

Information Sheet – Inbound Exchange Students

(**Note:** the information provided in this Information Sheet and on our websites is the information currently available as at August 2025 which may be subject to change.)

Name of University	University of Canterbury
University Website	www.canterbury.ac.nz
Website for Inbound Student Exchange	https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/study-opportunities/incoming-student-exchange
Mailing Address	<p>Postal address: International Relationships Office University of Canterbury Private Bag 4800 Christchurch 8140 New Zealand</p> <p>Courier address: International Relationships Office University of Canterbury 20 Kirkwood Ave, Ilam Christchurch 8041 New Zealand</p>
Contact Information	<p>Ms More Lin ucmobility@canterbury.ac.nz</p> <p>Ms Percy Chan (on maternity leave until late September 2025)</p>

General Information

University of Canterbury	<p>A world class university UC – the first New Zealand university to receive the prestigious QS five-star ranking for overall excellence.</p> <p>Triple crown accreditation - UC Business School holds ‘Triple-Crown’ accreditation by AMBA, EQUIS, and AACSB, putting it in the top 1% of business schools worldwide.</p> <p>Engineering - Engineering programmes are accredited by Engineering New Zealand, which is a signatory to the Washington Accord.</p> <p>Biological Sciences - Our Bachelor of Science majoring in Biological Sciences is accredited by the Royal Society of Biology in the UK — the first in Aotearoa New Zealand to be recognised in this way.</p> <p>Renowned international faculty UC’s academic staff are well known in their fields and often write the</p>
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	<p>textbooks you will study. UC also brings in academics from around the world, including Oxford and Cambridge, via our staff exchange programme.</p> <p>Research-led programmes We are home to 35 recognised research centres, institutes, and hubs. UC is an important research university in Australasia.</p> <p>Try something new UC offers a comprehensive range of courses, including several that you're unlikely to come across in your home country such as Māori language and culture, Antarctic Studies, and courses in New Zealand and Pacific literature, history, and politics. Whichever courses you choose, you'll study alongside Kiwi students.</p> <p>Get involved with clubs There are more than 160 student clubs at UC, covering almost every interest imaginable from sports, politics and international communities through to performing arts and social groups. UC Sport also has group fitness, sport courts, social sport and full weights and cardio options.</p>
Christchurch	<p>Ōtautahi Christchurch is a recreational hot spot and is the largest and most central city in the South Island, making it the ideal base from which to explore the South Island.</p> <p>A recreational hub Christchurch is on the doorstep of a huge outdoor playground – with 10 ski fields within a two-hour drive and beautiful beaches close by, you can surf and ski in the same day. The city's Port Hills are also popular for walking, rock climbing, and mountain biking.</p> <p>Easy to get around Bordered by the Port Hills, the city itself is flat and easy to get around, with an accessible city bus system and many cycleways.</p> <p>Vibrant entertainment options Christchurch has a busy calendar of events — from art exhibitions and cultural celebrations to sporting events and music festivals. There are over 900 restaurants, cafés, and bars to sample, many of them close to UC.</p> <p>The Canterbury region A temperate climate with lots of sunshine and a full range of spectacular seasons, Canterbury is an ideal place to explore throughout the year.</p>

Academic calendar	<p>The academic dates, e.g. semester dates and exam periods in 2026 can be found at: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/dates-and-timetables/key-university-dates</p> <p>Note: International Welcome (compulsory Orientation) and International Enrolment usually take place in the week before lectures commence. At the end of the exchange, students should plan to be available in Christchurch up to and including the last day of the exam period, in case you have an exam scheduled on the last day of exam period. Exchange students are required to sit exams on campus in Christchurch as scheduled.</p>
Course load (number of points per semester or per year)	A normal workload for one semester is 60 points (or 120 points for one year).
Level of courses	<p>In <u>Arts, Science and Commerce</u>, the undergraduate (Bachelor) degree is a 3-year degree at Canterbury. This means that 300 level courses are the most advanced undergraduate courses in these areas. 400 level courses in these disciplines are graduate courses and undergraduate exchange students are <u>not</u> eligible to take 400 level courses, unless students have been granted admission to a Postgraduate Certificate of Proficiency.</p> <p>Note, however, that some <u>professional degrees such as Engineering and Forestry</u>, are 4-year degrees and 400 level courses in these areas are therefore classed as undergraduate courses. Exchange students may be permitted to take 400 level courses in these disciplines if they have the necessary pre-requisites and the approval of the relevant department.</p>
Timetable	<p>Timetable Planner:</p> <p>This is a searchable course timetable at: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/it-logins-and-tools/timetable-planner. It allows anyone to enter combinations of courses and preview how they would fit into a timetable before they enrol at UC.</p>
Course information	https://courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz/
Language of instruction	English
Grading system	https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-topics/grading-scale

Exchange Information

Level of studies that accept exchange students	<p>Undergraduate</p> <p>Postgraduate exchange applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval from academic departments and Faculty will be required. Not all postgraduate courses will be available for exchange students.</p>
	<p>Students are normally required to meet the postgraduate admissions requirements and have completed a bachelor degree in an appropriate subject with acceptable grades and have met the English language requirements for postgraduate study. Admission to any postgraduate courses will also depend on availability of courses and whether students meet the pre-requisite requirements of the courses they wish to take.</p>

Duration of exchange	1 semester or 1 year (two semesters) Note: summer is not included in the exchange period.
Programmes or courses not open to exchange students / restricted courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distance learning courses ▪ 200 level Law courses ▪ Fine Arts/Studio Art courses (Graphic Design, Film, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture) ▪ ENME201, ENCN213, ENCN281 ▪ Forest Biology (FORE218) ▪ PSYC376, PSYC377 ▪ Teacher Education <p>Note: Education courses with EDUC course code under the Bachelor of Arts schedule are available to Exchange students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some Physical Education and Sport Coaching courses require police checks. Please contact us at ucmobility@canterbury.ac.nz to check if the Physical Education and Sport Coaching courses your students wish to take require police checks. ▪ Journalism ▪ Courses in MBA and Executive Development programmes ▪ Clinical practice courses ▪ Some Communication Disorders courses are open to students who meet pre- requisites. Clinical practice courses are not available to exchange students. Please note students who have been accepted into CMDS281 are required to provide a police report. ▪ Social Work – field work courses are not open to Exchange students. Entry to other theory courses will be considered case-by-case basis and approval from Social Work will be required. Usually higher level SOWK courses (300 and 400 level) will not be available to exchange students. ▪ Product Design - entry to courses may be limited due to limited capacity and is subject to approval. ▪ Postgraduate courses – admission is on a case by case basis. <p>Engineering - students wishing to take courses in any Engineering subject should include a list of courses they wish to take at UC with their Exchange application. Students who meet general admission requirements will be granted admission to the University first as per usual and their courses will then be sent to the appropriate Engineering department(s) for a decision as to whether students are able to take their selected courses. The International Relationships Office (IRO) will then advise students as to which courses have been approved.</p> <p>Some other courses are limited entry and may have additional entry requirements. Please contact the International Mobility Team if students have enquiries about course restrictions.</p>
GPA requirement	B average / 2.8 on a 4.0 grading scale / ECTS grade C average or equivalent
English language requirement	Please see: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/admission-and-enrolment/enrolment-topics/english-language-proficiency

Nomination deadlines	<p>For partner universities: please refer to our email discussion for information on nomination criteria. If you have not contacted us to discuss the number of places available to your students with us, please do so first before you select and nominate students to us. Please also contact us if you do not have our nomination form. Nominations and exchange applications will be processed on a rolling basis.</p> <p>Semester 1 2026 (February intake): 1 October 2025</p> <p>Semester 2 2026 (July intake): 15 March 2026</p>
Application deadlines	<p>Semester 1 2026 (February intake): 1 November 2025</p> <p>Semester 2 2026 (July intake): 15 April 2026</p> <p>Note: Exchange applications will be processed on a rolling basis. Students can apply to us once they have been nominated by their home university. Please advise students to submit their applications early and before the appropriate deadline above.</p>
Nomination and Application procedures / documents required	<p>Please see information about the application process on the webpage for Incoming Exchange Students at: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/study-opportunities/incoming-student-exchange</p> <p>We will provide a nomination form for partner universities to complete each semester. Please return it to ucmobility@canterbury.ac.nz before the appropriate nomination deadline.</p>
Services and facilities available to exchange students	<p>Facilities to support your study at UC include modern lecture theatres, learning hubs, well-resourced libraries, and specialist teaching and research laboratories.</p> <p>https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/support-and-wellbeing/uc-support-services/student-care</p> <p>We also offer a range of other support services: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/support-and-wellbeing/uc-support-services</p>
Transcript	<p>Students do not need to request a transcript. Official transcripts (electronic) are provided via My eEquals after the completion of a student's exchange. My eEquals is a secured online platform allowing students to share the transcript with their home university. We will provide instructions to students on how to share the transcripts when the transcripts become available.</p>

Arrival / International Welcome (compulsory Orientation)

Recommended arrival dates	<p>Compulsory International Welcome (Orientation) and International Enrolment usually take place the week before lectures commence. Therefore, students should plan to arrive before the International Welcome and Enrolment take place.</p>
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Accommodation

On-campus accommodation (housing)	<p>Exchange students can apply for on-campus accommodation (housing) - information and application instructions can be found at</p>
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	<p>https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/accommodation/international-student-accommodation/Accommodation for Exchange Students . There is a separate online application process for housing, and the online housing application can be found at the above link. You are also required to apply before the appropriate deadline and return all subsequent accommodation contracts by the required deadlines.</p> <p>Please note that on-campus housing is not guaranteed for exchange students.</p> <p>Application deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 December 2025 (New Zealand time) for a Semester 1 (February) 2026 start 1 May 2026 (New Zealand time) for a Semester 2 (July) 2026 start. <p>If you are living on campus, note that the housing contract starts earlier than the semester and you do not need to arrive as early as the housing opens. We recommend arriving about a week before classes start, as this is when most students arrive.</p> <p>Semester 2 students cannot arrive too early as there may be a tight turnaround time between Semester 1 students leaving and Semester 2 students arriving.</p> <p>Please note that on-campus accommodation is typically mixed gender, unless single gender is requested at the time of application.</p>
Application process	<p>Information on how to apply online and the online application form can be found on the Study Abroad and Exchange accommodation web page: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/accommodation/international-student-accommodation/Accommodation for Exchange Students</p>
Other accommodation options	<p>Please see the information on other accommodation options on the above website.</p>

Visa Requirements

Are exchange students required to obtain a student visa?	<p>Yes. Exchange students apply for the Exchange Student Visa. Please see details on Immigration New Zealand's website: https://www.immigration.govt.nz/visas/exchange-student-visa/</p> <p>Exchange students must apply for and receive their Exchange Student Visa before travelling to New Zealand. It is not possible to apply for an Exchange visa from within New Zealand.</p>
Are exchange students allowed to work?	<p>Please refer to Immigration New Zealand's website above.</p>

Medical and Travel Insurance

Compulsory medical and travel insurance	<p>Exchange students must have appropriate and current medical and travel insurance while studying in New Zealand. UC requires all enrolled international students on campus to have approved health and travel insurance for the duration of their enrolment (regardless of their visa type). This is a requirement under the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021.</p>
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	<p>The Studentsafe Inbound University Policy by Allianz Partners is UC's preferred medical and travel insurance for international students. You are automatically registered under the Studentsafe policy when you complete your enrolment in person, and the charge is added to your invoice at enrolment.</p> <p>If exchange students hope to utilise an alternative insurance policy, they must apply to the Enrolment team at UC to have the cover assessed at least four weeks before enrolment to determine whether it meets the minimum requirements for a travel and medical insurance policy. The application form for insurance assessment is available on the web page above. It is important to note that many overseas insurance policies do not meet New Zealand requirements and students need to be aware that a policy required by their home university or issued in their home country may not necessarily meet New Zealand requirements and that purchase of the default insurance at enrolment may be required.</p> <p>See Insurance website for international students for full details about insurance such as the Studentsafe-University policy and minimum insurance requirements.</p>
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Fees and Costs

Accommodation	See fees on the web page of the accommodation for exchange students: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/accommodation/international-student-accommodation/Accommodation_for_Exchange_Students
Living costs	Living costs may vary depending on your accommodation and lifestyle choices, but a general budget may be around NZD \$12,000 per semester for living costs (excluding international flights/travel). Please also see: https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/study-and-living-costs/living-costs
Food / meals	UC on-campus accommodation is self-catered (i.e no meal plan, you will cook your own meals)
Academic expenses	Students should budget for the costs of field trips (if field trips are included as part of their courses), books, stationery and other course-related costs.
Non-tuition fees	Certain non-tuition fees may apply.
Insurance	See the information on medical and travel insurance above.
Late Enrolment Fee	This fee is waived if you complete your international enrolment by the due date.
Visa	Any applicable visa application fees.