



2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research Program for U.S. Teachers (Fulbright DA)

New Zealand Country Profile

Partner organization: [Fulbright New Zealand \(Te Tüäpapa Mätauranga o Aotearoa me Amerika\)](#)

Eligible program dates: February through June. Teachers going to New Zealand must arrive in New Zealand before February 1-2, 2021 in order to attend the Fulbright Orientation program. It is preferred that teachers stay until late June.

Language requirement: None

Host institution: U.S. teachers applying for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program in New Zealand should note that 1) all U.S. teachers will be placed at Victoria University of Wellington and 2) preference will be given to U.S. public school teachers who serve underserved student populations.

Dependent information An allowance of \$2,000 per eligible dependent will be provided as part of the Fulbright DA grant. Grantees are responsible for all costs for dependents while in New Zealand and must demonstrate that they have sufficient funds available to support their dependents while in New Zealand for visa purposes.

US Teacher Grantees are responsible for acquiring a Work Visa for New Zealand and appropriate visas for any accompanying partners or children. A grantees spouse/partner and children under five years of age are granted Visitor Visas for the same length of time as the grantee's Work Visa. Generally, children aged five-seventeen are granted Student Visas. University age children apply for a Student Visa and need to show they are enrolled at a university and have paid their fees. Dependent children of work visa holders are regarded as domestic students for the purpose of all tuition fees at primary and secondary schools for the period of the parent's work visa.

The Ministry of Education website is an excellent place to find resources about schools and costs in New Zealand. See www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents for details. You will also find information about term dates on this website.

Country overview

Located in the South West Pacific Ocean, Aotearoa New Zealand is known to be one of the most picturesque and welcoming places on earth. An English-speaking small island nation of just over 4.5 million people, New Zealand is home to vibrant modern cities and some of the world's most





spectacular landscapes - from vast mountain ranges to steaming volcanoes, ancient forests and breathtaking coastlines.

New Zealand has a rich and fascinating history, reflecting a unique mix of Māori, European and Pacific cultures. New Zealand's Māori culture is an integral part of 'Kiwi' life. Māori are the tangata whenua, the indigenous people of New Zealand and their history, language and traditions are central to New Zealand's identity.

New Zealand is recognized internationally for its world-class education system, thriving industries, and unique natural environment making it the ideal destination for grantees across a wide range of disciplines. New Zealand is an innovation hub, powered by a diverse and dynamic population, known for their resourcefulness and creative problem-solving.

Educational system overview

New Zealand's education system has three levels – early childhood education, schooling (primary and secondary level education for Years 1 to 13), and tertiary education – across which students can follow a variety of flexible pathways. Education is compulsory for all students aged between six and 16 years (generally up to Year 11), though the vast majority of students begin school at age five. Early childhood education (ECE) is for children under five and is characterized by strong quality assurance and a world-leading national curriculum.

Further, more detailed information about the profile and structure of the New Zealand education system is available here:

www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/InternationalEducation/ForInternationalStudentsAndParents/NZEdOverview.aspx

School curriculum

New Zealand has a national curriculum which applies to all state schools and state integrated schools. It covers all the years of schooling and is compulsory from Year 1 to the end of Year 10. The curriculum describes the key competencies and learning outcomes people need in order to live, learn, work and contribute as active members of their communities, rather than prescribing what school students must learn or what teachers must teach. A variety of special projects in specific areas of the curriculum are making a difference, especially in ages and groups that have been identified as underachieving.

New Zealand has specific programs for formative assessment, known as assessment for learning. Such assessments become formative when the evidence is actually used to adapt the teaching to meet the student's learning needs.

New Zealand has a program of Best Evidence Synthesis (BES), designed to strengthen the evidence base that informs education policy and practice. For more information on the New Zealand curriculum, go to the New Zealand Curriculum website: nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz





School governance and management

Schools in New Zealand are self-governing and managed within a national framework of regulation and guidance. Community involvement and meeting each student's needs are fundamental principles. National Administration Guidelines (NAGs) for school administration set out desirable principles of conduct or administration in schools. School boards are required to develop individual charters and annual plans and report their performance against these.

The Network of Provision

Administrative authority for most education service provision is devolved from central government to the educational institutions which are governed (in the public sector) by individual Boards or Councils, members of which are elected or appointed. Schools and tertiary institutions work within the framework of guidelines, requirements and funding arrangements set by central government and administered through its agencies.

There are no state or provincial systems. Although there is diversity in the forms of institutions through which education is provided, national policies and quality assurance provide continuity and consistency across the system.

The Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) is the central government agency responsible for guiding the education sector to deliver a world-leading education system that equips all New Zealanders with the knowledge, skills and values to be successful citizens. The Ministry gives effect to the government's priorities for education to ensure that desired educational outcomes are achieved. It does this by working with parents, schools and communities. Further information about the Ministry of Education is available on this website: www.minedu.govt.nz

Separate education agencies are responsible for qualifications and quality assurance.

Education initiatives in New Zealand

Information regarding current initiatives in New Zealand education is available here: www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/

Possible topics of interest to U.S. educators:

- Learning Support (previously Special Education) Update
- Asian Language Learning in Schools program
- Digital technologies for teaching and learning
- Focus on mathematics
- Health and safety systems for schools and ECE services
- Lifting the quality of initial teacher education provision





- Mataiako: the process of observation and evaluation of learning taking place
- National Standards
- Nga Whanaketanga Rumaki Maori: te reo matatini (literacy) and pangarau (numeracy)
- Partnership Schools
- PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning
- Professional Learning and Development
- Public Achievement Information (PAI)
- Public Private Partnerships to build schools
- Rebuilding Christchurch schools 2013-2022
- Science in Society Plan

