



NEW ZEALAND

**NATIONAL
PROFILE**

2010 - 2011

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL YOUTH EXCHANGE NEW ZEALAND

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GEOGRAPHY:

New Zealand is in the Southern Pacific Ocean, 1600 km east of Australia. It is made up of the North Island, South Island and Stewart Island with a number of smaller islands. The total land area is 268,021 sq km.

There are many native birds, the most significant being the Kiwi. Many varieties of fish abound in our oceans, lakes and rivers. NZ is a rich green land with many National Parks bush areas and forests.

CLIMATE:

The seasons are the reverse to the Northern Hemisphere. Summer is from December to March, autumn from March to June, winter from July to August and spring from September to November.

HISTORY:

Polynesian people (Maori) first occupied New Zealand in the 9th - 10th Century. They named the country "Aotearoa" which means the "Land of the long white cloud".

Abel Tasman was the first European to discover N.Z. in 1642, but did not set foot on land. The first European to set foot on New Zealand soil was Captain James Cook, the English navigator & explorer, who visited N.Z. three times between 1769 and 1776. Sealers & whalers followed in the late 1700's and after them the Christian Missionaries. European colonisation began in the late 1800's.

The country became a British colony in 1840 with the signing of the "Treaty of Waitangi" - an agreement between Maori and European cultures. This was 6th February 1840, now it is a public holiday.

New Zealand had self-government in 1852 and was granted dominion status in 1907. New Zealand remains a British Commonwealth country today.

New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote in 1893.

All New Zealand citizens over the age of 18 years have the right to vote.

POPULATION:

New Zealand's total population in 2003 reached 4 million. Only 15% live in rural areas. 80% of NZer's are of European decent, 14.7% are Maori, 6.5% are Pacific peoples, 2.9% are Chinese and 1.7% are Indian.

About one-fourth of the population lives in Auckland, the largest city in the North Island and hosts many beautiful beaches and offshore islands.

About 12% of the population is Maori and about 75% of New Zealanders live in the North Island.

Wellington, the Capital City and centre of government, is at the southern tip of the North Island.

Christchurch, the South Island's largest city, is situated on the Canterbury plains, and is re-known for its garden atmosphere.

Smaller cities include Hamilton, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Hastings Rotorua and Dunedin.

POLITICAL

New Zealand moved from colonial to Dominion status in 1907, gaining full independence from Britain under the Statute of Westminster Adoption Act 1947. New Zealand is an independent state within the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth II is represented by the Governor General who summons and dissolves Parliament, and assents to legislation.

New Zealand now has a mixed member proportional (MMP) Parliament of approximately 120 seats: 67 electorate representatives and 53 party list members.

Prime Minister	Rt Hon John Keys
Deputy Prime Minister	Hon Bill English

FAMILY LIFE:

The average family has 2-3 children.

Young people usually live with their parents until they are 18-22 years. They may have to move to other cities for University or Tertiary studies. Young people living away from their parents live in hostels or flatting situations.

Grandparents usually live independently, either in their own house or an Elderly Persons Care Centre.

Many exchangeees want to live in a city or big town but **some of the ICYE host families live in the country**. Be prepared to be living more than one hours drive from a town, with no public transport system. Be also prepared to be open to all new environments, as it can be a very positive aspect of your exchange year in New Zealand.

CHURCHES & RELIGIONS:

Most Religions are represented in New Zealand, with the most predominant being Christian.

SOCIAL LIFE:

Entertainment in the cities includes cinemas, theatres, restaurants, dance clubs, bars and nightclubs. In smaller towns, Public Bars (Pubs) or Sport Clubs hosts many social activities.

IT IS UP TO YOU TO INITIATE ANY SOCIAL CONTACT!!!

The minimum legal age to enter a Public Bar or purchase alcohol is 18 years. You may be asked for identification under the age of 25. Always carry your ID with you or you may be refused entry. Many hotels have family bars where you can go with your host family regardless of age.

Our law makes people cautious of drink driving. There are many police checkpoints for driving over the alcohol limit. The fines are significant. **DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.**

Smoking marijuana is illegal. Drugs are also illegal.

SPORT & RECREATION:

New Zealand's outdoors offer an extraordinary range of activities to provide relaxation, adventure and challenge. As a people, New Zealanders, (also known as Kiwis), are active and enjoy outdoor activities. There are many opportunities for camping, tramping, horse riding, canoeing, fishing, skiing or surfing.

Many families are involved in Club sports, such as Rugby, Soccer, Cricket, Netball, Golf, Cycling, Sailing, Swimming, Running, Basketball, Volleyball, Hockey or just working- out at the Gym. A good way to meet young people is to join sports clubs. Remember, though, that the New Zealand sun is surprisingly strong.

ICYE NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand joined the ICYE International programme in 1964, under the auspices of the National Council of Churches.”

In 1967, we became an independent organisation, registered as an Incorporated Society (Inc). A small group of volunteers of all ages support ICYE New Zealand; some have shared the experience worldwide.

Our office is based in the North Island with the office operating from Tauranga, which is three hours drive south-east of Auckland. It is important that exchanges coming to New Zealand are well chosen and prepared to adapt to our casual and relaxed way of life.

HOSTING SITUATIONS & WORK PLACEMENTS:

Some of the Host placements are in small towns (less than 10,000 people). Many exchangees coming to NZ want to live in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch. This is very unlikely, as we do not have a large number of host placements in these cities.

Exchangees can experience 2 placements while in New Zealand. Host situations may be a "live-in" situation where the exchangee lives at the workplace. Exchangees must adapt to the lifestyle of their Host situation that may not be the same sophisticated and independent one they are used to. The ICYE Committee tries to place the exchangees in workplaces of their interest, however these are not always available.

Public transport is minimal, with sometimes only one bus in or out of your town per day so any weekend activities have to be planned out carefully with the help of your hosts.

We ask that all exchanges be flexible and try things they would not "normally" do.

Please use your initiative, common sense and show enthusiasm.

It is difficult to find **vegetarian** families so exchangees must be prepared to adapt to this situation. You will find that most families will try and fit in too with you.

The **English language** is most easily adapted to, learned and practised by communication within the host family or at the placement.

Sample of placements are:

Health Camps:

Throughout New Zealand, these camps are for children who need special medical attention, away from their own family. They may be from underprivileged homes, abuse or suffer dietary or behavioural problems. Exchangees will share rostered duties with other staff, and live in staff accommodation or in the parent accommodation block. Exchangees must show a great deal of maturity and be over 18 years of age and in some cases over 20 years of age depending on the Health Camp. The exchangee must have good spoken English and provide a **police report** from their home country. Children who attend this type of camp do have very unsettled lives and need a great deal of tolerance and understanding. They can be very "street wise".

Social Work:

This may be caring for intellectually handicapped people, elderly, disabled children or disabled adults. Your duties will range from laundry to kitchen work, housework, care giving, and companionship for the residents and helping out wherever called upon. This may also include placement at social service centres.

This work also requires a **police report**.

Environmental:

This work will mainly consist of working outside – Summer or Winter. The exchangee will be responsible for environmental work.

Farm placements:

The offering of farm placements has been a long established part of the ICYE NZ programme. This gave exchangees a unique experience to participate in a totally different lifestyle and to experience the “outdoors” of New Zealand.

Currently we do not offer farm placements to exchangees, but should you desire to participate in this type of work placement then please let us know on the preference list at the end of this work profile.

Police Report:

This is a report from your Police/Law Enforcement Agency, specifying that you have no criminal record in your home country. When dealing with children especially, this is a very necessary document insisted on by all our institutions.

CONFERENCES:

In New Zealand you will attend 3 compulsory Conferences if you are participating in the 12 month programme and 2 compulsory Conferences if you are participating in the 6 month programme.

The first is the Orientation Conference. This starts immediately after the window dates. This Conference gives the exchangee a chance to learn about New Zealand, it's culture and to meet the other exchangees from around the world who will share the year with you. English lessons will also be provided at this conference.

During the Orientation Conference we have an International night where all the exchangees are expected to come prepared to show us something of their country. You can perform on a dance from your country, sing, show artefacts, show your country's flag etc.

This evening is always a highlight for all and is only limited by your imagination. **THIS IS COMPULSORY YOU NEED TO COME PREPARED** to do a 5 minute presentation.

The second Conference is the Mid-Year Conference. (12 month programme only). This is an evaluation of the first half of your year and prepares you for the second half.

The last one is the Final Conference.

This conference will offer you the opportunity to reflect on your exchange year as a whole and to start with your preparation to return home. Evaluations need to be completed about your year in NZ together with a summary about your host placement to assist us in our future placements.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

Language will be one of the main obstacles you may have to overcome in order to really live and understand our culture.

IT WOULD BE A BIG ADVANTAGE FOR YOU TO GAIN A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF OUR GRAMMAR AND PRONUNCIATION BEFORE LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY.

TRAVEL MONTH:

ICYE NZ has a very strict policy regarding the travel time available to volunteers.

Volunteers who start the programme in August will take their travel time during the Christmas holidays. The confirmed dates for this will be given at the Orientation Camp.

Volunteers who start the programme in January will take their travel time in two parts. (Half way through the exchange year and at the end of the exchange year). The confirmed dates for this will be given at the Orientation Camp.

You will also not be able to take extra time off during your placement time to travel. It is advised that parents or friends who wish to visit you do this during your travel period so that they don't disrupt your time or the placement that you are volunteering in. You are also not able to stay in your placement during this travel time.

The travel month will cost you between \$3000 - \$4000 New Zealand Dollars.

THIS MONEY NEEDS TO BE SET ASIDE BEFORE YOU COME TO NEW ZEALAND

You can not expect to make this money while you are in New Zealand.

FINANCE & POCKET MONEY:

ICYE is a non-profit organisation.

Individual bank accounts will be opened during the Orientation Conference.

The pocket money will be paid into the exchangees bank account monthly by ICYE NZ. The pocket money amount is reviewed annually by the ICYE (NZ) Committee and is in line with the International Office.

It is VITAL that when you arrive in New Zealand you have enough funds or access to e.g. visa/mastercard etc, to keep you financially stable for the time that you are here, keeping in mind the cost of the travel month too, without relying on the funds gained from the pocket money.

TRANSPORTATION:

It is possible while in New Zealand to purchase a motor vehicle. However, you must obtain permission from the ICYE (NZ) Board before doing so. You are also required by law as well as in the vehicle purchasing form to have the minimum of third party insurance.

Also, any exchangee under the age of 20 years must have written permission from their parents before they are allowed to drive in New Zealand.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Most people take their family holidays over the Christmas / New Year period.

Schools close down over this period for 6 weeks from about the 20th December to the end of January. During the year they also have 2-week holidays in April, July and September.

The public holidays that are observed are as follows:

January 1 st	New Years Day
January 2 nd	Day after New Years Day
February 6 th	Waitangi Day
April (dates vary)	Easter (4 days off)
April 25 th	Anzac Day
First Monday in June	Queens Birthday

Third Monday in October	Labour Day
December 25 th	Christmas Day
December 26 th	Boxing Day

IMMUNISATIONS:

No immunisations are required for travel to New Zealand.

Exchangees from Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Taiwan need a TB certificate (Chest X-Ray Certificate) This is required by the Department of Immigration and should accompany your visa application.

HEALTH:

All exchangees are required to submit with their application form a full medical report from their doctor. We strongly recommend that prior to departure from your home country you fully understand the insurance cover provided by ICYE International office. Additional cover is advisable but is voluntary.

If you have any medical condition which needs ongoing treatment such as asthma, bronchitis we strongly recommend that you obtain a letter from your Doctor in the event of you needing further medication while you are here.

Remember that during your stay in New Zealand you will be often in the country and/or in a very close contact to nature, so in case you suffer any kind of allergy please, let us know. Most of host families do have pets, farm animals and live in the country!

Please also take note that failure to disclose ANY medical condition will result in your removal from the ICYE NZ programme and you being sent home.

INSURANCE:

All ICYE exchangees are insured while they are on the programme and you will receive information regarding the insurance cover from your sending committee before coming to New Zealand.

WHAT TO BRING:

A Back Pack – (not a suitcase)

Packing clothes for 1 year takes some thought.

We recommend bringing:

- Sunhat or cap – very important for the summer months
- Sunglasses
- Raincoat
- Set of good clothes
- T-shirts
- Warm jacket
- Swim suit
- Warm jersey/sweater/fleece top
- Good walking shoes and sandals
- Jeans/track-pants/shorts
- Towel
- Sleeping bag
- Typical things of your country to be shown at the International Evening party (such as music, typical dress, food, ornaments etc.)
- Photos and information about your family and country to show your host family any other interested people such as

- your receiving ICYE committee.
- English dictionary
- Small gift for your host placement

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS :

Passport
Visa
Return airline ticket
Police Report
Health Certificate
International Drivers Licence/Drivers Licence

ELECTRICAL ITEMS:

New Zealand electricity is run on 230 volts, - 50 hertz, with a 3 pin plug. Adaptors are available, should you wish to use appliances of a different current. Battery-operated appliances are the best.

TRAVEL/TICKETS

All airline tickets will be kept at the ICYE (NZ) office and returned in time for homeward travel.

Exchangees wishing to change their tickets sometimes must pay additional costs.

Exchangees must also organize their own change of date for their flight home. (This must be done in a timely manner).

ICYE is NOT to be used as a tourist programme!

WINDOW DATES:

You are required to arrive in New Zealand within the 2 specified window dates allocated to your sending committee.

Please note the following dates:

1 & 2 August 2010

Remember that these are NZ dates

Exchangees coming from the same country MUST travel on the same flight.

Note for the sending Committee:

Failure to arrive on these dates results in an extra charge to your sending committee of 100 Euro per person per day. Your exchangee/s MUST be here prior to the commencement of the Orientation Conference. Any National Committee that is sending more than one person to New Zealand, must have ALL the people arriving on the same flight, within the window dates.

VISA:

Before coming to New Zealand all exchangees must have a **VISA**. All exchangees are required to meet health, character and bona fide requirements.

Volunteers participating on the ICYE NZ programme from Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, UK and the USA need to now apply for the **Working Holiday Scheme (WHS)**. The link to this visa scheme is www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/work/workingholiday

This visa can be applied for online. Please note that when completing your application you must state that you are applying under the **ICYE Work Exchange Scheme**.

All other exchangees can apply for the work exchange visa using the invitation letter sent by ICYE NZ, the International Office To Whom it May Concern letter and must clearly state that they are applying under the **ICYE NZ 12 month work visa scheme**, please remember to ask for multiple re-entry. Please note that no invitation letter can be issued until the ICYE NZ office has received the full candidate application, health certificate, police report and copy of the exchangees passport.

The link for this visa scheme is www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/formsandfees/formsandguides/work once completed this application needs to be sent to the nearest NZ Embassy for processing.

Exchangees coming from Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, South Korea and Taiwan need a TB certificate (chest x-ray certificate).

Exchanges coming from Brazil need to complete a full medical and attach this to their visa application.

Additional information that may be useful when completing the visa applications:

The following countries, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Taiwan have limited placements available on the working holiday scheme. Therefore it is recommended that the ICYE NC that you are being sent through contact us here at ICYE NZ so that we check availability of places. Should these quotas be full then we are able to offer limited places on the ICYE NZ 12 month work visa scheme.

ICYE NZ should be listed as your NZ based sponsor while your sending ICYE NC should be listed as the overseas sponsor.

No exchangee is able to take paid employment and should they do this then NZ Immigration will revoke the visa and start deportation steps.

Exchangees should also hold a minimum of NZ\$3,000 for maintenance in NZ when they apply for their visa and when they travel to NZ.

Exchangees must have an outward ticket, either to their home country or other country in which they have the right of entry. Exchangees must also hold comprehensive medical insurance for the duration of their stay in NZ.