

Top 50 New Zealand Schools For Gaining Entry to Top Universities

2019



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I remember the confusing decision for my family when choosing a high school back in 2008. We had no concrete data to refer to. It was very difficult to determine the academic standings of various schools and the ability to compare schools' performance across NCEA, CIE and IB was not possible. Compared to many countries like the US and China, parents in New Zealand are often left in the dark when it comes to school choice, frequently relying on anecdotes and insights from friends of friends. Some parents make decisions based on which headmasters give better presentations on open day, others because a friend they trust has had a positive experience with a certain school. Today, we unveil a rigorous barometer for a truly world class education.

In line with Crimson's mission to bring transparency to the education journey for young Kiwis in helping them find the best possible path for their future trajectory, we have launched the Crimson-QS Best NZ Schools for Getting Into Top-Ranked Universities 2019 rankings. We have done this alongside our brilliant partners, QS World University Rankings, who are well known in New Zealand for being a key barometer by which all New Zealand universities evaluate their effectiveness.

Crimson brings its deep, idiosyncratic knowledge of the New Zealand schooling landscape serving tens of thousands of

KEY RANKINGS POINT

The Top 10 ranked schools comprises of 8 private and 2 state schools - Macleans and Auckland Grammar school.

students nationwide across various ages, cities, backgrounds. Crimson also brings extensive knowledge in NCEA, CIE and IB as well as world-leading experience supporting students on their pathway into top global universities like Stanford, MIT, Harvard and competitive domestic programs like Medicine. QS brings its rigorous experience in developing sound methodology trusted by world leading education experts to help compare education pathways transparently.

Together, we aim to bring New Zealand parents and students a new era of transparency, guidance and clarity to the high stakes decision as to which high school is right for their child.

While no one ranking captures everything, we have carefully designed our methodology in consideration of the characteristics sought out by the world's leading universities like Harvard, Stanford and other such institutions. For the first time, we incorporate a measure of academic quality that transcends simple NCEA pass rates. Through analyzing NCEA premier scholars, CIE and IB award winners, we are able to reflect the schools that have been able to support highly ambitious students to reach the pinnacle of achievement. By considering diversity, we promote schools that actively seek to build an environment that mirrors the beautiful cultural richness of our country and prepares global citizens, equipped to navigate

different cultural horizons. By evaluating extra-curricular activities, we shine a light on the schools that focus on holistic growth, leadership development and all-round achievement - core tenets of a well-rounded education.

Our rankings are also designed to support school administrators in helping them aspire towards characteristics for their institution that are being consistently recognised by the world's top universities. As such, we have been delighted to support many schools in understanding the sophisticated methodology underpinning the Crimson-QS ranking in considerable detail since the rankings were released and look forward to helping more schools build understanding as they form their strategic plans and development goals.



For students to really excel at school and gain admission to top universities, they need highly customised and holistic support from academics to extracurricular studies and leadership.”

In our inaugural rankings, I want to draw attention to a few high fliers. The first is Maclean's College. As the highest performing public school in the nation in our rankings, Macleans has for the last five years seen its Dux accepted into Harvard University with the support of Crimson. Macleans students have also consistently achieved NZQA Premier Scholars (the award given to the top 10 students in the nation).

When I asked Crimson co-founder Fangzhou Jiang, New Zealand's first and only Chinese passport holder to win an NZQA Premier Scholar about Macleans, he remarked that it was exceptional to see a public school punching above its weight so consistently in building an academic culture, ambition and peer-to-peer support that drives such achievement.

The next school I want to draw attention to is Hamilton Boys' High School. Well known in recent years for the success of Soumil Singh, Dux and Head Boy who was featured on the front page of the New Zealand Herald as New Zealand's Smartest Teen, the school has continued to provide a pipeline of top calibre students for global universities.

In showcasing New Zealand talent to the world stage, we are delighted to see that students nationwide are represented. Scots College, whose student Willem Ebbinge recently was accepted into Harvard, was another fantastic example.

KEY RANKINGS POINT

Macleans and Auckland Grammar school are the only two schools in the top 10 with over 2,000 student roll and over 400 students in each Year 13 roll.

While no ranking is perfect, our ranking combines more than 100 years of education experience across Crimson's consulting team, data science capabilities from the reigning Excel World Champion and is based on a rigorous data-collection practice. We hope it can contribute to the nationwide discourse and inspire the best in our incredibly talented young people.

To sky high ambition and transformative education for New Zealanders,

Jamie Beaton

CRIMSON CO-FOUNDER & CEO

About the Rankings

In a first for New Zealand, QS World University Rankings and Crimson Education have partnered to present a review of secondary schools' academic performance, extracurricular opportunities and equal access, factors which contribute to students' chances of gaining admission to top universities around the world.

The list, released by university admissions and mentoring company Crimson Education, following its partnership with QS World University Rankings, draws on experience working with a global pool of top-performing students who year on year continue to secure admission to the world's most competitive universities, including: Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, UChicago, Duke, Oxford, & Cambridge.

KEY RANKINGS POINT

6 of the Top 10 ranked schools are single-sex schools.

KEY RANKINGS POINT

The smallest school, ranked #6 is AIC with a total school roll of 206 students.

NZ Schools Rankings Methodology

Schools were evaluated according to the following factors:*

01

Academic Performance

02

Diversity, Equity & Process

03

Extracurricular Activities

**Extracurricular Opportunities were only evaluated for schools that made the shortlist based on Academic Performance and Diversity, Equity & Process.*

Academic Performance (70%)

Academic performance was the most influential factor in determining the school ranking, taking into account university entrance rates, NZQA Scholarships / CAIE Awards / IB Awards, and NCEA Excellence rate on a per capita basis. University entrance rates and awards were weighted equally within this category.

Diversity, Equity & Process (15%)

The Diversity, Equity & Process metric captures an assessment of a school's academic environment and diversity of student body. The first factor quantified the grades given to schools to include an assessment of the equity and excellence in outcomes for learners, school conditions for learning, culturally responsive schooling & organizational conditions.

The second factor was a measure of the school's diversity among key ethnic groups. In compiling the new list, Crimson and QS World University Rankings applied standard homogeneity assessment metrics to gauge how far each school ranked in student diversity.

Extracurricular Activities (15%)

Extracurricular Activities metric measures whether the school is offering sufficient educational opportunities to its students and preparing them for university achievement post-graduation. Information was compiled through networks, surveys, and publicly accessible databases on each school's extracurricular activities and Ivy League plus other Top 20 university admissions results. Sporting options provided, performing arts & co-curricular options provided and college admissions results were weighted equally.

KEY RANKINGS POINT

Of the Top 50 ranked schools, Selwyn College ranked #41 is a Decile 4 school, Mount Albert Grammar School ranked #46 is a Decile 7 school, Marist College ranked #48 is a Decile 7 school and Hamilton Boys' High School ranked #50 is a Decile 7 school. All other Top 50 ranked schools are Decile 8 - 10 schools.



TOP 50 NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS



#01 - #25

01	St Cuthbert's College
02	ACG Parnell College
03	Macleans College
04	Diocesan School For Girls
05	Scots College
06	Auckland International College
07	Auckland Grammar School
08	Queen Margaret College
09	Samuel Marsden Collegiate School
10	St Margaret's College
11	Kristin School
12	Takapuna Grammar School
13	Rangi Ruru Girls' School
14	St Peter's College (Auckland)
15	St Mary's College (Auckland)
16	Pinehurst School
17	Carmel College
18	King's College
19	Wellington College
20	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart
21	Rangitoto College
22	Christ's College
23	Westlake Boys' High School
24	Lindisfarne College
25	Epsom Girls' Grammar School

#26 - #50

26	St Andrew's College
27	St Kentigern College
28	Waikato Diocesan School For Girls
29	Woodford House
30	Wellington Girls' College
31	St Oran's College
32	Rosmini College
33	Iona College
34	Westlake Girls' High School
35	Sacred Heart College (Auckland)
36	Western Springs College
37	Glendowie College
38	KingsWay School
39	Long Bay College
40	Chilton Saint James School
41	Selwyn College
42	St Paul's Collegiate School
43	St Peter's School (Cambridge)
44	Wentworth College
45	Hutt International Boys' School
46	Mount Albert Grammar School
47	ACG Strathallan
48	Marist College
49	Botany Downs Secondary College
50	Hamilton Boys' High School