Choosing a Campus: Palmerston North (Manawatu)
Where exactly is it?

• Palmerston North is located in the south/central region of the North Island.

• Approximate distance to other Massey campuses:
  • Albany = 333 miles, 7-hour drive
  • Wellington = 88 miles, 2-hour drive
How big is it?

- Palmerston North is approximately 129.7 mi² (for comparison, Madison is 84.7 mi²!) However, the city is more concentrated than Madison, so it can feel significantly smaller.

- The population is estimated around 83,000. The campus itself has about 8,000 enrolled students.

- Approximately 1/3 of the population is between the ages of 15-30 years old.
Where is the campus located?

- Massey’s campus is in the southern part of the city, just across the Manawatu River.

- A bus ride into the center of town is about 10-15 minutes, while a walk takes about 30-40 minutes.
What is the weather like?

• Because New Zealand is located in the southern hemisphere, seasons will be opposite from those in Wisconsin. If you leave for your program in the winter, you can expect to be greeted by summer temperatures in New Zealand.

• Summer temperatures are similar to those in Wisconsin, but typically with less humidity.

• Winter temperatures usually stay between 40s-50s during the day and 30s-40s at night. They are also very rainy – make sure you bring a rain jacket!
What is campus like?

• Massey’s Palmerston North campus is easy to navigate. The majority of buildings that hold classes are located inside the Main Drive which circles the campus.

The furthest residence hall requires a **10-15 minute walk** to classes, while the closest requires only about a **3 minute walk**.
What is campus like?

- This campus has on-site:
  - ANZ Bank location
  - Cafeteria
  - School supply/bookshop
  - Massey apparel store
  - Large multi-level library
  - Rec center
  - Printery
  - Police station
  - Coffee house
What is the surrounding city like?

- Palmerston North has a long list of unique sites to see. Some of these include:
  - Manawatu Gorge Track
  - New Zealand Rugby Museum
  - Aquatic Center
  - Movie theater
  - Farmer’s market
  - The Square – the center of town, filled with unique shops, restaurants, and a large mall

**Tip:** Business hours for most stores in Palmerston North tend to be shorter than those in Madison, so plan your shopping trips accordingly!
What is the surrounding city like?

- Manawatu Gorge Track
- Manawatu Gorge
- Clock Tower at the city’s center
- Festival of Cultures in the Palmerston North Square
What kinds of classes are available?

• Palmerston North boasts the largest number of offerings of Massey’s three campuses. This campus has classes (called “papers”) that cater to 97 different majors and 121 different programs.

• Subjects you can take at this campus include:
  • Sciences
  • Agriculture
  • Humanities & Social Sciences
  • Arts
  • Education
  • Business
  • Horticulture
  • Engineering
  • Food Science & Technology

Check out Massey’s website to learn more about which papers will be offered for your duration!
What housing options are available?

- Students can choose between living in on-campus residence halls, off-campus homestay, and off-campus flats.

- It’s good to consider if your housing preferences abroad might differ from your usual preferences. For example, you may not want to live in another dorm in Madison, but residence halls abroad can be a great way to meet friends and even travel buddies!
Residence Halls

- There are 12 residence halls to choose from, all of which can house international students. The majority also house domestic students.

- Some of the residence halls will feel more like dorms while others are set up like cottages or flats.

**Tip:** Make sure to check whether or not a hall is “catered” (meal plans involved) or “self-catered” (you buy and cook your own food).
Homestay

• A homestay option is also available for international students on this campus. Especially if a family environment appeals to you, Massey’s approved homestays can be a great way to really observe what it’s like to live in Palmerston North on a full-time basis and make local connections.

• Some homestays may be located further from campus than others. However, transportation to and from campus is always accessible via buses, bike paths, and/or your host family.

For more information on homestays in Palmerston North, you can check out this webpage.
Flats

- Flats (or apartments) are also an option for international students. However, most students who study abroad in Palmerston North choose on-campus housing for its convenience and to better acclimate.

- If you do pursue a flat, be sure to check out Massey’s [helpful webpage](#) on things to keep in mind.

★ **Tip:** Most flat renting advertisements will include the rent in weekly increments (noted as “pw”)

★ **Tip:** Remember to factor in the exchange rate when considering what rent is affordable!

(As of Jan. 2017, NZ$1 = US$0.70)
What local transportation is available?

- There are buses that run city-wide, and all Palmerston North–Massey students receive a bus pass free of charge. There are multiple stops on campus.

- If buses aren’t running, taxis are also an easy and relatively cheap option. A typical fare from campus to the city center costs about NZ$15.

- For students who are used to biking around Madison, there is also the option to buy a bicycle once in New Zealand. Just be sure to read up on the rules of the road for bikers in New Zealand – they may be different than Madison!

(As of Jan. 2017, NZ$1 = US$0.70)
What do I do about a phone?

There are multiple cell phone carriers to choose from including:

▸ Spark  ▸ 2Degrees  ▸ Skinny  ▸ Vodaphone

• If you have a smartphone that is “unlocked,” you can simply buy a new SIM card once abroad so that you can continue to use your own phone.
  • If you don’t know, you can contact your US phone provider to check!

• If you cannot use a new SIM card abroad, you may be able to use an old phone or buy a cheap flip phone once abroad.

• Make sure to consider what kind of plan you want to have before choosing a carrier – you may want more international minutes while you are abroad!
What’s the Wi-Fi situation?

• Free Wi-Fi is much more available in the US than in New Zealand. However, Palmerston North does have Inspire Free Wi-Fi available throughout most of the city.

• Massey’s campus uses Wi-Fi called Student City Broadband. Students studying in Palmerston North make monthly payments for a certain allowance of broadband.

  → Typical usage is between 20–80 GB/mo. (depending on how much video streaming or gaming you use your computer for.) These plans can range anywhere from NZ$27.50 - NZ$112.

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What’s the Wi-Fi situation?

• A good rule of thumb in New Zealand is to never assume your Wi-Fi will be free.

• With New Zealand’s low population density in certain areas, both data coverage and Wi-Fi are sparsely available. This is especially important to remember if you choose to travel the islands.
  • Offline/paper maps are always a good idea!
Planning for tech carriers

• It’s always good to consider which carriers you’ll want to use abroad, but **it’s not necessary to purchase any plans** until you actually arrive in New Zealand.

• Most cell phone carriers can be found in Palmerston North’s main shopping center, making them easily accessible if you want to buy a plan within your first couple of days. A simple Google Search for comparing plans can be very helpful!

△ Wi-Fi is a good thing to prepare your budget for since you will be required to pay for your usage!
Student Testimonial

Brianna Gunka

Fall 2015

“My experience at Massey’s Manawatu campus was wonderful. Massey is located just outside of central Palmy, making campus very student-oriented. Buses run often from campus to town, taking about 10 minutes. Palmy itself is quite small, but has all of the essentials: a mall, stores, a cute park, and great nightlife. Manawatu campus is also small, taking less than 15 minutes to cross campus. While this was a big change from Madison, I found it to be really helpful since it took me a while to figure out where things were. The classes are also smaller, but this meant that I was able to meet more people and make more friends. Lastly, Palmy is centrally located, making it easy to travel on both islands.”