

Vojtěch Salamon



Age: 16 yo

Sex: Male

From: Czechia

Stayed: 2 terms

A letter to future students

Dear future students at Taupo-nui-a-Tia College,

My name is Vojtěch Salamon. I am from the Czech Republic (Prague) and I have been studying at Taupo Nui from July 2025 until December 2025. This message should make you excited for your stay and prepare you in a way. Firstly, I have to mention that this is all based on MY personal experience and that everyone is gonna have a different one.

I'll try to give you guys pointers about what could help you make your stay more enjoyable. Here are a few and I'll expand on them later:

1. Always be kind (kiwis are gonna give you the same treatment back)
2. Be a yes man
3. Choose subjects YOU like

So now let's break it down. What do even these broad sentences mean? Okay, first of all, always be kind and help other people around you. International friends, classmates, members of the host family, anyone who asks you really. You

will never receive anything other than gratitude back. Also, don't forget that most of the **internationals are people in the same position as you - on the other side of the world, having no idea about how the next months are gonna look like.** Let me assure you, that treating others respectfully and in a friendly way, is gonna elevate your experience so much. Say please and thank you a lot.

BE A YES MAN! This one kinda speaks for itself, but trust me when I say this, hang out with friends, explore Taupo, make memories, do anything you want, just try to try as much stuff as you can. Do the Taupo run, Tough Guy challenge, ski trips, go to the lakefront and the beach, pick up new hobbies, do trips with your host family, anything that is possible to do, do it. Don't be too nervous and try to step out of your comfort zone as much as you can, in the end you're already on the other side of the world, so why not use it. Try to spend as little of your time in your room scrolling, because memories I made from the five months are going to last me a lifetime, and you will make your own ones too.

The college has a lot of interesting subjects to choose from, which is why choosing just six could be really difficult. Choose the ones that interest YOU the most, perhaps try out new ones you can't in your school back home (if possible). My tip is to pick ODE, the best subject in my opinion.

I still believe, second half of 2025 was **the best 6 months of my entire life**, which is why I encourage you to, every once in a while, try to take a look back at what you've already been through and what's still coming for you. Don't let any minor setback ruin your stay, but rather use it as something to learn from and build upon to make it one of the best experiences in your life. Your time in Aotearoa is going to fly by, but it's going to stay inside of you forever.

Best of luck to all of you guys, touch wood!

Best regards, Vojta Salamon