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### Study Abroad Office

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# New Zealand Study Abroad

## *A Visual Journey through New Zealand's Bicultural and Multicultural Landscape*

### Program Description

New Zealand, or Aotearoa “The Land of the Long White Cloud,” is a country defined by its rich cultural traditions, natural beauty, and welcoming people.

New Zealand’s population of five million people is a melting-pot of cultures including Māori (16.5%), European (70%), Asian (15%) and Pacific Island (8.1%) influences. During this multimedia storytelling journey through Aotearoa’s cultural landscape, students will see firsthand the country’s diverse multicultural society and study how it strives to develop cross-cultural recognition and respect, particularly between the Māori (indigenous) and Pākehā (non-Māori) people. During this four-week program, students will record interviews, photograph, film and write about the people and environment of the country, diving deep into what is at the heart of New Zealand’s cultural and environmental landscape. The final project will represent students’ impressions of multiculturalism and environmental changes in New Zealand through a visual story comprising still images, moving images, audio recordings, and writing.

In the program’s ongoing learning community, students will have daily reflections through journaling and discussion, as well as intentional activities to ensure they are gaining a deeper understanding, respect, and appreciation for other cultures and the land that inhabits them. Specifically, students will be interacting with locals, traveling throughout the country for immersive experiences in the cultural environment, delving into the relationship between the people and the land, observing the impact of global warming, and hiking on day trips both urban and rural. The program will visit maraes in the Bay of Islands and Rotorua. Visits in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, will include Māori television, media outlets, museums, new and rebuilt architecture in Christchurch, as well as government agencies – like the Ministry of the Environment. These experiences will enrich the student’s understanding of why and how the Māori and Pākehā people actively work to provide equal opportunities and respect for cultural values.

This program will also explore the cultural value of the natural environment. Recently, New Zealand granted “living person” rights to several land features. And of equal significance will be the examination of the effects of global warming on New Zealand, a country that is expected to feel the effects of global warming at an accelerated pace. This will be an important part of the student’s visual stories, as they capture the remarkable, yet fragile landscape, and learn how New Zealanders revere, care for, and respect their land and environment.

This program is open to all majors.

### Applications

*(see Application Instructions on page 4 for more information)*

Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: [bit.ly/study-abroad-app-fall2023](http://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-fall2023)

Completed applications must be submitted to the Principia Study Abroad Office no later than **5:00 pm** on **Wednesday of Week 4, September 20, 2023**.

***No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.***

## Program Staff

**Stephanie Bauer** is an assistant professor of mass communication, teaching courses including Photography Fundamentals, Intermediate Photography, Video Production, TV Workshop, Intro to Mass Comm, and Corporate Video. In her classes, students learn technical skills with a strong emphasis on the creative process and visual aesthetics – light, color, composition, as well as sound, storytelling, critique, and history. For Stephanie, the real joy is watching students gain confidence in capturing what they see and being able to tell a visual story that is at the heart of their experience. Stephanie lived in New Zealand for over 20 years and worked in the advertising and film industries where she worked with government programs and corporations. She immersed herself in the culture and is excited for students to explore the strong and beautiful spiritual components of the land and people of Aotearoa.

A program resident counselor will be named at a later date.



## Academics

A total of **6** semester hours of credit will be earned with this program: 1 SH during Spring 2024, 4 SH during Summer 2024, and 1 SH during Fall 2024. Final grades for all courses will be determined by the program faculty.

### SPRING SEMESTER 2024

#### *SPST 280: Orientation Seminar: New Zealand*

SH: 1      Attribute: none

The orientation seminar will familiarize students with New Zealand culture and practices and teach basic skills for the media project. This course is an opportunity for students to prepare academically, culturally, and logistically for the upcoming study abroad. Taught on campus spring semester, 2024.

### SUMMER BREAK 2024

#### *MCOM 235: Multimedia Storytelling in New Zealand*

SH: 3      Attribute: none

Using text, photography, video, and audio, students will examine recent developments, social trends, and shifting technologies as they record their New Zealand stories. Honing their skills in multimedia, the students will document their experiences and capture their impressions of the multiple cultures that make up this beautiful and unique country.

#### *SPST 285: Country Studies: New Zealand*

SH: 1      Attribute: none

This course will provide an interdisciplinary survey of contemporary issues in New Zealand. These issues will include topics such as: introduction to the Māori language, geography, cultural history, politics, foreign relations, and the environment. Students will be taught basic audio and visual skills as they work hands-on with camera and audio equipment.

### FALL SEMESTER 2024

#### *SPST 281: Reentry Seminar: New Zealand*

SH: 1      Attribute: none

The reentry seminar is an opportunity for students to articulate the personal and academic learning gained from their study abroad program experience. Students will share their growth and experiences through reflection and writing assignments, directly linked to the Study Abroad Office learning outcomes, of intercultural competence and multicultural professional development, and create a community presentation.

## Preliminary Program Itinerary

We will spend all 4 weeks of our in-country program time on New Zealand's North Island, with a trip to Abel Tasman National Park (top of the South Island) and Christchurch. We will land in Auckland and begin the program with a culturally immersive experience at a marae (meeting house). The group will then make its way south, where we will explore Auckland, the country's largest city, then continue to Rotorua, and to Wellington. From Wellington we cross on a ferry to the South Island and explore the Abel Tasman National Park, then on to Christchurch to observe how the city has recovered from both a massive earthquake and a mass shooting at a mosque. The trip will end with a final reflection and celebration time before departing from Auckland.

*\*Please note: At this time, this program is scheduled to begin on May 18, 2024 and conclude June 15, 2024.*

## Selection

Selection will take place during fall semester, 2023. Each applicant will be interviewed by the program faculty and RC. Equal consideration will be given to all applications submitted by the application due date. See the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) for additional student eligibility criteria.

The Principia Abroad Office will notify each applicant at the end of Week 8, fall semester 2023, regarding the decision on his/her application. Those eligible but not accepted in the initial selection process may be placed on a waiting list.

Participation in this program could be denied any accepted student whose grades put her or him on academic warning or academic probation. Students may also be removed from the program if not in good standing with regard to the *Principia Conduct Standards* or the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#).

## Cost

The cost of this abroad program will be the same as tuition for 4 semester hours, \$300 a week for room and board (\$1,200 for this break program), airfare up to \$1,500, and a \$150 study abroad fee.

The following expenses will be **INCLUDED** in the program: all accommodations and meals (room and board) and transportation; academic instruction and lectures; admission to scheduled sites, museums, and cultural activities planned as part of the program; student travel insurance; and administrative fees.

Costs **NOT INCLUDED**: Domestic US and international airfares up to \$1,500; \$150 fee; personal expenses; optional activities not planned as part of the program; and any other expense not specifically noted as included in the cost of the program.

Please see the “Financial Aid and Responsibility” section to the right to see what is included in your PrinBill, how financial aid is applied, and when payment is due.

## Study Abroad Grant\*

Students who receive **only Principia need-based aid** are eligible for an additional Study Abroad Grant to help with expenses not covered by financial aid and scholarships. (Merit scholarships do not count as need-based aid.) These costs may include flights, room and board, administrative fee, and opportunity costs. Preference is given to students who demonstrate financial need, are first-time study abroad participants, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

## Vaccination & Health Information

Uncertainties with international travel include the possibility of airlines, the U.S. government, foreign governments, and/or in-country partner program providers requiring COVID-19 or other vaccinations. Information or evidence about participants’ status with regard to vaccinations may be required by these entities. Program participants may be subject to these requirements, and need to be aware of them. Failure to comply with these requirements may mean inability to travel or participate in the study abroad program.

In order to manage the uncertainties of international travel safely and effectively, the Study Abroad Office will collect required vaccination and other relevant health information from all participating program faculty, staff, and students.

At this time, there are no vaccination requirements to enter New Zealand.

For more information regarding health and safety for Principia Study Abroad programs, visit our website: [Health & Safety Resources](#)

## Eligibility and Prerequisites

This abroad is open to **all** students in good academic and social standing, regardless of major. There are no prerequisites for the New Zealand Study Abroad. If accepted, all participants are required to participate in the spring semester, 2024, Orientation: New Zealand course.

We expect students to show a commitment to solving problems, engaging in cooperative learning, and to developing strength of character. Other fundamental criteria for selection include the student’s responses to the essay questions on the application and responses in the interview with the program faculty and RC.

Students must meet the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#) to apply for and remain on this program.

## Financial Aid & Responsibility

Students who will be eligible to receive financial aid for the 2023-2024 academic year will have their loans, scholarships, and grants automatically applied toward **tuition only** (4SH). Your PrinBill will also include room and board (\$1,200) and the Study Abroad fee (\$150), but **no financial aid will be applied toward these costs**.

*\*See Study Abroad Grant for additional funding opportunity.*

Payments for past and current tuition, room, and board must be up-to-date, or a satisfactory payment schedule must be arranged with the Student Billing Representative, in order for a student to be allowed to participate in this program.

If accepted, students will be required to sign a financial commitment agreement stating that if they withdraw from this program, either voluntarily or involuntarily, after **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**, they agree to pay to Principia a penalty fee of the amount equal to the non-recoverable expenses incurred by their withdrawal plus Principia Abroad administrative fees. Even if all prepaid expenses are recovered, a minimum \$500 fee may be levied.

The program cost, less any applicable financial aid, will be billed to each participant’s Principia account, and payment will be due by **April 26, 2024**.

# Study Abroad Application Instructions

- Applications can be found on the Study Abroad website: [Application Process](#), or directly from this link: [bit.ly/study-abroad-app-fall2023](https://bit.ly/study-abroad-app-fall2023)
- To authenticate the Google Form application submission, you **must use your Principia email address**.
- **DUE DATE:** Your study abroad application, as well as the online signature forms from your resident counselor and academic advisor, **MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 pm on Wednesday, September 20 (Week 4)**.  
*No late applications will be accepted!*
- The application has **9 sections**, and you must complete each section before moving to the next.
  1. **Personal Information:** The first section includes basic **personal information** including PO1 number, date of birth, citizenship, email, phone number, address, emergency contact(s), declared/expected major and minor, and expected graduation date.
  2. **References:** The second section includes **listing two references**, their emails and phone numbers. One is your personal/character reference and the other is for group learning.
  3. **Academic Advisor Meeting:** The third section confirms that you **met with your academic advisor** to discuss this study abroad program and that it does not conflict with any graduation requirements. You will send your academic advisor this signature page to confirm the meeting: [bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature](https://bit.ly/studyabroad-advisor-signature)
  4. **Resident Counselor Meeting:** The next section confirms that you **met with your resident counselor** to discuss your ability to demonstrate emotional maturity, personal responsibility, and commitment to adapt to different living and learning conditions. You will send your RC the signature form to confirm this meeting: [bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature](https://bit.ly/studyabroad-rc-signature)
  5. **Additional Questions:** The next section includes **additional questions** including previous international travel and previous abroads for which you have applied and been accepted or not accepted.
  6. **Essay Questions:**
    - a) Why you are interested in participating in the New Zealand Summer abroad program?
    - b) Describe your spiritual practice and/or interest in specific regard to how you envision it being relevant to participating in this study abroad program.
    - c) Describe an experience where you needed to work to accomplish something with a group and incorporate your preferred role(s) as a leader and/or follower within a group, and what qualities you believe are most essential to effective group functioning.
    - d) Describe your willingness to be responsible for your own learning as well as your willingness to be flexible and adventurous in your learning. Provide examples illustrating your ability to be a self-motivated, curious, professional, and an adaptable learner.
    - e) Describe a time when you were placed in a situation that was outside of your comfort zone and elaborate on how you navigated that challenging situation.

*The last three sections include signing off on your understanding of the following topics:*

7. **Financial Responsibility** – including budget commitment and withdrawal deadlines. *\*If applying for Study Abroad Grant, additional questions will be asked in this section to explain specific funding need.*
  8. **Academic & Social Responsibility** – including that you have read the [Study Abroad Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Study Abroad Student Selection & Eligibility Criteria](#).
  9. **Statement of Expectations** – including abiding by the standards set forth in the previous documents, Principia's standards, additional standards stipulated by the program faculty or international laws and custom, and expectation that you will fully participate in all aspects of the program.
- Again, the application and two online signature forms must be received by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 20 (Week 4)**. Please be in touch with Study Abroad Program Manager Mary Jane Hoff with any questions – [maryjane.hoff@principia.edu](mailto:maryjane.hoff@principia.edu) or 618-374-5214 – or stop by School of Government, Suite 160 (SOG 160).