

Education New Zealand Briefing

Title:	Student visa summary: October 2019		
Date:	31 October 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security level:	Unclassified	ENZ ID no:	1920-061

Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
Minister of Education	<p>Note that Education New Zealand will release the October 2019 student visa summary on 7 November 2019.</p> <p>Forward this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information.</p> <p>Agree that this briefing is proactively released as part of the November 2019 release.</p>	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name:	Position:	Telephone:	Cell phone:	1 st contact
John Goulter	General Manager, Stakeholders and Communications	██████████	██████████	
Julian Ashby	Manager, Insights	██████████	██████████	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 Withdrawn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 October 2019 student visa summary on 7 November 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 November 2019 release

Agree / Disagree



John Goulter
General Manager, Stakeholders and Communications
Education New Zealand

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

___/___/___

Proactively released

Purpose

1. This paper summarises the October 2019 student visa numbers that Education New Zealand (ENZ) published in [IntelliLab](#), ENZ's intelligence portal for the international education sector and government agencies, on 7 November 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.

October 2019 student visa summary

7. On 2 October 2019, there were 68,107 valid student visas, down 4% compared to the same time in 2018. The number of valid student visas has decreased for the schools, private training establishment (including English language schools) and institutes of technology and polytechnic (ITP) sectors. Only the university sector had more valid student visas compared to October 2018.
8. In the September 2019 year to date, 28,142 first-time student visas were approved, down 1% compared to the September 2018 year to date.
9. Overall Indian first-time student visas have increased by 20% in the September 2019 year to date. There may be a rebalancing of the Indian market occurring towards higher levels of study. Indian first-time student visa approvals have increased 71% in the September 2019 year to date. This is a historic high for Indian first-time student visa approvals for the university sector. Almost as many Indian first-time student visas have been approved for the university sector (1,589) as the PTE sector (1,604).

10. First-time student visas continued to grow for Indian students for study in the ITP sector in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. More Indian first-time student visas have been approved in January to September 2019 for study in these regions compared to any preceding two year period.
11. Immigration New Zealand had 4,470 student visas on hand and awaiting processing on 9 October.

Next steps

12. On 7 November 2019, ENZ will release the *Visa Summary: October 2019* (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: October 2019

