

Education New Zealand Briefing

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24 JAN 2019

Office of Hon. M. Peters

Title:	Student visa summary: 2018 full year		
Date:	24 January 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security level:	Unclassified	ENZ ID no:	1819-114

Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
	Note that Education New Zealand will release the 2018 full year student visa numbers on 31 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 February 2019 release.	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name:	Position:	Telephone:	Cell phone:	1st contact
John Goulter	General Manager Stakeholders and Communications	s9(2)(a) of the OIA	s9(2)(a) of the OIA	
Andy McPhee	Intelligence Manager	s9(2)(a) of the OIA		x

The following departments/agencies have seen this report

<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 Withdrawn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:

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Recommendations

Education New Zealand recommends that you

- note** that Education New Zealand will release the 2018 full year student visa numbers on 31 January 2019
- forward** this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information
- agree** that this briefing is proactively released as part of the February 2019 release

Noted

Agree / Disagree



John Goulter
General Manager Stakeholders and
Communications
Education New Zealand



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

5 / 2 / 19

Purpose

1. This paper summarises the 2018 full year 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 31 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.

2018 full year student visa summary

7. At 1 January 2019¹, there were 3% fewer valid student visas compared to 1 January 2018. This was due to decreases in valid student visas for private training establishments (down 17%) and institutes of technology and polytechnics (down 7%).
8. The overall decline in valid student visa numbers was caused by a 4% decline in Chinese valid student visas. Chinese valid student visas were focused in the private training establishment (down 32%) and institutes of technology and polytechnics (down 10%). An increase in Chinese valid student visas for the university sector is partly offsetting these declines.
9. The decline in valid student visas is expected to be reflected in the value of the international education sector and in international student enrolments, which Education New Zealand expects have declined by 2,000-2,500 international student enrolments in 2018. Most of the expected decline is expected to occur in the private training

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.

establishment sector. The decline in student enrolments is expected to continue into 2019 as international students who complete their studies are not replaced by new international students.

10. The potential flow on effect, to universities, from a decline in valid student visas in foundation studies at private training establishments looks like it will be smaller than ENZ originally assessed. Student visa data and additional data have identified that foundation studies have not been as affected as ENZ had expected.
11. Overall 2018 full year first-time student visas are down 4% compared to 2017. This was driven by decreases in first-time students from China and the United States of America.

Next steps

12. On 31 January 2019, ENZ will release the *Visa Summary: 2018 full year* (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: Visa Summary: 2018 full year

Visa Summary: 2018 full year



Overview

An average year

VSV

Total Valid Student Visas (VSV) for January 2019: 72,419. Down 3% (-2,159) on January 2018.

FSV

Total 2018 First-Time Student Visas (FSV) 37,434. Down 4% (-1,695) on 2017.



VSV for the PTE sector are down 17% (-3,556) and ITP sector VSV are down 7% (-832) compared to January 2018.



Declines in the China market, our largest and most valuable market, over 2018 affected the entire industry. China VSV are 25,231 (-4%, -1,091), while FSV for 2018 were down 18% (-1,537).



The China VSV declines were concentrated in the PTE (-32%, -1,755) and ITP (-10%, -385) sectors. 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, particularly Auckland (VSV -3,378 -8%).



The PTE sector, particularly in Auckland, has been declining since 2016, making 2018 a decline on a decline.



Analysis of visa, and additional data, suggests foundation studies may not have been as heavily affected as originally feared. Meaning 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 1 January 2019. To access in-depth visa data, ENZ's Interactive Visa (IV) Tool is available for download on IntelliLab.

Key points

Visa declines are indicating student enrolments for the 2018 year can be expected to be down circa 2,000-2,500, with PTEs bearing the brunt of the decline. Declines are expected to continue into 2019 as 2018 students complete their studies and are not replaced by incoming FSV. The decline in PTE enrolments will impact the value of international education, particularly in the Auckland region.

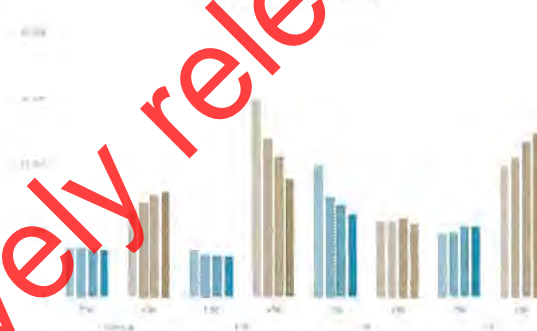
Markets

The largest market changes for 2018 were:



Sectors

Total FSV and VSV by sector



REGIONS

Total YTD FSV by region
Growth/Decline



Reflects the regional proportion of the NZ industry

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