

Important information for potential international applicants



16.04.2020 – Greetings from New Zealand

Covid-19 has caused much upheaval and uncertainty world-wide. Laidlaw College is not immune to this; New Zealand has closed all education campuses down and staff and students are now in lockdown, working and studying from our homes. The message to the nation is to stay connected while practising physical distance from anyone who is not in our immediate household.

The College has been putting measures in place to ensure that classes continue for our current students that allow them to succeed in their studies despite the change of medium for delivery of course material and resourcing. We seek to do so, bearing in mind our responsibility for their well-being during a time of increased isolation.

As you can probably understand, increased and extreme isolation is not the student experience that we want our international students to be engaged in while away from family, church and regular support systems. We are agreeing with a sentiment reflected by the New Zealand government, Immigration NZ and the Ministry of Education, who are seeking to mitigate the disruption to international students that Covid-19 has created here and across the globe.

The disruption Covid-19 has caused for international applicants wanting to study at Laidlaw College is as follows:

- Immigration NZ has stopped processing student visa applications from outside New Zealand until border restrictions have been lifted. Immigration NZ has stated that visa applications will be processed eventually, but with no guarantee for entrance in time for the next available semester of study. Obviously, those with current visa applications will be considered before new applications are processed. Please read on.
- As of 30 March 2020, Laidlaw College has suspended processing of all current international applications for study until we know with certainty that an application for a student visa will be processed by Immigration NZ. We will make every effort to act swiftly when border restrictions are lifted as we know there will be a spike in visa applications and there will be a longer processing time as a result.
- The current application form for study in 2020 is only open to domestic students. We expect that we will have a clearer idea of study options for international students later in the year and these options will be for 2021 at the earliest. Updated information about applications for 2021 will be available on our website in September 2020. **Please do not apply at this time.** We prefer that you apply once applications for 2021 are open. In the interim, we suggest that you gather the necessary requirements for entry. If you would like further information about these, please contact admissions@laidlaw.ac.nz.

While we do not envisage change in Laidlaw's internal systems and processes, we may find that we have to follow new external guidelines as we re-integrate into normal business practice once the lockdown is completed. We will let you know if this affects your ability to study with us. We encourage you to check the Immigration NZ website regularly for updates and keep an eye on Laidlaw College's website or by clicking on the link provided in the logo at the end of this message.

In the meantime, we hope that you maintain good health and that you find strength and encouragement from those around you during this unprecedented global event.

Warm regards

Laidlaw College Inc. concerns you may have.



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