



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

**Ocean University
2025 New Zealand Short
Programme**

Introduction

The International and Engagement Office at The University of Waikato are pleased to present this programme overview to Ocean University. The programme overview outlines the customised two-week short programme, at The University of Waikato in New Zealand. The 14-day course will take place in Hamilton and Tauranga, where the University of Waikato campuses are located. The University of Waikato/Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato offers a uniquely New Zealand model of university education and stands proudly on the world stage as a provider of future-focused and international education.

Programme Outline

Programme Name: Ocean University 2025 New Zealand Short Programme

This programme will be made up of two weeks of academic learning in various areas including Marine Science, New Zealand Geology, Cross Cultural Communication, Library Research and Report Writing Skills. The expertise of University of Waikato faculty members will be utilized for these lectures, and to add cultural context there will be several organised excursions to explore New Zealand's special geographic features (outlined in the proposed schedule below). The rich cultural location of the University of Waikato Hamilton and Tauranga campuses will serve as continual cultural resources throughout the groups time in New Zealand.

Programme Dates

A 14-day summer (New Zealand winter) programme is proposed as follows:

Date	Activity 9AM – 12:30PM	12:30PM – 1PM	Activity 1:30PM – 5PM
4 August 2025	Arrive in New Zealand Airport shuttle to Hamilton		Check-in to accommodation
5 August 2025	Formal welcome and orientation	Lunch break	Hamilton Gardens, Museum + River Walk
6 August 2025	New Zealand Culture Class - Hamilton campus	Lunch break	Library Research Skills & Report Writing Class – Hamilton campus
7 August 2025	Raglan tour 10AM - 5PM		
8 August 2025	Cross Cultural Communication Class – Hamilton campus	Lunch break	NZ Geology Class - Hamilton campus
9 August 2025	Rotorua Māori culture and geothermal wonders 8AM - 6PM		
10 August 2025	Waitomo Exploration of New Zealand's unique geological wonders 8AM - 5PM		
11 August 2025	Waihi Gold Rush & Gorge Adventures 8AM - 5PM		
12 August 2025	NZ Geology Class - Hamilton campus	Lunch break	Visit to The Base
13 August 2025	Travel to Tauranga & Visit to Marine Centre	Lunch break	Climb The Mount / Cultural Narrative Talk & Drive back to Hamilton
14 August 2025	NZ Geology Class - Hamilton campus	Lunch break	Farewell Event (6PM – 9PM)
15 August 2025	Travel to and explore Auckland		Fly out of Auckland International Airport after 6PM

Additional Activities

Cultural and tourist activities form a crucial part of the participants' experience at The University of Waikato. The following trips and activities are included in the per student cost. Transport for all trips and activities listed will be provided to and from the University of Waikato Hamilton campus. It is the responsibility of each student to get themselves to the Hamilton Campus meeting point before the trips depart.

Hamilton – Glacial lake and renowned gardens tour

Lake Rotoroa and the stunning Hamilton Gardens. Start at Lake Rotoroa, a picturesque glacial lake formed thousands of years ago, nestled within the city's green space. The lake is surrounded by lush parkland and provides a peaceful spot to enjoy local wildlife and scenic views. Next, visit Hamilton Gardens, renowned for its diverse themed gardens, including a traditional Māori garden that showcases the country's deep cultural roots. These gardens also feature the unique geography of the Waikato region, with rich volcanic soil supporting a vast array of plants. This tour offers an opportunity to explore both the natural and cultural highlights that make Hamilton truly special in New Zealand.

Hamilton – Geology, biodiversity and cultural diversity Museum and River Walk

An afternoon spent at the Hamilton Museum offers a deep dive into the rich history and culture of the region. Visitors will explore exhibits that showcase the area's Māori heritage, early European settlement, and the unique natural features of the Waikato region. The museum's displays offer fascinating insights into the geology, biodiversity, and cultural significance of New Zealand. Afterward, enjoy a leisurely tour along the river walk, which follows the beautiful Waikato River, the longest river in New Zealand. As you stroll, you'll be treated to scenic views of the riverbanks, lush greenery, and unique geological features like the soft limestone formations that shape the landscape. The river walk provides a perfect blend of natural beauty and the opportunity to reflect on the historical context of the museum's exhibits.

Raglan - Black Sands & Coastal Treasures Adventure

Students will be driven to the stunning west coast of the North Island, heading to the picturesque town of Raglan. Here, they'll have the chance to explore the laid-back beach town, known for its charming shops and vibrant surf culture. They'll visit the famous black sand surf beach, where the dramatic coastline meets the powerful waves of the Tasman Sea, offering a truly unique New Zealand experience. Students can also enjoy a visit to the nearby To Toto Gorge, a beautiful spot with breathtaking natural views. To top it all off, they'll have the option to indulge in classic Kiwi fish and chips, purchased at their discretion.

Rotorua - Māori culture and geothermal wonders

A day trip to Rotorua offers a unique blend of Māori culture and stunning geothermal wonders. Start by visiting Te Puia, where you can experience traditional Māori performances at the Cultural Centre, including song, dance, and storytelling. Explore the Kiwi Encounter to see New Zealand's iconic flightless bird and witness the powerful Pohutu Geyser and bubbling mud pools. A guided tour of Te Puia's geothermal area will immerse you in the region's volcanic activity. Afterward, ride the Rotorua Skyline Gondola for breathtaking views over the city and the lush landscape, followed by a stroll through the historic Government Gardens, showcasing Rotorua's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. This is a full day trip and lunch will be provided.

Waitomo - Exploration of New Zealand's unique geological wonders

A trip to Waitomo Caves offers an incredible exploration of New Zealand's unique geological wonders. Begin with the Ruakuri Nature Walk, where you'll journey through lush native forest, past limestone formations, and into the heart of one of the country's most scenic cave landscapes. Next, visit the awe-inspiring Marokopa Waterfall, known for its majestic drop and surrounded by untouched nature. Then, explore the Mangapohue Natural Bridge, an impressive limestone arch formed over thousands of years, showcasing the powerful forces of erosion that have shaped the landscape. These natural features offer a rare glimpse into New Zealand's stunning underground and surface geology, making for a truly memorable adventure. Lunch will be provided.

Waihi - Gold Rush & Gorge Adventures

A day trip to Waihi Beach and the stunning Karangahake Gorge offers a mix of natural beauty and rich history. Start with the Windows Walk in Karangahake Gorge, where you'll wander through lush forest, passing old mining tunnels and spectacular river views. The "windows" in the rock faces provide unique, framed views of the gorge and its surroundings. Then, head to Owharoa Waterfall, a serene spot perfect for a peaceful pause. Next, visit the Martha Mine Lookout to learn about the area's gold mining history, with panoramic views of the massive open pit mine. Finish your day at Waihi Beach, known for its golden sands and calm waters, offering a relaxing end to your adventure through this beautiful, historic region. Lunch will be provided.

Mount Maunganui Cultural morning climb

Climbing Mount Maunganui offers a chance to experience both natural beauty and deep cultural significance. Known as Mauao to the local Māori, the mountain is a revered landmark, rich in history and spiritual importance. It was once a fortified pā (village) site, and its summit provides breathtaking panoramic views of the Bay of Plenty. As you ascend, you'll pass through lush native vegetation and encounter ancient rock formations that tell the story of the region's volcanic past. For Māori, Mauao symbolizes strength and protection, and the mountain continues to hold cultural and spiritual significance for local iwi (tribes). Reaching the summit is not only a physical achievement but also an opportunity to connect with the land's deep cultural roots and its enduring importance to New Zealand's Māori heritage.