

Tania Barnes, USA

My Story

Tania Barnes passion was to pursue marine biology studies, and this led her to forego her last year of High School in the beautiful mountains of Colorado in the USA, where she lived, and find a school with close proximity to the Pacific Ocean and that had a curriculum that included Marine Science. Whilst in the process of exploring options both domestically and internationally, Tania heard of Wentworth College.



Wentworth College

Situated at the end of the beautiful Whangaparaoa Peninsula, just 40 minutes north of Auckland, Wentworth College & Primary School is located in Gulf Harbour, a truly beautiful part of New Zealand. Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the community is extremely safe, and residents enjoy a high standard of living.

Wentworth College is a leading co-educational independent school offering the Cambridge Assessment International Examinations. Wentworth College has been awarded the status of a Cambridge Centre of Excellence, which places us in the top 1% of 10,000 Cambridge schools worldwide.

Wentworth College also offers a Sailing Academy, and Marine Studies, taking full advantage of the unique position of the school in the beautiful Hauraki Gulf. For more information go to www.wentworth.school.nz

Tania's thoughts

"Deciding to come to New Zealand was one of the best decisions I ever made! I have seen myself develop both academically and personally during my time in New Zealand. Wentworth College provided me with an outstanding education, beyond supportive teachers and a wonderful school and homestay environment. I came to New Zealand to further my studies in marine biology and experience a unique culture. In the process, I met many amazing people from all over the world, and developed lifelong friendships. From snorkelling in marine reserves, collecting data from the field, beach clean-ups, joining the sailing team, participating in house sports and attending the school ball, this year has been an experience of a lifetime. Wentworth has been everything I had hoped for and more." *Tania Barnes, USA*



CONTACT

For further information

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Tania's Studies

Tania studied CAIE Marine Science, taking her AS and A Level, in just one year, an amazing feat considering most students take 2 years to achieve an A level. On top of that, she came top in the school in this subject, gaining an impressive A grade. Tania also studied AS Level Physics, and AS level Chemistry gaining impressive grades that have given her University Entrance to many top universities worldwide. However, her love of New Zealand means she has applied to Auckland University in 2019 to pursue Marine Science there.

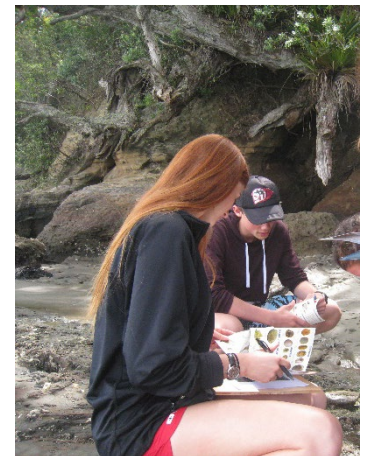


Tania Barnes with Amy Fisher, Teacher of Science, Chemistry & Marine Science

About Cambridge Marine Studies

CAIE A Level Marine Science provides a coherent and stimulating introduction to the science of the marine environment. The AS part of the course concentrates on the scientific study of the sea and its ecosystems, including marine ecosystems and biodiversity, energetics of marine ecosystems, nutrient cycles, coral reefs and lagoons, tectonic processes, natural features and events of the ocean, e.g. earthquakes and tsunamis and physical and chemical oceanography while the A2 part of the course concentrates on human activities that depend on the sea and have an impact on it such as fisheries management, aquaculture and the human impact on marine ecosystems

Practical activities underpin the teaching of the whole course, taking advantage of the local environment around the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, with fieldwork at Goat Island Marine Reserve, local beaches and a conservation / yachting experience with the Sir Peter Blake Trust. Students will be required to gain at least one qualification beyond the classroom – such as Maritime VHF Radio licences, Powerboat qualifications, Day Skipper, or Diving qualifications.



Some more photos of Tania



Interview with Tania



Where are you from?

I am from a small mountain town in Southwest Colorado, USA.

What brought you to New Zealand, and specifically to Wentworth College?

I came to New Zealand on a sailing trip and immediately fell in love with the country's many beauties, culture, and attitude. I heard about Wentworth through the mother of one of the students attending the school at the time, and learned of its renowned science program. After looking further into the school, I decided it was the ideal place to pursue my passion and study abroad.

Describe how you adjusted to life at Wentworth and the support networks available to you as an international student.

I adjusted to life at Wentworth immediately. The students were very friendly, and I got along with everyone without a problem. The teachers, local coordinators, and principal were caring, supportive, and invested in my learning and personal life. They understood my challenges as an international student and worked with me throughout the year to find the best solutions.

How did Wentworth compare with your school back home?

Wentworth was smaller, and more personal than my last school. I received one-on-one help from my teachers and the quality of learning was significantly better. The challenging academics and independent study gave me more responsibility and prepared me for life at Uni.

Did you stay with a host family or in a boarding house? What was the experience like?

My international coordinators worked tirelessly to find a home-stay that suited my specific needs, working until late at night on multiple occasions to make sure everything ran smoothly. At my homestay I learned valuable life lessons, such as responsibility and living in a home and sharing resources with others.

You chose to complete a Cambridge A-level in marine science. What was that like?

My experience with my Cambridge A-level studies in marine science was everything I hoped to learn, and more, about the marine environment. The two classes were engaging and fun. They built on each other and allowed for a comprehensive and complete understanding of the subject matter. We were able to participate in a range of relevant field trips as well as practical work inside the classroom. We also had optimal access to the ocean as the school is located at the end of a peninsula.

What University do you plan to go on to to continue your marine science studies?

As my time in New Zealand had been so rewarding, I hope to attend University in Auckland in 2019. With the new knowledge and experience I gained from Wentworth, I am confident and excited to be continuing my studies in Marine Sciences at University.

What will you miss most about Wentworth?

I miss the community of Wentworth most of all. It wasn't just a school, it was like a second home, and my teachers and classmates were my family. No matter who you were or where you were from, you were always welcomed there.

What has been your favourite thing about life in New Zealand?

My favourite thing about my year of international study in New Zealand is how relaxed and friendly the people are there. One could easily get used to their lifestyle.

What encouragement or advice would you give to a student considering international study at a private school in New Zealand?

I encourage everyone to be brave. Take a chance and follow your dreams, whatever they may be. Don't let opportunities pass by because you don't think you are good enough, smart enough, or capable. Often times we limit ourselves before the world has the chance to see what we can do. And the best part? Opportunities have a snowball effect: one opens the door to two others. The world is your oyster; create your own path. Your imagination is the limit.