

HOSTING AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

YOUR EDUCATION
High School Exchanges

A photograph of four high school students standing on a paved path next to a large body of water. From left to right: a girl with long brown hair wearing a dark blue jacket over a black top and striped pants; a boy with dark curly hair wearing a light green t-shirt and dark pants with a jacket tied around his waist; a boy with glasses and dark hair wearing a white t-shirt with a small logo and blue pants, giving a thumbs up; and a girl with long brown hair wearing a black hoodie with a colorful graphic and blue jeans. In the background, there are lush green mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**Discover the joy
of sharing your
home and
New Zealand with
an exchange
student!**

www.youreducation.co.nz





WELCOME THE WORLD INTO YOUR HOME

Your Education is a New Zealand Ministry of Education approved student exchange programme. We bring students from around the world to New Zealand and send New Zealand students to other countries. We have a network of volunteers throughout the country and around the world to support our students and families.

You can make a real difference simply by offering genuine New Zealand care and hospitality. All it takes is being able to offer a bedroom and a place at your table. Add another member to your family and let the new experience begin!

Hosting a student is a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved. The experience can be made even more special by matching the right student to your family. A local Your Education representative will spend time with you, matching your family with the ideal student. They will also be your contact and support for you and the student during the exchange.

Your Education **Families**



- Are warm hearted and caring
- Provide board and lodging and warm home environment
- Live all over New Zealand
- Come from all walks of life, including retirees, couples, young families, and single people
 - Choose the students from variety of nationalities
- Are supported by a national network of volunteer Your Education representatives
- Receive a monthly contribution





Your Education **Students**

- Have been carefully selected for their maturity, adaptability, and academic motivation
- All students speak English
- Students are well briefed before arrival and receive an orientation after arrival in New Zealand
- Are expected to be a full active member of your family, community, and their school
- Provide their own spending money
- Are fully insured, including medical insurance
- Supported by highly trained and experienced local Your Education representative (Local Area Representative or LAR) and 24h emergency support
- Typically arrive in January or July of each year and stay for three, five or eleven months

Your Education **Support**

- **Host Family Orientation** for all new host families in your area. This is held prior to your students arrival to help you prepare for your new family member
- **Welcome Orientation** for all host families and students in your area
- **Calls or visits** at least once a month from your LAR to ensure that all is going smoothly
- **24/7 access** to help from your LAR or Your Education if you have any issues or questions
- **Activities and outings** organised periodically throughout the year for students and host families to get together
- **Farewell Orientation** at the end of the exchange for all host families and departing students



Choosing a Student

Your Local Area Representative (LAR) will talk with you about the type of student that may suit your family. They will then email you some potential students for you to consider. You will then get to choose the student that you feel would best match your family. The LAR will then ask you to complete some paperwork and interview you in your home.

From there, they will confirm a school placement. Once all the necessary paperwork is completed, Your Education will send your details to the student so they can make contact with you.



Arrival in New Zealand

Students arriving in January and July of each year will attend our Your Education Welcome Camp. This is a great introduction to life in New Zealand where they will learn a bit about our culture as well as specific information about adapting to life in their host family. This is great preparation for their exchange experience ahead.



Household Rules and Responsibilities

All students are expected to be fully active and participative members of your household, joining in with your day to day life and doing their fair share of household chores. They are not there to be a guest, but rather a member of your family.

While here, they are required to follow Your Education's rules and regulations, which are discussed with the student prior to the student's arrival into your family. You will be emailed a copy of the "Rules and Regulations" with the student profile. However, your own household rules are also important. It is a good idea to set these when your student first arrives. Your Education will provide you with a list for '45 Questions' prior to your student arrival. These are helpful for setting the right expectations from the moment your student arrives.

High School

All Your Education students are required to attend high school full-time during their stay. School is where your student will make friends, learn more about New Zealand history, culture, and society, as well as develop a greater proficiency in English. Students are also encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities with Kiwi students.

Your LAR will help arrange students registration and find out when the first day of school is for your student.



- All Your Education students have written permission for high school enrolment prior to their arrival in New Zealand, in order to get their visa
- All Your Education students are required to take English and at least two other academic studies, preferably some form of New Zealand Studies such as History or Geography, for the entire duration of the exchange
- Your LAR can help with subject selection
- Students are required to maintain a passing grade in all classes
- All students are expected to complete all NCEA assignments and examinations available to them, including external examinations
- Students are not allowed to insist on graduating officially: this is at the discretion of the school. If a student meets a school's policies for graduation, they may be allowed to graduate. If not, the school will often allow the student to participate in all senior activities and be part of the graduation ceremony
- Exchange students each receive a Certificate of Completion from Your Education at the end of their exchange
- Exchange students may be more academically advanced than New Zealand students of a comparable age. You may find, for example, that your 16-year-old exchange student has already completed the courses normally required for a Year 11 student, and should be placed in Year 12 - this is at the school's discretion

Host Family Payment

Host family financial contributions are paid to show our appreciation for hosting a Your Education student and to provide a modest reimbursement of any costs. These payments are normally made fortnightly and paid by direct credit to your bank account. Your LAR will be able to advise you on the amount paid.

Personal expenses

Your Education Students are expected to cover their own personal expenses during the exchange such as cell phone plan, gym membership, clothes, toiletries, makeup, entertainment costs, school books, school trips, outing costs such as admission charges etc. In addition, if your student is wanting special food that you do not usually have as part of your diet, the student should purchase these themselves. If you are making a special trip to take your student places, and incurring petrol costs you would otherwise not incur, it is reasonable to ask the student to make a contribution towards these costs.

Your LAR will be able to help you work out what are reasonable costs your student should pay. We always recommend that students budget \$400 per month for their personal needs.

Insurance

Each Your Education student carries insurance – it is a visa requirement. This insurance is normally organised by the student's home country and covers the student from the day of their departure from their home country. Students and host families can always contact Your Education for a copy of the student's insurance policy if the student doesn't have the policy with them. All students should have an insurance card or reference with them when they arrive in New Zealand. Here is a summary of what students are typically covered for:

- Travel into and out of New Zealand
- Personal liability
- Health cover while in New Zealand
- Repatriation, search and rescue

Holiday Hosting for Students

Students may want to travel and stay with another student or host family over a school holiday period. This may be in another area. Your Education supports this as long as the student follows the correct procedures. Each student will be emailed a Holiday Hosting form when they arrive. The student is required to pay the Holiday Hosting Family, and the amount is clearly stated on the Holiday Hosting form.



Student Tours

Your Education runs up to 3 Adventure Tours in New Zealand during each school holiday (numbers permitting) - one to the North Island, one to the South Island, and a combo North/South Tour. A tour to Australia runs over the summer holiday break, generally before Christmas. These tours are specifically designed for our students. Your Education is not a travel agent or registered tour operator. It is therefore necessary to sub-contract the complex work of arranging these tours to registered companies. Only the best and most experienced contractors are used to provide the highest quality coaches, accommodation, Tour Manager, chaperones, written information, and optional extras.

These tours are a unique opportunity for our students to meet or re-meet fellow Your Education students and to experience as much as possible of the landscape and culture of New Zealand. The tours are optional and while every attempt is made to keep prices down, we do insist on providing quality tours. We are also bound by the number of students who opt to take the tours, and insufficient numbers may result in tour cancellations. As always attendance at the school is the student's primary responsibility and Your Education tour dates are set to match school holiday dates where possible.

YOUR EFFORTS BRING REWARDS



During the exchange, your family and student grow to understand, accept and love each other. Many families find that they grow closer as a unit, and rediscover pleasure in doing things together. We want to assure you that your effort will be significant and worthwhile. There are many "alumni" host families who agree. Their perception of the world and their place in it has changed because of their hosting experience. They have grown to appreciate the similarities which bind all the people of the world together, and to accept the differences which distinguish them from one another. You too can enjoy these rewards. In the end, you will be closer, wiser, and more aware.

You will have influenced the ideas and values of a young person during an important stage in their development. You will also have grown to love a particular student from another part of the world – a student who arrived in your home as a stranger, but will leave as a true member of your family.