

Important information for potential international applicants



07.08.2020 – Greetings from New Zealand

Our country is a different place from what it was at the beginning of 2020. While the New Zealand government acted swiftly to close the country's borders and monitor Covid-19 cases towards eliminating the virus from within New Zealand, this created new challenges going forward. A wide number of educational institutions, including Laidlaw College, have sought and continue to seek to assist the government to find solutions that prioritise international students to enter the country. At this point in time we are still uncertain as to when that might be.

Furthermore, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has closed all offshore visa applications for 3 months from Monday 10 August 2020. They are unable to process applications for visas with current border restrictions in place. They recognise that it is unfair to expect applicants to pay for an application when the process cannot be completed and to submit supporting documentation that will quickly become out of date.

This does not mean that New Zealand's borders will be open to students on 10 November 2020. The situation will be assessed again in early November and further information provided to educational institutions and potential applicants at that time.

In living with the tension of uncertainty, we continue to acknowledge the value and richness that international students add to Laidlaw's campus culture and community and our desire to see them back. We are also aware that the wellbeing of the international student is paramount – spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical. Being away from home intensifies the distance between the student and those support structures that are normally relied on for care and sustenance; and this is particularly true if a student is unwell. We can see the intent of the New Zealand government's delay in opening the borders: the optimum timing of entry to New Zealand for study will be when the Covid-19 pandemic can be managed by New Zealand health officials, educational institutions and incoming students to minimise disruption (because of the virus) for the student, the enrolling school, fellow students, and the wider communities that a student would normally engage with as part of life in New Zealand.

If you haven't already done so, we recommend that you fill out an [on-line enquiry](#) on our website. This gives us the opportunity to start a conversation with you via email. We can then answer any questions you have and send you information that is relevant to your area of interest for study, and further information about entry requirements, the application process, fees and finances, and life as a student at Laidlaw College. There may also be opportunities for international students to study at Laidlaw College from outside New Zealand.

Opening applications for 2021

In line with directives provided by INZ, and without any certainty about when New Zealand borders will open, we are tentatively opening international applications for 2021 on Monday 31 August 2020. The deadline for Semester 1 2021 applications is 1 November 2020.

All complete applications will be processed. Successful applicants will be accepted for study, but no documentation that supports a student visa application will be supplied until New Zealand opens its borders and Immigration NZ begins accepting offshore visa applications.

Please note one important change in our application process. We have introduced an application fee of NZ\$100. Credit card details can be supplied in the application form; direction for alternative payment is provided there also.

As you apply

Include all the required documentation, ensuring that it has been certified beforehand. Upload them as part of the application form as this is the most secure way of handling them. We recommend .pdf format for your documents and a .jpg file for your passport photo.

Try and apply well before the deadline. We require a minimum of 2 weeks to process an application. Missing or uncertified documents will lengthen the process. Once the borders open to international students, we will prepare the necessary documents for the next available semester, including an Offer of Place and a Statement of Financial Obligation. It takes at least 6-8 weeks for Immigration NZ to process an application *under normal circumstances*. Since we are not in normal circumstances, please allow extra time.

Provision for deferral of study start

Acceptance for study at Laidlaw College will be communicated once the completed application is processed. If circumstances delay your ability to start studying in the desired semester, we will hold your place and assist you in working towards starting in the next available semester.

Covid-19 provisions: coming to New Zealand to study

Please be aware of Covid-19 restrictions and factor these into your planning. Check the [Immigration NZ website](#) for government guidelines for entry into New Zealand. Allow extra time and finances for travel and quarantine on arrival if it is required. Check what cover is available on your insurance policy should you become ill with the virus.

Whether you end up as a student of Laidlaw College or your circumstances lead you elsewhere, we wish you good health, God's abundant blessing and His guidance for your future steps.

Warm regards

Laidlaw College Inc.



COMPELLED BY LOVE

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Equipping students and scholars to renew their communities with a faith as intelligent as it is courageous.