

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NIKAU

**Where are the apartments?** We are situated right on campus! We are between the NMIT student centre, (which is open each day during the week with a cafeteria, student lounge, table tennis, pool table, and Sky TV) and the library (open 8am to 5pm with lots of study books!)



**How many apartments are there?** There are three identical houses with fourteen apartments in each: three studios, seven 2-bedroom, three 3-bedroom and one 4-bedroom. So in total there are 9 studios, 21 two-bedroom, 9 three-bedroom and 3 four-bedroom apartments. Each resident has their own bedroom complete with bedding; each apartment has its own bathroom with shower, fully equipped kitchen, lounge and dining area.

**Are they all the same?** All 3 houses have the same design and layout. The ground floor three bedroom apartments are designed for disabled users but may be used by able bodied residents. All apartments have the same shower room and kitchen size and fittings, except that the 3 and 4 bedroom kitchens have a larger fridge/freezer and central storage unit. All of them have differing views from the windows.

**How far in advance do you allow people to put their names on the waiting list? Do you allow students to do this prior to them getting their student ID card?**

The sooner you apply for a room the better. Studios and four bedroom apartments are in short supply. The best time to apply would be as soon as you know that you have been accepted onto your course. You are always welcome to make an appointment to tour the facilities prior to making a choice. An application fee of \$100 must accompany the form.



**Arrival and Departure dates???** Unlike some university hostels we are completely flexible about start and finish dates except that we do require as much notice as possible about arrival times, (the more notice you give, the more likely you will have the apartment of your choice) and we need four weeks notice before departure.

Most students arrive on the weekend before their course starts. If you are completely new to the South Island, then it is good to spend some time to get your bearings a week or so before-hand. If there are apartments available you can stay after the course ends; it all depends on your job situation....). Again, we do require a month's notice of departure date.



**Do I have to move out for the summer?** If you are still studying at summer school or gain a full time job in Nelson, and have a clean record, then you are able to remain at Nikau apartments for the summer period. You may have to change apartments.



**How much do I pay when I arrive and if I go away for a week do I still pay rent?**

You are expected to pay two weeks rent plus your security deposit of \$400 before we give you your keys. We take cheques, cash and also have Eftpos and Visa/MasterCard. If you go away for any time you will still have to pay the rent as with any other rental property.

**How do you match students up with one another for rooming?** We do try to match you with people who you would like. On the offer of place application form is a section where you describe yourself and who you would like to share an apartment with. The arrangements are flexible, and if they don't work out, we can attempt to change you to another apartment at a later date.



**Is there anywhere for me to park my much loved car?** All students receive a parking permit that allows them to park their car on campus grounds. These are patrolled, and are as safe as anywhere in Nelson. There is also parking available on Nile Street.

**What are the rental costs and how do I pay them?** See the latest brochure for the weekly rental costs. You may pay by semester instalments or by weekly automatic payment or by internet banking. We prefer that the payment day is immediately after your student allowance goes into your bank account...i.e. Wednesday/Thursday.



**Can I pay the deposit of \$100 application fee directly into your bank account or pay my security deposit and 2 weeks rent before I arrive?**

You are welcome to do either. Contact the office for the details. You must use your last name as payment reference and advise us of the date that you have deposited the money.

**Does the studio have a separate bed room from the rest of the apartment?**

No there is just a double bed in the same area as the kitchen and study desk. The shower room is an ensuite, and it is the same size as all other bathroom rooms. In all the other apartments the bedrooms are separated from the lounge by a door.

**What are the power costs?**



Power is not included in your rent. You buy extra prepay power cards at \$20 a time and top up your own meter in your apartment. You pay only for the power you use i.e. there are no connection fees or monthly charges .

**What are the phone costs?**

You are able to receive phone calls to your room, and phone the other apartments and local calls for free. This line has a Toll Bar and so you must use prepaid phone calling cards to make toll calls.



**What about the costs for other utilities like water and laundry?**

The cost of water is included in your rental fee. Laundries are located on the middle floor of each apartments block. There are two big Maytag front loader washing machines and two big tumble dryers. These are coin operated. There are no washing lines, but you are welcome to bring your own drying racks to air your clothes in your apartments. You should provide your own front loader washing powder. One full load of washing costs \$3 and takes a mere 32 minutes to wash and usually 45 minutes ( or \$3 ) to dry. Coins are available from the office.



### What are the Internet costs?

We have Wifi broadband and the cost ranges. You have your own user name and password and the system is prepaid. 5GB of data is FREE every month!



### Are there any extra costs for garbage disposal?

There is no extra cost... We include this in the cost of rental.

There is a big orange container (skip) that you empty your garbage into.

Recycling is encouraged at all times and there are bins nearby the skip to help you to do this.



### Can we bring our pets?

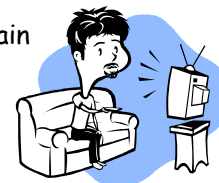
We are like a village community, and as some people have allergies, we cannot allow any type of pet that has fur or feathers. You may keep a pet goldfish in a secure, manager-approved bowl.



**Can we bring our partners if they are not studying?** Yes, you will be charged the couple rate, depending on availability.

**What is provided?** We try to provide everything that is needed in an everyday life of a student. Bedding, towels, crockery, cutlery, basic furniture and TV is provided. You are welcome to bring in anything extra that you need to make your apartment a home away from home. Be aware, however, that you may need to carry it up four flights of stairs (32 steps !!) See the inventory list for a detailed list of provided items.

**Do you have Sky TV or Freeview in the apartments?** We have seven of the main Freeview channels. To view sky you need to bring and pay for your own Sky decoder..



**Do you provide a cleaning service?** We do employ cleaning staff for the communal areas (hallways and laundries) and for making sure that the apartments are sparkling clean when you move into them. However, you are expected to keep your own apartments in a clean and healthy state during your stay. Mops and buckets and vacuum cleaners are provided for this. We do monthly room inspections.

**How about International Students?** We welcome international students to Nikau apartments as adding to the diversity of our community. You can request that you share your apartment with a student from another country, and add a new dimension to your life without having to travel there. International students pay exactly the same prices as domestic students.



**Are there any spaces available for all people staying at campus, where we can hang around together?** Each apartment has its own lounge area, and you are welcome to entertain your friends there. Your friends may stay freely overnight, and you are charged \$20 a night for more than two nights stay. You may pass this charge onto your friends. You are right next door to the student centre. This is open from 7am to 7 pm every weekday and this is a great place to play pool or table tennis.



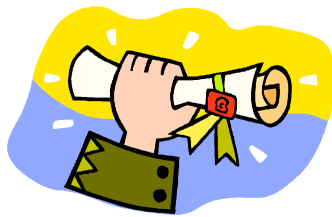
### Is Nikau Apartments the cheapest option available?

Nikau apartments may not seem the cheapest option at first glance, but there are no hidden costs and it is VERY good value. We are on campus in right on the city centre. We offer 24h/7days onsite security. Renting a house or flatting has a lot more extra costs. Dare to compare!!



#### For your rental fee

- There are no commuting costs, you are right on campus and REALLY near the CBD for shopping and part time work .
- You need only a \$400 security deposit to move in.
- Nearly \$5000 worth of furnishings and equipment is provided for basic living so you don't have these costs to set up a cheaper, but unfurnished flat.
- You can change flatmates or apartments without moving off site and with minimum disruption to your studies if you need to, and your address stays the same.
- You don't need to pay exorbitant fees to connect your power or a phone line or access the internet.
- The rooms are modern, well insulated and easy to heat, and there are no monthly line charges so the extra power costs in the winter are really, really low.



- **Most importantly**, you are really, really close to the NMIT library, classrooms and facilities. You are living with people who will give you lots of peer support with your studies so you have every possible chance to succeed in your studies.

THANKS FOR ASKING!!!!