

'Let's Talk to locals' speaking group

Volunteer Guide

ABOUT THE GROUP

'Let's Talk to locals' is a wonderful chance to meet students from other places and make a difference in the lives of those who use English as an additional language (EAL). The group is held several times each week—either on campus or via Zoom. Local people who grew up in New Zealand are matched with two to three students who use English as an additional language. Topic sheets to guide the conversation are provided for all participants.



HOW STUDENTS BENEFIT

Participation in 'Let's Talk to locals' helps EAL students:

- ✓ develop their confidence and proficiency in speaking English
- ✓ connect with local New Zealanders who use English as their first language
- ✓ better understand the Kiwi accent and New Zealand culture
- ✓ learn about life in New Zealand

HOW VOLUNTEERS BENEFIT

Participation in 'Let's Talk to locals' provides volunteers the chance to:

- ✓ meet students from all walks of life and many different places
- ✓ share their insights about NZ culture and learn about other cultures
- ✓ receive University of Auckland [Co-curricular recognition](#) (for student volunteers)

GUIDELINES FOR CONVERSATIONS

- To ensure students understand, be prepared to slow down your pace of speaking and write key words down (if students cannot catch what you are saying).
- To make 'Let's Talk to Locals' a friendly and welcoming place, choose to talk about 'safe' topics that everyone will feel comfortable with. (Avoid topics such as politics, religion, and personal difficulties, for example.)
- If a student discloses that they are experiencing difficulties (e.g., personal, financial, study-related), suggest that they either talk to or email the facilitator of the session (who can direct them to appropriate support).

CONVERSATION TOPICS

Here's a few examples of topics from 'Let's Talk to locals':

Preparing for the workplace

Food in NZ and overseas

Making small talk

Sport and keeping fit

Making requests

HOW CAN I BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

If you would like to be involved or learn more, please contact Jenny Jones:

Email: j.jones@auckland.ac.nz

Phone: 64 9 9231489