

ORMISTON SENIOR COLLEGE

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

WHAT TO BRING

- Return airline ticket
- Passport and current visa to study in New Zealand
- Travel/medical insurance policy
- Any medication you take regularly
- Laptop and mobile phone
- Adapter plug(s) for electrical items
- Spending money
- Personal items and clothes for all seasons (including pyjamas, waterproof jacket, jumpers, umbrella, warm clothing for autumn/winter months).
Spring/Summer (Oct – April) Swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen, shorts, t-shirts, light sweatshirts and raincoat (something that will keep you dry), sandals, good walking shoes
Autumn/Winter (May – Sept) Warm waterproof jacket, good walking shoes, umbrella, warm clothing; jumpers, woolly hat, scarf, long trousers, warm socks, slippers and pyjamas

IMPORTANT TIPS

- Passport that is valid for **at least** six months beyond your intended departure date.
- Book your flight so that you arrive a few days before the start of school. This will allow you to recover from jetlag and to get ready to start school.
- **New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA)** - All travellers to New Zealand from visa waiver countries, including those coming to study, must obtain an electronic travel authority before departing their home country. The NZeTA should be done through INZ's official website – www.immigration.govt.nz/nzeta or via the official app.
- Ensure you pack your own bags and do not carry anything for other people.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- Do not bring fresh food with you, even if it is in packaging. You are not allowed to bring fresh food into New Zealand.

- Make sure you let us know your flight and arrival details at least one week before you travel. If you are staying in a school-approved homestay, this will enable us to organise airport pick-up and book your travel insurance prior to departing from your home country. We will email you to confirm who will be collecting you from the airport. If you are living with a designated caregiver, they are responsible for collecting you from the airport.

HOMESTAY FAMILY

- We take great care when matching students with a suitable host family. The more information that you can tell us about yourself i.e. sports, hobbies & interests, siblings, allergies, any special dietary requirements the better we can match you with a family. All homestay caregivers aged 18 years and over are required to undertake a robust safety checking process including police vets to make sure that they are suitable to host. It is common for most NZ parents both mother and father to work. You will always have your own bedroom and usually share the bathroom with your host siblings or other international students. It is important that you agree to keep your bedroom tidy and leave the bathroom clean and tidy after use.

WHEN TO ARRIVE IN NEW ZEALAND

- We recommend you arrive just a few days before school starts as it can get a little lonely waiting without knowing anyone and your host parents are probably at work (most parents in NZ work). We encourage you not to arrive late, as the first days with our orientation are vital for you to fit into school life.

ARRIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

- Auckland Airport is very small in comparison to other airports around the world. When you arrive at Auckland airport, you should have completed a Passenger Arrival Card. Please complete the form and ensure that you declare everything. If you are not sure or do not understand, then ask for help.
- You will go through Passport Control, Baggage Claim and Customs. You should collect your baggage and walk through either the green exit (if you have nothing to declare) or red exit (if you have items to declare). It is important to understand that undeclared items will incur a minimum fine of \$200 NZD.
- In the public arrivals lounge, you will see either a member of our staff or a member of your host family waiting for you holding a sign with your name on it. If you get lost at the airport, please contact the emergency number **022 044 1602**. **Do not leave the airport** without the designated person arranged to meet you. You will be taken to your new home to unpack, settle in, get to know your new family and recover from your journey.
- Ensure you put your passport somewhere safe, or ask your host family to look after it.

CHANGING MONEY

If you have some money to change into New Zealand Dollars, it is easiest to do it at the airport. NZ\$200 - \$300 is plenty to see you through the first few days. You should also have access to money on a credit or debit card so that you can purchase your uniform. Please refer to NZ Uniforms website for prices of uniform items www.nzuniforms.com. You may want to buy a SIM card or an international phone card to use to let your parents know you got here safely. It is best to ask your homestay if you can call them to let them know you have arrived and safe in your new host family/designated caregiver.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) is an award scheme offering a comprehensive co-curricular programme. The scheme provides opportunities for students to develop skills in leadership, self-reliance and responsibility, along with a sense of place in the wider world. The award scheme is an internationally recognised award, which will make you more competitive when applying to universities and employers.

The Award has three levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold and challenge participants in four areas of life.

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| • Service | Giving help in the local community |
| • Skills | Any non-physical hobby, skill or interest |
| • Physical Recreation | Sport, dance and fitness |
| • Adventurous Journey | Training for, practising and completing a journey on foot, horseback, boat or cycle |

Practice Bronze expeditions will take place in late **February** and early **March**

Assessed Bronze expeditions will take place in **April** and **May**

International students are strongly encouraged to take part in this wonderful opportunity. Look at the Duke of Edinburgh website for further information www.dofehillary.org.nz. There is a charge for the adventurous journey camp of approximately \$150. Students will need to bring with them to NZ adequate outdoor hiking clothing – walking shoes, long walking trousers, warm fleece jumper, raincoat, sun hat, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, thick outdoor socks and a backpack.

SCHOOL PROGRAMME

- A full orientation and induction programme is available to view on the school website www.ormiston.school.nz/international. Please take time to read the programme so that you know when to be at school.
- You will be required to attend school wearing full school uniform.
- On the morning of your first day, we will go through an Orientation Programme with you.
- You will sit an ESOL test to determine your English level and to enable us to know which classes will suit you best.
- We will prepare a personal timetable for you.
- You are required to be at school by 8.45am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. On Thursday, school starts at 10.00am. If you are late, you must sign in at reception.
- If you are absent from school, your caregiver must contact the school.

You are always welcome to come and see me.
My office is located on the first floor (next to Careers Office).



Mrs Crossley
International Student Manager
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