



**INFORMATION TO HELP YOU SETTLE IN
AUCKLAND**

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

WELCOME TO AUCKLAND



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE STAFF – LOCATED IN CM BLOCK

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 111

FOR ANY OTHER MATTERS CALL MRS KING 021 1578776

St Mary's College provides a caring environment with a dedicated team of International staff offering 24 hour support.

Mrs Sue King is the **Director** of International Students and manages all student welfare including communications with the students' families or agents. Please make sure you have Mrs King's number in your phone for an emergency:



Mrs Sue King – International Student Director

Tel: +64 9 376 6568 ext 817

Mob: +64 21 157 8776

sking@stmaryak.school.nz

Ms Sam Van Deventer is the **Homestay Coordinator** who arranges homestay accommodation with approved families. She can help with any homestay issues and ensures each student is happy at home.



Ms Sam – Homestay Coordinator & International Support

+64 9 3766568 ext 817

Mob: +64 21 261 2779

sbignall@stmaryak.school.nz

Ms Beverley Steward is the **International Dean** and Head Teacher of ESOL (English as a Second Language) who ensures that the students are supported in their English language and are achieving the academic standards. Ms Steward monitors attendance, advises on subject choices and can recommend extra tutoring during school lunchtimes or after school if required.



Ms Steward – International Dean

+64 9 3766568 ext 722

Mob: +64 21 025 05758

bsteward@stmaryak.school.nz

Advice when you first arrive in NZ

Contact your family at home to say that you have arrived safely.

- Convert your mobile phone for use in New Zealand (SIM card)
- Open your BANK ACCOUNT

Culture Shock

When you leave your own culture and go to another, you may experience a wide range of feelings and reactions. It is common for international students to experience feelings of excitement and enthusiasm on arriving in New Zealand. After you have settled into your studies, you may experience feelings of loneliness, sadness, home-sickness, isolation and possibly frustration and anger or you may doubt your decision to come to New Zealand.

Experiencing some or all of these feelings is known as culture shock. Don't worry, this is normal and you are not alone. Every student is affected by it in one way or another. Some of the differences between life in your home country and life in New Zealand may be:

- Language
- Food
- Social life
- Religious beliefs
- Education system
- Family life

Other differences that you may experience include:

- How other students relate to their teachers
- How people spend their leisure time
- How people resolve conflicts and disputes
- How people make decisions
- How people express feelings and emotions and the meanings of hand, face and body movements

Due to these feelings, you may be asking yourself questions such as:

- "Am I speaking properly"?
- "Do people understand me"?
- "Will I be successful in my studies"?
- "Will I find friends here"?
- "Should I discuss my personal problems with anyone"?

Your body and your mind may react in unusual ways to the stress and confusion of living in a new culture.

Some of the reactions you experience may be:

- Feeling isolated or alone
- Feeling confused
- Missing your family and friends back at home
- Sleeping too much or tiring easily
- Suffering body pains, especially in the head, neck, back and stomach
- Wanting to return home
- Feeling angry towards local people
- Depending on other people from your home country
- Feeling nervous
- Finding it difficult to express yourself in English



Leaving Home

- ◆ Nervous
- ◆ Excited
- ◆ Happy
- ◆ Sad
- ◆ Full of Hope



Arrival in New Zealand

- ◆ Confused
- ◆ Tired
- ◆ Still Happy
- ◆ Adventurous
- ◆ Everything is new
- ◆ Everything is different

Culture Shock

- ◆ Lonely
- ◆ New Food
- ◆ New Language
- ◆ Difficult to Study
- ◆ Foreign Environment
- ◆ Frightened
- ◆ Hard to make friends
- ◆ Tired from speaking English all the time
- ◆ Nothing seems right



FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS



New Zealand is Great

- ◆ Now feeling confident, successful and happy
- ◆ Hope for the future
- ◆ Looking forward to University



Settling In

- ◆ Enjoying study
- ◆ Making friends
- ◆ Beginning to adapt to new culture
- ◆ Things are not so bad
- ◆ Getting involved in school activities
- ◆ Enjoying different food
- ◆ Understanding English
- ◆ My homestay feels like home



What Have I Done?

- ◆ Extremely homesick, missing family, friends, shops, food and pets
- ◆ Miserable
- ◆ Was I right to come to New Zealand?
- ◆ Does anybody like me?
- ◆ Hopelessness
- ◆ Everything is terrible
- ◆ Want to sleep all the time



IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Public/School Bus Transport

To school – refer to the school’s website:

http://www.stmaryak.school.nz/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=125&Itemid=508

Transport Around Auckland – see separate page attached.

Living Arrangements for International Students (3 OPTIONS)

1. Homestay – see Homestay Information Pack.

2. Designated Caregiver

Living with a DCG (Designated Caregiver). A DCG is a person who has been designated by the family to take care of you. This person must be a relative or a close family friend. Your parents will have signed a declaration stating that this person is either of these and is very well known to them. A member of the International Staff will visit the home prior to your arrival /moving in to confirm that this is a suitable and safe environment for you to live in. **You must never move into a DCG without permission from the International Department.** An annual Designated Caregiver Fee is payable when you move into a DCG and for each subsequent change.

3. Parent

Living with one or both of your parents who will have a Guardianship (Visitor) Visa. This means you have been granted permission to stay in New Zealand and look after you, while you are studying. If for some reason your parent has to return to your own country, **you must advise the International Department before you leave. This is very important, so that alternative accommodation can be arranged or approved for you.**

You are not permitted to live alone or in a flatting situation with any other students’, regardless of their age. Any move must be approved by the International Department prior to the move.

It is the responsibility of **you** and your New Zealand guardian/caregiver to inform the International Department of any changes in your accommodation **before you move.** When you live in a homestay, you are living in a family home and you should expect the same restrictions as you would in your own home. If you make a real effort to become part of the family, your time there should be enjoyable.

Alcohol & Smoking

In New Zealand people younger than 18 years of age are not permitted to drink alcohol. Students are forbidden to have in your possession any tobacco products, alcohol, drugs, unauthorised medications, offensive and dangerous weapons, matches and lighters. In this case you will be dealt with seriously and may be required to leave the school.

If you are under 18 you can't:

- Drink in a public place, go into pubs and bars
- Buy alcohol or get an adult to buy you alcohol
- Carry a fake ID or use someone else's

There are heavy penalties for people who drive having drunk alcohol. The sale of cigarettes or other tobacco products to people under 18 is prohibited. SMC students are not permitted to smoke.

Mobile Phone

It is expensive to call overseas from New Zealand, so the best thing to do is to buy an International Phone Card (SIM) or use Skype/WeChat or similar tools. You can ask your homestay or agent to do this when you first arrive. Make sure you have your timetable downloaded on your phone and Mrs King's phone number 021 157 8776.

Importing Goods into New Zealand

Only items for your personal use should be delivered to your homestay address (or any other address) in New Zealand. **You are not permitted to receive goods for other people or sell items that have been delivered to your address whilst studying at St Mary's College.**

Extra money

Your homestay fee includes accommodation and food. It does not cover special toiletries, stationery, bus fares or extra snacks at school.

Social Activities & Manners

New Zealanders, especially males, often shake hands when meeting each other for the first time. When you want to meet with someone professional, for example a doctor you need to make an appointment first to meet them. On most occasions you cannot simply turn up without organising a meeting first. This applies not only to meetings with professionals but also with friends. New Zealanders rarely visit each other without calling in advance and letting the person know that you intend to visit and what time you will arrive.

Your friends will be welcome in the house but, out of courtesy, you should seek permission from your host family before you invite friends home, particularly if you want them to eat with you and the family.

You should remember that one of the main reasons that you are studying in New Zealand is for you to learn to speak English. If you are living with an English speaking family, it is polite to speak English when you are in the family areas of the house. Please remember this if you have friends visiting.

If you are going out in the evening, you must ask permission from your host family before you go out. Let them know where you are going, who you are going with and what time you expect to be home. If, for any reason, you are going to be late, you must let the family know so that you do not worry about you. **You should always give them your mobile number and ensure that you keep it switched on when you are away the home and that your mobile phone battery is fully charged before you leave the house.**

You are not permitted to stay out overnight regardless of your age, without permission from your homestay parents.

Curfew

The New Zealand law says that young students are to be under supervision at all times, unless we receive written permission from your parents.

The following are times students must be home are an indication only and you can discuss these further with your host family. Your host family and you will be able to agree a mutually convenient time to be home and this must be adhered to at all times. If you are going to be late, it is very important that you ensure your host family are aware. If you fail to do this, then it could cause unnecessary concern and worry for your family.

AGE	SUN – THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Under 15 years	6.00pm	Under Supervision	Under Supervision
15-16	7.30pm	10.00pm	11.00pm
16-17	7.30pm	12.00am	12.00am

Travel and Activities during School Holidays and Weekends

You are not permitted to travel around or out of New Zealand unsupervised at any time during your period of study with St Marys College, unless you are flying directly home to your own country. The International Department can advise you of suitable approved tours that are available. (Additional costs will be incurred for these trips.) Before undertaking any of these trips, a Leave form should be completed which includes written permission from both your parents and homestay/designated caregiver. For further information see the International Office.

Some Ideas for Your Safety

Auckland is a safe city, but like all big cities, common sense and some care are needed.

Please take care of your belongings at all times, particularly cameras, MP3 players, laptops and mobile phones. Also take care of your money, and don't carry too much cash with you. Most of your money should be kept safely in the bank.

Safety Reminders

- Do not walk alone at night, especially in dark places or parks.
- Let your home-stay know where you are going and when you will be coming back home- make sure it is not late.
- Carry a cell phone or local telephone card, a map, your address and telephone number.
- Carry a telephone number for a taxi company in case you need transport home. Taxis are more expensive than other public transport but can be good for occasions where several people are sharing the fare or when public transport is not available, such as late at night.
- Always carry your bag and wallet with you.
- Make sure you keep your passport and any other important documents in a safe place.
- **If there is an emergency, 111 is the direct number for the fire brigade, police or ambulance.**

Pedestrian Safety

As a pedestrian, it's important that you follow the road rules and guidelines shown below. You will help ensure your safety when you're walking near roads or crossing the road.

If you need to cross the road when you get off a bus, wait until the bus has moved away before checking for moving vehicles.

If you have to cross the road between parked vehicles, move out as far as the headlight of a parked car nearest the traffic, then check for moving vehicles and wait for a gap before crossing the road.

Pedestrian crossing - you are within 20 metres of a pedestrian crossing or traffic signals, you must use the crossing, footbridge, underpass or pedestrian traffic signals to cross the road. Don't dawdle on a pedestrian crossing. Don't step out suddenly onto a pedestrian crossing if any vehicles are so close to the crossing that you cannot stop.

Courtesy crossings- Courtesy crossings are not official pedestrian crossings. You provide a place where drivers can stop safely to allow pedestrians to cross. However, drivers are not obliged to stop at courtesy crossings, so use them with care.

St Mary's International students are not permitted to drive or own a car at any time during your studies

Part time work

Students who are studying at year 12 and year 13 **MAY** be given permission from the International Department to work part-time. This is a change that has to be actioned in your visa.

Information about New Zealand:

The ethnic make-up of New Zealand's population is very diverse; it is mainly comprised of a mix of Maori, European (Pakeha), Asian, Middle Eastern and Pasifika people (people from the Pacific region).

New Zealanders are generally friendly. You like to joke and smile but are slow to make friends with others. It is important to meet and get to know New Zealanders. Try to get out and meet lots of people, once you have formed one friendship it will be easier to make others. It doesn't matter if you make mistakes with your English. Making mistakes and learning from them will improve your communication.

Thank you

Thank you is a phrase often used in New Zealand – even for small favours it is polite to say thank you.

Religion

St Mary's College is a Catholic school:

CATHOLIC (CHRISTIAN) BELIEFS

- RELIGIONS around the world include CHRISTIANITY, Buddhism, Muslim
Two main parts of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH are Catholics and Protestants
- We believe in God – Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus was born as a baby 2015 years ago
- We celebrate Jesus' BIRTHDAY on Christmas Day
- The BIBLE is a book about the time before Jesus was born, the 33 years he was alive and sometime afterwards
- We believe Jesus died on the Cross and he came alive again
- We believe Jesus is with God in Heaven
- We believe Jesus is part of God
- Mary was Jesus' Mother and very special

Discrimination

New Zealanders should not discriminate - it is against our law. This means that men and women are treated equally and women must be shown the same respect as men. It does not matter what country a person comes from or your religion or if you have a disability- you should be treated as an equal and you should treat them as an equal too. If you think you have experienced discrimination contact the International Department or another senior staff member. Your complaint will be taken seriously.

Tipping

Tipping is not expected. People occasionally tip the waiter/waitress in an expensive restaurant. Tips are not given in cafeterias or fast food restaurants.

Toilets

Public toilets in New Zealand are generally free to use and are usually segregated for male and females. You are non-squatting, European-style toilets. Water basins are available for washing hands and usually have two taps: one for hot water and one for cold.

Punctuality

If you are meeting someone or attending classes, it is important to be on time. When meeting friends or family, however, it can be acceptable to be about 10–15 minutes late. If you are going to be late, it is courteous to call and let the person know when you expect to arrive.

Dealing with the opposite sex

New Zealand is a very open society. On the whole, men and women integrate freely and there is little segregation between the sexes. It is normal for males and females to be friends and to socialise together. You will probably have both male and female teachers and support staff. Men and women are treated in the same way and take on similar roles in society. In New Zealand, women are often in positions of authority such as business leaders, and politicians, and the role of the wife/mother in a New Zealand family may be slightly different from what you are used to.

Clothing

On most occasions New Zealanders dress informally but relatively conservatively. It is not uncommon however, to see men wearing shorts and no shirts, and women wearing sleeveless tops and short skirts or shorts during the summer.

Manners

When shopping, going to the bank or visiting any other place where others are doing similar things to you, a queuing (or lining up) system is used. This means that whoever comes first will be served first ("First come, first served"). It is considered bad manners to go ahead of someone else, who was already there when you arrived.

New Zealanders find spitting and littering offensive. Some New Zealanders can get upset if you see people behave in these ways.

International Student Attendance Policy

You are required to attend 100% of your programme.

If you are sick and cannot come to school, your caregiver must phone the Attendance Officer 09 376 7568 and you must bring a note from your caregiver to explain your absence the following day. **This note must not be written by you, or your guardian or Agent.**

If you have unexplained absences or poor attendance we are required to inform Immigration NZ who are likely to revoke your visa and you may be sent home.

Immigration

Full details of immigration requirements, advice on rights to employment in New Zealand while studying, and reporting requirements are available from Immigration New Zealand, and can be viewed on your website at www.immigration.govt.nz.

Eligibility for Health Services

Most international students are not entitled to publicly funded health services while in New Zealand.

Accident Insurance

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. Further information can be viewed on the ACC website at www.acc.co.nz.

Compulsory Insurance

It is compulsory for you to have current medical and travel insurance for the duration of your programme of study in New Zealand. This is a condition of your study visa and the insurance must cover you from the date when you leave your country to the expiry date of your visa plus one week. If your insurance was not arranged through St Mary's College then it is your responsibility to ensure that the school is provided with copy of your valid insurance policy. If you do not have valid insurance then you will not be allowed to attend your classes.

Phone Directory:

Emergencies:	
Fire, Police, Ambulance	Dial 111
Civil Defence	0800 22 22 00 For information and advice before, during and after an emergency such as earthquakes, tsunami, fire, floods and volcanic eruptions

Health	
Doctor (GP) near the school Search the Health Point website to find a GP close to where they live: Healthline number:	CityMed Doctors Address: 8 Albert St, Auckland, 1010 Phone: 09-377 5525 http://www.healthpoint.co.nz/ 0800 611 116.
White Cross Accident & Medical Emergency Doctor	Address: 202 Ponsonby Rd, Ponsonby, Auckland 1011 Hours: 7:30AM–8PM Phone: 09-376 5555
Family Planning Association	www.familyplanning.org.nz

Counselling Services:

Lifeline New Zealand	(09) 522 2999 or www.lifeline.co.nz/ A free, confidential and non-judgemental telephone counselling service. Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days.
Youthline	0800 376633 or text support on 234 or email talk@youthline.co.nz or http://www.urge.co.nz/home.html Youthline offer a range of services for young people and your families across New Zealand and is available 24 hours a day.
Chinese Lifeline	09 522 2088 or outside Auckland call 0800 888 880. Provides a confidential and free telephone counselling and support service for Cantonese and Mandarin speakers. Operating hours are Mon-Sun 10am-2pm; Mon-Fri 7pm-10pm.

Government Departments

Settling in NZ	www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz
Immigration New Zealand	www.immigration.govt.nz Information to assist you settling into New Zealand http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/study/imaccepted_tellmemore/informationforyourfirstfewdays/ Information for your first few days in New Zealand http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/study/imaccepted_tellmemore/settlingin/
Visa's Studying in New Zealand	https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study
Ministry of Education	www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/international A Guide to living and studying in NZ http://www.minedu.govt.nz/~media/MinEdu/Files/EducationSectors/InternationalEducation/ForInternationalStudentsAndParents/LivingGuideEnglishVersionPDF.pdf Resources for Chinese students http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/InternationalEducation/ForInternationalStudentsAndParents/LivingAndStudyingNZ/YourCultureAndCommunity/ChinaResources.aspx Resources for Korean Students http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/InternationalEducation/ForInternationalStudentsAndParents/LivingAndStudyingNZ/YourCultureAndCommunity/KoreaResources.aspx
NZQA	http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/
The Code of Practice	http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/

