

# Get a 'Hands-On' Education in New Zealand

Studying in New Zealand is a 'very hands-on' experience for most. Whether they're researching a doctoral thesis, training to become an outdoor adventure leader, or hoping to understand and predict natural disasters, they can enhance their studies in New Zealand with real-life experiences.



qualified as skydiving instructors, scuba diving instructors, and skiing or snowboarding instructors, to name just a few.

Along with the eight universities, New Zealand has 21 Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics around the country offering practical courses which lead to certificates, diplomas and degrees in a number of subjects. Often their courses include the opportunity to get valuable work experience as part of their programs. This gives students skills that just can't be learned in the classroom.

Hundreds of private training providers round out the options for students, with courses that lead directly to careers in fields like IT, business, travel and hospitality.

New Zealand has a national quality assurance system, called the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). This ensures that students taking courses in New Zealand are consistently getting a great education that can be transferred to other schools around the world and is recognized by potential employers. This makes it easy to complete an entire degree in New Zealand or just a few specialized courses as part of a semester abroad.

The small population of New Zealand also means that class sizes tend to be smaller, allowing students more personal attention from lecturers and tutors. The small classes, along with the emphasis on discussion

For students specializing in geology or environmental studies, New Zealand is the ideal place to get their hands dirty. The country has several active volcanoes, underground geothermal areas, low-lying glaciers, and is situated on the border of two tectonic plates. This allows for some unique research opportunities. Over one-third of New Zealand's area is protected parkland or forest, so it's easy to access natural areas without having to stray far from educational facilities or urban conveniences.

New Zealand's remoteness also makes it a great place to study protected wildlife, with populations of penguin, albatross, the world's only alpine parrot – the kea – and the world's heaviest insect, the giant weta."

New Zealand is also famous for being an adventure-lover's playground. The rugged but accessible landscape makes it a must-do for hikers, mountaineers, kayakers, surfers, skiers, mountain bikers, and of course bungee jumpers! For some, the great recreational activities in New Zealand are just a bonus of studying here. For others, the recreational activities are a key element in their studies.

Everything from a certificate to a postgraduate degree can be obtained in the field of outdoor recreation in New Zealand. Studying in a country renowned for adventurous outdoor experiences is ideal for students who want a piece of the action. In addition to more general qualifications, students in New Zealand can become

and participation in class, mean that students from overseas get to know their classmates quickly and make friends easily. Leisure time is important to New Zealanders, so students are likely to have a lot of fun while they're in the country. That balance of great education and memorable experiences is what makes New Zealand such a popular place to study.

Studying in New Zealand, whether for a few months or a few years, is an experience that international students treasure for the rest of their lives. You may get your hands a bit dirty, but you'll also get a chance to participate in practical training and research to help launch your career. ■

Source: Education New Zealand  
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