

Education New Zealand Briefing

Title:	April 2018 student visa summary		
Date:	15 May 2018	Priority:	Medium
Security level:	Unclassified	ENZ ID no:	1718-137

Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
Minister of Education	<p>Note that Education New Zealand will release the April 2018 student visa numbers on 22 May 2018.</p> <p>Forward this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information.</p>	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name:	Position:	Telephone:	Cell phone:	1 st contact
Grant McPherson	Chief Executive	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Withheld under s9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Withheld under s9(2)(a)	x

The following departments/agencies have seen this report

<input type="checkbox"/> ERO	<input 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 Withdrawn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:

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Recommendations

Education New Zealand recommends that you

- a. **note** that Education New Zealand will release the April 2018 student visa numbers on 22 May 2018
- b. **forward** this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information
- c. **agree** that this briefing is proactively released as part of the June 2018 release

Noted

Agree / Disagree



Grant McPherson
Chief Executive
Education New Zealand

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

____/____/____

Purpose

1. This paper summarises the April 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 22 May 2018.

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. However, the growing trend towards international students taking shorter postgraduate qualifications may make this important leading indicator less reliable for the purposes of future forecasting.

April 2018 student visa numbers

7. The number of first-time student visas approved in the April 2018 calendar year to date was 5% lower compared to the same period in 2017. This was driven by Chinese first-time visa numbers that were down 19% compared to the same period in 2017. ENZ is undertaking deeper analysis on the continued decline in Chinese first-time student visas to understand the causes and potential impacts and will report our findings to you.
8. At 7 May 2018 there were 70,881 valid student visas, which was stable compared to the 70,725 valid student visas on 7 May 2017. The university and schools sectors increased while the private training establishment (PTE) and institutes of technology and polytechnics sectors decreased. The decrease in the PTE sector drove the decrease in the number of valid student visas for Auckland while the university sector increase drove the increase in the number of valid student visas in the Otago, Canterbury and Waikato regions.

Next steps

9. On 22 May 2018, ENZ will release the April 2018 Visa Summary (Appendix One) in its online intelligence portal, [IntelliLab](#).

Proactive release

10. 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: April 2018 Visa Summary

