

Education New Zealand Briefing

Title:	Education New Zealand administered scholarships		
Date:	7 February 2018	Priority:	Medium
Security level:	In Confidence	ENZ ID no:	1718-069

Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
Minister of Education	<p>Note that Education New Zealand would like to increase the Prime Minister's involvement in the Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia and Latin America to raise the scholarships profile and status.</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>13 February 2018</p> <p><i>Withheld under s9(2)(f)(iv)</i></p>

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>
Christine Roberts	Scholarships Manager	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	X

Withheld under s9(2)(a)

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 Withdrawn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:

[Redacted]

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Recommendations

Education New Zealand recommends that you

- a. **note** that Education New Zealand would like to increase the Prime Minister's involvement in the Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia and Latin America to raise the scholarships profile and status

b.



*Withheld under
s9(2)(f)(iv)*

Noted



John Goulter
General Manager, Stakeholders and
Communications
Education New Zealand

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Purpose

1. This briefing provides an overview of scholarships administered by Education New Zealand (ENZ) and funded by the New Zealand government.

Background

2. International education experiences help students develop cultural awareness and understanding, and helps them to speed up language acquisition by being immersed in a foreign language situation. Many also travel abroad for internships to gain invaluable hands on experiences of the business and working worlds in other countries. The knowledge and skills that students acquire through these experiences enables them to bring fresh perspectives and new ideas back to their study or their workplace, and contribute to learning environments that are culturally and socially responsive.
3. Additionally, international education provides a pathway for New Zealand to increase its connectedness with other countries, especially with our major trading partners. Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to develop influential relationships and connections and act as ambassadors for their country.
4. Due to these benefits, New Zealand awards a number of scholarships to outbound and inbound students. ENZ administers four of these scholarships:
 - the Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia (PMSA)
 - the Prime Minister's Scholarships for Latin America (PMSLA)
 - the New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarship (NZIDRS)
 - the Korea New Zealand Agricultural Cooperation Scholarship (KNZACS).

The Prime Minister's Scholarships for Asia and Latin America

5. Asia and Latin America are strategically important regions for New Zealand. They contain growing economies that are some of New Zealand's major trading partners. Traditionally, these regions have lagged behind North America and Europe as desirable study destinations for New Zealand students, and therefore represent an opportunity to expand our international education relationships.
6. The overall aims of the Prime Minister's Scholarships are to increase global connectivity and relationship building, facilitate shared cultural experiences, and assist New Zealanders to build skills for the future. More specifically, they aim to:
 - a. strengthen New Zealand education institutions connections with their counterparts in Asia and Latin America
 - b. promote understanding of the strength and quality of New Zealand's education system and raise awareness of New Zealand as a preferred education destination
 - c. strengthen people to people connections between New Zealand and other countries through participants building lifelong friendships and networks
 - d. improve the international skills of the New Zealand workforce
 - e. strengthen New Zealand's ability to engage with key Asian and Latin American trading partners
 - f. improve New Zealanders' understanding of other cultures and business practices.

7. The Prime Minister's Scholarships can be awarded to both individuals and groups of tertiary students.
 - Individual scholarships provide an opportunity for tertiary students to undertake specialised study, exchanges, research or internships in another country, with an average study commitment of 26 weeks.
 - Study groups usually consist of 8-30 awardees, who complete specially designed programmes or participate in existing courses with an average study commitment of 6.5 weeks. A group study visit can be an effective way for a New Zealand education institution to demonstrate their commitment to an international partner institution and to targeting specific partner institutions for strategic engagement.
8. Since the PMSA was established in 2013, 1,251 New Zealanders (711 from 58 group applications) been awarded a scholarship to study in a variety of Asian countries. Funding for the PMSA scholarship is \$3 million per year.
9. The first PMSLA scholarships were announced in December 2016. Since then, 111 New Zealanders (58 from 5 group applications) have been awarded scholarships. Funding of the scholarship is \$1 million per year.

PMSA and PMSLA outcomes

10. When PMSA was introduced in 2013, Asia was not represented in the top 7 study abroad destinations for New Zealanders. Asia is now the most popular offshore destination for New Zealand students according to Universities New Zealand research.
11. Individuals have used the PMSA to undertake a variety of programmes including study in Asian languages; internships in China, Malaysia and Thailand; PhD research; and undergraduate and graduate programmes. Almost all PMSA recipients surveyed following their overseas study consider that being a recipient of the scholarship will benefit their future career aspirations, and report that it has widened their horizons and opened their eyes to global possibilities.
12. Feedback from New Zealand education institutions has been very positive, particularly regarding the institution-to-institution relationships that have been developed and extended. Several New Zealand institutions report that joint venture and other collaborative pathways have come as a direct result of PMSA supported group visits to partner institutions in Asia.
13. New Zealand has a number of solid trade and economic relationships in the Latin America region that we are working to expand, with Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina among our top 60 trading partners. With our reputation for delivering high-quality education and research, and with the assistance of the PMSLA, New Zealand has established a strong education relationship with Latin America over the recent years.
14. ENZ would to continue to raise the profile and status of the PMSA and PMSLA by increasing the Prime Minister's involvement in the scholarships. This has already started with Prime Minister Ardern issuing the media release on 8 December 2017 announcing the awardees for the first 2017/18 scholarship round.

New Zealand International Doctoral Research Scholarship

15. The NZIDRS was introduced by the government in 2004 when there was fewer than 350 international PhD students at New Zealand universities and those student paid international tuition fees. The scholarship pays tuition fees and a living stipend for up to three years for NZIDRS recipients. The NZIDRS aim is to attract and retain the best international researchers to New Zealand. It was originally envisaged that graduates would stay on in New Zealand to contribute to the economy, our academic community and our research output.
16. Since 2006, New Zealand universities have been able to charge domestic fees for international PhD students, resulting in a significant and sustained growth in international PhD enrolments. In 2012 the funding dropped to from \$1.6 million to \$0.8 million¹ per year allowing 8-10 scholarships to be awarded. NZIDRS holders now make up less than 0.1% of total PhDs undertaken in New Zealand as international PhD students pay domestic fees.

NZIDRS outcomes

17. PhD research undertaken as part of the NZIDRS have contributed to research projects across New Zealand, including:
- research to improve usability of mobile apps for disaster preparedness
 - identifying the reasons for high level of contamination in New Zealand shellfish, and developing a plan for how to address this issue
 - examining the effect of thermoregulation traits on the survival of new-born lambs, and estimation of the genetic parameters of these advantageous traits in Romney sheep
 - research on processing, surface engineering and characterisations of magnic hydrogels for pharmaceutical and biomedical applications.
18. To date, the NZIDRS has been awarded to 252 PhD students at a total cost of \$16.8 million. However, fewer than 5% of NZIDRS recipients have stayed in New Zealand following their graduation. This is significantly lower compared to all international PhD students. Ministry of Education research shows that five years after graduating, nearly 80% of all PhD students are overseas. Within this context, the NZIDRS has become a high cost, low value activity for New Zealand.

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s9(2)(f)(iv)

Korea New Zealand Agricultural Cooperation Scholarship

19. The KNZACS is part of a package of cooperation activities under the Republic of Korea-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (KNZFTA). The scholarship is jointly funded by the Korean and New Zealand governments, and is jointly administered by ENZ and the Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and Information Services in Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (EPIS).

¹ This was part of a 2009 Cabinet decision to reduce the number of scholarships funded.

20. The KNZACS funds six postgraduate scholarships per year over three years for Korean students to study at a New Zealand university in veterinary and animal science, fisheries or aquaculture, and forestry. The scholarship covers the tuitions fees and a living stipend.
21. These scholarships aim to promote greater understanding between Korea and New Zealand and strengthen the trade and economic relationship in these sectors. Applicants are selected on the degree to which their proposed research will facilitate the establishment of closer co-operation between Korea and New Zealand.

Conclusion

22. In summary, scholarships benefit students, education institutions and New Zealand. The New Zealand government makes a significant investment in inbound and outbound scholarships and ENZ administers four of these scholarships.
23. Outbound scholarships have enabled New Zealanders to gain valuable cultural and language skills, and establish international networks and connections. While inbound scholarships help promote the internationalisation of the academic community and contribute to the research output in New Zealand. However, NZIDRS recipients make up a very small number of total international PhD students, and very few stay in New Zealand following their graduation.