

Wellington Education

NZ EDUCATION SYSTEM

All children from age six to sixteen years must attend school. Most children start school as soon as they are five years old and leave when they reach 17–18 years.

► NEW ZEALAND'S EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS FIVE LEVELS:

- **Early Childhood** (ages 1–4)
- **Primary**, Years 1–6 (ages 5–10)
- **Intermediate/Junior College**, Years 7–8 (ages 10–13)
- **Secondary**, Years 9–13 (ages 13–19)
- **Tertiary** (age 18+)

In your area there may be a choice between single sex, co-educational, public and private schools.

For more information about the schooling system in New Zealand, visit www.minedu.govt.nz or call 463 8699.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is available for children up to five years of age. Your children can go to kindergartens, play centres, child-care centres, home-based networks, correspondence school, play groups funded by the Early Childhood Development Unit and Te Kohanga Reo (Maori language nests). Most of these centres ask you to pay for the service. Check that the centre is registered with the Ministry of Education

– this makes sure that the quality of their buildings and equipment is high and that staff are qualified.

To find out more about early childhood education, visit www.ece.govt.nz or call 463 8699. For a list of ECE providers in Wellington, refer to the Telephone Directory Yellow Pages at www.yellowpages.co.nz – type in 'childcare and education'.

PRIMARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL

If you have a work visa and paid employment or New Zealand Permanent Residency status, then your children can get free education through the government funded school system. Alternatively, you may choose to send your children to an independent or private school where you will have to pay fees.

The school year begins in late January and ends late November for secondary schools and mid December for primary schools. It is divided into four terms.

For the exact dates for each year visit the Ministry of Education, at www.minedu.govt.nz

► THINGS TO THINK ABOUT ARE:

In New Zealand some schools have a school enrolment zone which gives priority to children living in the school zone area in order to avoid overcrowding. If the school does have a school enrolment zone, you can check to see if you live within the zone.

Parents can ask to visit the school and meet with the Principal and staff. Most schools have a brochure which provides information about the school and what it offers.

► HOW TO ENROL A CHILD

Telephone the school of your choice and make an appointment to speak with the Principal.

You will need to give information about who is allowed to collect your children from school and who to contact in case of illness or accident. This is private information and is not given to others.

If you have religious or cultural beliefs please tell your child's teachers so they are aware of any requirements.

To find out the list of schools in Wellington, visit Te Kete Ipurangi Online Learning Centre at www.tki.org.nz/school/wellington

► AFTER SCHOOL CARE

OSCAR or the 'Out of School Care and Recreational Programme' is run in many areas to help low income parents and caregivers with childcare they can afford. The government helps to pay some of the fees. To check if you qualify visit www.workandincome.govt.nz or call 0800 559 009.



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► EXAMINATIONS

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is the national public examination system and typically begins in Year 11.

- **Year 11: NCEA level 1** (age 15)
- **Year 12: NCEA level 2** (age 16)
- **Year 13: NCEA level 3** (age 17)

A New Zealand Scholarship qualification is also offered to challenge and recognise high performing students in Year 13. To find out more visit www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea.

► REPORTS ON SCHOOLS

The Education Review Office checks all New Zealand schools. Schools are reviewed every 3–4 years with Early Childhood Centres being checked every 4–5 years. To find out more visit the Education Review Office website at www.ero.govt.nz



► SPECIAL EDUCUCATION

There are Special Education Services for children with physical and/or intellectual difficulties; hearing or vision difficulties; problems with learning, communicating, socialising or emotional/behavioural issues. Special Education helps these children to take part as fully as possible in their schooling.

For more detailed information on special education visit www.minedu.govt.nz or call 0800 622 622

TERTIARY EDUCATION IN WELLINGTON

► UNIVERSITIES

There are eight universities in New Zealand and three of these have campuses in Wellington. Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) and Massey University are the main ones. The Otago Medical School from Dunedin has a department at Wellington Hospital.

All university students must be able to communicate in English, and most universities require a level of English competence as an entry requirement.

International students need to pay the full rate of tuition fees. To find out more contact:

- **Victoria University of Wellington** www.vuw.ac.nz or call 0800 842 864

- **Massey University** www.massey.ac.nz or call 801 5799
- **Otago Medical School** www.wnmeds.ac.nz or call 385 5541

► OTHER TERTIARY EDUCATION PROVIDERS

There are many other tertiary education providers in Wellington. They offer degrees, diplomas and certificates in vocational, technical, and professional fields. Distance learning is offered at some institutions. For more information about courses and enrolment, contact the institutions directly.

For more information on registered training organisations in Wellington, contact New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA): call 0800 623 243 or visit www.nzqa.govt.nz/provider

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

There are many ESOL classes for the study of English as a Second Language. Most universities and tertiary institutions have English language courses for ESOL students. For the full list of English language institutions available in Wellington, check www.tec.govt.nz or call 0800 601 301.

There are also other schools and services that have free or low cost English classes in Wellington city, including:

- **Multicultural Learning and Support Service (MCLASS)**
visit www.mclass.wellington.net.nz
- **Wellington ESOL Home Tutors**
visit www.esolht.org.nz/centre/wellington

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Adult Community Education programmes are very important in offering a range of courses, as well as ESOL, to add to your knowledge, skills and confidence across many topics. Some courses are at night or on weekends including:

- **Victoria University of Wellington:** www.ceed.vuw.ac.nz
or call 463 6566
- **Wellington High School:** www.cecwellington.ac.nz
or call 385 8919
- **Newlands College:** www.comednewlands.school.nz
or call 474 1330
- **Rongotai College:** www.rongotai.school.nz or call 939 3056
- **Onslow College:** www.onslow.school.nz or call 477 1118



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