

## New Zealand - IP Bulletin 2010

### General

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CSU students are offered the opportunity to study at one of two distinguished institutions in New Zealand: Lincoln University and Massey University. Students accepted by the CSU International Programs for study in New Zealand must also be accepted by one of the cooperating universities.

Lincoln University, located near Christchurch, the South Island's largest city, enrolls approximately 4,000 students. It was established as a School of Agriculture in 1878, becoming Lincoln College in 1961 and subsequently granted university status. The university specializes in agriculture, commerce and management, natural resources, and science.

Massey University, established in 1964, grew from colleges founded in the 1920s. Massey has approximately 38,000 students over three campuses, Auckland, Palmerston North, and Wellington, as well as a large number of extramural (distance education) students. New Zealand's largest educational and research institution, Massey is a comprehensive university with virtually all subjects being offered. CSU students attend the Palmerston North campus on the North Island, along with approximately 8,500 other students.

Students are selected for a particular field of study and are expected to take courses in that field of study during their year abroad. The fields of study in which students can be placed in 2010 are:

- Agriculture and Horticulture (Lincoln, Massey)
- Geography and Resource Planning (Massey)
- Parks and Recreation Management (Lincoln)
- Social Anthropology and Maori Studies (Massey)

### Academic Calendar

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The academic year in New Zealand is divided into two semesters. As the seasons are reversed from those in the Northern Hemisphere, the first term begins mid February and runs until June. The second term begins mid July and ends in mid November.

### Academic Advising

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The New Zealand system of higher education derives from the British model. In that model, general education as a component of the undergraduate degree is unknown. Undergraduate students enroll in a program of study that is relatively fixed and highly focused within the particular subject (major area of study). The degree program normally takes three years to complete except for honors programs and some specialized or professional fields such as Engineering or Physical Therapy, which require a fourth year of study.

International Programs students are fully integrated into the host university curriculum as non-degree candidates. CSU students will enroll only in courses within the approved field of study in which they are placed, following the same general plan as their New Zealand counterparts. The New Zealand university authorities (in consultation with the Office of International Programs and the participating student) must approve course enrollments.

Students should be aware that there is a distinction between first, second and third year courses. First year courses are usually introductory level and taken by students in their first year of university study. Depending on content, these are generally considered lower division courses. Second and third year courses are more advanced and considered equivalent to upper division courses. American students will find that second and third year courses can require more prerequisites and students are expected to have met prerequisites if they wish to take the course. If in doubt about whether the course is a first, second or third year course, students should look at the description of the course, which can be found online or ask their advisor at their host university during their academic advising sessions after arrival.

Since New Zealand undergraduate students cover a field of study in great detail, they spend two to three times as long in concentrated study as does the typical American undergraduate. It is not surprising, therefore, to find American seniors taking second or third year courses in New Zealand.

Students are expected to enroll in the equivalent of 15 CSU semester units each semester, which is a CSU requirement. Since four units of credit are given for most courses taken in New Zealand, students take a minimum of four courses each semester for a total equivalent of 16 CSU semester units per semester.

Although Americans and New Zealanders share the English language, American students will find that Americans and New Zealanders do not use words in the same way in everyday life as well as the academe. Below is a list of some of the words used in the American and New Zealand higher education system.

U.S. Terminology	N.Z. Terminology
course	paper
program of study	course
university catalog or bulletin	calendar

## Assessment and Grading

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Typically, instruction at a New Zealand university is divided into lectures, seminars (often used in advanced courses), tutorials (small discussion groups), and labs or practicals. Students are expected to have strong writing skills and perform a great deal of independent work (e.g. reading, library study and doing research) in order to achieve high marks. Courses may require fewer assignments but these assignments are worth a higher percentage of the total grade. It is also not uncommon to have a large percentage of your grade based upon only one or two exams.

Grading scales of New Zealand universities differ slightly between institutions but are typically based on the letter scale with A+ as the highest grade and F as the lowest. Grades continue down on a scale thus: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C with C being the lowest passing grade and equivalent to 50% or slightly above. Failing grades are D, E and F.

International Programs students are required to meet all academic requirements as determined by the host university departments. They must take all examinations, meet all course requirements, and carry out all laboratory/field work. It is also important that students become familiar with the test-taking policies by reading these policies after arrival at the host university and again, before taking exams. CSU students are expected to comply with the policies implemented by their host university.

Many courses taught at both Lincoln and Massey have required field trips or study tours. All International Programs students are required to participate in these class-related field trips at their own expense.

## Academic Reporting

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To ensure accurate reporting, OIP will report courses taken in New Zealand by using a special course designation number, which will allow the student to receive CSU resident credit in the subject area in which the course was taught. The title of the course taken will also be reported to the CSU campus and posted to the student's CSU academic record. This method of reporting means that students will need to furnish course descriptions, syllabi and other course materials to their home campus advisors in order to apply for credit towards specific major, minor or general education requirements. Students should expect to complete campus-based forms (petitions or course substitution requests) with the assistance of their advisor(s). If courses are not needed for specific degree requirements, then it is usually not necessary to complete any other forms at your campus.

## The Program at Lincoln University

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CSU students are admitted to study Agriculture and Horticulture and Parks and Recreation Management. CSU students are limited to courses offered in those fields.

### Course Codes, Course Levels, Unit Conversions and Courseload

Each course is assigned a departmental four-letter code followed by three digits. The first digit represents the course level as shown below.

- 100-199 First-year courses (lower division)
- 200-299 Second-year courses (upper division)
- 300-399 Third-year courses (upper division)

At Lincoln, most courses are assigned a value of one unit, with four units a semester constituting a full courseload. Each academic course taken at Lincoln is equivalent to four CSU semester units.

Unit Conversion Guidelines	
Lincoln Units	CSU Semester Units
1	4

Students are expected to take at least four courses each semester. A minimum of three courses must be within the approved area of study in which they were accepted. The fourth course can be an elective course.

Below is an example of the academic schedule for EACH semester at Lincoln University.

	<u>CSU Units</u>
Courses in approved area of study	12
Elective course outside approved area of study:	4
Minimum number of units required:	16

Any exceptions to the above schedule (e.g. taking more than one elective course in a given semester, taking more than 16 units, etc.), must be approved by the Office of International Programs. To request an exception, email the Office of International Programs at: < IPacademics@calstate.edu >.

All courses must be taken for a regular grade.

### Course Offerings

Below is a list of CSU majors and the corresponding departments at Lincoln in which students can take courses provided courses are available and course prerequisites have been met. Note that where specific courses are identified, only those courses may be taken.

CSU Major	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Parks and Recreation	Management: MGMT 326 Recreation, Leisure and Tourism Tourism (RECN)

Course descriptions are available on the web at < <http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/section37.html> >.

## The Program at Massey University

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CSU students are admitted to study agriculture and horticulture, geography and planning, and social anthropology and Maori studies. Only coursework in those areas are open to CSU students. While Massey has a large number of students enrolled extramurally through off-campus and distance-learning programs, this option is not available to CSU students.

### Course Codes, Unit Values and Courseload

Each course is assigned a numeric code consisting of a three-digit prefix (representing the department in which the course is being taught) followed by three more numbers. The first number in the second set of numbers represents the course level as shown below.

- .100 - .199 First-year courses (lower division)
- .200 - .299 Second-year courses (upper division)
- .300 - .399 Third-year courses (upper division)

Each Massey course has a point value, with full-time study being 120 credits for the year. Most courses are worth 15 credits, which is equivalent to four CSU semester units.

Unit Conversion Guidelines	
Massey Credits	CSU Semester Units
15	4

Students are expected to take at least four courses each semester. A minimum of three courses must be within the approved area of study in which they were accepted. The fourth course can be an elective course.

Below is an example of the academic schedule for EACH semester at Massey University.

	<u>CSU Units</u>
Courses in approved area of study	12
Elective course outside approved area of study:	4
Minimum number of units required:	16

Any exceptions to the above schedule (e.g. taking more than one elective course in a given semester, taking more than 16 units, etc.), must be approved by the Office of International Programs. To request an exception, email the Office of International Programs at: <IPacademics@calstate.edu >.

All courses must be taken for a regular grade.

**Course Offerings**

Below is a list of CSU majors and the corresponding departments at Massey in which students can take courses provided courses are available and course prerequisites have been met.

CSU Major	Relevant courses can be found in the following departments:
Agriculture and Horticulture	Agriculture and Horticulture (119) Agriculture/Horticulture Plants (171) Agriculture/Horticulture Systems Management (111) Agribusiness (112) Agricultural Engineering (138) Animal Science (117) Plant Biology and Biotechnology (120) Soil Science (189)
Geography and Resource Planning	Geography (145) Resource and Environmental Planning (132)
Social Anthropology	Social Anthropology (142) Maori Studies (150)

To find course descriptions, to go < [http://calendar.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-us/calendar/calendar\\_home.cfm](http://calendar.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-us/calendar/calendar_home.cfm) > and do the following:

- Click on the most recent calendar. If 2010 is not online yet, then click on the 2009 Calendar.
- From the menu, click on "Prescriptions and Schedule of Papers". Areas of study are listed in numerical order by the three digit prefix code (see above table).
- Scroll down the list of departments until you find the relevant department(s) for your approved area of study as indicated in the table above.
- Click on the department to find a list of papers and descriptions.

Note: The 2010 Calendar was not available at the time this publication was printed. Students should check the Massey University website periodically for updates.