

N1 SPORTS MANAGEMENT

STUDY & PLAY

NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL & EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Study. Play. Succeed.

A concise pathway guide for student-athletes exploring football and academic opportunities in New Zealand.

A Pathway That Keeps Both Dreams Alive

New Zealand offers integrated pathways that allow student-athletes to combine formal academic study with structured football development. Options range from secondary-school academies and professional club environments to university high-performance programmes.

LEVEL	KEY GOAL	EXAMPLES
Secondary (13-18)	NCEA + elite training	NZPAA, Waitakere College, club TDP programmes
Academy (15-20)	Professional contracts	Wellington Phoenix, Ole, Christchurch United
University (18+)	Degree + National League	Massey, Otago, Victoria University

1. University High-Performance Pathways

For student-athletes pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate study while maintaining a serious training and competition programme.

- Massey University Global Student-Athlete (GSA) Programme - based at the Manawatu campus, with one-to-one coaching, high-performance facilities and academic planning around semester commitments.
- University of Otago / Football South Scholarships - supports talented players studying at the University of Otago or Otago Polytechnic while playing within the Southern United National League environment.
- Victoria University of Wellington Mātātoa Sport Scholarship - supports high-performing first-year students, including an international sport scholarship pathway.

2. Professional & Private Academy Pathways

Academy environments can combine intensive football development with schooling, accommodation and pastoral support.

- Christchurch United Football Institute & Residency - full-time professional environment with morning training, nutrition support and education partners.
- Ole Football Academy - youth development environment for ages 14-18, with scholarship support.
- RH3 Football Academy (Ricki Herbert) - Clive House model combining accommodation, education and pastoral support.
- Wellington Phoenix Academy - professional club academy pathway aligned to the A-Leagues and New Zealand football development system.

3. Secondary School Integration

- Waitakere College Sports Academies - timetabled football academy classes combining technical development and strength and conditioning with the school curriculum.
- New Zealand Performance Academy - a dedicated sports-school model integrating academic standards with high-performance football and rugby development.
- Hibiscus Coast AFC Academy - holistic development for ages 13-17, including nutrition and injury-prevention education.

What a Study & Play Week Can Look Like

TIME	ACTIVITY
07:00 - 08:30	Morning training - technical / strength
09:00 - 15:00	Academic classes - university or high school
15:30 - 17:00	Tactical analysis / video learning / recovery
18:00 - 19:30	Team training - TDP / club session
Weekends	Match days - National League or Youth Premiership

Massey University: Example Application Journey

Step 1 - Secure Academic Admission

- Apply for an undergraduate or postgraduate programme through Massey University's admission process.
- Receive confirmation of place before applying to the athletic pathway.

Step 2 - Apply for the Global Student-Athlete Track

The GSA pathway is designed for international or exchange students seeking elite training while studying abroad for a semester or year.

- Sporting CV - ideally a concise one-page record of recent football achievements.
- Coach reference - from a current coach or mentor.
- Personal statement - outlining academic, sporting and personal goals.
- The source document notes approximate semester deadlines of 1 March for July intake and 31 October for February intake.

Step 3 - Review & Selection

- Sporting achievements, academic record and references may be reviewed.
- An interview with relevant university or academy representatives may be required.

Scholarship Support

The source material identifies several scholarship opportunities, including Massey Academy of Sport support and Victoria University's Mātātoa Sport Scholarship. Eligibility, values and deadlines can change, so applicants should confirm current requirements directly with each provider before applying.

How N1 Can Support the Journey

N1 Sports Management can help players and families turn a broad ambition - studying overseas while continuing football - into a structured pathway.

- Initial player and academic pathway discussion
- Football CV and player-profile development
- Identification of suitable study and football environments
- Club placement and registration support
- Visa pathway guidance and pre-arrival preparation
- Arrival, onboarding and ongoing mentoring

THE N1 PHILOSOPHY

The person before the player. The pathway before the promise.

Start Your Study & Play Conversation

Players interested in exploring a New Zealand pathway should be ready to provide:

- Name, age and nationality
- Current club and playing level
- Position, height and preferred foot
- Football CV and highlight video
- Current education level and intended field of study
- Preferred intake date and pathway goals

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Talent. Opportunity. Performance. | Study. Play. Succeed.