



# AN OVERVIEW OF **NZIIU** OUTBOUND EXCHANGES



**NZIIU** Student Exchange  
New Zealand Institute of International Understanding

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# WHY GO ON AN EXCHANGE?

## STUDENTS WILL:

- Learn independence and maturity
- Adapt to a whole new culture
- Discover a new country and see amazing sights
- Experience a foreign language in action
- Share day to day life with their host family
- Collect a lifetime of memories
- Fluency in the local language.

Getting good grades helps but speaking another language every day calls on a wide range of personal skills. If you do well, you'll have trouble remembering your English vocabulary when you come back. Your shiny new language will stay with you all of your life.

- **Understanding of the culture that can only come from living in it every day.**

You can visit another country as an older person but you will never be able to live it from the inside in this way at any other time of your life.

- **A perspective on your life in New Zealand that can only be truly felt by having some distance from it.**

NZ may seem quite strange to you for a while when you return.

- **A close family experience that you won't forget.**

It will give you a great perspective on your own upbringing. If things work out well, you will have a second family that you will know for the rest of your life. This is up to you, to the host family and chance. It can't be predicted. Bonding with your host family is very important to the overall success of your exchange.

- **New friends.**

This will be easiest if you have a good circle of friends in New Zealand and some reasonable grasp spoken language and colloquialisms when you arrive. The sooner you connect with your peers in your new school the sooner you will begin to have a good time.

- **A sense of confidence.**

Parents and students often mention it. Sometimes it is only obvious when you think back on your experiences much later. Tertiary institutions know about it and most will recognise that students returning from a successful exchange experience are more balanced in their views and more certain of what they want and more purposeful in getting it. These benefits come from meeting challenges yourself and dealing with them effectively.

# WHEN SHOULD I GO ON AN EXCHANGE?

There are lots of options and you should choose one that suits you best. Everyone is different and we try to give you advice that best fits your circumstances.

## THINGS TO CONSIDER:

You need to be 15 when you leave.

We very seldom make exceptions to this rule. That means most people are at least in Year 11 when they go. It is rare for people to go before the end of year 10 but sometimes we will consider it if a student is a little older than their classmates. Students sometimes go to France for six weeks at the end of year 10.

## IN YEAR 11

Most people want to complete NCEA Level 1 before going on exchange but year 11 can be a good year to go if you are a successful language learner and want to make fast progress to becoming fluent. For most countries you need to have at least two years of successful language learning and this is a good base to start from.

This usually means choosing an exchange in France, Spain, Germany or Japan. Year 11 is also a good time to go to the US. We often have students spending six weeks in France after NCEA Level 1 exams and coming back having made more progress in that time than they would have made in the next three years.

Germany is also a possibility if you want a two or three month exchange in December.

## IN YEAR 12

This is a good time to go on a long exchange. Talk to your teachers and see if you can return. Good students should be able to pick up their studies at a higher level after a year away. This is the best time for the USA though you can go in the first half of the following year if you apply soon enough.

If you are away for the whole of the NZ academic year, you may be able to go straight into Year 13 when you return. Talk to your teachers about it, especially your level dean and careers advisor.

## IN YEAR 13

This is an excellent year to go on a long exchange. If you do well in NCEA Level two you may be able to skip year 13 and go straight into tertiary training when you return from a year on exchange. You need to make sure you will complete your entry requirements before you leave. Talk to your careers advisor and to the institution you want to enter.

## IN A GAP YEAR (A YEAR BETWEEN SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY)

A lot of people like the idea of having a bit of time to think about their tertiary options and choose to spend a gap year on exchange. You can be 18 when you go and in some countries you can turn 19 on exchange.

Because you will probably be going on an exchange in the northern hemisphere, you should understand that the first half of your gap year is the final half of your school year up there. The Academic year usually begins in August or September. This means that the age group of your peers in your school year may be one or two years below your own.

You may find this challenging and for this reason we recommend a one-semester exchange for gap year students. This also allows you to return to NZ, get a job and save for university.

## TERTIARY TRAINING

Universities and other tertiary providers highly value students who have had a successful year on exchange. They believe that such students are usually more mature than their peers, better motivated, make better choices and progress faster in their chosen courses.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

If you don't already know the local language, learning it quickly is very important. A minimum of two years successful study is vital in France, Japan and Spain. In Italy it helps to have studied French or Spanish.

You need to start learning Italian, Dutch or German as soon as you decide you want to go to these countries. If you're already studying the local language, it helps to find a tutor in your home town. You may be surprised by your available choices.



## HOW LONG

The shortest exchange that we recommend is for six weeks to France after NCEA exams finish. The second most common choice for a short exchange is two or three months in Germany which also begins after NCEA finishes. Otherwise you should know that most students say that three months is too short and recommend a one or two semester exchange.

## PAYING FOR IT

The fee is paid to our affiliate. You have to find money for the airfare, transport to school, school lunches and pocket money. It's a lot and you may struggle to see how it can be done. It might be helpful for your parents to realise that they won't be paying for your food expenses while you're away and this will usually cover the pocket money.

You can help out by getting a job or fundraising. If it looks to others that you're really keen, you may be pleasantly surprised by who is willing to help. We think it's good for you to make a serious effort to find the money.

People who work hard are generally the ones who have the best time. We can offer needs-based scholarship support to those who need it. This doesn't come close to paying everything but it can take the sting out of the cost.

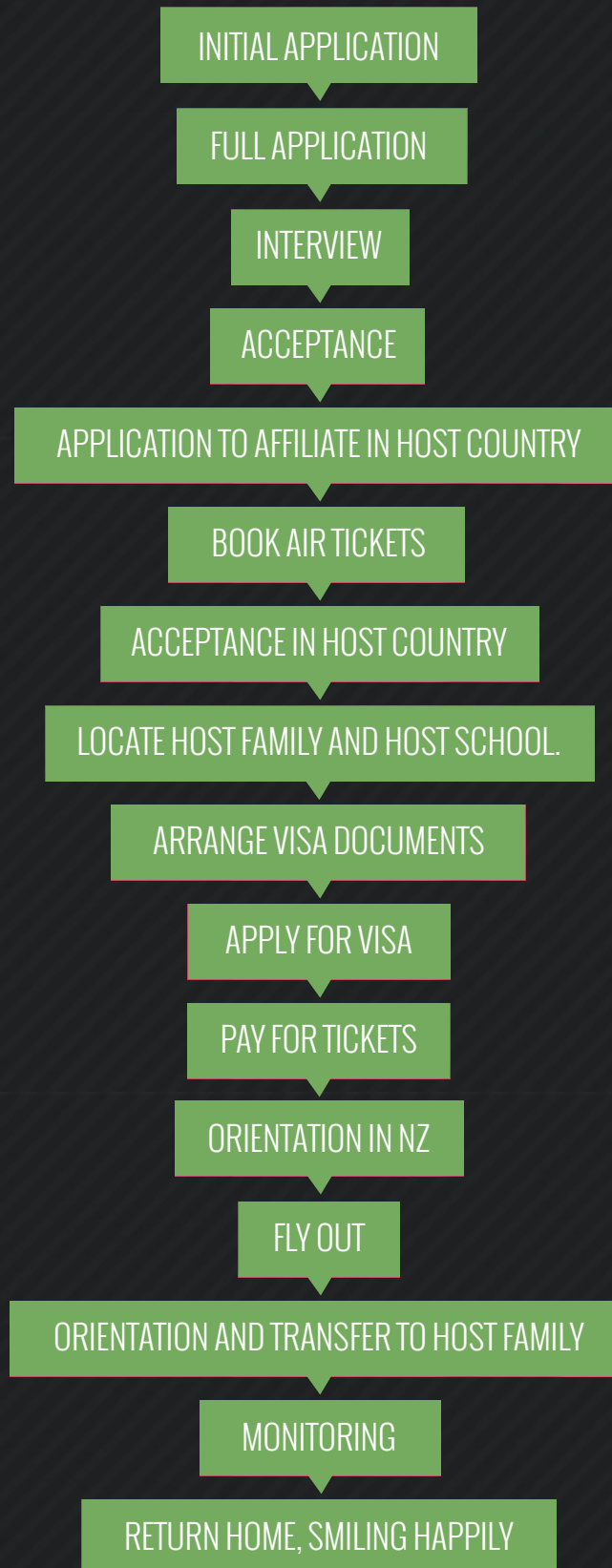
## APPLYING

Do it early. The sooner you get past your interview the sooner you will have certainty and be able to prepare. Check the date when your application has to be complete and start at least three months earlier.

## WHAT IF I'M IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN NZ?

Your teachers will probably advise you to wait until a gap year. Many private schools have short programmes run from their language departments. These aren't the same as a full immersion experience on your own.

# THE EXCHANGE PROCESS





# QUALIFYING

We are a non-profit, charitable trust that has been arranging exchanges for 25 years. We are registered with the Ministry of Education as an approved provider.

Students nominate the country and the programme that they want and if they qualify, we will send them.

“Qualifying” means they have to fulfil the programme requirements and must convince us that they will cope. Each country has different requirements but in all countries students need to be:

- **15 when they leave NZ**
- **able to consistently score “Achieved” in tests**
- **have a suitable personality profile**
- **have the support of their school**
- **be fit and well**
- **be supported by parents or caregivers**

## SELECTING STUDENTS

We do not have quotas except sometimes in the USA. We’re looking for socially competent, outgoing students with an interest in language and culture. They don’t have to be brilliant, just able to maintain results at an average or better level.

We’re also looking for supportive parents who can be relied upon to understand what is involved in a student exchange.

Teachers understand the broad range of criteria within which we operate and they encourage and discourage students accordingly. They have no say in the selection process but they can be influential.

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

NZIIU works in cooperation with partner organisations in other countries and contracts govern the exchange process in both directions.

## HOST FAMILIES

These are chosen by the affiliated organisation after a thorough application, interviewing and vetting process. They are volunteers except in Ireland.

## HOST SCHOOLS

International exchanges are well understood in schools in all of our host countries. They treat exchange students as local students and do not charge additional fees. However, the usual school charges for trips, books and stationery apply in most cases. We rarely receive a negative report about a school.

## VISAS

Most countries require visas for exchanges lasting more than six weeks. The processing of a student's visa by the relevant embassy takes anything from one day to six weeks. We make the arrangements.

The passport needs to be valid for at least three months beyond the end of the exchange.

## INSURANCE

Insurance of a particular standard is required by NZIIU, by our affiliates and by the host country. This is bought by NZIIU at the same time as the air tickets.

## MONEY IN THE HOST COUNTRY

Banking practices vary widely and change all the time. It pays to consult your bank well in advance. Most countries offer good access to ATMs.

We give advice on spending money and other costs in each country which are based on what returning students tell us.

## ORIENTATION

All exchange students receive a short orientation from NZIIU a month before they leave. Parents are welcome to attend.

Orientation deals with two aspects:

- 1 Nuts and bolts about getting there, being there and coming back.
- 2 Reminders about how to have a successful exchange.

Orientation sessions in the host country can be brief or take a few days. Our students often make friends with exchange students from other countries during this time.

## LANGUAGE STUDY

Reasonable competence in the host country's language is required except for Netherlands, Brazil, Thailand, Germany and Italy. On the other hand it pays to study before travelling to these countries. The more language skills students have on arrival, the sooner they will settle into their schools and families, the more they will understand and the happier they will be.

"Reasonable competence" usually means at least two years of study and preferably NCEA Level one with acceptable grades.

## SUPPORT

Students first support is themselves. Much of the growth in exchanges takes place because students find that they can solve problems without anyone's help.

Beyond themselves they have a host family, often a teacher and our affiliates appoint counsellors that students can call. If they are still unable to solve a problem, they can contact the affiliate's headquarters and if that doesn't work, NZIIU can become involved.

We encourage students not to rely on their NZ families for support in the first instance. If there is a serious problem, it is most likely to be quickly resolved without any initial involvements of NZ parents.

The fewer people involved, the clearer the problem will seem. We always contact parents when there is a significant problem and involve them if it is necessary.

## GETTING THERE AND BACK

We book the flights. Students pay what we pay. They usually have to arrive in a specific time frame.

We look for a balance among economy, safety, comfort, good stopovers and reputable airlines. Getting to most destinations is reasonably straightforward, sometimes with a choice of routes. But bookings often have to be made early.

We arrange and purchase insurance at the same time as the tickets. We give students lots of tips about travel.

We strongly discourage visits to your son/daughter while they're away. Seeing anyone from home can be profoundly unsettling for students. Homesickness can be a problem and we suggest strategies to students for dealing with it. One is to restrict contact of all kinds with anyone in NZ.

Sometimes visits can be arranged for special reasons but we need to know about them. Parents sometime join their offspring at the end of their exchange and travel together. We need to know about this well in advance for ticketing and insurance reasons.

## NO SURPRISES

Part of the application process involves medical certification. It is important at this stage that any problems or potential problems are revealed so that they can be properly discussed and assessed. Medical and psychological difficulties do not generally improve on an exchange.

It is very rare for a student to be removed from NZIIU programmes when they are overseas. This is mostly because we are careful with our screening and orientation processes.

## WHAT GOES WRONG

The exchange process is a complex adventure and sometimes there are hiccups which need to be dealt with. Sometimes things go wrong in host families as they do in the best-ordered NZ families. We help students to be aware of their role in these situations and if necessary will move them. This sometimes requires patience.

# ABOUT US

- We know what we're doing. We've had more 25 years of experience.
- We're home grown. We're a NZ non-profit charitable trust.
- We look after them well. We pride ourselves on a high standard of pastoral care and individual attention.
- We always give students their choice of country.
- We have 14 countries to choose from.
- Our affiliates are the best. NZIIU contracts overseas organisations that provide the best care and service for our students.
- You're not a number. By the time students leave, we know each other well. NZIIU has a genuine concern for their welfare.
- We do it all We provide a complete package, arranging homestay, visa applications, transport and accommodation arrangements (including transfers), insurance and orientation prior to departure.
- NZIIU is a registered non-profit, charitable trust. The charitable part of our operation includes supporting NZ students who want to have a cultural adventure through a school and family-based exchange.

## HOW KEEP COSTS LOW:

- 1** providing scholarships to help suitable students who need financial assistance;
- 2** charging for actual airfares separately from the fee;
- 3** charging the fees in the currency in which they are paid;
- 4** keeping costs low by not charging overheads.

This means that every exchange is subsidized by around \$2000 and some by \$6000. The fee charged by our affiliate, insurance and the airfare form the bulk of what we charge for exchanges.

## AIRFARE

This is a normal airfare and is much more expensive than the kinds of low-season or shoulder-season airfares offered as discounted specials by travel agents. It is charged separately and at cost.

## AFFILIATE FEE

This covers their charges to find and check-out a host family, arrange a host school, provide visa documents, meet, greet, orient and transfer our students and to support them during their

stay. The extent, cost and difficulty of these requirements vary markedly between countries.

## AFTER THE INTERVIEW

After the interview it seems as though nothing much is happening. In fact, a great deal of activity occurs within NZIIU and within our affiliated organisation. Almost all students receive their placement details within four weeks of departure.

The orientation occurs around four weeks before departure. We're at the airport on the day to make sure everything runs smoothly.

## PAYMENT

We require the whole fee to be paid before departure because we will have paid it by then. We start with a deposit to cover us if a student changes their mind and then split the rest up into installments.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Check out our website

[www.student-exchange.co.nz](http://www.student-exchange.co.nz)

for stacks of specific, current information.

or visit our Facebook page



NZIIU Student Exchange

# ARGENTINA

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	ZRETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*
Short Programme	By arrangement	By arrangement	By arrangement	Negotiable
Semester	24-25 July 21 February	Varies	15 March 25 October	€3950 €3950
Academic Year	24-25 July	Varies	15 March	€4670

*\* Prices are for fees only. Airfares and personal expenses are extra. Fees are quoted in Euros to keep them independent of exchange rate fluctuations and as low as possible. Prices for fees are current as of July 2013 but are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuates and contracts are renegotiated. Applications and interviews MUST be completed BY the application deadline.*

## SHORT PROGRAMMES

Our Argentinean affiliates offer a range of short programmes which include a mix of experiences including homestays, school contacts and cultural activities. If you're interested in one of these, just tell us what you'd like and we'll see what we can arrange.

## LONGER EXCHANGES

Students can go for one or two semesters starting approximately on the dates shown. Return dates depend upon the year, the school and region. We can advise you of these when you apply. You'll be happiest if you've studied Spanish for at least two years before you leave.

All exchanges start with an orientation in NZ and then a month later, a flight into Buenos Aires. You'll arrive with students from a range of different countries and be given a one week orientation. This could be in Buenos Aires but is more like to be in Rosario, a few hours drive northwest. This session includes language lessons and help with the local culture.

When it's over, you'll travel to your homestay. In some cases this will be reasonably close but in other cases you can expect to fly for an hour or two. Argentina is a very large county. The transfer fee from Rosario to your homestay family and back again is **not included** in the fee schedule listed above.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made before you leave and if you have applied at the correct time, you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process. Your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible, but the supply of generous and welcoming families is not to be bottomless and you must be prepared to adapt to the situation given. Successful placements depend as much upon you as the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three families.

## GAP YEAR STUDENTS

You can go when you are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but you must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. As a gap year student, you can have a little more freedom than most other students during the summer break but we need to be sure of your suitability. You can also sign out of the programme when you have completed it and then do some private travelling. However, completion dates are sometimes inflexible and it may be best to take advantage of what could be on offer during the year.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application in form in English. This takes most people quite a while to complete. It is then followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and takes about 3 hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it's good to apply early.

## VACCINATIONS AND VISAS

Requirements in Argentina are a little more difficult than in most countries. A broader range of vaccinations is required including proof that you are TB free and have had hepatitis B shots. The form-filling for visas also requires prompt action when the time comes and the fees for apostille stamps are not included in the programme price. They are often in the region of NZ\$200-300.



## NZIIU

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# BRAZIL

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN USD*
Semester 5/6 months	25-31 January 25 July	5 July 5 Jan	1 November 15 May	US\$4120
Trimester	25-31 January 25-31 July	25 April 25 Oct	1 November 15 May	US\$3040
Academic year (10/11 months)	25-31 January 25-31 July	By 5 January 5 July	1 November 15 May	US\$4793

*\*Prices are subject to change without notice due to rising airfares, fluctuations in exchange rates and contract renegotiation. Airfares are charged separately. There is about \$500 in additional visa, ID and translation expenses after acceptance in Brazil. ID card in Brazil is about US\$200. School fees are paid but there may be up to \$1000 of school related expenses in a year.*

## SHORT PROGRAMMES

Our Brazilian affiliate offers a range of short programmes of 4, 6, 8 and 12 weeks staying with a Brazilian family at any time of the year. Days are unstructured but help can be given with finding language instruction and itineraries. Tell us what you would like and we will see what we can arrange.

## LONGER EXCHANGES

Students can go for one or two semesters starting approximately on the dates shown. No NZ schools teach Portuguese but you're expected to begin studying as soon as you apply. Existing knowledge of a second language is a great help.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made before you leave and if you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Many students are in contact for a month or more. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process. Your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible, but the supply of generous and welcoming families is not bottomless and you must be prepared to adapt to the situation you are given.

Successful placements depend as much upon you as upon the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three families.

It is necessary to realise that although the Brazilian economy is now in good health, the Brazilian middle class is not as wealthy as the New Zealand middle class.

Placements are usually in the region around Goiania, a modern city southwest of the capital Brasilia. We do not place students in Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro as they are considered to risky.

Flights are usually through Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo with an escorted change of flights between airports in Sao Paulo.

Schedules frequently change at the last moment and students need to have a sense of adventure. Late applications may require a more complex flight arrangement and incur extra costs.

## GAP YEAR STUDENTS

You can go when you are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but you must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. As a gap year student you are still expected to sign up to our affiliate's set of rules governing the exchange.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious.

This is followed by a full application form in English which takes most people quite a while to complete. It is followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians pre-sent that takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go.

If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it is good to apply early.

## VACCINATIONS AND VISAS

You may need a yellow fever vaccination either before you leave or on arrival.

Visas can be complicated to arrange and the bureaucracy is some-times slow. Additional form-filling is required before you can be granted a visa.



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# FRANCE

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE
6 weeks	See below	By arrangement	Application in France by Sept 1	€2185*			
3 months	Arrive 1 Sept School starts 5 Sept.	Finish Nov 25**	Application in France by Apr 15 or May 1	€3408*	Arrive 6 Jan School starts 2 January	Finish Mar 27**	Application in France by 15 Sept or Oct 1
6 months	Arrive 1 Sept School starts 5 Sept.	Finish Jan 26**	Application in France by Apr 15 or May 1	€4295*	Arrive 6 Jan School starts 2 January	Finish June 20**	Application in France by 15 Sept or Oct 1
10 months	Arrive 1 Sept School starts 5 Sept.	Finish June 22**	Application in France by Apr 15 or May 1	€6195*	Arrive 6 Jan School starts 2 January	Finish Nov 25**	Application in France by 15 Sept or Oct 1

\*These are for fees only. Airfares are charged separately due to serious price fluctuations. Prices for fees are current as of July 2013 but are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuate and contracts are renegotiated. \*\*Return dates may vary by a few days.

## THE SIX WEEK PROGRAMME

Departure dates are different each year. The most recent departure took place two days after the end of NCEA and returned six weeks later. This exchange is a cultural experience inside a French family and not an opportunity to be a tourist while living with a French family and going to a French school. There are approximately ten days of school vacation time around Xmas and New Year celebrations providing a special experience with a French family at a special time. If enough students go, the exchange concludes with a guided Paris Cocktail Tour of three days and two nights taking in major sights.

## LONGER EXCHANGES

These all include a one-month language course in Paris at the beginning of the exchange. This involves about half a day of language instruction and the remainder of the day free. It is not obligatory to go on this course and if you don't want to do it, you should discuss this during your interview. You should remember that many French families regard their language as a national treasure to be used carefully and accurately. Many students have valued the language course very highly regardless of their facility with the language at the time they arrive in France. New Zealand exchange students are well-regarded in France for their warmth, their ability to fit easily into French families and for their enthusiasm for France and French culture.

## OTHER POSSIBILITIES

We can also arrange 2, 4, 6 and 10 month programmes. Dates and prices require negotiation.

## TRANSFERS

You will be met on arrival in Paris and transferred immediately to your host family. On shorter exchanges this can mean an immediate, sometimes long, train journey. You are not usually accompanied on this part of the trip but are met at the other end by either your host family or the local coordinator or both.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made before you leave and if you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process. Most placements are in Brittany and the northwest but you can be placed anywhere in the country. Your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible, but the supply of generous and welcoming families is not bottomless and you must be prepared to adapt to the situation you are given. Successful placements depend as much upon you as upon the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three families.

## GAP YEAR STUDENTS

You can go when you are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but you must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. French students are generally a little older than NZ students at the same stage of their schooling. As a gap year student you can have more freedom than most other students during the summer break in France but we need to be sure of your suitability. There is an additional fee for 18 year old students of about E100 for carte de sejours charges while in France.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. Then comes the full application form in both English and French. Most people take quite a while to complete this. It is followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/ guardians present and takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it is good to apply early.

## NZIIU

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# GERMANY

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*
2 months	By arrangement	By arrangement	By arrangement	€1930
3 months	By arrangement	By arrangement	By arrangement	€2230
Spring Semester	7 January	Late June-Early July	7th October	€3675
Autumn Semester	28 August	January	30 April	€3675
11 months	End of August	Mid July	15 April	€4460
11 months	Late January	Early January	15 October	€4460

*\* Prices are for fees only. Airfares and personal expenses are extra. Fees are quoted in Euros to keep them independent of exchange rate fluctuations and as low as possible. Prices for fees are current as of July 2013 but are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuate and contracts are renegotiated. Applications and interviews MUST be completed BY the application deadline.*

## PROGRAMME LENGTHS

Start and finish dates may be slightly different from those listed. Short two and three month programmes can be arranged in consultation with our affiliate in Germany. Please tell us what you would like and we will see if it can be arranged.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

These are offered in Term 1 by our German affiliate through NZIIU and pay for about half of the total cost.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

You need two years of German at least to be able to adapt quickly in Germany. English is widely studied and spoken but if you want a full cultural experience you will be happier if you are reasonably knowledgeable before you leave.

## ORIENTATION

We give all students a brief orientation before they leave and you will receive another orientation on arrival. Academic year students may receive a mid-year orientation and another about a month before they leave.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made as soon as possible and if you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more.

Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process. Most placements are around Cologne-Bonn but you can be placed anywhere in the country. Your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible, but the supply of generous and welcoming families is not bottomless. and you must be

prepared to adapt to the situation you are given. Successful placements depend as much upon you as upon the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three families.

## GAP YEAR STUDENTS

You can go to Germany when you are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but you must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. German students are generally a little older than NZ students at the same stage of their schooling and stay at school for longer. As a gap year student you can have a little more freedom than most other students during the summer break in Germany but we need to be sure of your suitability. The idea is that you become part of a family and don't just use the family home as a place to sleep while you're having fun.

## APPLICATIONS

The deadlines listed are for when we have to have your application in Germany. Applications begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic family and school details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form in English. This takes most people quite a while to do. It is followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months, so it is good to apply six months before you would like to go.

## VISAS

We arrange these for you. Visas can often be obtained in Germany rather than before you leave.



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# IRELAND

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*
First Semester	Late August	December	20 April	€5820
5 months	Late August	Late January	20 April	€7320
1st and 2nd Trimester	Late August	Easter Holidays	20 April	€8100
Academic Year	Late August	Start of June	20 April	€11,100

*\* Prices are for fees only and do not include airfares. But do include full board, insurance, transfers and orientation. Fees are quoted in Euros to keep them independent of exchange rate fluctuations and as low as possible. Airfares are booked as soon as possible and charged at cost. There can be long layovers. Prices are current as of September 2013*

## STARTING AND COMPLETION DATES

Starting dates are given to us when you have been accepted in Ireland and placed in a school as there are variations between schools and years. The end date is the appropriate number of weeks later.

## FEES

These are higher in Ireland because Irish families are always paid an honorarium for hosting. This is not at commercial rates so you are not a boarder but are part of the family as you would be in any other country. These are higher in Ireland because Irish families are always paid an honorarium for hosting. This is not at commercial rates so you are not a boarder but are part of the family as you would be in any other country.

## PLACEMENTS

Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process.

Most placements are around Cork and Dublin and are in the countryside. Our Irish affiliate is keen for students to understand that Ireland has a modern, bustling economy and while the Ireland of white-washed villages, leprechauns and four leaf clovers can be found, for most of Ireland it is as far in the past and as mythical as New Zealand's pioneering days are for us.

Being placed in the countryside means that students will be happiest if they are pro-active in seeking out their own local activities and involvement.

Irish society is generally more conservative than NZ.

Your host school is almost certain to be single-sex and to have a Catholic ethos, though people of all religions are welcome.

## ELIGIBILITY

You can go when you are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but you must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. As a gap year student, you can have a little more freedom than most other students during the summer break but we need to be sure of your suitability. You can also sign out of the programme when you have completed it and then do some private travelling. However, completion dates are sometimes inflexible and it may be best to take advantage of what could be on offer during the year.

## APPLICATIONS

Booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa can take three months so it is good to apply early.



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PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*
Short term	Negotiable	Negotiable	3 months before departure	Depends on programme
3 months	2 September 21 January	Flexible Flexible	23 February 21 August	€3236 €3236
Semester	2 September 27 January	Flexible Flexible	31 March 31 August	€4431 €4431

*\* Prices include insurance but are otherwise for fees only. Airfares and personal expenses are extra. Fees are quoted in Euros to keep them independent of fluctuations in the exchange rate and as low as possible. Airfares are charged at cost and booked as soon as possible to get the best available rates. Prices for fees are current as at July 2013 but are subject to change without notice as contracts are renegotiated.*

## SHORT PROGRAMMES

These can be arranged but unless you're familiar with Italian language, they can be quite difficult.

## LONGER EXCHANGES

You will require some knowledge of Italian before you leave. As soon as you are serious about going, you should start learning. We recommend that you engage a native speaker for one-on-one lessons at least once per week until you leave. You should also be studying independently or in a class or both. Some schools offer after-school or evening classes. Check your local Italian organisations and native speakers for information.

Students who have studied a language before, especially French or Spanish, will have less difficulty in picking up Italian than would a first-time language learner.

Return dates vary and can be extended if you have any plans to travel AFTER your exchange. You will be required to arrange your own transfer back to Rome to catch your flight back to NZ.

## ORIENTATION

We give all students an orientation before they leave and in Italy there is a five day orientation held near Rome. Organised tours are offered to long term students.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made before you leave and if you have applied at the correct time, you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process.

Your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible, but the supply of generous and welcoming families is not to be bottomless and you must be prepared to adapt to the situation given. Successful placements depend as much upon you as the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three families.

## GAP YEAR STUDENTS

You can go to Italy when they are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. Italian students are generally a little older than NZ students at the same stage of their schooling. As a gap year student you may have a little more freedom than most other students during the summer break in Italy but we need to be sure of your suitability. The basis of an exchange is that you become part of a family and don't just use the family home as a place to sleep while you're having fun.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form in English. This takes most people quite a while to complete. It is then followed by an interview/ chat at home with at least one of your parents/ guardians present and takes about 3 hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it's good to apply early.

## VISAS

We arrange these for you and should be fairly straight forward.

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# JAPAN

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN NZD*	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Term	20 March	28 June	25 October	\$3000	21 August	22 November	11 April
5 months	20 March	4 August	28 October	\$3500	24 August	12 January	15 April
10 months	20 March	12 January	28 October	\$6150	24 August	23 June	15 April

*\*Prices are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuate and contracts are renegotiated.*

*\*\*Airfares are charged separately.*

## ELIGIBILITY

You need at least two years of Japanese language study before you qualify. Anything less than this puts you in front of a learning curve that is unreasonably steep for most people and restricts the value of your exchange. Your birth date must be between April 1, 1995 and March 31, 1998 for exchanges in 2013 and 2014.

You're proposing to take part in a distinctive culture that is significantly different from most others. This means the set of challenges and rewards that you face are slightly different from what you would expect in other countries.

## SHORT EXCHANGES

These are no longer available due to difficulties in coordinating preferred times for NZ students with conveniently available times in Japan.

## LONGER EXCHANGES

These require a high degree of commitment to learning Japanese language and an enthusiasm for Japanese culture. We can no longer accept gap year placements as schools in Japan are currently very reluctant to take older students.

## PLACEMENTS

You will be met on arrival in Paris and transferred immediately to your host family. On shorter exchanges this can mean an immediate, sometimes long, train journey. You are not usually accompanied on this part of the trip but are met at the other end by either your host family or the local coordinator or both.

## PLACEMENTS

If you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Most

students are in contact for a month or more.

Host families have to go through an interview and vetting

process and have the same motivations for hosting as families in other countries. Placements can be anywhere in Japan but most are in the region between Tokyo and Kobe.

Unlike other countries, hosting in Japan is often only for two months at a time. This means that you have to be prepared to change host families every two months while staying at the same school. This sounds a bit difficult but returning students invariably say that it has huge benefits as well as challenges. After ten months in Japan at one school, you could have had five completely different views of Japanese culture and Japanese family life. This requires understanding and a positive frame of mind.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic family and school details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form in English. This takes most people quite a while to do. It is followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months, so it is good to apply early.

Late applications can sometimes be accepted but students must be willing to understand that they can cause delays and frustrations.

## ORIENTATION

We give all students an orientation before they leave and in Japan there is a three day orientation held for exchange students from many countries. It is usually held near Narita Airport and you will spend two nights here before being transferred to your host family.



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# NETHERLANDS

PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Semester 5 months	January**	June ***	October 1	€5245	August**	February***	May 1
Academic year 10 months	January**	November***	October 1	€5865 or €6235	August**	June***	May 1

*\*Prices are subject to change without notice as flight charges, exchange rates fluctuate and contracts are renegotiated. Airfares are charged separately. An extra \$200 is payable for late visa applications. \*\*Actual dates are proposed by our affiliate when the application is complete. Costs depend on start date. \*\*\*Students leave the Netherlands within two weeks of the end of the programme. Visa costs of about \$100 are payable on registering in Holland and are included in the fee. Also included are insurance, orientation, bicycle and excursions organised by Travel Active.*

## LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

You need to be fluent in English and it is preferable for you to have some knowledge of Dutch before you leave. It is also desirable that you have some idea of Dutch culture and ways of communicating.

Bicycles are a major, daily form of transport and you can expect to use them. Some Dutch people cycle for a considerable distance each day. Food and meals are very different from most NZ families.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made before you leave and if you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process and your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible. However, it is best to keep an open mind about which situation is going to give you a good experience.

Successful placements depend as much upon you as upon the family you're given. Most students stay with the same family all the time.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple initial application brochure. It requires basic details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form. This takes most people quite a while to complete. Then comes an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present. Most people who get to this stage are able to go on exchange. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, and buying insurance. This can take three months so it is good to apply early.

## VISAS

If you have a UK or European passport you will not need a visa. If you are travelling on a New Zealand passport, your visa will be arranged after you have arrived. Five month programmes can be extended but there is a substantial additional fee.

## ORIENTATION

You will receive a brief orientation before you leave and on arrival will be transferred to accommodation with other exchange students. Everyone will have an orientation session which will include language instruction.



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PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN EUROS*
2/3 months	7-21 November	Before 28th Feb	1 August	€2931
Fall Semester	13-20 September	25-30 January	1 June	€3731
Spring Semester	1-10 February	June	1 November	€3731
Academic Year	15-30 September	June	1 June	€4500
10 months	1-10 February	Before 30 Nov	1 November	€5235
11 months	1-10 February	Around 20 Dec	1 November	€5235

*\* Prices are for fees only. Airfares and personal expenses are extra. Fees are quoted in Euros to keep them independent of exchange rate fluctuations and as low as possible. Airfares are charged at cost and are booked as soon as possible to get the best rates. Prices for fees are current as of July 2013 but are subject to change without notice exchange rates fluctuate and contracts are renegotiated.*

## PROGRAMME LENGTHS

These are variations on the usual semester and academic programmes found in other parts of Europe. Actual start and finish dates may be slightly different from those listed.

## LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

Students who have studied a language before, especially French or Italian, will have less difficulty in picking up Spanish than would a first-time language learner. Students are sometimes accepted if they have not studied Spanish before but they generally find the learning curve very steep. You will be more comfortable adapting to Spanish culture if you have had at least two years of formal study of Spanish at the time you apply. The more you have, the faster you will adapt and the more you will gain from an exchange.

## ORIENTATION

We give all students an orientation before they leave and you will receive another brief orientation in Spain on arrival.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made as soon as possible and if you have applied at the correct time, you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more. However, in Spain, placements are typically late and waiting can be stressful.

Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process. Most placements are around Madrid in central Spain and in the northwest but you can be placed anywhere in the country. Your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible, but the supply of generous welcoming families is not bottomless and you must be prepared to adapt to the situation you are given. Successful placements depend as much upon you

as upon the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three families.

## GAP YEAR STUDENTS

You can go to Spain when you are 18 and can turn 19 while on exchange, but you must apply while still enrolled at school in NZ. Spanish students are generally a little older than NZ students at the same stage of their schooling. As a gap year student, you can have a little more freedom than most other students during the summer break in Spain but we need to be sure of your suitability. The basis of an exchange is that you become part of the family and don't just use the family home as a place to sleep while you're having fun.

## APPLICATIONS

The deadlines listed are for when we have to have your application in Spain. In the past this has turned out to be very important. Applications begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic family and school details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form in English. This takes most people quite a while to do. If followed by an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and takes about 3 hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it's good to apply early.

## VISAS

We arrange these for you. Spanish bureaucracy is fairly ponderous and demanding and you will be asked to obtain apostille stamps and other documents before you leave. It is important that this is done quickly.

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PROGRAMME	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	PRICE IN \$US*	DEPARTS	RETURNS	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Semester 5/6 months	Late August or early September	Early January	28 February	US\$4366	Late January	By 30 June	30 September
Academic year (10/11 months)	Late August or early September	By 30 June	28 February	US\$5328	ONLY in late August or early September		

*\*Prices are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuate, airfares vary and contracts are renegotiated.*

*\*\* Fee does not include international and domestic airfares. These are charged separately at cost.*

## SEMESTER AND ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMMES

Our US affiliate offers semester programmes starting at the beginning of each semester OR academic year programmes which start only at the beginning of the academic year in late August or early September.

## EXPECTATIONS

The USA can be a very exciting destination and it requires a strong sense of adventure in order to go there and to have a successful exchange. The country is huge and so is the range of environments in which you can be placed. Unfortunately, you can't choose where you go.

Many people think that they will be going to a version of a TV programme where they will understand and recognise everything. That isn't necessarily the case as many communities use unusual variations of English and some are not predominantly English-speaking. It is important to recognise that while the USA is an English-speaking country, it is culturally different from New Zealand, often strikingly so.

Our ability to place you is restricted first of all by your age. Most US students leave for university at the end of Year 12 and schools are often reluctant to accept NZ Year 13 students in January and are not permitted to take those in a gap year. Sometimes we have quotas. Preference is given to those who apply early and complete forms satisfactorily.

## PLACEMENTS

These are made before you leave and you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave, usually

much longer. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process and your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible. However, it is best to keep an open mind about which situation is going to give you a good experience.

Successful placements depend as much upon you as upon the family you're given. Placements are for the full time of your exchange.

## APPLICATIONS

These begin with the simple form in the initial application

brochure. This is followed by a full application on-line. Then comes an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and it takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go on exchange. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it is good to apply early.

## VISAS

Visa processes are quite stringent in the USA due to events of recent years and it is important to have all documentation filled out completely and accurately. This makes things run smoothly. You will be required to leave the country within one week of the end of your exchange. Programmes are extendable under specific circumstances for US\$1300.

## TRAVEL

Travel is extra and you are charged what it costs. Travel is usually in and out of LA or SF and then there is a domestic leg which must also be paid for. Recent placements have been in California, Montana, Kentucky and North Carolina.



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