

Orewa College Course Selection

Welcome to Orewa College

As part of your application, we would like you to select which courses you would like to study with us. We understand that this can be a difficult task, so the following information has been designed to help you to make your decision.

Students are offered a range of courses depending on their year level.

Please note, ESOL = English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Year Level	Compulsory Courses	Option Courses*
7 – 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESOL or English• Mathematics• Science• Social Studies• Physical Education	A variety of short programs are included in the curriculum. These vary depending on the timing of your study. These may include languages, arts and technology courses.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESOL or English• Mathematics• Science* (2 terms)• Social Studies* (2 terms)• Health & Physical Education• Digital Literacy* (1 term)• Financial Literacy* (1 term)	Students select 1 – 3 option courses depending on their length of study. 1 x Art course 1 x Technology course 1 x Language course (ESOL may be counted as a student's language option).
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESOL or English• Mathematics• Science• Social Studies• Physical Education (2 terms)	Students select 1-3 half year option courses, depending on their length of study 1 x Arts 2 x Courses of their choice
11 – 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESOL or English	Students will study an additional 5 courses of their choice.

*Middle School Students studying for less than a year will only complete a selection of courses, some courses are not available for the full year.

Please consider your learning goals while you are in New Zealand

- Attaining NZ University Entrance Qualification (please see last pages for NCEA requirements).
- Any requirements from your school at home.
- Striving for Academic Excellence.
- Embracing NZ Culture and making friends.
- Trying new courses, you don't normally do.

International Students - 1 Term to 1 Year of Study

This pathway is designed for students coming for 1 year or less who may have come to experience a different culture, school system and to improve their English.

- Students, in most courses chosen, will do the same work as all students who are doing NCEA, including internal assessments, to the best of their ability.
- Students in some Technology and Art courses, may do different projects to suit the timeframe they are studying for.
- Students can select a wide variety of courses including academic, more practical or experiential courses to try new things, or any mix of these.
- Students may select a course 1 level up from their enrolled level of study, if they are advanced in a particular course.
- Students can choose [NZ Experience](#), a course for International Students to learn about all things NZ. The course has multiple trips to explore our natural environment.
- Year 12 and 13 students here in November, will be offered our [End of Year Programme](#) as there will be no classes to attend while NCEA students are on exam leave.

Recommendations for Students with lower English

- **ESOL** or English classes are compulsory for all students, some students may be placed in 2 ESOL classes to work on their language skills.
- **Maths with Calculus** - most students find it easier to do calculus as the questions are equations based rather than word problems.
- **Technology and Arts courses** - these courses have an element of practical work, this means once students understand what they need to do, they are able to focus on working on these skills rather than trying to understand a full lesson in English.
- **Chinese / Japanese / Spanish** - we offer these language courses. Taking your first language as a course, can be a good way to work on your English and make some friends who are interested in your language and culture.
- **New Zealand Experience** - this class is with other International students.
- **Recreation** - this is a practical version of Physical Education, so there is no writing required.
- Avoid courses that are very English intensive such as: Social Studies, Geography, History.

International Students studying for NCEA – University Entrance

Orewa College offers a wide range of courses that allow students to pathway through High School and into a university qualification.

- In order to be successful, students should have good English language skills.
- Students should start at Orewa College before the age of 16, so they can spend at least 1 year immersed in the New Zealand school system before entering into the formal qualifications.
- Senior students participating in external assessments, pay an annual registration fee of \$383.80.
- In addition, for our NCEA students, we offer a special ESOL study support class, with an ESOL teacher who can help students better understand the English requirements of their courses.
- ESOL / English and Maths must be taken until Literacy and Numeracy Co-Requisites have been passed.
- Students should select the courses based on their correct year of study.
- Students should select a wide variety of courses that interest you, so you have many different career pathways.
- Students who are studying at Orewa College for a number of years, will have the opportunity to discuss their course options and career aspirations with our team or a career counsellor so we can help them to make the best course choices.

Course Information

Please click through the links on the following pages to find out about each course.

For senior courses, Year 11 = Level 1, Year 12 = Level 2, Year 13 = Level 3. If you want to see the course information for a different level, you can click through at the bottom to another level. For example at the bottom of the page describing Level 2 Media is a button for Level 3 Media.

International Student Tuition Fees already paid, cover all course tuition charges. However, if students are invited to participate on trips in any courses, these are charged for at the time, and optional.

Once you have chosen your courses, please complete the course selection form. You will need to have two back-up courses in case we cannot fit you into your first choices.

[Course Selection Form](#)

SENIOR COURSE INFORMATION 2026

	Year 11 <i>(students turning 16)</i>	Year 12 <i>(students turning 17)</i>	Year 13 <i>(students turning 18)</i>	
English <i>(Compulsory)</i>	English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL, beginner , intermediate , advanced)			
		English		
Commerce	Commerce	Media Studies		
		Business Studies		
		Accounting		
		Economics		
Health & PE	Health			
	Physical Education			
	Recreational Sports			
		Sports Leadership	Community Sports Leadership	
Humanities	New Zealand Experience			
	Geography			
	History			
	Social Studies			
		Classical Studies		
		Psychology		
Languages	Chinese			
	Japanese			
	Spanish			
	Te Reo Maori			
	Te Ao Haka (Performance based Te Reo Maori)			
Mathematics <i>(Compulsory Year 11)</i>	Mathematics with Algebra	Mathematics		
		Mathematics with Calculus		
		Mathematics with Statistics		
Performing Arts	Dance			
	Drama			
	Music			
	Music Technology			
Science	General Science			
	Biology and Chemistry	Biology		
		Chemistry		
	Physics & Earth & Space Science	Earth and Space Science		
		Physics		
Space Science				
Technology	Design & Visual Communication			
	Digital Technology	Computer Science		
	Food Studies	Food Hospitality		
		Food Technology		
	Materials Technology	Materials Technology		
		Future Trades	Construction	
			Metal Work / Engineering	
	Textile Technology	Textile Skills		
Textiles - Design Technology				
	Mechatronics			
Visual Art	Art Multimedia	Art Painting		
	Art Photo & Design	Art Design		
		Art Photography		

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE INFORMATION 2026

	Year 9 <i>(students turning 14)</i>	Year 10 <i>(students turning 15)</i>
English <i>(Compulsory to take 1)</i>	English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) beginner , intermediate	
	English	
Mathematics <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Mathematics <i>(Compulsory)</i>	
Science <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Science <i>(Compulsory)</i>	
Humanities <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Social Studies <i>(Compulsory)</i>	
Health & PE <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Health & PE <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Health & PE <i>(Compulsory)</i>
		Outdoor Education
	Sporting Pathway <i>(for exceptional players of Netball, Football, Rugby or Volleyball)</i>	
Financial & Digital Literacy	Financial Literacy <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Business Studies
	Digital Literacy <i>(Compulsory)</i>	Digital Technology
Languages <i>(Choose 1)</i>	Chinese	
	Japanese	
	Spanish	
	Te Reo Maori	
	Te Ao Haka (Performance based Te Reo Maori)	
Arts <i>(Choose 1)</i>	Dance	
	Drama	
	Music	
	Visual Art	
Technology <i>(Choose 1)</i>	Product Design	Product Development
	Electronic Technologies	Design & Visual Communication
		Mechatronics and English Integrated
	Creative Industries	Textile Technology
		Food Technology

Once you have reviewed the courses that are available, please complete the [Course Selection Form](#)

NCEA - UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE INFORMATION

NCEA Co-Requisite

Students must obtain 10 Literacy credits and 10 Numeracy credits before their NCEA Certificates will qualify.

Literacy and numeracy can be gained in two ways:

1. Through the Co-requisite Assessment (a stand-alone test) aimed at Levels 4 and 5 of the curriculum. (Two opportunities per year).
2. Through 'tagged' Level 1 Achievement Standards in 2025.

The Co-Requisite Assessment is the preferred method of obtaining Literacy and Numeracy. All students will be invited to participate in this assessment when appropriate for them.

Level 1 Certificate Requirements

- To gain a Level 1 NCEA certificate students must obtain 60 credits.
- To gain Literacy and Numeracy students must obtain 20 literacy & numeracy credits.
- Credits are gained by obtaining Achievement Standards / Unit Standards in each course.

Students at Orewa College must take an English and a Maths course at Level 1.

Level 2 Certificate Requirements

- To gain a Level 2 NCEA certificate students must obtain 60 credits plus 20 co-requisite; literacy and numeracy credits.
- To gain University Entrance Literacy students must obtain 5 Reading credits and 5 Writing credits from the relevant Level 2 or 3 standards.
- Credits are gained by obtaining Achievement Standards / Unit Standards in each course.

Students at Orewa College must select an English course at Level 2.

Level 3 Certificate Requirements

- To gain a Level 3 NCEA certificate students must obtain 60 credits plus 20 co-requisite; literacy and numeracy credits.
- To gain University Entrance Literacy students must obtain 5 Reading credits and 5 Writing Credits from the relevant Level 2 or 3 standards.
- To gain University Entrance students must gain 3 x 14 credits from university-approved courses

Credits are gained by obtaining Achievement Standards / Unit Standards in each course.

Prerequisites

- There are no prerequisites at any level.
- It is preferred that students have some prior experience or knowledge of a chosen course when choosing a specialist course for Level 2 or 3.
- A student that selects a course at Level 2 or 3 without prior experience or knowledge of that course may be required to explain their motivations for selecting that course.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are prepared to undertake a course of study.

If students are starting in year 11, we recommend that in their first year of study they have the following course structure:

- ESOL
- Mathematics with Calculus or Mathematics with Algebra
- At least 1 Science Course
- ESOL Study Support
- 2 other options courses of their interest such as Physical Education, Food Technology, Business Studies, Art etc

If you would like specific advice around your students' career aspirations and learning goals, please contact our team for further information.