



NORTHCOTE COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Northcote College.

Northcote College is our home. Established in 1877, Northcote College has gone on to become a modern and successful secondary school. Students from all over the world come here to experience the quality of education that the school offers. Overseas study is a great opportunity to gain experience and knowledge of another culture and to make new friends. There are opportunities to improve your English language skills, learn using different teaching methods and go on to further study. Coming to a new country to study is both challenging and exciting. We hope that this information will assist in helping you to enjoy your time here.

We look forward to meeting you at Northcote College.

Catherine Smith

Director of International Students

SCHOOL MOTTO: UT PROSIM ALIIS.

The Latin can be translated as: "That I may be of service to others."

The motto serves as a reminder that you are part of a school where we work cooperatively and to the best of our abilities.

LOCATION

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand (or Aotearoa, the Maori name for New Zealand) is situated in the South Pacific Ocean, 2,000 kilometres south-east of Australia. It has a total land area of 269,680 square kilometres. The capital is Wellington and the largest city is Auckland. The population of New Zealand is about 4.400 million. New Zealand is an increasingly multicultural society.

(For more information go to www.newzealand.com)



CLIMATE

The warmest months are December, January and February, and the coldest June, July and August.

Auckland

Summer Average Temperature:

Low: 12 C

High: 24 C

Winter Average Temperature

Low 9C

High: 15 C

The weather in Auckland can be changeable, therefore it is important to be prepared for whatever weather may come. In summer a light jacket or sweater is useful should the weather turn cooler. You can expect some rain, so include a light rainproof jacket or coat. If visiting between May and September, pack warm winter garments and layer your clothing. A small compact umbrella can easily be kept in a handbag or backpack, so that you are prepared for the occasional light shower. It is wise to use sunblock in the summer months.

Time Difference

New Zealand is one of the first places in the world to see the new day, 12 hours ahead of G.M.T. (Greenwich Mean Time).

Daylight Saving Time

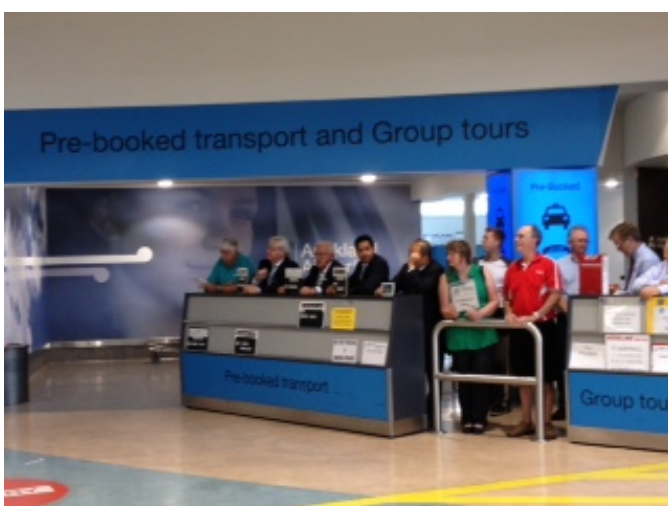
Daylight Saving starts on the last Sunday in September, when 2.00am becomes 3.00am and ends on the first Sunday in April the following year when 3.00am becomes 2.00am.

ARRIVING IN AUCKLAND

Northcote College will arrange for someone to meet you at the airport. It could be your homestay family, your agent, a family friend or a Northcote College staff member. They will be waiting in the public arrival area. Please look for the card with your name on it. If you get lost please wait in the MacDonalds Restaurant area and we can find you.

Do not leave the airport.

24 hour Emergency phone number: Rebecca Philipson 027 4810013



Meeting place



Rebecca Philipson. Homestay Manager

New Zealand has strict laws regarding what you can bring into the country to screen out unwanted pests and diseases. You must not bring any animals, insects, fresh foods (including meats and fruit) and some packaged goods. If you are not sure about what you have, declare it and Customs can look at it. You can check on www.customs.govt.nz It is wise to plan your arrival a few days before school starts. This gives you time to adjust to the new times.

Essential documents

Valid passport with student visa, letter of offer, receipt of payment of fees, personal information such as ID card, medical prescriptions, copy of medical and travel insurance, scientific calculator, extra passport size photos, contact telephone numbers, some local currency.

Travel Tips. Photocopy all important documents (passports, credit cards, travel insurance) before you leave home. Leave a copy with someone at home and keep another copy with you, separate from the originals.

BANKING

New Zealand has a very modern banking system and almost everybody has a bank account. It's the safest, most convenient way to manage money..

Accessing your money. When you have opened your account you will be given an account number. With this account number you are able to make deposits (including international payments) and withdrawals immediately. You will also be sent in the mail an ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) card. ATMs, also know as cashpoint machines, money machines or 'hole in the wall', allow you to withdraw money 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and are widely available throughout New Zealand.

POSTAL SERVICES

New Zealand Post Shops are open every day except Sunday. Some Post Shops in large malls are open. You can buy stamps at New Zealand Post Shops, visitor information centres, stationers and supermarkets.

SHOPPING

There are 2 convenient shopping centres near to school at Highbury (Birkenhead) and Northcote.

Both have a range of goods, restaurants, postal services, bakeries, fruit shops, supermarkets, banks and fitness centres. There are other larger malls nearby at Glenfield and Takapuna.

The City Centre is also about 10-15 minutes by car or ferry. Movie Cinemas are in the city. Convenience Stores can be found located in most residential areas. They sell mainly food items. New Zealanders use the word 'dairy' to describe these shops. Most shops are open during working hours, usually 9.00am to 5.30pm, from Monday to Saturday. Late Thursday and Friday night and Sunday shopping is also common. Some shops such as takeaway food outlets and those attached to petrol stations are also open for longer hours.

TRANSPORT

Students usually come to school by bus, by car or by walking. The best way for you to travel independently around Auckland is by bus. You can purchase a student I.D. card which will allow bus travel at student prices and will also get cheaper entry into some places. International students are not allowed to drive while studying at Northcote College.

Online: AT.govt.nz

Mobile web AT.govt.nz/realtime

PHONE CALLS AND INTERNET

New Zealand's international code is 0064. Auckland is 09.

Local phone calls are seven digits. Area codes consist of two digits. The first is zero. Phone calls are free to call within the Auckland area. Calling cards are an economical way to call home and are readily available from local shops. Calls to numbers starting with 0800 or 0508 are free.

Please ask your homestay family before using the internet. Homestay arrangements do not include the use of the homestay computer or internet. If you are a person who uses the internet a lot, you may wish to consider bringing your own laptop to New Zealand and then organising your own internet connection. There are internet cafes at the local shopping centres and computers are available at school for use during the lunchtimes.

BYOD. Bring Your Own Device



At Northcote College we are encouraging students to bring personal devices to help with learning. While having a device is not compulsory, students report that it does make access to information, organisation and collaboration on tasks more manageable. More information is available on the school website. www.northcote.school.nz

CLASSROOM TEACHING

Northcote College follows the New Zealand Curriculum.

You can find more information about the curriculum at nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz

UNIFORM



The uniform is worn by students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Year 13 has a dress code. The uniform requirements are strictly enforced. Uniform is purchased from a local shop. If you play in a school sports team then you may need to purchase a Northcote College sports uniform.

Uniform can be purchased from [Yarnton's, Birkenhead.](http://www.yarntons.co.nz/shop/School/Northcote+College.html)

<http://www.yarntons.co.nz/shop/School/Northcote+College.html>

THE NEW ZEALAND TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Learning in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to in your home country. Students participate in their learning – i.e. teachers and lecturers may expect you to ask questions of them and provide ideas for discussion. Don't be afraid to ask questions. You won't appear stupid by asking questions. Please come to the international office if there is anything that you don't understand or which is worrying you about school.

The national qualification in the senior school is **NCEA**. For more information on the NCEA and about university entrance please go to <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about/index.html>.

(For more information on New Zealand education, please go to www.minedu.govt.nz)

SCHOOL DAY

Each lesson or period is one hour long.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00am Period 1	9.00am Period 1	9.00am Period 1	9.00am Period 1	9.00am Period 1
10.00am Period 2	10.00am Period 2	10.00am Period 2	10.00am Period 2	10.00am Period 2
11.00am Interval	11.00am Interval	11.00am Interval	11.00am Interval	11.00am Interval
11.30am Snr Assembly	11.30am Form time	11.30am Form Time	11.30am Form Time	11.30am Form Time
11.30am Period 3	11.45am Period 3	11.45 Period 3	11.45 Period 3	11.45am Period 3
12.15pm Jnr Assembly	12.45pm Lunch	12.45pm Lunch	12.45pm Lunch	12.45pm Lunch
12.45pm Lunch	1.30pm Period 4	1.30pm Period 4	1.30pm Period 4	1.30pm Period 4
1.30pm Period 4	2.30pm Period 5	2.30pm Period 5	2.30pm Period 5	2.30pm Period 5
2.30pm Period 5	3.30pm School Ends	3.30pm School Ends	3.30pm School Ends	3.30pm School Ends
3.30pm School Ends				

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Taking part in sport and other school activities is a great way to make new friends and take advantage of all that the school has to offer. These can range from musical groups to helping with school events to playing sport. Please remember that sport is seasonal. You can talk to the international office for ideas of things to do.

NORTHCOTE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL POLICY

International students may wish to take advantage of opportunities to travel while they are in New Zealand. The school takes its responsibility for students seriously so we have tight travel guidelines. Students should not be applying for leave for personal travel during school time, unless there is a compelling reason to do so. This could include the visit of parents, an event organized through agents or where they are doing so as part of the activities of a host family, or accompanying an approved school trip. Under the provisions of the “Code of Practice for the



Pastoral Care of International students” the school has an obligation to ensure that leave is only granted where it can be assured that the student will be supervised by approved adults and will be living in accommodation that meets the appropriate standard. All leave must be applied for at least six weeks in advance and must include signed permission from parents/caregivers and a completed request to travel form. Leave will not be granted where the agent of a student who is acting as a guardian denies permission. All travel must be through an approved organization or with a homestay family. **If leave is taken without approval or when approval has been denied by the school, this will be regarded as a serious breach of discipline and could involve disciplinary procedures up to and including expulsion or exclusion.**

HOMESTAY INFORMATION

We hope that you enjoy living and learning in New Zealand. Northcote College has its own homestay manager, Rebecca Philipson. The school takes care to match the student and homestay family. The local families need to apply to the school to become a homestay. If the application is satisfactory, the school will visit the home and interview the family. If the school is happy with them then everyone in the home over 18 years is Police Vetted.

You will have your own room and the homestay includes 3 meals per day for 7 days per week. In New Zealand we usually take a packed lunch to school and have the cooked meal at night. It's a good idea to help with such family tasks as setting the table or cooking your favourite dish from home. The school does have a café where you can buy more things to eat and drink if you wish to. When you arrive you can talk to your host mother about the household routines.

Life in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to. Give yourself time to get used to living here. Talk to Rebecca if you have any concerns.

Rebecca Philipson. Homestay Manager.

Email: Homestay@northcote.school.nz

School Ph: 4810141 Ext. 713. Mobile: 0274810013 (Emergency Number)

New Zealand Voltage is 240V. You can buy adaptors in New Zealand.

Motor Vehicles

International Students are not allowed to own or drive a car while they are enrolled at Northcote College. You must only travel in another car with an approved driver who has a full licence gained in New Zealand by the full process.

Smoking

New Zealand, like most other countries is smoke free. It is illegal in New Zealand for cigarettes to be sold to anyone under the age of 18 years. Smoking is NOT permitted at school or while wearing your school uniform to and from school.

KEEPING SAFE

Student Safety

Some points to remember.

1. **New Zealand's emergency number is 111.** When this number is connected the operator will ask if the caller wants Police, Fire or Ambulance.
2. Check street signs when you go out. If there is an emergency, then you know where you are and help can come more quickly.
1. Pick your friends wisely and if you have any worries or concerns tell someone.
2. Look after your passport carefully.
3. Do not walk around late at night.
4. It is illegal for people under 18 yrs to buy and drink alcohol.

www.police.govt.nz

Crossing the Road

Take care crossing the road. Check carefully that is safe to cross and use the pedestrian crossings. This especially applies to students who come from countries where cars drive on a different side of the road.

Cyclists are required by law to wear a properly fitted, standards approved bicycle helmet.

Buses Get on and off buses carefully and wait until the bus has driven away before crossing the road.

WATER SAFETY

The Auckland region is surrounded by some magnificent waterways. The physical nature of our country; the length of the coastline; the accessibility to rivers and lakes; the relative affordability of visiting a community pool and the popularity of private pools – all increase the need to be 'WaterSafe'.

Swim only at lifeguard patrolled beaches and always swim between the red and yellow flags. Lifeguards are trained to assess the safest areas for swimming and they mark those areas with red and yellow flags. Follow the advice of safety signs. For more information on surf beaches visit www.lifesaving.org.nz

CULTURE FATIGUE

Being in a new country is an exciting experience. There are many new learning opportunities with changes in food, language and physical surroundings. There are many new people to meet. Sometimes the feelings of excitement can change to anxiety and stress because there are so many decisions to make. Everyone experiences some degree of cultural fatigue when they arrive in a new country. The good news is that over time you will get used to the new environment and things will become easier. Bringing photographs and other small things from home to decorate your room may help ease the transition into a new culture

FACEBOOK

Northcote College International



Our facebook page has a lot of information about school. Check it out!

SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.northcote.school.nz

The school website has a lot of useful information. For example you can find information on -

The School Calendar

The Course Directory

Facilities

Staffing

The Code of Behaviour

Cybersafety Policy

Parent Portal

International Pages

Refunds Policy

School Contacts

A copy of the Northcote College Education Review Office Report (ERO). ERO evaluates and reports on education and care of students in school.

And More.

ORIENTATION

When you arrive at school you will be given orientation. This programme will explain about school life, living in a homestay and you will be able to discuss a study programme with your level dean. In February and July this takes place over a day. At other times orientation is held as required.

CODE OF PRACTICE





Northcote College has agreed to observe and be bound by the Code of Practice for the Pastoral care of International Students. Copies of the Code are available from NZQA website at www.nzqa.govt.nz

Medical and Health Services

Appropriate medical and travel insurance is compulsory. Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand. If you receive medical treatment during your visit you may be liable for the full costs of that treatment.

www.moh.govt.nz The Accident Compensation Corporation provides accident insurance for all New Zealand citizens, residents and temporary visitors to New Zealand but you may still be liable for all other medical and related costs. www.acc.co.nz

International Student Office

<p>Mrs Catherine Smith</p>  <p><i>Director of International Students</i> School: 4810147 Mobile: 021 717 874 Email: csmith@northcote.school.nz</p>	<p>Mrs Diane Smith</p>  <p><i>Assistant Director. International Students</i> School: 4810141 ext 708 Email: overseas@northcote.school.nz</p>	<p>Ms Rebecca Philipson</p>  <p><i>Homestay Manager</i> School: 4810141 ext. 713 Emergency Phone: Mobile 027 481 0013 Email: homestay@northcote.school.nz</p>
<p>Ellen Wang</p>  <p>Chinese Student Advisor</p>		<p>Emergency Phone 027 4810013</p>

