CRIMSON

TOP 50 NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS 2025

FOR GAINING ADMISSION TO THE WORLD'S TOP UNIVERSITIES

A MESSAGE FROM CRIMSON'S CO-FOUNDER

As New Zealand's education landscape evolves, this year's high school rankings provide a critical insight into the performance and adaptability of top institutions. Designed to guide Kiwi families and international parents, these rankings highlight the schools shaping the next generation of leaders. Education remains a key driver of New Zealand's long-term productivity, global competitiveness, and prosperity, making it vital to celebrate schools that consistently raise the bar.

This year, the dominance of global curricula like the International Baccalaureate (IB) and A Levels is more apparent than ever. These internationally recognised programs equip students with the academic foundation, research skills, and global perspectives required by the world's top universities. Schools offering these programs continue to lead, with St. Cuthbert's College, ACG Parnell and Kristin School achieving exceptional results. Meanwhile, NCEA schools produce strong outcomes, though the lack of an internationally recognised benchmark presents a challenge for students applying abroad. Despite this, schools like Auckland Grammar, Baradene College, and Rangitoto College continue to excel, securing top academic honours.

Beyond academics, holistic education is key. New Zealand's top students are excelling in research, leadership, and extracurriculars, from launching startups to competing in global Olympiads. St. Cuthbert's College retained its top position, with 20% of students achieving IB scores of 40+ and two earning 44/45. Kristin saw 36% of IB candidates achieve 40+, while ACG Parnell secured 14 Top-in-the-World and 18 Top-in-New-Zealand awards.

This year's rankings also reflect greater diversity in pathways to success. Schools fostering inclusive student communities are gaining recognition, exemplified by Māori students securing early admissions to Princeton and Duke. Public schools like Rangitoto College continue to rise, breaking into the top 10 for the second year running.

As global admissions grow more competitive, these rankings offer a clear, data-driven perspective on the schools best preparing students for success.

Jamie Beaton

Co-Founder and CEO,
Crimson Education

ABOUT THE 2025 RANKINGS

This year marks the seventh annual release of Crimson Education's Top 50 New Zealand High Schools for Gaining Admission to the World's Top Universities. As the world's leading university admissions firm and one of New Zealand's most successful startups, Crimson draws on over a decade of experience helping Kiwi students secure places at renowned institutions like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Oxford, and Cambridge and more.

For Kiwi families, choosing the right high school is a crucial step in shaping a student's long-term success. Like previous years the 2025 Top 50 Schools Ranking methodology evaluates brick-and-mortar high schools across New Zealand in the context of global education and university admissions trends.

Schools were assessed based on Academic Performance, Extracurricular and Leadership Opportunities, and Access and Diversity; three critical factors that significantly influence Kiwi students' ability to gain admission to and excel at the world's leading universities.

Congratulations to St. Cuthbert's College, ACG Parnell, Kristin School, Pinehurst School, and Diocesan School for Girls for securing the top five spots in this year's rankings. These schools have nurtured students who gained admission to prestigious universities such as Harvard, Brown, UPenn, Columbia, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial, Oxford, King's College London, and more during the 2023/24 admissions cycle.

As the 2024/25 admissions cycle continues to demonstrate high admission rates for Kiwi students to top-ranked universities, we are incredibly proud to be associated with several prestigious schools across Aotearoa.

With impressive admissions results across the board, this list provides valuable insights into the schools leading the way in helping Kiwi students succeed and thrive on the global stage.

Read on to explore the full Top 50 list and learn more about the ranking criteria.

HOW THE RANKINGS ARE CALCULATED

In creating the 2025 rankings, Crimson's team of data scientists evaluated New Zealand high schools on the basis of the following criteria:

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (70%)

Academic Performance was assessed based on publicly available data, and weighted the NCEA, NZQA, IB and CIE curricula equally. Data was drawn from the 2023 academic year, as results from 2024 were not readily available at time of publication (this is consistent with previous years). This criterion also considered the number of national academic awards received by students (e.g. NZQA Scholarships).

EXTRACURRICULARS AND LEADERSHIP (15%)

Extracurricular and Leadership Opportunities were evaluated on the breadth and depth of activities available to students, such as the clubs and competitions they can participate in, athletic and performing arts programs, and study-abroad experiences. 2024/25 admission results to Ivy League and other top universities were also considered in evaluating this criterion, as these universities place strong emphasis on extracurricular involvement and leadership when admitting Kiwi students.

ACCESS AND DIVERSITY (15%)

Access and Diversity was assessed based on the makeup of the school's student population, including the processes and practices implemented to drive positive access outcomes (e.g. merit and needs-based scholarships offered). This criterion was included in our evaluation of New Zealand high schools, as learning in a diverse environment is critical in equipping students with the interpersonal skills necessary to thrive on global university campuses.

TOP 50 HIGH SCHOOLS 2025

01	St. Cuthbert's College	(–)
02	ACG Parnell	(+1)
03	Kirstin School	(-1)
04	Pinehurst School	(–)
05	Diocesan School for Girls	(–)
06	Rangitoto College	(+1)
07	St. Kentigern College	(-1)
08	Rangi Ruru Girls' School	(–)
09	Auckland Grammar School	(+1)
10	Baradene College	(+1)
11	Woodford House	(–2)
12	Samuel Marsden Collegiate	(+2)
13	Lindisfarne College	(+4)
14	Macleans College	(-2)
15	Queen Margaret College	(-2)
16	St. Margaret's College	(+2)
17	St. Peter's College, Auckland	(-1)
18	Westlake Boys' High School	(-3)
19	St. Andrew's College	(–)
20	King's College	(+3)
21	Christ's College	(-1)
22	Carmel College	(-1)
23	Scots College	(-1)
24	Iona College	(+7)
25	Sacred Heart, Auckland	(-1)
26	Epsom Girls' Grammar	(-1)
27	Wellington College	(+2)
28	Westlake Girls' High School	(-1)
29	Glendowie College	(New)
30	Waikato Diocesan	(-1)
31	St. Mary's College Auckland	(-3)
32	St. Peter's, Cambridge	(+4)
33	Sancta Maria College	(+3)
34	St. Paul's Collegiate	(–)
35	Wellington Girls' College	(-2)
36	Hutt International Boys'	(-4)
37	Marist College	(+1)
38	Takapuna Grammar School	(+1)
39	Mt. Albert Grammar School	(-2)
40	Selwyn College	(–)
41	Long Bay College	(–)
42	Botany Downs Secondary	(–)
43	Wentworth College	(New)
44	Napier Girls' High School	(-2)
45	Rosmini College	(-1)
46	Hamilton Boys' High School	(+1)
47	Western Springs College	(-1)
48	Dilworth School	(-3)
49	ACG Sunderland	(New)
50	King's High School	(-1)

Numbers in parentheses () represent the movement in rankings from the previous year.

FROM TOP HIGH SCHOOLS TO TOP OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES

Every year, Crimson works with dozens of ambitious Kiwi students from almost all of New Zealand's top high schools and beyond to gain admission into the world's best universities. Get inspired by some of our Kiwi students' recent success stories!

Whangarei Boys' High School (>)

As Te Ara a Kupe Beaton Scholarship winner, M'Lago earned a place at Duke University for Theatre Studies (ED)

St. Kentigern College (#7)

School Dux and 4x NIWA Science Fair Winner, Sean, accepted into Harvard, Duke, UPenn and Cambridge for Environmental Sciences.

Kristin School (#3)

A.I. Researcher, Michael, accepted into Cambridge for Computer Science.

Baradene College (#10)

Stem Cell Researcher, Hien, accepted into Yale for Molecular Biology.

Pinehurst School (#4)

Budding mathematician Shumo discovered his passion for problem-solving at a young age and is now set to pursue an Engineering Science degree at Oxford University.

St. Cuthbert's College (#1)

Top Scholar, Maria, accepted into Cambridge for Medicine.

ACG Parnell (#2)

CIE Art and Design Top in the World student, Jasmine, accepted into Columbia for Computer Science and Visual Art. Top Scholar, Brian, accepted into Cambridge, Columbia, Duke and UCLA for Computer Science.

Rangitoto College (#6)

Student Journalist, Helen, accepted into Northwestern for Economics.

King's College (#20)

Enzyme Researcher and Published Author, Helen, accepted into UPenn.

Rotorua Boys' High School (>)

With a deep passion for the intersection of health, biology, sociology, and philosophy, Jared earned a top place at Princeton University.

Macleans College (#14)

Chemical Researcher, Regina, accepted into UPenn and UC Berkeley for Chemical Engineering.

Christ's College (#21)

Informatics Olympiad Champion, Bruce, accepted into Cambridge for Computer Science.

Wellington College (#27)

Rowing Champion, Tai, accepted into Columbia for Political Science and Economics.

South Otago High School (>)

Budding artist and environmental scientist Ryan, was accepted into Dartmouth University, where he will major in Environmental Science and Studio Art.

Rangi Ruru Girls' School (#8)

National-record holder for Javelin, Abbey, accepted into Stanford for Biology. Top Scholar and PhD Research Assistant, Daisy, accepted into Princeton for Neuroscience.

Are you ready to start your journey to the world's best universities? Reach out to Crimson Education for an academic assessment.

DREAM. ACHIEVE. CELEBRATE.

At Crimson, we're privileged to be part of each student's journey toward their dreams. From their first steps toward ambitious university goals to celebrating those acceptance letters, we stand by their side, providing guidance, expertise, and encouragement at every stage.

This past year, our students have worked with our strategists, mentors, and tutors to build applications that reflect their unique stories and potential. They've faced challenges, excelled in their academics, launched impactful projects, and shown resilience every step of the way.

Now, as the US Early Admissions results come in, it's time to celebrate! These results are not just numbers—they are the milestones marking the incredible journeys of Crimson students worldwide. We're proud to share the achievements of our students, who are stepping into the next chapter at the universities of their dreams.

Let's celebrate these amazing milestones and the dedication, passion, and commitment that got them here!

CLASS OF 2028

KIWI STUDENT ADMISSIONS STATISICS

24

Offers to the US Top 20

including Stanford, MIT, Caltech, Duke, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, University of Chicago, Rice, Vanderbilt, and University of Notre Dame.

12

Offers to all eight Ivy League universities

59

Offers to the US Top 50 universities

including NYU, University of Michigan, Georgetown, Carnegie Mellon, Emory, University of Virginia, and Washington University in St. Louis.

7

Offers to top Liberal Arts Colleges including Amherst, Williams, Swarthmore, Grinnell, Emerson, Barnard, Claremont McKenna, Babson, and Harvey Mudd College.

5

Offers to top Arts Colleges, including CalArts, NYU Tisch, Parsons The New School, Pratt, SCAD, SVA, Columbia College Chicago, and Otis College of Art and Design.

REIMAGINE WHAT'S POSSIBLE

Ryan

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, CLASS OF '28

FROM BALCLUTHA, SOUTH OTAGO

START YOUR JOURNEY TO YOUR DREAM UNIVERSITY

TALK TO US

CRIMSON