes Manager

[student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz)

### General Exchange Contact

Wellington Global Exchange

Phone: +64 4 463 5667

[student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-exchange@vuw.ac.nz)

### Address

Attn: Wellington Global Exchange  
Wellington University International  
Victoria University of Wellington  
Level 5, Rutherford House  
33 Bunny Street, Pipitea  
Wellington 6011, New Zealand