



Rangitoto College

International Students

Pre Departure
Booklet

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1. Why New Zealand?

New Zealand is a very popular destination with international students. We have an excellent educational system in our schools, universities, and polytechnics and they are internationally recognised around the world.

New Zealand is an ideal place to study and travel. We have sophisticated cities, beautiful beaches, rugged coastlines and snow capped mountains.

New Zealand offers opportunities to try many different activities like bungee jumping, sky diving, skiing in both the north and south island as well as many more.



2. Auckland

Auckland is the country's largest city with a population of around 1.5 million people. The city is surrounded by sea and many extinct volcanoes which has created a very amazing landscape. As a result of the beautiful harbour, Auckland has been named the "City of Sails".

Auckland is a multicultural city and people from all over the world come to study, visit, live and work here. Auckland has a number of museums, markets, festivals, theatres etc as well as a variety of cafés, restaurants and shops. Some of New Zealand's best educational institutions are located in Auckland.



3. North Shore

Just 45 minutes from Auckland International Airport, and a drive over the Harbour Bridge from Auckland City or a short ferry ride away from downtown, you'll find North Shore City, New Zealand's fourth largest city. North Shore City boasts a lifestyle and environment that set it apart as a destination for homemakers, pleasure-seekers and business people.

Rangitoto College is located in the East Coast Bays on the North Shore. It is located near a small town called Mairangi Bay which is a lovely coastal area. Rangitoto College is set high on a hill and boasts some of the best views of the north shore across to Rangitoto Island. As you can see on the map on the next page, it is located in a very central position within North Shore City.

The natural advantages of a warm climate, beautiful beaches and spectacular scenery contribute to the popularity of one of the most vibrant cities in New Zealand. To find out more about North Shore City visit: www.northshorenz.com



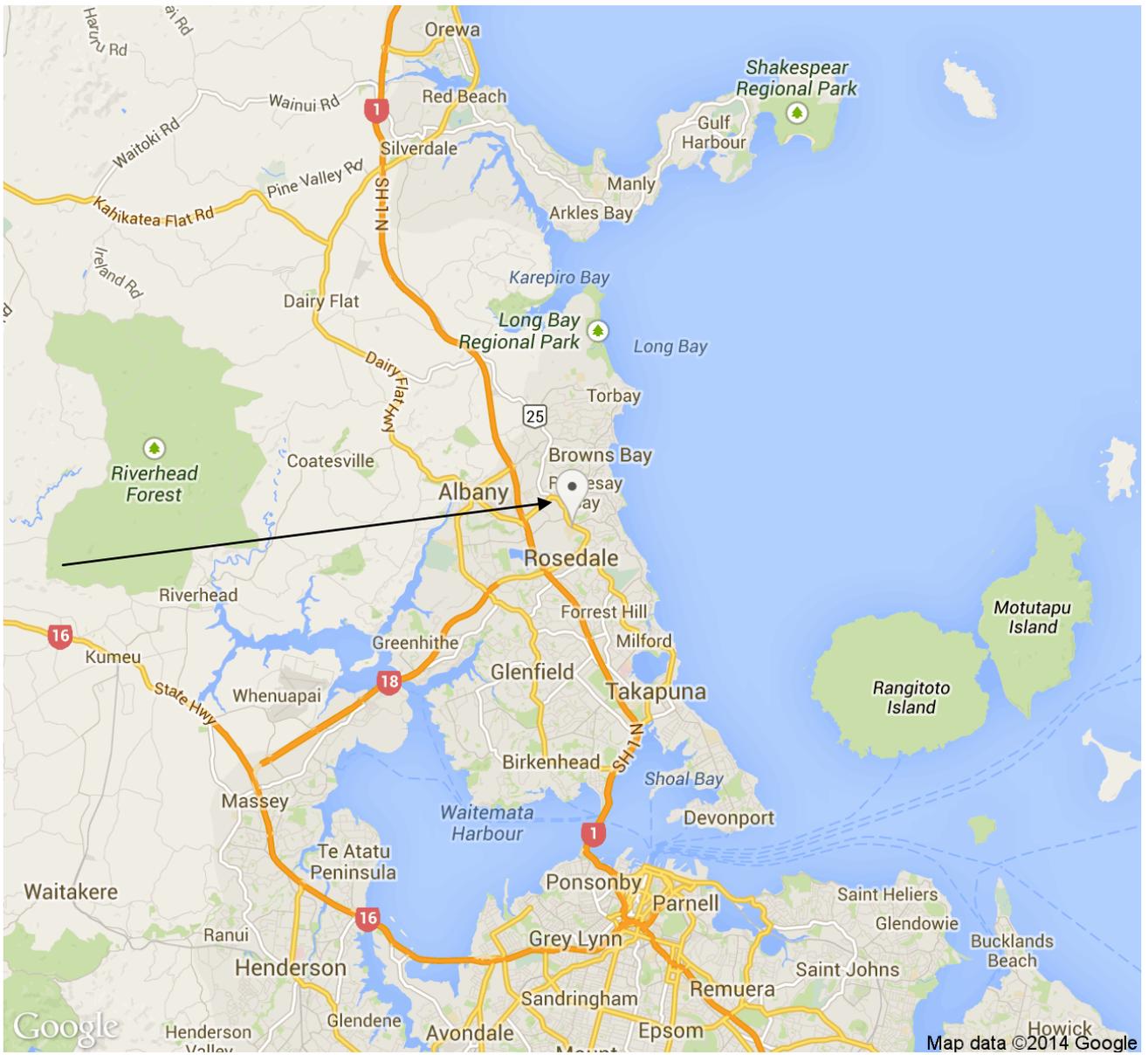
4. Climate

New Zealand boasts temperatures in summer of up to 27^o C and in winter around 12^o C. The coldest and wettest months are June to August and the warmest months are December to March. It doesn't ever snow in Auckland although you get snow in the middle of the north island around the Central Plateau – Mt Ruapehu. It is unnecessary to wear gloves and hats in Auckland but you will need them if you plan to travel around the South Island.

While these temperatures are the norm, the weather in New Zealand can change unexpectedly as cold fronts or tropical cyclones quickly blow in. Because of this, you should be prepared for sudden changes in weather and temperature, particularly if you're going hiking or doing other outdoor activities during the holidays.



5. Map of North Shore



8. When to arrive in New Zealand

We recommend you arrive just a couple of days before school starts as it can get a little lonely waiting without knowing anyone and your host parents are probably at work (most parents in NZ work).

We do not allow you to arrive late, as the first days with our orientation are vital for you to fit into school life.

9. Arrival at Auckland Airport



One of our international staff will be at Auckland airport waiting for you when you arrive and then they will take you to your family. Make sure you send your flight details to Fiona: (fiona@rangeworld.co.nz) as soon as you have booked your flights!! We would hate for you to arrive and us not being there to pick you up.

Look closely at your tickets as it is often a whole day ahead as NZ is the first place to see each new day!! Auckland airport is very small in comparison to other airports around the world so you shouldn't get lost. Walk out the arrivals door and keep to your left. Look at the signs being held up by people for your name and the name of Rangitoto College. If you cannot see our sign, walk to your left and sit down in front of the MacDonal'd's. We will ALWAYS find you!!!

If you get lost at the airport, please call **0800 563 263** which is the 24 hour emergency number for Rangitoto College International Students and we will be able to talk to you. This is a free number and will not cost you any money.



DO NOT LEAVE THE AIRPORT.

10. Changing Money

If you have some money to change into New Zealand dollars it is easiest to do it at the airport. \$200 - \$300 NZ is plenty to see you through the first few days. You may want to buy a mobile phone or an international phone card to use to let your parents know you got here safely. It is best to ask your homestay if you can call them to let them know you have arrived and safe in your new host family/DCG.

If you arrive on the peak arrival days, the airport will be buzzing with other international students who are also going to many other schools around NZ. Rangitoto College have their own van so mostly you will be transported to your homestay in that. If you are part of a group there may be too many for our van so you will be greeted by one of our staff and then put into a shuttle van to be transported to your homestay.



11. Homestay Families

We try to carefully match you and your host family, so the more information you can tell us about what you are hoping for and what your interests are, the better we can match you. We get applications from host families from our local community. If we think they are suitable, we then visit the home and interview the family. If we are happy with them, we then get everyone over 18 in that house Police Vetted by the NZ Police Department to make sure they are suitable to host.

It is quite common in New Zealand for families to be divorced/separated. Most of our parents work (both mother and father).

You will always have your own room. The houses in the East Coast Bays tend to be quite large and often have two or more bathrooms. It is common for the children/students in the house to share the bathrooms. Always pick up your towel and put it on the towel rail.



Your host family will do your washing, however they will not come and collect it from your room. When you arrive talk to your host mother about what to do with your dirty clothes so they get washed. Most families have a washing basket and you will just need to put your dirty clothes in the basket so they get washed.

If you are unhappy with your homestay placement when you get to NZ, we will ask you to try to work things out. If this still doesn't work, we will do our best to move you to another suitable family. There are sometimes personality clashes and we understand this. We want you to feel as happy as you can in NZ and this is a major part of your experience. We do require 1 weeks notice if you or the host family decide to make a change. If you damage any property in your homestay, please be honest and tell your homestay so you can work out a way to fix anything. Please leave your room and the rest of the house clean and tidy when you move out otherwise you may be charged a fee for having your room cleaned.

12. Food

Your host family will feed you 7 days per week (3 meals per day). In NZ we tend to eat sandwiches for lunch and a hot cooked meal in the evenings. You might find this hard to get used to if you normally have a cooked meal in the middle of the day. You should always make your own lunch. You will need to ask you homestay/caregiver what is available for lunches. Try to avoid eating unhealthy snacks and takeaways during the day



and remember that you will be having a cooked meal in the evening. It is also a nice idea to help around the house at dinner time – perhaps ask if you can help by setting the table, helping to cook dinner every now and then. Why don't you bring a recipe from home and cook it for your new family? Meal times are a great way to practise your English. Your family can teach you a lot about New Zealand so ask lots of questions. Just remember, food in New Zealand may be different to what you are used to – always try it first, then if you don't like it you may say so.

13. Getting Places

In NZ you will not have a driver to drive you places. You will need to be very independent in getting yourself to and from events, sports practice, shops etc. We expect your parents

to treat you just the same as their own family. Sometimes you will get picked up and other times you will need to catch buses.

We drive on the left side of the road, so you need to be very careful when crossing the road – make sure you look both ways!! Remember look right first, then left, then right again, then cross the road. Each year in NZ there are accidents with international students who are knocked over on the roads by cars. This is potentially the most dangerous thing you will do whilst in NZ. Please be VERY careful.



You will be issued with a student ID card a few days after you start school. This will get you cheaper bus fares and cheaper entry into places around Auckland and NZ.

Your host family will make sure you can get to school on your first day. At orientation, you will receive the local bus timetable – remember to keep it!!

14. Pocket Money & General Living Costs

Pocket money is a personal decision to make. Most NZ school students get only about \$50 per week to spend on going out. We suggest for an international student, around \$80 – 100 per week is a good estimate. Buses are more expensive than you are probably used to. We suggest to budget around \$30 for buses per week.



Take a look at the “Guide to Living and Studying in New Zealand” which is available as a download on our website. In this document there are many good details about living costs e.g. burger, coke etc. Make sure you parents are aware there are extra school costs such as uniform, books, field trips, sports fees so you do not pay for them out of your pocket money.

15. Working in New Zealand

You are only allowed to work part time (10 hours per week during school time and 20 hours per week in holidays) if you are in year 12 or year 13. You will need to submit a Variation of Conditions form which is available in the international office along with a letter from your parents giving you permission to work and also a letter from Rangitoto College giving the same permission. The fee to apply for this Variation of Conditions is \$165. If you apply for the work visa the same time as applying for your student visa it is cheaper. Rangitoto College does have the right to have your work visa terminated if we think it is affecting your school work.

16. Can I Drive Whilst in New Zealand

International students are **not allowed to drive at all while studying at Rangitoto College** unless you live with your own parents. However, you are allowed to sit the tests as it is much cheaper than in your home country but you first **MUST** get approval from the International Director, Miss Sullivan before doing this.

17. Smoking in New Zealand



Smoking is not allowed anywhere at school or while you are wearing school uniform (this means on the way to and from school as well). Most families in NZ are anti smoking and will not let you smoke in the house. The smoking age in NZ is 18yrs or over. If you need to smoke, we suggest you go for a short walk away from your homestay and do it. In NZ there are very strict rules about not smoking. You are not allowed to smoke in buildings and work places and you are also not allowed to leave school to smoke. This rule is enforced by the school staff.

18. Can I have friends around to my house?

Your host family will treat you like a family member. Of course you are allowed friends around to visit. Make sure you ask your host parents before you have your friends around. When they leave, please ensure you have not made a mess and if so, get your friends to help clean up!! "More hands make light work". If you wish to have friends stay the night, it is entirely up to the host parents. If they say no, please respect their decision.

19. Curfews in New Zealand

Most of our homestay families have or have had children so can relate to going out and wanting to get involved. Curfews can be tricky. The older you are, the later families will allow you to stay out at night, but what you must realise is that New Zealanders go to bed quite early by international standards and there is not a vibrant night-life for those under 18. Photo ID is required for 18 year olds to go to licensed premises.



Discussion and communication is the key to curfews working well with you and your host family. The most important thing is to inform your host family of your location – especially if you are going to be late home, not home for dinner, staying at a friend's house etc. This is common courtesy and also for your own safety.

AGE	SUNDAY-THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
UNDER 15 YEARS	6 PM	UNDER SUPERVISION	UNDER SUPERVISION
15 YEARS	6 PM	11 PM	11 PM
16 YEARS	6 PM	12 PM	12 PM
17 YEARS AND OVER	6 PM	1 AM	1 AM

20. Do I have to wear a uniform at Rangitoto College?



All junior and senior students (except year 13) must wear uniform. The standards are strictly enforced so you must wear the correct shoes, socks, shirts etc. You will get used to it!! Nearly all students in New Zealand high schools wear uniform. Don't worry about it – just think of it as part of the experience. On Orientation Day we can help you select your uniform as we will have a range of sizes available for you to try. The cost of the complete uniform is between \$250-\$300. If you are attending Rangitoto College for only a short term ie less than one term



we will loan you a uniform at a cost of \$60 which will be refunded to you when you return the uniform washed and ironed. If you play sport at Rangitoto College, you will be required to purchase a Rangitoto College sports uniform for that particular sport.

21. What sports or cultural clubs can I join in New Zealand?

There are many clubs and activities to join in with at Rangitoto College. The more you get involved the more friends you will make. Our application form has all these listed for you to choose. Don't panic if you didn't fill it out, we can arrange this when you arrive. Rangitoto College has the "Daily Notices" which are green and they are issued every day which inform all the students what is on in and around school – i.e. where to sign up for sports teams, music groups etc. Make sure you read them every day!!!

Sports are seasonal so it is essential to check if the one you are interested in is in fact on while you are here. The schedule of when each sport is on is on our website. Make sure you let us know if you are interested in any activities so we can let the teachers in charge know you are coming....especially if you are in the top teams/groups in your school / province!!



New Zealand/Kiwi students can be quite reserved so you will need to be bold and make the effort to make friends. The international students that get involved in the different sports and cultural groups make the most Kiwi friends and have a better experience in New Zealand.

22. Food at School

At Rangitoto College we have 2 cafeteria's for the students. We call them "Tuck Shops". You can buy snack food at morning tea (interval) and at lunchtime. There is a range of hot and cold food available to purchase. New Zealand schools do not have sit down cafeteria's like in most other countries.



23. Travelling Around New Zealand



You are allowed to travel around New Zealand if you are with a tour company or have special permission from the International Office at Rangitoto College. All travel **MUST** be approved so please make sure you get used to talking to us before you go anywhere outside of Auckland. We want you to see as much as you can in New Zealand and there is always more than one way of getting to see places. Our office has many trips available throughout the holidays ranging in price from \$220

for a weekend trip to Rotorua to \$2000 for a full South Island trip for 15 days.

Don't be afraid to ask for help when looking for places to go – remember we live here!!! Kim in our International office will help you with any travel queries – kim@rangiworl.co.nz

The rules we have regarding travel are for your own safety.



24. Internet and Telephone Use

Most of you will have cell phones as will your homestay families. Make sure you exchange numbers with all members in your homestay family so you can phone or text (message) then when necessary. Your host family will generally have a landline telephone in their home. The landline telephone is free to call when you call within Auckland. If you wish to use the landline telephone to call your parents in your home country please use a calling card which you can get from the local shops and let the host family know you are using this so they can recognise the number on their phone bill. These calling cards are **MUCH** cheaper than making a collect call. When you want to use the phone, always ask before you use it out of courtesy to your host family. Please spend a maximum of 15 minutes on the phone at any one time.



Please ask your host family before using the internet. They will probably have a limit on their internet usage so do not download a lot of information – i.e. music or movies!! It is a privilege, not a requirement for your host family to provide the internet. If you are a person who uses the computer a lot, perhaps think about bringing your own laptop to NZ and then you can organise your own internet connection or help pay towards the internet bill. Computers are available to use in the Library during lunchtime before and after school until 5 pm. There are also a number of internet cafes around North Shore City and Auckland that you can use.

25. Bank Accounts

It is advisable to open a New Zealand bank account. It doesn't cost anything to do and it makes things a lot easier when you are in New Zealand. We do not recommend that you keep large sums of money around your house/room or carry it around the streets on an every day basis. In New Zealand most people use EFTPOS bank/debit card and we encourage you to do the same. This is both the most convenient and the safest.

26. What to take to New Zealand?

Below are items we suggest you bring to New Zealand. Depending on the time of year you are coming, will depend on what you bring. Here are some suggestions:

Spring/Summer (Oct – April)

Swimwear, sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen, shorts, skirts, t-shirts, 1 jumper/sweatshirt, light raincoat (something that will keep you dry), good walking shoes

Autumn/Winter (May – Sept)

Warm waterproof jacket, sweater/jumper, long trousers/jeans, long sleeve shirts, scarf, hat, gloves, good walking shoes

For formal wear we suggest the following:

Girls - dress, trousers / skirt, blouse, dress shoes

Boys – Long trousers/pants, shirt, tie, dress shoes, socks

Miscellaneous Items

We suggest the following on top of the items listed below:-

Camera, Medication, Umbrella, Toiletries, Towel, photos of friends and family from back home, a few personal belongings to help your room feel like home.

Please note that if you are bringing anything valuable (i.e. camera, phone, laptop etc), you **MUST** have copies of the purchase price (i.e. proof of purchase or receipt) as you will not be able to claim for insurance if you don't have these. If you have a current medical condition we **MUST** know about this not only for insurance purposes but so we can assist you if you become unexpectedly ill.

27. External Examination Fees

At Rangitoto College all senior students (that is Year 11, 12 and 13) sit NCEA exams which are recognised throughout the world at many universities and high schools. Normally the cost to sit these exams is \$383.30 however we have incorporated this into your tuition fees so there is no extra cost for this. These exams are compulsory for senior students only. For more information about these exams, please go to: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about/index.html>.

28. Travel and Medical Insurance



It is compulsory for all International Students who study at Rangitoto College to have Travel and Medical insurance. This means that every time you go to the doctors you can claim back the costs of your appointment and medication costs, or if you are travelling around NZ and lose something (i.e. your camera) then we can claim that back too. Please remember to keep your proof of purchase for electronic goods (e.g. laptop, camera, ipod etc) in case you need to claim for anything. If you have not purchased our insurance (Student Care or Unicare) then you will be asked to provide a copy of your insurance at our orientation (1st day of school). If you have forgotten to ask us to organise your insurance, please contact Beryl, email: beryl@rangiworl.co.nz and she will send your parents or your agent an invoice – it's never too late!!

29. Holidays

Travel back to your home country is normally only permitted in the mid year holidays (after term 2 - July) and after the school year finishes in December. We strongly advise you to only go home in these holidays and at Christmas time if you need to go home. We will allow you to travel home at other times only for special circumstances, but we need a letter from your parents explaining why you need to go.

All travel within the year MUST be carried out during school holiday time, i.e after the last day of term and before the start of the next term. Any days off school will result in an absence being marked on the school computer system.

Your attendance MUST be 100% to enable you to pass your school academic study, and/or if you are wanting to apply for a new visa for further study in New Zealand.



30. Culture Shock – Arriving

Some good ways to successfully minimize and overcome culture shock are to read about the place where you will be staying and the things you will be doing, also, if possible, speak with someone already living in the new environment.

Once you are there, keep in mind that people and customs may be very different from what you are used to. Having realistic expectations and realizing that difficulties and misunderstandings may occur will help you keep a cool head when they do, and keeping an open mind will allow you to find solutions to those problems that may arise.

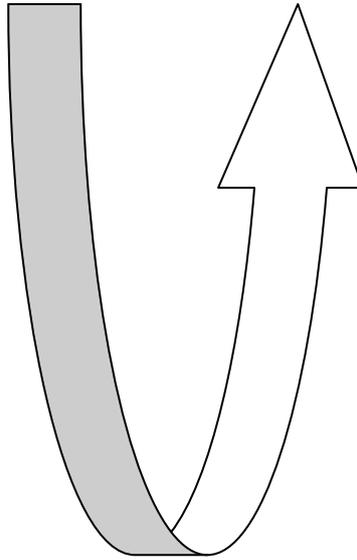
When possible interact with the local population. Don't succumb to the temptation to isolate yourself, even if it is within a group of compatriots. Locals will generally be pleased to introduce you to their culture and willing to answer questions. Don't be afraid of making mistakes. When you are eager to learn people are usually more than willing to meet you half-way and learn from you in turn.

Find ways to keep in touch with family and friends at home. Sometimes you just need to talk with someone who fully understands who you are and feels that your way of being is not strange, or rude. Keeping in touch also makes the homecoming process much easier.

In the first few weeks after your arrival you may experience some of the below feelings. These feelings are very normal and will pass as you settle in to your new home:

After leaving home you may be feeling nervous, excited sad or happy.

When you arrive in New Zealand you may feel a little confused, tired or excited as everything is new and different.



New Home

You now feel more confident and happy. You can look ahead to your future. Yes I made the right choice coming to New Zealand!

Once you have **settled in** you will find yourself making new friends and adapting to the n new culture. Things will not seem so bad. Your homestay will start feeling like home.

Culture Shock! There are some things that will stand out to you and you may find hard to adjust too. There will be new food, new language to get used to. You may be feeling lonely, find it difficult to study and get used to the foreign environment. You may get tired speaking English all the time.

What have I done?

You may be feeling homesick, missing family, your friends and the food. Did I make the right decision coming to New Zealand?

31. Culture Shock – Going Home

It is often difficult to readjust to the old way of life. While reuniting with friends and family is always a pleasant experience, you may miss the routines and habits acquired while away. This can be frustrating and dismaying when you envision homecoming as a wonderful moment where the world goes back to feeling "normal" again. The truth is though that like you missed the things and habits customs that made home "home," you will also yearn for those habits and manners that you became accustomed during your absence. Also, after an absence of several years it is likely that things have changed somewhat from your idealized memories.

Similarly to culture shock, the feeling eventually passes as you re-acclimatize and settle in to you old surroundings.

32. International Staff



Miss Lynda Sullivan
Director of International Students



Miss Beth Leyland
Marketing & Relationship Manager



Mrs Gelise O'Hare
Student Services Co-ordinator



Mrs Beryl Hunt
Finance & Homestay Administrator



Mrs Fiona Anderson
Accommodation Co-ordinator



Mrs Kim Smith
Accommodation Assistant

33. International Deans and Deputy Principal – International



Mr Paul Craig
International Dean
Male students



Mrs Elizabeth McKnight
Deputy Principal – International
Students



Miss Rachael Nugent
International Dean
Female Students



Rangitoto College

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