

Long-Term English Programme 2026 at Ara Institute of Canterbury, New Zealand

[Click here to see our School in action!](#)



About the Programmes

The focus of long-term English language programmes is the development of English communication skills and cross-cultural awareness. There are opportunities to engage in conversation exchanges with local students and to experience New Zealand culture by living with a local family.

Long-term study in English language is in two programmes:

A: General English (GE) – 12 weeks

B: NZ Certificate in English Language (NZCEL) – 18 weeks

[Click here for an introduction to life in Christchurch!](#)



About Ara

Ara Institute of Canterbury is a New Zealand government-owned tertiary education institution that has more than 100 years of teaching experience and is the largest institute of technology in the South Island of New Zealand. Ara provides accessible and innovative vocational training for the entire Canterbury region. We aim to produce graduates who are work-ready and equipped with internationally recognized qualifications and skills for a fast-changing world.



About the General English programme

The General English programme is comprised of 20 hours of English language study per week. Students may be placed in a class of international students, or a mixed class of international and domestic students. Class placement is dependent on the student's level and the number of enrolments in that level at the time of the student's enrolment.

The General English programme is open all year round, and students can start any Monday for a minimum enrolment of 4 weeks.

Tuition fees are calculated on a per-week basis.

On completion, students receive an Ara certificate.



About the NZ Certificate in English Language programme

The NZCEL programme is comprised of 20 hours of English language study per week. Students are placed in a mixed class of international and domestic students.

The NZCEL programme has two start dates per year: February and July. Students enrol for the full programme of 20 weeks (18 weeks study with a 2-week study break). Academic English has a third start date, in September.

At higher levels, there are options to study either General English or Academic English.

Tuition fees are calculated on a per-semester basis.

On completion, students who pass all assessments receive an NZQA certificate.



Facilities and Services

Students in both GE and NZCEL have access to all facilities and services provided by Ara including:

- Library
- Computer access: free 24-hour internet and computer lab use
- Language Self-Access Centre: staffed by specialist Learning Facilitators; for independent language study, open before and after class
- Bilingual Japanese and Chinese student support advisors
- Homestay advisor
- Cafés and restaurant on campus
- Health centre
- Recreation centre and gym



Teaching Staff

Teaching staff on the English Language programmes are qualified and experienced English language teachers with a background in teaching international students.

[Click here for a virtual tour of the School of English](#)



Example timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00am – 10.30am	General English				Free time
	15min break at 10.30am				
10.45am – 12pm	General English (continued)				
	Lunch break 12pm – 1pm				
1pm – 3pm	General English				
3pm	Optional afternoon activity: clubs, self-access study in the Language Self Access Centre				



Students study grammar, lexis and pronunciation integrated with the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Teaching is both interactive and communicative in style and involves students working in groups, individually and in simulated role plays.

Students are invited to participate in cultural, recreational and sightseeing activities which are available during their stay in Christchurch. These activities vary month to month and include conversation exchanges, cultural clubs and off-site field trips. All activities are optional and students pay any entry fees themselves.

Local attractions (not included in programme)

Christchurch Adventure Park



Christchurch Adventure Park is a network of mountain bike trails in the Port Hills. It is also home to the longest chair lift in New Zealand-1.8 kilometers long! Ride the chair-lift and enjoy exploring the hilly area.

<https://christchurchadventurepark.com/>

Mini Golf



Mini-golf is a popular weekend activity for New Zealand families. This 18-hole outdoor mini-golf range provides hours of fun!

<https://riccartonparkgolf.co.nz/mini-golf/>

He Puna Taimoana Hot Pools



The heated hot pools at New Brighton Beach include five heated pools, a separate plunge pool, sauna, and café.

<https://www.hepunataimoana.co.nz>

Indoor Rock Climbing



Originating in Christchurch in 2006, this indoor climbing facility provides a great venue for the physical and mental challenge of climbing, in a safe, monitored environment. Students can compete with each other or just challenge themselves.

<http://www.clipnclimb.com/>

Local attractions (not included in programme)

Willowbank Wildlife Reserve



Willowbank is one of Christchurch's top attractions. Learn about NZ wildlife, see a kiwi and other endangered species and learn about the work being done to preserve them.

<http://www.willowbank.co.nz/>

Christchurch Art Gallery



Christchurch Art Gallery, Te Puna o Waiwhetu, is the public art gallery of The city of Christchurch. It features a Range of works of both New Zealand and international artists.

<https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/>

Canoeing on the Avon River



This has been a favorite activity for Christchurch people for 125 years. Students can choose to canoe or kayak through the very picturesque vessels are safe and experienced guides are on hand at all times.

<http://boatsheds.co.nz/>

Accommodation

Accommodation is organized by a local company specializing in looking after overseas students. New Zealand homestay providers have a reputation for being friendly, hospitable and generous with their time to students.

All students are asked to complete a detailed application form before departure from their country. From this form, information relating to students and prospective families will be carefully examined to ensure suitable placements.

Accommodation costs can be paid separately to meal costs if required by institutions.



Testimonials from visiting university students, 2023

•*"This is the first time I study abroad. It's depend on people's accent whether I can understand what people say or not, but I find myself slight improvement. And I learned difference of culture. There are so many kinds of people, and cultures similar to and different from Japan. I love the Kiwis' lovely personalities! Japanese tend to be shy and I'm the example as well. But now I can talk to strangers!"*

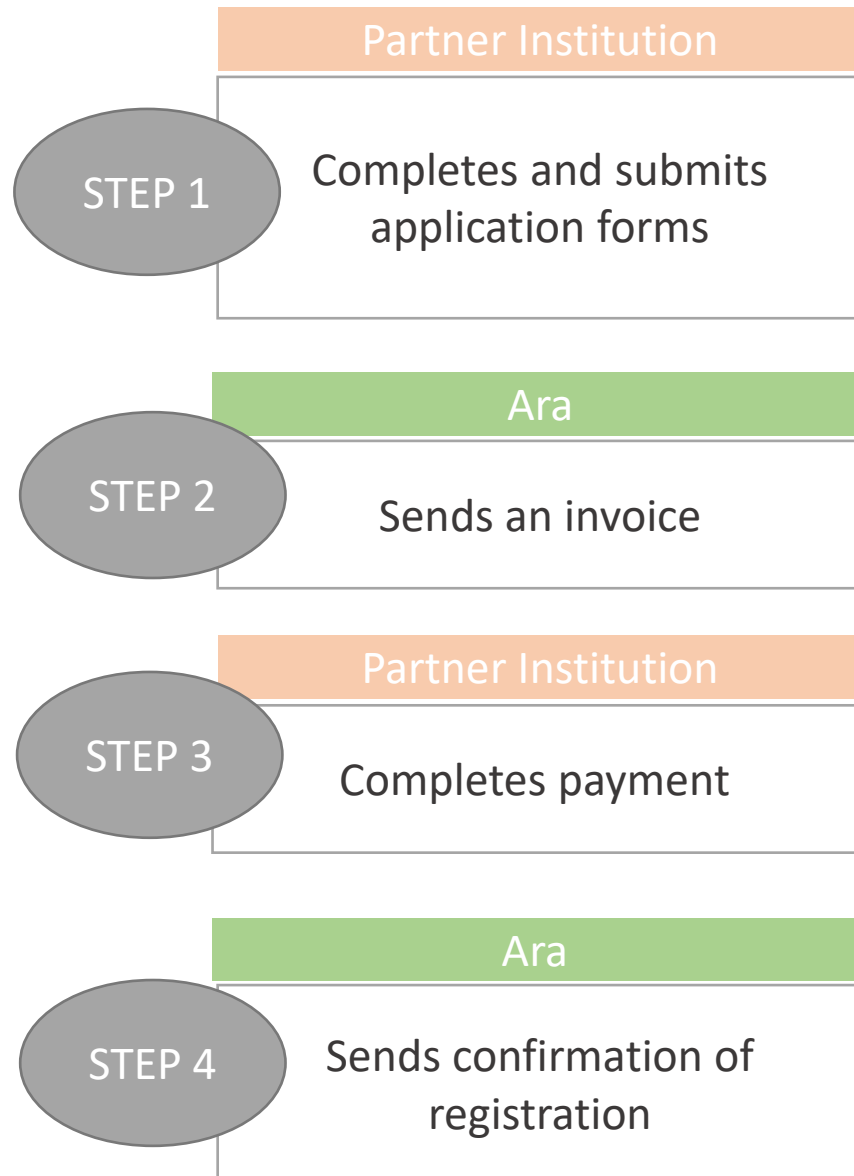
•*"Before I came to New Zealand, I was indifferent to it because it was not characterised in my mind. But now, I love New Zealand! Delicious foods, elaborate wall pictures, Māori, people's kindness, environments which don't exist in my country and so on. All of them are my unforgettable memories."*

•*"I left my country for the first time in my life. I was very nervous before coming here. But my host family and NZ people are so kind to me, so I enjoyed living here."*

•*"I experienced many things that I can't do in my country here, so it will become a valuable experience in my life."*



Application Process



Proposals and Agreements, Payment, Postponements, Cancellations, Refunds and Amendments

- Proposals and Agreements:**
 - This is a draft proposal for discussion. Ara will send a proposal with a signed agreement to offer the programme, for the institution or agent to sign and return.
- Payments**
 - Full payment is required to complete each participant's enrolment in this programme. The payment must be received by Ara **six weeks** prior to the programme starting date.
- Cancellations, Refunds and Amendments**

All cancellations must be received in writing. If a cancellation is made, Ara will refund the payments according to our Refund Policy and in the following manner:

 - Participant withdrawing prior to the programme start date: full refund less NZ\$500 administration fee.
 - Participant withdrawing within the first 7 calendar days of study: 80% of tuition fee paid and NZ\$500 administration fee
 - Participant withdrawing after 7 calendar days of study: no refund
 - No refund of the homestay placement fee under any circumstances.
- All prices are quoted in New Zealand dollars and include local Goods and Services Tax of 15%
- Ara reserves the right to alter the programme, itinerary or accommodation in the event of unforeseen circumstances (such as extreme weather and road closures) beyond its control. Ara will not be responsible for extra charges incurred due to unforeseen circumstances.
- The programme requires a minimum number of participants to operate. Ara reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the programme due to insufficient demand, unsafe conditions, events beyond Ara's control, or any other reason.

For more information, please contact
international@ara.ac.nz

