

The 2023 [World Leisure Centre of Excellence](#) (WLCE) field school is from November 29 to December 16 and takes place on the South Island of New Zealand. Focusing on the roles of Indigenous and local knowledge in emergency planning, risk management and recovery through the lenses of recreation and tourism management, this two-week six-credit adventure includes two unique field study programs and presenting at the [17th World Leisure Congress](#).

Program leaders [Jenn Houtby](#) and [Aggie Weighill](#) have vast experience in tourism and recreation management, risk management, and community engagement. Jenn is an international communications delegate with the [Canadian Red Cross](#), helping manage disaster responses across Canada and in Mozambique. She teaches risk management and crisis communication courses for VIU and the Justice Institute of BC and has led tourism destination marketing and management organizations across Canada. Aggie designed and led the Ghana Research and Study Tour from 2011-19 and has organized field schools in Central America, Kenya-Tanzania, and the Yukon. In her 18 years at VIU, she has taught courses on tour packaging, leadership, research, community development, and sustainability. Aggie has also taught in three Indigenous place-based programs: (a) Indigenous Eco-Tourism program, (b) Indigenous Stewardship Technician Training program, and (c) heritage interpretation for the Gitksan First Nation.

The World Leisure Centre of Excellence has secured [Global Skills Opportunity](#) funding for qualifying students participating in the WLCE 2023 Field School to New Zealand. The program provides two funding levels for students (\$10,000 or \$5,000). The funding is intended to offset the costs of the field school, allowing students who may otherwise not be able to participate in international education experiences to apply. Students will apply for the field school (participants chosen by Jenn and Aggie) and the GSO award (program administered by International Education) at the same time, with acceptance to the field school being necessary for receiving an award. Note: *Not all eligible students will receive funding or the maximum they qualify for.* Our program has a maximum of 6 awards of \$10,000 and 5 awards of \$5,000. **Applications must be sent to EdAbroad@viu.ca by September 11 by 9:00 a.m. Late applications may be considered if any field school spots are available.**

Students selected to be part of the 2023 WLCE Field School need to be:

- Able to travel to New Zealand Nov 27 – Dec 17, 2023
- Any VIU student in any program who is in good standing.
- Minimum age of 20 years old
- Willing to be uncomfortable (physically and emotionally)
- Willing to travel and work in a team environment.
- Open to new and challenging experiences
- Willing to follow the rules of the field school.
- Open to having your worldview expanded!

Academic Structure: The 2023 WLCE Field School has two academic periods.

The first focuses on preparation for the study tour, including learning about

- a) Place-based education,
- b) Indigenous cultures and protocols locally and in New Zealand,
- c) Colonialism and the legacy of colonial and post-colonial policies,
- d) fundamentals of risk and disaster management,
- e) strategies for intercultural effectiveness, and
- f) recreation and tourism within the context of risk and disaster management.

The second situates your learning in a New Zealand context, with information and experiences about Māori culture, colonial histories and reconciliation, and life in a seismically active region. In the second phase, you will apply your knowledge and investigate topics from a place-based perspective using appreciative inquiry approaches.

- **TRMT 480 – Leisure in Society**
 - This is a 3-credit fall course that will require 2-3 hours of attendance per week. It will focus on preparing you for the field school and situating the field school themes within the context of leisure (i.e., recreation and tourism).
- **TRMT 391 – New Zealand Field School**
 - This 3-credit fall course will focus on the field portion of the field school. The capstone of this course is presenting your field school research at the World Leisure Congress.
- You **MUST** complete the field portion to receive credit for either TRMT 480 or TRMT 391.
- To remain eligible for the GSO funding, you must attend the field portion of the trip.
- All students travelling with the 2023 Field School are expected to spend the entire trip with the team; thus, any add-on travel experiences **MUST** commence after the final date of the program.

- Students are expected to stay in the accommodations arranged for them and which are included in the field school fees.
 - Any special requirements should be discussed with Jenn and Aggie early in the process so they can determine if your needs can be met and if there are any additional costs.
 - Please also advise of any dietary concerns or food allergies.
- Students must arrive in Christchurch by Nov 29, when the field school begins.
- Students can begin add-on travel experience or return home on December 16.
 - Note the field school starts in Christchurch but ends in Dunedin.

Cost: \$5,500 Canadian.

Inclusions:

- The fee paid by students covers all group transportation and field school accommodation in New Zealand.
 - Accommodation will be shared dorm rooms (hostels) or university residences.
- All breakfasts and three dinners.
- Entrance to attractions included in the itinerary for Christchurch, Tekapo, Queenstown, and Te Anau.
 - City tour and Quake City Museum.
 - Amiki Walking tour and Waka on Avon tour (traditional Māori canoe).
 - Tekapo hot pools
 - Shotover Jet boat ride
 - Skyline Gondola – Queenstown
 - Milford Sound Cruise
- Registration fee (including all activities and meals) and accommodations for the [WLO Field School](#) in Dunedin.
- Registration and accommodation at the World Leisure Congress in Dunedin. Some meals are included in the Congress.

Exclusions:

- Transportation to and from New Zealand and travel not included in the group itinerary.
 - This includes all travel fees from your home to Christchurch and from the Dunedin airport back to your home.
- Travel insurance (medical insurance is required; cancellation insurance is recommended).
- Additional activities are done during free time (1/2 day in Queenstown & 1 day in Dunedin).
- Meals and snacks not identified above.
- Passport and visa fees (if applicable).
- Any necessary vaccines.
 - New Zealand does not currently require any vaccines, including for COVID-19; however, if that changes, it will be your responsibility to meet the criteria.
- Phone and data fees – all students must have an esim or equivalent to allow for the use of WhatsApp throughout the trip.
 - All team members are required to use WhatsApp for risk management/community purposes.
- Fees associated with any changes to the tour package due to personal accommodation needs.
- Personal supplies and equipment, including clothing, luggage, and hygiene supplies.
- Tuition

Awards:

- Students who meet the eligibility requirements for GSO funding should complete the application and submit it with their field school application to EdAbroad@viu.ca by 9:00 a.m. on September 11.
- AFTER you are offered a field school spot and registered in TRMT 480 and TRMT 391, you can apply for additional funding.
 - As you will present your field school research at the World Leisure Congress, you can also apply for conference funding from the Office of Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activity and the VIU Student Union.
 - These applications will be developed after you have been accepted to the field school, and Jenn and Aggie will assist with completing the required documents.

Payment Schedule:

- Accepted students must register in TRMT 480 and TRMT 391 by September 18th and pay their fees when due (19th).
- Full payment of the field school fees is due October 27, 2023.

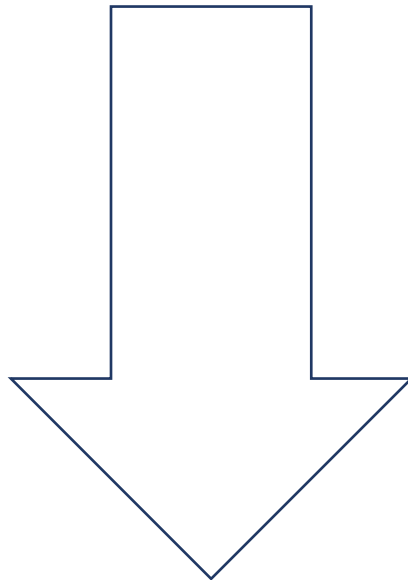
Application Package:

- ✓ The statement of understanding describes what it will be like travelling, studying, and living with the 2023 WLCE Field School and outlines your responsibilities as a team member. We want to ensure you fully understand what you are signing up for!
- ✓ The personal information form will be kept confidential and only seen by Aggie, Jenn, and VIU International Education staff. The information is collected as part of our assessment of your potential for success in this field school.
- ✓ In your statement of interest, we would like you to tell us why you are interested in going to this field school – be very honest in this so that we can also ensure that the planning meets the needs of those selected to go. Include information about your past that will help you on this trip and how this experience will fit with your education, career, and life goals.

Participant Selection: After applications are reviewed, you may be required to have a Zoom or face-to-face meeting with either Jenn or Aggie before final selections are made.

Note: For students outside the Recreation & Tourism Management program. The offering of specific credits can be negotiated depending on your department; however, this will need to be done on a case-by-case basis. Contact Aggie or Jenn if you have questions about how this experience can fit with your program. We are happy to speak with your program chairs if needed.

APPLICATION FORM



I, _____, have read and fully understand the information provided. I am willing to meet the outlined responsibilities and work to the best of my ability within the living and travel conditions described.

Financial Costs: The direct payment for this field school is \$5,500. This fee only includes the items described on page 2.

September 18 – Register and pay for TRMT 480 and TRMT 391	October 20 Provide flight details to Jenn & Aggie	October 27 \$5,500 due
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Note: Students are encouraged to reduce their course load by two classes rather than simply adding TRMT 480 and TRMT 391. This will help you manage your workload since we are leaving before the end of the term.

Travel: Transportation within New Zealand will be covered by the field school fees; however, all other transportation costs, including those associated with travel to and from Christchurch, are paid for by the students. It can be relatively inexpensive to add destinations to your trip at the time of purchase; however, post-field school travel must be done after December 15.

Note: Multiple airlines fly from Vancouver to Christchurch and from Dunedin to Vancouver; however, there are no direct flights. Aggie and Jenn are flying with Air Canada from Vancouver to Auckland (direct) and then Air New Zealand from Auckland to Christchurch and Dunedin to Auckland. You can fly with whichever company you would like, but you **MUST** be in Christchurch by the evening of November 28.

Medical Insurance & Immunizations: There are no specific vaccinations required for travel to New Zealand; however, it is recommended that you have the standard set recommended by Health Canada. Due to the close interpersonal contact in the field school and the fact that we will be visiting Indigenous sites during this trip, we strongly advise that your COVID-19 vaccinations be up-to-date (proof not required). If New Zealand changes its COVID-19 vaccination requirements, students must meet them at their own cost.

All students must purchase travel medical insurance from Guard.Me – information can be found on the [Education Abroad Website](#).

Visas & Travel Documents: Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter New Zealand but must register and pay for the New Zealand eTA application. Students who are not Canadian citizens are encouraged to check visa requirements that may be in required – including the amount of time that it may take to get a visa.

Group Travel & Environmental Conditions: New Zealand is often described as being similar to British Columbia. We will be visiting in the summer so it is possible that you will experience a range of temperatures as we travel from coast to coast and through the mountains.

To make this field school as affordable as possible we are using budget accommodations and students will be sharing rooms and may use shared bathrooms (hostels/dorms). Travel will be done as a group in a mini-bus, again we will be in close quarters.

For risk management purposes students will be required to travel in minimum groups of two when leaving our accommodations or the group during daylight hours. From dusk to dawn students must travel in groups of four or more and text Jenn or Aggie to let them know that you are leaving site and when you anticipate returning.

Personal hygiene should be easy to manage; however, due to Aggie's allergies, this needs to be a mostly scent free trip (i.e., no perfumes or strong body sprays but deodorant is appreciated). It is likely that you will have shared bathrooms at the accommodations – if this is a problem please let us know as soon as possible so that we ask if alternate arrangements can be made (additional fees may apply).

Washing clothing during the first week of the trip will likely be a challenge. We should have time on December 6th or 7th for you to visit a laundry mat. Packing lightweight clothing that dries quickly can be useful for doing laundry on the go.

Culture Sensitivity & Professionalism: You are representing VIU and the World Leisure Centre of Excellence for the entire field school, as such we expect you to act in professional and respectful ways at all times. This may mean following local traditions or participating in activities and conversations that are difficult. This could include confronting colonization and its impacts while reflecting on your life, and the role you play in society. Ultimately, these experiences can cause you to question what you currently believe to be true about history, society, and yourself. We ask that everyone comes to these experiences with open ears, hearts, and minds.

Conducting yourself professionally also means dressing in ways to fit our hosts' cultural and professional expectations. There will also be clothing requirements associated with risk management (e.g., closed-toe shoes) that must be followed. Remember that this is a 'working trip' and not a holiday.

VIU Codes of Conduct: Students participating in the program are representatives of VIU and are bound by the contents of the VIU policies governing student conduct. This program, without a doubt, will be a lot of fun, but it is essential to remember that it is also for credit. You will be required to fully participate in pre-trip preparation and in-field activities. Students may be required to complete long days of fieldwork, sometimes under less-than-ideal environmental conditions.

Access to Technology and Communication Services: Cellular services and WIFI are available throughout New Zealand. Using your Canadian mobile phone plan in international settings can be extremely expensive. We need everyone to be able to communicate via WhatsApp during the trip – an affordable way to do this is to purchase an esim that provides data access in New Zealand. Alternatively, you can arrange an international phone plan with your mobile provider.

Signature

Date

The information collected will help us assemble the best team for this field school. As it will also be used for planning and training purposes, it is essential that you answer thoroughly and honestly.

Contact Information:

Name: (as it appears on passport)	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> I have travelled internationally before. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a morning person. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My family/friends support my decision to apply. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a night person. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in Indigenous cultures. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am familiar with the SDGs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I spoke with my other instructors before applying. | <input type="checkbox"/> I need a lot of alone time. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have travelled in a group or played on a team before. | <input type="checkbox"/> I have research experience. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I know what UNDRIP is. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I have been to New Zealand before. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> I like adventure activities. |

What motivated you to apply for the New Zealand field school?
What aspects of your past education will contribute to this international experience?
Please describe the knowledge, skills, talents, and/or abilities that you will bring to the team.
Are there any major issues, concerns, or commitments that may impact on your ability to fully engage in this experience? If yes, please describe.
Please describe any dietary concerns/issues/preferences that you have (e.g., what are you allergic/sensitive to or what do you avoid eating).
Please describe any physical restrictions/limitations/concerns you have that may affect your participation in your international experience (e.g., tendinitis, bad back, don't deal with heat well)



World Leisure Centre of Excellence New Zealand Field School
Application Form

Please describe any phobias or fears that you have that may impact your experience (e.g., heights, bugs, germs...)

Do you have any questions or concerns regarding your anticipated international experience?

The information I have provided is correct to the best of my knowledge and my signature below authorizes this information can be shared with anyone involved in the selection process.

Signature: _____ Date: _____