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Q&A



Full name: National Association of Independent Schools
Year established: 1964
Organisation's main role: NAIS's mission is to be the national voice of independent schools and the centre for collective action on their behalf.
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What is your organisation's main role and who are your members?
The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) is the national voice of, and the centre for collective action for, independent schools. NAIS members include 1,400 schools in the USA, with additional international school subscribers. Our schools are private schools that are governed by an independent board of trustees and are not part of a larger entity, like a diocese.

What activities has NAIS been involved in to further the international interests of members in the last 12 months?
NAIS has a commitment to global education and increasingly, we seek schools to affiliate with us beyond our national borders. We just added a new premium subscription so that international and proprietary schools can access many of our statistical and research benefits. Currently, we have 200 international subscribers. Programmatically, NAIS seeks partnerships with other like-minded schools outside of the USA through our Challenge 20/20 programme, which pairs US and international schools together to work on solving world problems, "two schools at a time".

How have international enrolments fared over the last 12 months among your members?
International enrolments continue to be very strong. Many of our members emphasise an international outlook and are among the strongest academic schools in the USA. Our schools can provide unique arts, sports, and music curricula generally not available through public (government-funded) schools. Many NAIS schools have large numbers of students who are comfortable in cross-cultural situations.

How do you predict that international student trends will change in the future? Do you find that more schools are interested in recruiting students from overseas?
The international student enrolments of many of our boarding schools have been strong for years. We have second-generation students at many schools now. Parents want their children to experience an American school just as they did 30 or so years ago. International student populations are becoming more diverse. Day schools are finding ways to incorporate international students into their local community.

New Zealand high schools

High schools in New Zealand are well set up to receive international students. Many have extensive international departments and offer a range of programmes – including those that make use of the great outdoors.

Many high schools in New Zealand have been offering special programmes for international students for a long time and there is an established tradition in the country of welcoming high-school-age students. Prue Kelly from Wellington High School says, “We have been receiving international students since the 1950s and they were mainly Asian. For the last 15 years we have received students from all around the world. Students study an academic programme with ESL included and opportunities to play sports, music and drama and travel.”

Lorraine Klitscher from Kings High School in Dunedin says that for many students the appeal of the New Zealand university education is the lure for many students entering high school programmes. “The ‘pathway’ is important,” she says. However, while perfecting language skills and gaining a good education may be important considerations, Klitscher says that for many European students the “NZ lifestyle experience” is also important. “We offer an outdoor education course,” she says. “It gives the opportunity for students to learn how to participate safely in outdoor activities such as surfing, skiing, tramping, mountain biking, trapshooting and skating. This is a very popular course.”

Riccarton High School is another school that incorporates outdoor education into its curriculum and this can be a completely different experience for many international students used to a different school system. Craig Rosengrave at the school says that they also offer trips around the South Island, as well as other interesting courses for international students. “We have a new introductory course to Maori language and culture which is proving popular with students from other countries,” he says.

As well as special interest programmes, EFL exams are also widely available to international students in New Zealand high schools. Ewen Cameron from Bayfield High School in Dunedin says that they have adapted

their EFL provision since first running international courses 18 years ago. “We have enlarged the Esol department and offer English language tuition for things such as IELTS and Toefl,” he says. “We have also added an academic English component and hired extra helpers to ensure there is good pastoral care.”

As many high schools in New Zealand have been welcoming international students to their classrooms for a long time, they have often developed effective systems of ensuring that they mix with local students. Jean Harding from Mount Roskill Grammar School in Auckland says that all international students are introduced to a “buddy” when they arrive. She adds, “They usually mix well during sports classes as well as in classes. We have an orientation programme when all students are taken on a day out around Auckland, as well as talks with police and the homestay company about safety and New Zealand laws.”

Klitscher adds that she “insists as much as possible” that international students participate in a range of sports as a way of making friends. “An intake last week already has boys playing in the school hockey, badminton and soccer teams. Another boy has started to learn the guitar, yet another is playing in the school jazz band,” she says.

While Asia tends to be the largest student market for high school programmes in New Zealand, schools report that interest for their courses comes from throughout the world. Kelly says, “The most noticeable trend at Wellington High is the number of students from Europe and the Americas. Germany and Brazil are very important sources of students but we have students from Italy, Mexico, the USA, Vietnam, Thailand, China and even a student from the Czech Republic.”



PHOTOGRAPH: TOURISM NEW ZEALAND

Location	Name of school	Range of programmes offered	Min age of students	Min English proficiency	Language support?	Accommodation
Auckland	Diocesan School for Girls	f	13	i	y	h
Auckland	Glenfield College	f,sh,yap	13	b	y	h
Auckland	Kelston Boys High School	f,sh,yap	-	n	y	h
Auckland	Kristin School	f,yap	14	e	y	h
Auckland	Mount Roskill Grammar School	f,sh,yap	13	n	y	h,r
Auckland	Onehunga High School	f,sh	13	n	y	h,r
Auckland	Papakura High School	f,sh,yap	-	b	y	h
Auckland	St Dominic's College	f,s,sh,sap,yap	-	n	y	h
Auckland	Waitakere College	f,sh,yap	13	b	y	h
Cambridge	Cambridge High School	f,sh	13	b	y	h
Canterbury	Darfield High School	s,sh,yap	-	b	y	h
Christchurch	Avonside Girls High School	f,sh	-	e	y	h
Christchurch	Burnside High School	f,yap	13	i	y	h
Christchurch	Chisnallwood Intermediate School	f,s,sh,sap,yap	11	n	y	h
Christchurch	Christchurch Boys' High School	f,yap	13	e	y	h
Christchurch	Hagley College	f,s,sap,yap	13	n	y	h,fl
Christchurch	Hillmorton High School	f,sh,yap	-	n	y	h
Christchurch	Riccarton High School	f,yap	13	b	y	h

Location	Name of school	Range of programmes offered	Min age of students	Min English proficiency	Language support?	Accommodation
Christchurch	Shirley Boys' High School	f,sh	13	e	y	h
Dunedin	Bayfield High School	f,s,sh,yap	14	b	y	h
Dunedin	Kavanagh College	f	11	b	y	h
Dunedin	Kings High School	f,sh,yap	13	b	y	h
Hawke's Bay	Dannevirke High School	yap	13	b	y	h
Hawke's Bay	Hastings Boys High School	f,sh	12	b	y	h
Invercargill	Southland Girls' High School	f,yap	11	n	y	h,ho
Napier	Tamatea High school	f,sh,yap	13	b	y	h
Nelson	Nayland College	f,s,sh,yap	13	n	y	h
Otago	Cromwell College	f	16	e	y	h,r
Penrose	One Tree Hill College	f,sh,yap	13	n	y	h
Te Anau	Fiordland College	f,sh,yap	10	n	y	h
Wanaka	Mount Aspiring College	f,s,sh,sap,yap	12	n	y	h
Wanganui	Wanganui Girls' College	f,sh	13	e	y	h,ho
Wellington	Kapiti College	f,sh,yap	12	n	y	h
Wellington	Wellington Girls School	f,sh	13	b	y	h
Wellington	Wellington High School	-	12	n	y	h

b beginner e elementary f full time fl flatshare h hostel ho homestay i intermediate n none r residential sh short term s summer courses sap summer academic prep. yap year-long academic prep.