

Education New Zealand Briefing

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|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Title: | December 2018 student visa summary | | |
| Date: | 14 December 2018 | Priority: | Medium |
| Security level: | Unclassified | ENZ ID no: | 1819-105 |



Action sought

| Addressee: | Action sought: | Deadline: |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| | Note that Education New Zealand will release the December 2018 student visa numbers on 10 January 2019. | |
| Minister of Education | Forward this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information. | |
| | Agree that this briefing is proactively released as part of the January 2019 release. | |

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

| Name: | Position: | Telephone: | Cell phone: | 1 st contact |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| John Goulter | General Manager Stakeholders and Communications | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| | | <i>Withheld under s9(2)(a)</i> | | |
| Andy McPhee | Intelligence Manager | [REDACTED] | | x |

The following departments/agencies have seen this report

- | | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> ERO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MBIE | <input type="checkbox"/> MFaT | <input type="checkbox"/> MoE | <input type="checkbox"/> MoH | <input type="checkbox"/> MSD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NZQA | <input type="checkbox"/> NZTE | <input type="checkbox"/> TEC | <input type="checkbox"/> TPK | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasury | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Minister's office to complete

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events | <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments:

Education New Zealand Briefing

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Recommendations

Education New Zealand recommends that you

- a. **note** that Education New Zealand will release the December 2018 student visa numbers on 10 January 2019


Noted

- b. **forward** this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information

- c. **agree** that this briefing is proactively released as part of the January 2019 release

Agree Disagree

John Goulter
General Manager Stakeholders and
Communications
Education New Zealand



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
27/12/18

Purpose

1. This paper summarises the December 2018 student visa numbers that Education New Zealand (ENZ) will publish in [IntelliLab](#), ENZ's intelligence portal for the international education sector and government agencies, on 10 January 2019.

Background

2. International student enrolments and student visa numbers are used to assess trends in the international education sector. International student enrolments and student visa numbers are also important for sector planning and for government policy makers. ENZ reports student visa and international student enrolment numbers to industry and government.
3. Non-New Zealand residents wishing to study here generally require a visa to enter New Zealand. However, people from visa waiver countries who enter New Zealand on a visitor visa are able to study on courses of three months duration or less without requiring a student visa.
4. Student visa data, which is made available to ENZ on a monthly basis by Immigration New Zealand, provides a more timely indicator of sector trends than international student enrolment data, which is collected three times a year by the Ministry of Education. It should be noted however that student visa trends do not always provide an accurate means of estimating current (or future) international student enrolments.
5. ENZ focuses on first-time student visas to indicate the number of new international students being attracted to New Zealand and valid student visas as a lead indicator for international student enrolment numbers.
6. For sectors that typically attract multiyear enrolments (e.g. an international student undertaking a three-year Bachelors degree at a university), a decline in first-time student visas is often the first leading indicator of an impending future decline in total enrolments.

December 2018 student visa summary

7. At 1 December 2018¹, there were 2% fewer valid student visas compared to 1 December 2017. This was due to decreases in valid student visas for private training establishments (down 15%) and institutes of technology and polytechnics (down 6%). The decline in valid student visas is expected to be reflected in decreased international student enrolments and economic value for the affected sectors in 2018.
8. The number of Chinese valid student visas has declined in the private training establishment (down 30%), institutes of technology and polytechnics (down 10%) and secondary schools (down 5%) sectors. An increase in Chinese valid student visas for the university sector is partly offsetting these declines.
9. Analysis of January to August 2018 international student enrolment data (excluding unfunded private training establishments) highlighted that Level 5-7 certificates and diplomas (food, hospitality and personal, and management and commerce), at private

¹ Valid student visas are a count of the number of student visas that valid (i.e. a student visa that has been issued to an international student and has not expired) on a particular day.

training establishments and institutes of technology and polytechnics are being heavily affected by the decline in Chinese visas (not just foundation studies).

10. The potential flow on effect, to universities, from the decline in valid student visas in foundation studies at private training establishments looks like it will be smaller than ENZ originally assessed due to the rebalancing that also seems to be occurring in the Chinese market.
11. Overall first-time student visas are down 4% in the November 2018 year to date compared to the same period in 2017.

Next steps

12. On 10 January 2019, ENZ will release the December 2018 Visa Summary (Appendix One) in its online intelligence portal, [IntelliLab](#).

Proactive release

13. ENZ intends to proactively release this briefing as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Proactively released

Appendix One: December 2018 Visa Summary

Visa Summary: December 2018

ThinkNew

OVERVIEW

Continuing China decline

VSV

Total Valid Student Visas (VSV) for December 2018 71,491. Down 2% (-1,491) on December 2017.

FSV

YTD 2018 First-Time Student Visas (FSV) 33,946. Down 4% (-1,332) on YTD 2017.



VSV for the PTE sector are down 15% (-3,271) and ITP sector VSV are down 6% (-725) compared to December 2017.



Declines in the China market, our largest and most valuable market, over 2018 are continuing to affect the entire industry. China VSV are 24,976 (-4%, -912), while FSV YTD are down 18% (-1,457).



The China VSV declines are in the PTE sector (-30%, -1,649), ITP sector (-10%, -380) & secondary schools sector (-5%, -276). **NB** increases in the universities sector balances out some of the declines.



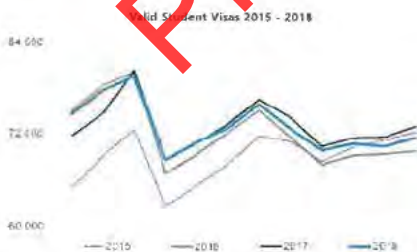
The VSV declines are expected to manifest as decreased student numbers and value for 2018 in the affected sectors and regions.



Much of this decline is concentrated in the Auckland region, as this is where most PTEs are based. VSVs are down 6% (-2,601) on the same time in 2017.



The potential flow-on effect to the universities sector, from a decrease in foundation students, is looking likely to be less than originally assessed.



Note: The principal visa indicator is now the VSV. This student visa type shows a stronger, closer and more consistent correlation to student enrolment levels and is less influenced by external factors such as processing speed. Unless otherwise specified, all VSV are a count as of 4 November 2018. To access in-depth visa data, ENZ's Interactive Visa (IV) Tool is available for download on IntelliLab.

1 Student visas only capture students who enter New Zealand with a student visa. These students are mostly those who are planning to study for more than three months. Students who undertake a course less than three months in duration are not required to enter on a student visa. Students who do choose to enter on a visitor visa (usually from visa-free nationalities) are not captured in this dashboard. Working holiday visas also allow students to study for up to six months. Those who enter New Zealand on a working holiday visa who plan on taking up this option are also not included in this dashboard. These factors will impact the PTE (including English Language Schools) numbers. 2 There is a potential delay of up to three months between students having their visas approved and their actual entry into New Zealand. Therefore the figures shown here may not necessarily represent the actual number of students currently in New Zealand. 3 This dashboard excludes dependents, applicants under Section 61 and Variation of Conditions.

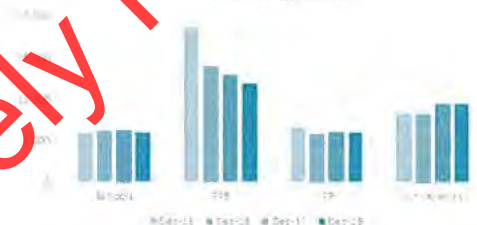
KEY POINT

Analysis of second trimester enrolment data (for funded institutions only) has highlighted that Level 5-7 certificates and diplomas (food, hospitality and personal, and management and commerce), at both PTEs and ITPs, are also being heavily affected by the decline in Chinese visas (not just foundation level).

Total VSV by sector



YTD FSV by Sector



REGIONS

Total YTD FSV by region

Growth/Decline

