



## University of Auckland

**2023-2024**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
After I went to the study abroad information lecture I did some research on universities Utrecht University has a partnership with. When I found out that I even could go to New Zealand and Australia I immediately applied for an exchange abroad. I found the application process quite easy, and the International Exchange Office was very helpful in answering any questions I had. The application process for the University of Auckland was a bit complicated and confusing sometimes. There were many forms we had to fill out. Also, they seem quite strict in the enrolment for courses at the University. It is helpful to do as much research as possible before applying to the courses. If you would get declined for a course or if the classes are full then you at least still have a plan B. My main tip for the application process for New Zealand is to start early, since the start of the semester is different than in Europe and they need a lot of forms.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Especially the lectures/information sessions Utrecht University provided were very helpful.
academic preparation
The University of Auckland has a couple requirements for students who want to come for a semester abroad. For example, your GPA needs to be equivalent to a 7 average on the Dutch grading scale. For law students it can be helpful to have a little knowledge about the common law system.
language preparation
To get more used to academic English I decided to take a couple English law courses in my third year at Utrecht University.
finances
To be honest, studying abroad is quite expensive. However, an exchange is the easiest and cheapest way to study at another University. It is a once in a life time opportunity and you will make memories for life that are worth so much. For the universities in Oceania scholarships are limited; it is worth to do some research. I worked at home to save up some money before I went on an exchange. The costs of living in New Zealand are similar to Europe, if you are planning to do some trips, it will get more expensive. And the flight to New Zealand will cost approximately €2000.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
Personally, I found it very interesting to go to a country where they have a different legal system (common law system). Furthermore, I was excited to learn more about the indigenous Māori culture. The University of Auckland is the largest university in New Zealand and offers a wide range of courses. However, not all courses are available each semester and some courses have some restrictions. Therefore, it is to do some research in advance and ask the Exchange Office for advice.
academic quality of education activities
The university is very involved with its students and their well-being. Not only do the student accommodations organize many activities to get to know the university and other students, but the university also organizes activities and workshops throughout the semester—such as academic workshops (to boost your CV) or pizza parties. The University of Auckland is placed 68 <sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings 2024. Besides, the university is considered the best university in New Zealand according to several rankings.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
The university provides a webinar prior to arrival. During the semester, they host a couple of meetings, for example, during orientation week and at the end of the semester they host a final event. Besides, the Student Abroad Association hosts activities for international students to support them throughout the semester.



transfer of credits

Usually, courses are worth 15 points, and students are expected to pass at least 60 points per semester. Students pass a course when they have a minimum of 50% in the class. Law students are required to do an introductory course about the common law system, which is worth 10 points (for undergraduates) or 30 points (for postgraduates). The student visa also requires a minimum of points.

## **STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Before the semester started all international exchange students were invited for the orientation day. To celebrate the new semester they organized a traditional Māori performance. Afterwards, they had several workshops to provide information about topics such as safety in the city (there was a lecture by the local police) and information about the university itself. Also, the university accommodations hosted daily activities (such as a movie night or a karaoke night) the first week to meet fellow exchange students.

accommodation

All international students are guaranteed a student room in one of the University-managed accommodations. They have different options such as students flats, shared apartments, and private studios. A big advantage is that these accommodations come with a membership to the University Gym/Recreation Center!

leisure & culture

There are over 200 clubs at the University of Auckland. Ranging from cultural, artistic to sports clubs there is an option for everyone. I joined the climbing club, volunteering club and tramping (hiking) club. Moreover, I used my free time for trips and explore the surroundings of Auckland. There are for examples many beautiful small islands around the city that are worth visiting. Furthermore, I enjoyed the relaxed Kiwi culture New Zealand and I found the people very friendly. Finally, I found it interesting to learn more about indigenous cultures, since we do not have that in the Netherlands.

suggestions/tips

My tips are to join clubs and stay at a student accommodation to meet people. And try something new, the university has so many different clubs, so it is a good opportunity to discover some new hobbies. Finally, I recommend to explore the country. Living in a different country and traveling is the best way to learn more about another culture.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I highly recommend New Zealand as a destination to study abroad for whoever is ready for an unforgettable adventure. The university has a good reputation, and they provide many course options. So, there are enough options for everyone. Moreover, New Zealand has stunning landscapes and unique nature to explore.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

No additional comments



**2022-2023**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
<b>Exchange application process at Utrecht University</b>
I started my application process at UU for the study abroad in around October of 2021. After being accepted by the UU in January 2022, there was a period of time where I had to wait until I could undertake further action. My study abroad was namely planned for February- July of 2023 and the UU was only able to nominate me at the University of Auckland in September of 2022. After nomination by the UU, you have apply at the University of Auckland yourself as well. The application process only takes a couple minutes as long as you have all the required documents ready. It can then take some time before you hear anything again, but if everything went well you should also get accepted by UoA. After getting accepted you can start enrolling into courses and also sign up for university accommodation.
<b>Counselling &amp; support at Utrecht University</b>
At the UU you can always get in touch with the International Office for any questions. They can also provide you the contact details of other students studying in Auckland so that you can get in touch with them before travelling to New-Zealand. They can also provide you the contact information of former students who have studied in Auckland, which can be very helpful as well!
<b>Academic preparation</b>
I went on exchange during my last semester of my degree. I thus did not have to do a lot of academic preparation for when I moved back to the Netherlands again. I only had to sign up for the courses I wanted to take at UoA. I would advise to do this as soon as possible as the courses can fill up fast.
<b>Language preparation</b>
If you had a 7 or higher grade on your WVO diploma, there were no additional language preparations you needed to make. I was furthermore confident that my English level would be sufficient to study abroad and thus I did not undertake any additional preparations.
<b>Finances (living costs)</b>
New Zealand can be an expensive country to study abroad. Rent alone costs me 320 NZD (+/- 180 Euro) a week. Groceries are also a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands, however if you look out for the products that are on special that week, you can get some good deals. I would also recommend getting a Countdown One Card (NZ equivalent to a bonus card from the AH) to get lower prices on certain groceries. Public transport on the other hand is in my opinion cheaper in Auckland, as it usually only costs around 1 to 2 NZD to get from end of the city to the other. I would recommend to start saving money well in advance of traveling to NZ, especially if you want to travel around the country and do fun activities in the weekends!

<b>Study period abroad /About the host university</b>
<b>Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)</b>
I took the following courses at UoA: - Introduction into the Common Law system 443 (10 points) (This is a mandatory course, alternatively you can also take the 701 course which requires a bit more work, but it does give you more study points.) - Healthcare Law (15 points) - Crime, Media and Society (15 points) - Victims & Victimology (15 points) There is also a variety of courses related to the Maori culture, but I would recommend signing up for these courses as soon as you can if you are interested, as they fill up fast!
<b>Academic quality of education activities</b>
The academic quality is quite similar to that of Utrecht, maybe even a bit easier. I think I overall spent a bit less time studying here compared to the Netherlands, as you often do not need to prepare any assignments for the lectures or tutorials. You are required to read the course material but this is a similar amount as what I was used to back at UU.



When preparing for your exams you furthermore often do not need to learn everything that has been taught during the semester. Most of my lecturers would tell me certain weeks we would need to know for the exam and which weeks were not important. This was very helpful as well! It allows you to really focus on the important material.

#### Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)

The UoA has a lot of counselling and support available on campus. They heavily promote the use of counselling throughout your courses, so if you are ever in the need of help you will find it easy to do so. The university furthermore has a student hub at the library where you can go to with any of your questions. Especially during the first weeks of studying I found it very helpful to just be able to walk in and ask any question I wanted.

#### Transfer of credits

As of writing this report I am still have to finish my exams. My credits have thus not been transferred yet.

## STUDENT LIFE

#### Welcome/Orientation programme

The orientation programme is a usually a week before the start of the actual semester, and I would definitely recommend going! It is a great opportunity to meet new people, but you also get to explore the university campus so you know where to go on your first day of classes. There are also orientations for the different faculties, you can also sign up for these orientations but they are more aimed at national first year students! I would also recommend going to the Club Fair and signing up to a club. There are tons of different clubs at UoA who organise lots of fun events. This is also a good way of meeting new people and making new friends.

#### Accommodation

I chose to live in University accommodation Carlaw Park Student Village – Nicholls. Here you have your own room and share a bathroom and living room with two other people. My experience is that a lot of exchange students choose to live in this accommodation, which makes it easy to get to know people. Carlaw Park also arranges a lot of fun activities for it's residents that you can sign up for. Carlaw Park is furthermore next to the train station and about a 10-15 minute walk from campus and the nearest grocery store. I really enjoyed living here and would recommend it. There is also Carlaw Park – Stanley, which is the newest university accommodation. The Stanley building is almost next to Nicholls, also making it a good place to stay in my opinion. The biggest difference between the tow is that in Stanley you can have up to 4 or 5 roommates compared to 2 or 3 roommates.

#### Leisure & culture

Auckland is a really great city and there are lots of places you can go and explore. Most of my weekends here were filled with lots of fun activities. There are several islands you can visit, there are markets you can go to, lots of beaches if the weather is nice and also lots of great nature. During the weekends you can also very easily plan a short trips outside of Auckland on the north island. The only downside is that the public transport is almost non existent outside of Auckland, so if you want to go on trips it would be handy if you have your drivers license. It is also possible to travel around with special busses, but you have to book these in advance and they do not drive very frequently.

#### Suggestions/tips (need to knows)

Some handy tips are:

- Get an ATHOP card. It is the NZ equivalent to the dutch OV card. You can get one at Britomart station.
- Also download the AT Mobile app. It helps you navigate the public transport system and is similar to the dutch 9292 app.
- Get a creditcard! My 'normal' banking card did not work here despite the fact that I had put it on world wide!
- Your dutch drivers license is not a valid form of ID. I would suggest getting an NZ 18 plus card that you can take with you if you want to go out.
- The 2 biggest supermarkets in Auckland are Countdown and NewWorld. Other useful stores are The Warehouse and K-mart, here you can buy decorations for your room but also other household items. They are similar to the HEMA.



### CONCLUSIONS

Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)

I had an amazing time studying abroad at the University of Auckland and would definitely recommend this destination and university to others. The UoA organises a lot of activities for international and exchange students which I found really fun and was a great opportunity to make new friends. The UoA campus is furthermore not too big in my opinion and you can easily find our way around. They also offer lots of workshops you can sign up for, ranging from "how do I prepare for my exams" to workshops about your well-being. The lecturers are also great in my opinion. When my lecturers found out I was an exchange student for example they were really enthusiastic and repeatedly told me to get in touch with them if I was experiencing any difficulties with the lecture material.

I would also recommend going to New-Zealand as the nature here is amazing and the people are very helpful and nice. The New Zealand culture is also not vastly different from that of the Netherlands, so you won't experience any major culture shocks.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?

Even though New-Zealand might seem very far away from the Netherlands, if you are thinking about choosing this destination I would definitely go for it. And if you are still in doubt, it is also always good to know that New-Zealand doesn't have any deadly spiders or snakes! ;)

But no matter what destination you go to, going on an exchange is a great experience and I know I will remember it forever!

### 2019-2020

### PREPARATION

exchange application process

After I was accepted by my home University, I had to make an account at the website of the University of Auckland. I went to Auckland in the second semester (feb-jun), so I didn't hear anything until late September. The application process was not hard, but it takes some time, because the University of Auckland needs some documents (your secondary school certificate as a proof of English for example). After the University of Auckland accepted me, I could enrol in courses. I advise to do this as soon as you can, because some fun courses are full quite fast. Also, when you enrol early, you could schedule your timetable in a way that gives you long weekends. If you don't like one of your courses, you can swap during the first two weeks of the semester.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

During the application process, you can always email the International Office of the UU for questions. During my time in Auckland, the international office of UoA was very helpful. They answer quickly to emails and will give you tips on how to open bank accounts etc. The University of Utrecht was supportive during the Corona outbreak. They regularly sent me emails how I was doing. I decided to stay in New Zealand during the pandemic.

academic preparation

My exchange semester was the last one of my degree, so I did not need a lot of academic preparation.

language preparation

I felt like my English was sufficient enough to study abroad, so I did not follow any extra English courses before I went on exchange.

finances

New Zealand is an expensive country, especially rent (mine was 284 NZD a week). I started saving money a year before I left with working a part time job. However, I heard some horror stories about the New Zealand prices and it is not extremely bad. Groceries are slightly more expensive, but if you buy the veggies that are on special, you should be fine. Alcohol is more expensive, but the student bar on campus (Shadows) has good deals.



### **(interrupted) STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

#### welcome & orientation programme

Before the orientation week, I attended the Waipapa noro marae program. I highly recommend signing up for this! You'll get emails about this program in November/December. Make sure you don't miss these emails and sign up for it. It is a very cool experience. You'll meet a nice group of international students and learn a lot about the Maori culture. I met my closest friends during this program. The first day of the O-week, there will be so many international students, that it might be hard to find friends there. The Waipapa Noro Marae program is perfect! The rest of the orientation program is nothing in comparison to our "UIT-week." The only thing you should check out is the Club Fair. Make sure you sign up for some clubs!

#### study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed the courses Introduction to Common Law (mandatory), Air&Space Law, Intellectual Property Law and Pacific Studies. You are allowed to follow one "non-law course" and I would recommend doing that. UoA has a lot of fun courses and I enjoyed Pacific Studies. I would also advise to take the masters version of introduction to common law. The course (LAW 443) was co-taught with the masters course "LAW 701". The courses were basically the same. The only difference was that the common law course started in week 5. For some reason, the 701 course was 30 credits and the common law course only 10. You need 50-60 credits in total, so if you take the 701 course, you'll only need three courses. The Common Law course was a lot of work (I had to write three essays, the biggest one was 4,000 words), so I feel that I did not get enough credits for this course.

The other courses were 15 points. All the lecturers are really passionate about the subject they teach. Intellectual Property law is not easy. You'll have to read a lot of case law, but because I want to become an IP lawyer, this was my favourite course.

#### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality is similar to Utrecht University. I think I spent a similar amount of time on my school work, maybe a bit more, because academic writing in English took me more time than in Dutch.

#### transfer of credits

I am currently in the exam period, so my credits haven't been transferred yet.

### **CORONAVIRUS CONSEQUENCES**

#### support guidance of host university

The University of Auckland really cares about your mental health. I felt a lot of support which made it easier to continue the semester online. The University always communicated clear, offered weekly support to study online and sent me personal emails to check how I was doing. Because of these challenging times, the University also decided to step up everyone's grades, so a B+ will be an A-.

#### support guidance of home university

The UU tried to be helpful too. They tried to convince me to come home, but I felt more safe in New Zealand. Eventually, they respected my decision. I am glad that I was not forced to come home and could make the decision myself. A lot of my international friends were forced to come home. Their programmes got cancelled. Most people wanted to stay, because New Zealand was very successful in fighting the corona virus. I am happy the UU gave me a choice. If I would have decided to come home, the UU would have paid my plane ticket. They were very helpful and sent me emails regularly to see if I was doing ok.

#### online offer and quality of digital courses

Most of my courses only had lectures. I only had one zoom tutorial a week. I am used to watch lectures online. I watched my UU lectures online too if they were recorded. Therefore, it was easy for me to adapt to online learning. The University of Auckland gave us a teaching free week, which they used to transit to an online environment. They were very successful with this transition.

#### suggestions/tips on digital exchange



Try not to stress too much. In the exchange student group chat, a lot of people were panicking once the number of cases in New Zealand started rising. Some people booked a flight home the same day and regretted that later, when it turned out that New Zealand eliminated the virus. "When you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you are responding to what's happening." Stay calm.

## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

I answered this question before: Before the orientation week, I attended the Waipapa noro marae program. I highly recommend signing up for this! You'll get emails about this program in November/December. Make sure you don't miss these emails and sign up for it. It is a very cool experience. You'll meet a nice group of international students and learn a lot about the Maori culture. I met my closest friends during this program. The first day of the O-week, there will be so many international students, that it might be hard to find friends there. The Waipapa Noro Marae program is perfect! The rest of the orientation program is nothing in comparison to our "UIT-week." The only thing you should check out is the Club Fair. Make sure you sign up for some clubs!

### accommodation

I stayed at Te Tirohanga, the newest university accommodation. Signing up for university accommodation is easy (make sure you do it in time!) Living in a hall is quite expensive. Te Tirohanga is the cheapest hall and it is still 284NZD a week (+/- 700 euros a month). Te Tirohanga has advantages and disadvantages. The location is perfect! You live in the CBD of Auckland, very close to uni and the city centre. You will also meet a lot of nice people in this hall. There is always someone to hang out with. This made lockdown much easier. However, in Uni halls, there are a lot of rules. It felt a bit childish sometimes: alcohol bans in communal spaces, noise ban after 10 pm, very silly& inconsistent social distancing rules during lockdown. Also, Te Tirohanga only has two kitchens and two elevators for 488 people. You'll have to be patient for the elevator and the kitchen is never clean. Overall, I do not regret living in TT, mostly because of the amazing people I met (and the Skydeck is great on a sunny day!!). If you have the choice, I think I'd recommend the Carlaw accommodation. That is the nicest one in my opinion (it is a building with 4 person apartments).

### leisure & culture

Auckland is a big city with a lot of nice parks, restaurants and bars, but my advice is to go on a lot of trips! Renting a car in NZ is cheap and there is so much to see in New Zealand. If you love the outdoors, this is a destination for you.

### suggestions/tips

Join Clubs!! I joined the kitesurf club (really cool and chill people), the Canoe club, the Tramping club and the Veda club (just for the very cheap and tasty vegan lunches). Because of the virus, I did not join any of the tramping and canoe trips, but I did go on one trip of the kitesurf club and this was one of the best weekends of the semester. Also, bring your hiking boots, because you really want to explore New Zealands stunning nature!

## CONCLUSIONS

### would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

YES! The University of Auckland is very welcoming. They really care about your mental health, so you will feel at home immediately. New Zealand is amazing. I really fell in love with this beautiful country. Everyone you meet is so friendly. Auckland has a nice climate and New Zealand is the prettiest country I ever visited. I did not consider myself 'outdoorsy' before I went here, but hiking is one of my biggest hobbies now.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

Whatever the destination is you'll pick, go for it. Exchange is a fantastic experience.



## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The application process was an easy process. The International Office of the University of Auckland is really helpful and will respond to your emails immediately, if things are unsure for you. However, I experienced the process as really self-explanatory, therefore I don't think that would be necessary. I would recommend starting on time and to do some research beforehand on the courses you would like to take. Especially the Law Faculty has a lot of courses you can apply for.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

The application process will mostly be done by Utrecht University and you can ask them any questions you might have regarding your application process. However, after arriving in Auckland your most important contact will be the International Office of Auckland University.

### academic preparation

As I said before, I would recommend looking at the course options available. Besides that, there is not a lot of academic preparation necessary. Everybody is really friendly in New-Zealand on campus and at the Law Faculty there are always people available that want to help you.

### language preparation

Due to the fact that I am a Dutch Law student (a study which is almost entirely taught in Dutch, I only had 2 courses in 4 years that were taught in English) the language was not a problem at all. In the beginning, you might be a little uncomfortable with doing everything in English but because of that you will get used to it quickly.

### finances

New Zealand is an expensive country. You should especially be prepared for the housing prices, which are high and are paid every two weeks. However, if you do your groceries at the large supermarkets (New World or Countdown for example) you will be fine. There are a lot of student activities planned with for example the Study Abroad Association (SASS) that have a lot of nice trips which are much cheaper than if you plan them yourself. Nonetheless, the prices are comparable with the prices for things in the Netherlands. Only housing prices, alcohol and some types of food are more expensive.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Exchange, Law. I followed the courses Introduction to Common law (obligatory for every exchange student), Maori World (Pasifika department) Pasifika Peoples and the Law and International relations and Human Rights (Politics department). I really liked following courses other than Law courses and would really recommend learning about the culture and problems that particularly New Zealand faces. I enrolled in three courses before I came here, but I would recommend enrolling into four. I changed it afterwards and that was great, I still had a lot of time left while taking four courses.

### academic quality of education activities

The academic quality really depends on the courses your taking. Even though I was not used to following courses in English, I could easily understand and participate. The teachers are really friendly and engaged with their students (more than in the Netherlands).

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I was in an accident during my time abroad and the support of the University of Auckland during that time was amazing. You have to fill in a lot of forms in order to receive counselling/health care, but the University will help you with that and the health and counselling is available on campus.

### transfer of credits

At the moment, I still have to transfer my credits. However, the University of Auckland will send you the transcript and you can send that to Utrecht University.



## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The University of Auckland is really welcoming and organises activities prior to the start of the Semester. I would recommend going to the activities they organize and going to other activities organisations of SASS for example. I met a lot of people international students there that were not law students necessary and really liked that. When you in University housing, there will also be some activities organized. However, you are in charge of your own exchange. Therefore I would really recommend reaching out to the Facebook page of your exchange semester, that Auckland University will create. Because of the Facebook page, I went on a couple of trips with other students, even before the Semester starts. I really recommend that if you want to meet other exchange students and explore the amazing country a little.

### accommodation

Even though the student housing is really expensive, the rooms are nice and there is a reception an RA's that are available day and night. I always felt safe and did not have to worry, even when I lost my apartment key haha.

### leisure & culture

Even though there are a lot of fun things to do in Auckland, you should really explore the beautiful nature of New Zealand and make as much trips if you can that get you more into the nature.

### suggestions/tips

Always wear sunscreen! There is no Ozon layer in New-Zealand, so the sun is way more intense and you will burn in minutes during the Summer if you don't wear sunscreen. This is much different from the Netherlands, always have a place of shelter from the sun close to you (when you are for example going to the beach).

## CONCLUSIONS

### would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend going to New Zealand for your exchange! It is easy to get to know new people, the nature is amazing and everybody that you will meet loves the outdoors is therefore really active and relaxed. The University of Auckland is a nice host University that has a specific "Ask Auckland deks" that will help you with any difficulties you might face.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

No



**2016-2017**

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
After I was accepted by the home university, I had to make an account for the University of Auckland and fill in my details. Also they needed several documents, such as my secondary school certificate, grades from uni and proof of English requirement (if you have 7 or higher on your secondary school certificate, that is sufficient). After the documents were approved I could enrol in the courses. Unfortunately it took me a while before some problems with the documents were solved, so I enrolled in the courses while I was in New Zealand (two weeks before semester started). The staff was very helpful and helped me in this process. However, I would recommend to make sure you enrol earlier, because otherwise the most popular courses are already taken.
counselling/support at home university
I had some problems with sending my passport copy and course outlines. The home university helped me to get the right documents and send an e-mail to the University of Auckland. Also the information evening was helpful.
academic preparation
Because I had almost finished my bachelor of law I thought I had enough knowledge to succeed in the exchange programme. However, because New Zealand has a common law system, I took the course Legal English for Academic Purposes which helped me to understand the common law system a bit better. It is not per se necessary because you have to take the introduction to common law course at the University of Auckland. However, the introduction course at UoA was sometimes a bit hard to follow because they go very fast (it is only three days) so for me Legal English for academic purposes was helpful.
language preparation
I took the course Legal English for Academic Purposes which not only helped me to understand the common law a bit better but mainly to improve my English skills. I think it is especially useful to improve writing and speaking skills.
finances
I had saved money for several years and I lent money from DUO. Also I applied for OV-vergoeding. Although New Zealand is really expensive (especially rent and food), I had sufficient resources.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
I took five courses at the University of Auckland. Introduction to common law (compulsory), Takeovers, Environmental constitutionalism, Commercial Arbitration and Aviation Law. In the first two weeks of the semester you still have the opportunity to change your courses. This is very useful because sometimes the course is very different then you thought. I really liked Commercial Arbitration, the professor was very good and the structure and content of the course was great. I wanted to take courses that are very different than the courses I have taken in the Netherlands and they have enough choice. However, as I said before, be ON TIME with your enrolment to prevent disappointment.
academic quality of education/placement activities



The professors of the University of Auckland are very good and qualified. They are more than willing to help you if you don't understand something. However, I only had lectures and no working groups. In the beginning I had to get used to this style of teaching. You could always ask something during the lecture, but if you wanted more information you have to make an appointment with the professor.

counselling/support at host institution/organisation

University of Auckland has a great support and counselling team. If you have questions or need anything they will help you. For example with housing, academic support or well-being. They are very friendly and will do everything to make you feel welcome!

transfer of credits

I just received an e-mail with my grades and I can send this link to Utrecht University. It took a while before I received all my grades after the exam, but I think the transfer of credits should not be a problem.

### **student life**

welcome/orientation programme

They have one introduction day for international students, where you can get information and a maori welcome! Furthermore I came in contact with SASS, an association for exchange students! A great opportunity to meet other exchange students and they organise a lot of activities. Also they have O-week where all university clubs have a stand and you can join one (or two or three ☺) of them. I joined several clubs, among others the climbing club and the canoe club. The clubs are really cool and I met several kiwis there. If you want to meet kiwis then a club is a great way to do that!

accommodation

I decided not to take a student accommodation and searched something myself. The first two weeks I spend in a hostel and looked for accommodation. In the end I found a very nice place which was luckily not super expensive (less expensive than student accommodation). However, it was not easy and my place was a bit further from the uni. If you don't want stress than I would recommend student accommodation but if you have time and want to save a bit of money than searching for yourself is also really okay!

leisure/culture

I made a lot of weekend trips with exchange students exploring the country. The maori culture is very interesting and I would really recommend to go to a museum or visiting a maori place.

suggestions/tips

It is annoying to say but really start on time! You should have a look at deadlines and important dates. However, if you have problems then they are really friendly and willing to help! So if you don't know what to do then just ask.

### **conclusions**

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

Absolutely! The University is really nice and good organised. The quality is very good and I loved the clubs they have. The country and people are amazing!



**Utrecht  
University**

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Sign up for University of Auckland!! But I am also sure that every other exchange is great!