

Education New Zealand Briefing

Title:	Student Visa Processing Times – Impact on International Education		
Date:	28 March 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security level:	In Confidence	ENZ ID no:	1819-166

Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
Minister of Education	<p>Note the New Zealand international education sector's concerns that ongoing visa processing delays are impacting negatively on New Zealand's attractiveness and competitiveness as an international education market.</p> <p>Note the New Zealand international education sector's concerns about the financial impact on their international education business of visa processing delays.</p> <p>Note that Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has been providing fortnightly visa processing updates, containing statistics on processing times and approval rates, to the New Zealand international education sector.</p> <p>Note that other requirements, for example the requirement of translations for documents accompanying visa applications, are adding to concerns within the international education sector that immigration settings are creating impediments to international student recruitment.</p> <p>Note that ENZ will continue to work with INZ, including the formation of a joint taskforce, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensure that international education stakeholders are informed about visa processing, ensure that INZ is aware of market reaction to visa processing, enable closer collaboration to inform ENZ marketing efforts, and explore greater sharing of data to streamline processing of quality students. 	

RECEIVED

28 MAR 2019

Off of Non Hipkins

Agree to refer this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information.

If you agree to refer this briefing to the Minister of Immigration, **also agree to discuss** with him that INZ could allay many current concerns if it acknowledged current visa processing delays and communicated to the sector about a programme of work to address the current delays and handle future applications in a more timely way, and note that ENZ is keen to assist with such communications using its channels.

Agree that the proactive release of this briefing is deferred until solutions to the current visa processing delays are developed.

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name:	Position:	Telephone:	Cell phone:	1 st contact
Grant McPherson	Chief Executive	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
John Goulter	General Manager Stakeholders and Communications	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	✓

Withheld under s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act

The following departments/agencies have seen this report

- ERO
 MBIE
 MFaT
 MoE
 MoH
 MSD
 NZQA
 NZTE
 TEC
 TPK
 Treasury

Minister's office to complete

- Approved
 Declined
 Noted
 Needs change
 Seen
 Overtaken by events
 See Minister's notes
 Withdrawn

Comments:

Education New Zealand Briefing

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Executive Summary

You have asked for information from Education New Zealand (ENZ) and Immigration New Zealand (INZ) updating you and the Minister of Immigration on student visa processing times and on the impact of this on international education, particularly on the institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs).

Since the last paper updating you on student visa processing, ENZ has been monitoring market reaction from the international education sector in New Zealand, and through its offshore network. INZ has provided fortnightly visa processing updates to the sector, containing statistics on processing times and approval rates. This data shows a significant slowdown in processing times.

Serious concerns about visa processing times are held by the sub-sectors in New Zealand – but particularly ITPs, private training establishments (PTEs) and English Language schools. Universities and the schools sector have also experienced visa processing delays and are also concerned by the overall slowdown. ITPs in particular have advised that the potential loss of revenue is NZ\$33.36 million due to visa processing delays.

After analysing market reaction, ENZ assesses the ongoing visa processing delays as impacting negatively on the New Zealand's overall attractiveness as an education destination for overseas students, and on its competitiveness internationally.

ENZ is concerned that visa processing delays, and other immigration-related issues, may hinder New Zealand's ability to meet the goals of the New Zealand International Education Strategy (NZIES), including the target value of \$6 billion by 2025.

Recommendations

Education New Zealand recommends that you:

- b. **note** the international education sector in New Zealand is concerned that the ongoing visa processing delays are impacting negatively on New Zealand's attractiveness and competitiveness as an international education market

Noted

- c. **note** the New Zealand international education sector's concerns about the financial impact on their international education business of visa processing delays

Noted

- d. **note** that INZ has been providing fortnightly visa processing updates, containing statistics on processing times and approval rates, to the New Zealand international education sector

Noted

- e. **note** that other requirements, for example the requirement of translations for documents accompanying visa applications, are adding to concerns within the international education sector that immigration settings are creating impediments to international student recruitment

Noted

- f. **note** that ENZ will continue to work with INZ, including the formation of a joint taskforce, to:

- a. ensure that international education stakeholders are informed about visa processing,
- b. ensure that INZ is aware of market reaction to visa processing,
- c. enable closer collaboration to inform ENZ marketing efforts, and
- d. explore greater sharing of data to streamline processing of quality students

Noted

- g. **agree to refer** this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information

Agree / Disagree

- h. **if you agree to refer** this briefing to the Minister of Immigration, **also agree to discuss** with him ENZ's belief that INZ would allay many current concerns if it acknowledged current visa processing delays and communicated to the sector about a programme of work to address the current delays and handle future applications in a more timely way, and note that ENZ is keen to assist with such communications using its channels

Agree / Disagree

- i. **agree** that the proactive release of this briefing is deferred until solutions to the current visa processing delays are developed.

Agree / Disagree



Grant McPherson
Chief Executive
Education New Zealand



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

5/4/19

Purpose

1. To provide you with an update on student visa processing times, and the impact of this on international education, particularly on institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs). This paper should be read in conjunction with Immigration New Zealand's (INZ's) offshore student visa processing paper.

Background

2. On 21 February 2019 you and the Minister of Immigration received a joint briefing (2384 18-19) from Education New Zealand (ENZ) and INZ advising of visa processing delays following implementation of INZ's offshore footprint changes. This paper is in response to your request for an update on visa processing, with a focus on market reaction and ITPs.
3. The footprint changes are part of INZ's new Visa Processing Operating Model, which means offshore student visa applications are now largely processed in Mumbai and Beijing only. Applications may be sent to Palmerston North or other offices to help manage workflows. Onshore student visa applications are processed in Palmerston North.
4. INZ has also introduced its *Striking the Balance* strategy – which focuses on regulatory stewardship and “striking the right balance between facilitating legitimate travellers and protecting migrants and New Zealand”.
5. ENZ acknowledges that INZ has a valid, strengthened focus on addressing high-risk visa applications but is concerned that low-risk applications have been affected, giving rise to a perception that New Zealand's immigration services overall have been degraded. The perception therefore is that the international education sector is at a competitive disadvantage with other countries.

Impact of changes to immigration processes

6. In the last few months INZ's student visa processing timeliness standards have dropped and work on hand has increased. Complaints from education agents, students and other stakeholders have escalated significantly as a result.
7. Some sectors in the New Zealand international education industry – for example Tony Gray, Chief Executive of Ara Institute of Technology, on behalf of his ITP Chief Executive colleagues – are raising concerns directly with INZ about the substantial financial impacts on their education business.
8. A letter from Mr Gray, dated 12 March 2019 to INZ, and attached as Appendix A, states that the potential loss of revenue to ITPs for visa applications submitted to INZ's offshore offices for the period October 2018 to 31 January 2019 is NZ\$33.36 million.
9. ENZ international staff are reporting increased complaints from agents and students about delayed visa processing times. Staff in-market are facing ongoing pressure because of this.

Significantly slower processing times

10. INZ reports that total student visa applications received from November 2018 to date are up by 6.5 percent against the same period last year, driven in part by a 41 percent increase from Indian student visa applications.
11. INZ's website lists student visa processing times for full-fee paying students as:
 - a. 75 percent within 28 days,
 - b. 90 percent within 54 days, and
 - c. 95 percent within 72 days.
12. INZ released advice on 30 January 2019 advising students to submit visa applications eight weeks before the intended travel date, during the peak student processing season.
13. While INZ is now providing more granular data to the sector on processing times, agents and students, for example in Latin America, have advised ENZ that an increasing number of applications are taking longer than eight weeks, without proactive updates from INZ to applicants. These delays are impacting on students' travel and study arrangements and ENZ staff have been told of decisions to either cancel studies or not pursue New Zealand as an overseas study option.
14. INZ-sourced statistics, communicated to the sector on 15 March 2019, state that offshore visa applications with an ITP offer of enrolment, decided within 30 days, has dropped from 90.9 percent to 53.7 percent in the 1 November 2018 – 11 March 2019 period, compared to the same period the previous year. Visa applications with offers of enrolment from PTEs have dropped from 90.8 percent to 65.2 percent within 30 days in the same period.

Perceived lack of standard assessment of offshore applications

15. ENZ's international team is hearing every week from agents and students frustrated by the process and documentation requirements for student visa applications, following the shift of all non-Chinese offshore applications to the INZ Mumbai and Palmerston North offices.
16. In the Americas, Asia, Education New Zealand Recognised Agents (ENZRAs) are advising that the loss of local country and cultural knowledge is resulting in unreasonable requests for additional information and heightened sensitivity to approving visa applications that previously would have been granted.
17. The result is the growing perception of a negative impact on the consistency of visa decisions, which the new visa processing operating model set out to deliver.
18. Agents and students have complained to ENZ that they are unable to understand the reasoning for declines.

Increased costs

19. There are also increased costs involved. Students are now required to provide translations of documents. This is because applications are now centrally processed at designated INZ offices, whereas the same applications were previously processed at in-

country INZ offices by local Immigration Officers who did not require translations. This contributes to disadvantaging New Zealand's global competitiveness.

20. For example, visa applications from applicants in Latin America with documentation in Spanish – such as birth certificates, educational qualifications and transcripts – are required to be translated into English to be assessed by Immigration Officers.

Reputational and financial impact on New Zealand's international education sector

21. ENZ understands parts of the international education sector may have approached you about their concerns. ENZ understands that all sub-sectors have also raised their concerns directly with INZ. The following sections provide a brief update on concerns received by ENZ from the five main sub-sectors.

ITPs

22. ITPs are experiencing student visa delays. ITPs have stated that the potential loss of revenue for student visa applications submitted to INZ offshore between October 2018 and 31 January 2019, is NZ\$33.36 million. This is based on an average of NZ\$20,000 per headcount and excludes additional economic benefits to New Zealand such as accommodation and living cost spend.
23. The ITP sector says the delays are also impacting enrolment pipelines (ITPs are trying to manage these issues by offering to defer or extend programme start dates where feasible), students' study and career pathways and New Zealand's reputation and competitiveness as an international education destination.
24. ENZ wants to encourage ITPs and other providers to source quality students in line with the New Zealand International Education Strategy (NZIES) and wants to work with INZ to assist wherever possible to achieve this – for example exploring with INZ whether greater data sharing could streamline the visa processing of quality students.

Universities

25. Universities have reported an increased number of enquiries and concerns from students and agents about the time taking to process student visas, particularly out of INZ Mumbai's office.
26. Universities NZ (UNZ) believes that visa decisions show staff at the Mumbai office do not understand the nuances of other countries from where students are submitting their visa applications. There is concern from UNZ that the extended processing times will become the new normal as INZ strengthens its focus as a regulator.

PTEs

27. ITENZ and QTI have expressed concerns to ENZ about slowness and consistency of visa processing and lack of communication and response from INZ when these concerns have been raised. One of New Zealand's largest PTEs has told ENZ that fewer student visa applications have been approved at this point in the peak season compared with last year, with close to 600 visas in the system yet to be processed. The financial impact of this is estimated to be NZ\$1 million in revenue.

28. This PTE reports that many international students are deferring their start date to semester two, but this has a negative impact on revenue across the year. This PTE believes delays are getting worse.

English Language schools (ELS)

29. English NZ advises that processing times have become considerably slower. It has advised, drawing on statistics provided by INZ, that offshore visa processing times for English NZ members show:
- 33 percent decided within 10 days (compared with 62 percent decided within 10 days in 2018) and
 - 70 percent decided within 30 days (compared with 95 percent decided within 30 days in 2018).
30. English NZ argues that while all sub-sectors show slower decision-making times, ITPs, PTEs and English NZ schools' have been more severely impacted than universities and schools when considering decisions made within 30 days.
31. English NZ is also concerned that "profiling" may be changing in terms of INZ's assessment of "bona fides" for prospective English language students particularly from some markets where English language students are required to provide more information than previously required. Agents are querying this change and the frustration is leading to some agents considering sending students to other countries like Australia or Canada. English NZ argues this is despite minimal evidence of any adverse outcomes for students who have been approved and studied English at member schools.

Schools

32. Schools International Education Business Association of New Zealand (SIEBA) reports that it continues to get concerning feedback from markets and schools about the impact of visa processing, particularly out of the INZ Mumbai office. It advises the delays are impacting on how agents view New Zealand and schools are losing students.
33. SIEBA speaks highly of positive interventions made by INZ on individual cases that have been raised with it, however it believes overall the system should be working more efficiently.

Additional issues

34. There are other issues that, when combined with the immigration delays have the potential to negatively impact the Government's goals for international education – as stated in the NZIES. These include:
- **Uncertainty of the Pathway Student Visa Pilot:** This visa has unrealised potential to boost New Zealand's attractiveness as an education destination and ENZ assesses it as a tool to support the NZIES goal of doubling the uptake of education pathways by 2030. While INZ has advised a paper will shortly be going to the Minister of Immigration recommending the extension of the existing pilot programme for a further 6 months, the education sector has argued for its permanent retention and strengthening.

- **The Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE):** While many parts of the international education sector see an upside to the RoVE recommendations, they believe current visa issues are compounding the inevitable uncertainties and disruptions brought about by any large-scale change.

What's needed

35. It is critical all involved in marketing New Zealand as an international education destination understand the reasons for the processing delays. ENZ can share useful communications with the sector, students, agents and other stakeholders so they can have confidence in New Zealand's international education aspirations, as set out in the NZIES.
36. Understanding INZ positioning helps ENZ decide where to invest its marketing and resources for international education to meet the Government's goal of growing the value of international education to NZ\$6 billion by 2025. For example, where markets are experiencing an increase in risk and/or delays, agents are questioning whether they should continue to market New Zealand. ENZ needs to be strongly positioned and informed to address these questions.
37. The sector needs certainty. ENZ believes that INZ would allay many current concerns if it acknowledged current visa processing delays, advised what is causing them, and communicated to the sector about a programme of work to address the current delays and handle future non high risk applications in a more timely way. ENZ is keen to assist with such communications using its channels. An additional way of assisting could be to explore with INZ whether greater data sharing could streamline the visa processing of quality students.

Proactive release

38. ENZ intends to defer the proactive release of this briefing until solutions to the current visa processing delays are developed. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Appendix One:

1. Correspondence between Tony Gray, Chief Executive of Ara Institute of Technology, on behalf of his ITP Chief Executive colleagues, and INZ.
2. INZ's most recent fortnightly updates to sub-sectors, containing visa processing times as at 15 March 2019.

Te Kāhui Whakahaere
Office of the Chief Executive

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E: tony.gray@ara.ac.nz



12 March 2019

Ms Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager
Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration NZ
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
PO Box 1473
Wellington 6140

Via email – Jeannie.Melville@mbie.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Jeannie

VISA PROCESSING

I am writing on behalf of my ITP Chief Executive colleagues; I provide representation from the CEs to the ITP International Group.

Firstly, thank you for the recent meeting you had with my ITPI colleagues and for working through some of the recent issues facing INZ during the major restructure of visa processing offices.

Many countries are positioning themselves as destination-of-choice for international education. Anecdotal feedback by education agents indicates that visa applications submitted for study in countries including the USA, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Malaysia are processed within 15 working days, and any further delays are communicated to prospective students. It appears from recent data that ITP prospective international students are experiencing extended delays in visa processing. The apparent lack of urgency by INZ is unfair to prospective students, and undermines the work the ITP sector does in positioning New Zealand as an attractive destination for applied education.

Now that the new academic year is underway, we have had time to consider the scope and impact of these slow student visa-processing times on our international business, and therefore our national and regional economies.

Ms Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration NZ

VISA PROCESSING

As of 7 March 2019, every ITP in New Zealand has reported instances of prospective international students still waiting for an outcome of their student visa application. In a number of cases, student applications for a student visa submitted in October, November, or December 2018 have not been provided with any indication of when a response is forthcoming. This has led to a number of adverse impacts, on prospective international students, education providers, and New Zealand's reputation as a destination-of-choice for education.

Export education is New Zealand's fourth largest export sector. The benefits of international students enrolling in New Zealand ITPs extends beyond them paying full-fees to education providers, to include collaborative learning with our domestic students and supporting diversity and vibrancy in our local communities. Data provided by INZ to ITP International – *Immigration New Zealand Information for Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics*, dated 4 March 2019 has confirmed our concerns. At an average of NZ\$20,000 per headcount, the potential loss of revenue to ITPs for applications submitted to INZ's offshore branches for the period from October 2018 to 31 January 2019 is NZ\$33.36m. This figure is excluding potential lost revenue in enrolment pipeline, and corresponding economic benefits including spending on accommodation and living costs and retail patronage to New Zealand businesses.

A specific example of the impact is the case of my own institution, Ara Institute of Canterbury, as 322 applications were still not processed as of 2 March 2019.

- a) The new Visa Processing Operating Model (VPOM) sees student visas processed in three INZ offices, with Mumbai and Beijing branches focused on processing applications for offshore students. Based on information provided to ITP International, Mumbai and Beijing visa processing centres appear to be achieving different outcomes, with the oldest unallocated student visa application at 111 days (Beijing) compared to 75 days (Mumbai).

India and China are the largest source markets for the ITP sector. Therefore, ITPs need some assurance that for the Semester 2 enrolment period this issue in the Mumbai office will be resolved. Many ITPs have already issued large numbers of offer letters for Semester 2 this year.

As at 4 March 2019 there were 1,069 unallocated student visa applications in Mumbai, with submitted applications unallocated for as long as 75 days.

- b) As of 4 March 2019, there were a total of 9,048 accepted student visa applications submitted offshore year-to-date, being schools (954), ITPs (2,240), PTEs (2,208), universities (3,351) and unrecorded (295). Correspondingly, comparing the number of international student visa applications "on hand" between the ITPs and universities, the number of "on hand" applications for the university remained steady between 36 in November 2018 to 191 in January 2019, whereas the number of "on hand" applications for the ITPs increased from 80 in November 2018, to 1,123 in January 2019.

Ms Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration NZ

VISA PROCESSING

- c) The time taken to process international student visa applications appears to have increased significantly in 2019, compared to 2017 or 2018. As per the data provided to ITP International, 53.9% of all international student visa applications were decided within 30 days compared to 87.9% (2017) and 87.3% (2018).

The significant delays in international student visa applications experienced in Semester 1 has resulted in a number of adverse flow-on impacts, including enrolment pipelines, students' study and career pathways, and New Zealand's reputation as a welcoming destination for international education.


- d) Data provided by INZ appears to show that international student visa applications tendered offshore during peak months have taken a significantly longer time for processing. Between 1 November 2017 and 26 February 2018, 91.7% of applications were processed within 30 days; however, this figure falls to 58.1% between 1 November 2018 and 26 February 2019.

What plans have INZ put in place to ensure that these delayed visa-processing times do not occur again? The adverse impact on prospective students, ITPs, and on New Zealand's reputation as a destination-of-choice for education is of concern to all ITP Chief Executives.

ITPs have offered support to prospective students with commencement extensions or deferred commencement to Semester 2, but not all ITPs offer dual intakes. It is important that INZ understands the adverse impact delayed processes are causing, to prospective students and their families, educational agents' confidence of the New Zealand government's stance on internationalisation for the vocational sector, on ITPs, and the communities and regional economies where ITPs are located.

I look forward to your response and assurance that these issues will be resolved with urgency.

Nāku, me ngā manaakitanga



Tony Gray
Chief Executive

19 March 2019



Kia ora Tony,

Re: Visa Processing

Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager
Education and Tourism
Visa Services

Firstly, I would like to extend my warmest regards to yourself and your organisation during this difficult and sad time. If you require any advice or support for students affected by this tragedy please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Information Act

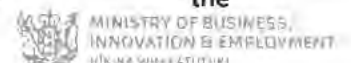
Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns with Immigration New Zealand's (INZ's) student visa processing. I understand your concerns regarding the delays students are experiencing and the effect on the international student market. I think it would be useful for us to meet in order to talk through some of the issues and the context within which we are operating. In the meantime, I would like to provide you with an update on the actions we are currently taking and further information on INZ's new strategy and position as a regulator.

Our new strategy, 'Striking the Balance' was launched in October 2018 to rebalance INZ's focus towards our role as the regulator of the immigration system. There are increasing visible threats to the integrity of the immigration system. These include migrant exploitation, people trafficking, sophisticated fraud and increasing allegations of non-compliance. INZ will continue to perform the same core functions, but we will be putting greater importance on striking the right balance between facilitating migration and protecting migrants and New Zealand. The strategy is about refocusing ourselves as an organisation, as a lot of INZ staff already balance these considerations in their roles every day.

We are committed to processing visas as fast as practicable and generally do a good job of this when the applications are complete and low risk, but processing times will always depend on the complexity of an application. Applications where additional information or verification is needed will take longer to process to ensure good decision-making. It is critical that the right level of scrutiny is applied to ensure the right decisions are made for New Zealand. As we recalibrate between efficiency and appropriate regulatory response we are keeping a watching brief on some pressure points within the organisation.

In terms of the processing times for student visas, we are taking action to address the fact that the time to allocate some applications has increased. For this peak period we have moved applications for some offshore student cohorts to our Palmerston North office for processing. We are also hiring ten more immigration officers in our Mumbai office who will be in place and trained well before the next peak student period. Further to this, we are reviewing our visa processing capacity across the system and investigating options for improvement. This is still being worked through but we will update you and your sector in due course.

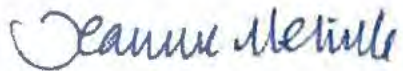
We recognise that we can do more to ensure that education providers have confidence in our systems and processes. We want to support education providers and students to use the immigration system effectively, efficiently and appropriately. We want to continue working with your sector to ensure we understand your long term demand and immigration pain points. In particular, we would welcome the



opportunity to work with providers to improve clarity for students around the documentation requirements for student visa applications.

I would like to extend an invitation to you to meet in person to discuss your concerns and INZ's strategy. If you wish to discuss this response further or arrange a time to meet please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand

Proactively released

15 March 2019



Re: Immigration New Zealand Information for Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics

The below factsheet has been compiled by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Visa Services to provide you with an overview of student visa application processing.

This factsheet will be provided to you on a fortnightly basis until mid-April to ensure you and your members are given a current picture of student visa decisions, processing times and applications being processed during the student peak.

This is the first student visa peak following the implementation of the new Visa Processing Operating Model (VPOM) which aligned and consolidated visa processing by product type. Student Visas are now processed in three INZ offices – Palmerston North (primarily onshore students), Mumbai and Beijing (offshore students). INZ has the ability to move work across the visa processing network when peaks or surges appear. To respond to the student peak other INZ offices will be utilised when volumes are above manageable levels.

Notes on the data included in this factsheet

- The student visa application types included in this data are: full fee paying, English language studies, scholarship, exchange, and pathway.
- Decisions and processing time statistics in this report are based on when an application is decided, i.e. when an immigration officer informs an applicant that their application has been approved, declined or approved in principle. Where an application has been approved in principle the application will not be completed (and the visa granted) until the applicant has provided the requested information, e.g. evidence of tuition fee payment, confirmation of place, submission of passport.
- This report applies different data parameters and uses different source data compared to the reports made available by Education New Zealand. As such, it is likely that you will see differences in the statistics reported.

If you have any feedback or comments on the factsheet please email IEengagement@mbie.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand

Current Volumes for Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics

Table 1: On hand student visa applications for ITP students* held at INZ as at 11 March 2019.

INZ Office	Tendered Month										Total
	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19				
Mumbai	1	1	27	359	964	535	80				1,967
Beijing					12	29	21				62
Palmerston North			2	7	22	125	201				357
Other			2		3	8	3				17

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Table 2: Undecided student visa applications for ITP students* held at main INZ student visa processing offices as at 11 March 2019.

INZ Office	Applications On Hand	Applications Unallocated ¹	Oldest Unallocated
Mumbai	1,967	1,015	85 days
Beijing	62	1	1 day
Palmerston North	357	141	17 days

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

¹ "Unallocated" refers to applications which have not yet been assigned to an Immigration Officer for assessment.

Cross-Sector Comparisons

Current Volumes

Table 3: Number of student visa applications on hand by tendered month (as at 11 March 2019, by provider type*)

Provider Type	Tendered Month												Total
	Jul18	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	
Schools					3	17	30	259	412	721			
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics			1	2	31	366	1,001	697	305	2,403			
Private Training Establishments	5	1	8	10	29	223	501	879	523	2,179			
Universities	3	5	4	6	22	50	118	744	1105	2,057			
(not recorded)					3	8	24	53	406	494			

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Accepted Volumes

Table 4: Accepted student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Accepted 2017	Accepted 2018	Accepted 2019 (to 11 Mar)
Schools	7,597	7,857	1,280
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,687	8,832	2,485
Private Training Establishments	15,723	14,810	2,840
Universities	13,595	14,501	3,779
(not recorded)	616	620	322
Total	46,218	46,620	10,706

Decision Volumes

Table 5: Decided student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017		Decided 2018		Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)	
	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate
Schools	7,277	96.2%	7,223	96.4%	1,772	97.3%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,395	76.6%	7,995	79.8%	1,813	82.8%
Private Training Establishments	15,470	76.5%	13,974	81.0%	2,677	82.3%
Universities	13,988	95.1%	13,409	94.6%	4,548	97.3%
(not recorded)	300	63.0%	278	72.3%	67	70.0%
Total	47,440	85.1%	42,879	87.6%	10,877	90.3%

Processing Times

Table 6: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017			Decided 2018			Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	79.4%	96.5%	99.4%	73.4%	96.0%	99.4%	54.8%	86.1%	97.9%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	41.7%	83.3%	97.0%	39.3%	86.0%	97.7%	27.0%	47.5%	74.8%
Private Training Establishments	46.3%	83.3%	96.8%	49.1%	88.5%	97.9%	30.0%	60.3%	85.7%
Universities	63.8%	92.2%	97.5%	62.5%	91.6%	97.3%	46.4%	86.5%	96.9%

Table 7: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore during peak months.

Provider Type	Decided 1 Nov 2017 – 11 Mar 2018			Decided 1 Nov 2018 – 11 Mar 2019		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	74.2%	96.9%	99.6%	68.6%	92.6%	98.8%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	27.4%	90.9%	98.3%	27.6%	53.7%	83.0%
Private Training Establishments	39.7%	90.8%	98.0%	32.3%	65.2%	90.3%
Universities	58.7%	93.0%	98.2%	50.61	88.5%	97.3%

Proactively released

15 March 2019



Re: Immigration New Zealand Information for Universities

The below factsheet has been compiled by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Visa Services to provide you with an overview of student visa application processing.

This factsheet will be provided to you on a fortnightly basis until mid-April to ensure you and your members are given a current picture of student visa decisions, processing times and applications being processed during the student peak.

This is the first student visa peak following the implementation of the new Visa Processing Operating Model (VPOM) which aligned and consolidated visa processing by product type. Student Visas are now processed in three INZ offices – Palmerston North (primarily onshore students), Mumbai and Beijing (offshore students). INZ has the ability to move work across the visa processing network when peaks or surges appear. To respond to the student peak other INZ offices will be utilised when volumes are above manageable levels.

Notes on the data included in this factsheet:

- The student visa application types included in this data are: full fee paying, English language studies, scholarship, exchange, and pathway.
- Decisions and processing time statistics in this report are based on when an application is decided, i.e. when an immigration officer informs an applicant that their application has been approved, declined or approved in principle. Where an application has been approved in principle the application will not be completed (and the visa granted) until the applicant has provided the requested information, e.g. evidence of tuition fee payment, confirmation of place, submission of passport.
- This report applies different data parameters and uses different source data compared to the reports made available by Education New Zealand. As such, it is likely that you will see differences in the statistics reported.

If you have any feedback or comments on the factsheet please email Engagement@mbie.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand

Current Volumes for Universities

Table 1: On hand student visa applications for university students* held at INZ as at 11 March 2019

INZ Office	Tendered Month												Total
	Jul19	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	
Mumbai			1	1	8	22	37	65	39				173
Beijing					2	3	15	76	62				158
Palmerston North					4	8	25	557	982				1576
Other	3	5	3	5	8	17	41	46	22				150

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Table 2: Undecided student visa applications for university students* held at main INZ student visa processing offices as at 11 March 2019

INZ Office	Applications On Hand	Applications Unallocated ¹	Oldest Unallocated
Mumbai	173	29	29 days
Beijing	158	12	2 days
Palmerston North	1576	664	14 days

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

¹ "Unallocated" refers to applications which have not yet been assigned to an Immigration Officer for assessment.

Cross-Sector Comparisons

Current Volumes

Table 3: Number of student visa applications on hand by tendered month (as at 11 March 2019, by provider type*)

Provider Type	Tendered Month												Total
	Jul18	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	
Schools					3	17	30	259	412	721			
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics			1	2	31	366	1001	697	305	2,403			
Private Training Establishments	5	1	8	10	29	223	501	879	523	2,179			
Universities	3	5	4	6	22	50	118	744	1105	2,057			
(not recorded)					3	8	24	53	406	494			

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Accepted Volumes

Table 4: Accepted student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Accepted 2017	Accepted 2018	Accepted 2019 (to 11 Mar)
Schools	7,597	7,857	1,280
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,687	8,832	2,485
Private Training Establishments	15,723	14,810	2,840
Universities	13,595	14,501	3,779
(not recorded)	616	620	322
Total	46,218	46,620	10,706

Decision Volumes

Table 5: Decided student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017		Decided 2018		Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)	
	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate
Schools	7,277	96.2%	7,223	96.4%	1,772	97.3%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,395	76.6%	7,995	79.8%	1,813	82.8%
Private Training Establishments	15,470	76.5%	13,974	81.0%	2,677	82.3%
Universities	13,988	95.1%	13,409	94.6%	4,548	97.3%
(not recorded)	300	63.0%	278	72.3%	67	70.0%
Total	47,440	85.1%	42,879	87.6%	10,877	90.3%

Processing Times

Table 6: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017			Decided 2018			Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	79.4%	96.5%	99.4%	73.4%	96.0%	99.4%	54.8%	86.1%	97.9%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	41.7%	83.3%	97.0%	39.3%	86.0%	97.7%	27.0%	47.5%	74.8%
Private Training Establishments	46.3%	83.3%	96.8%	49.1%	88.5%	97.9%	30.0%	60.3%	85.7%
Universities	63.8%	92.2%	97.5%	62.5%	91.6%	97.3%	46.4%	86.5%	96.9%

Table 7: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore during peak months.

Provider Type	Decided 1 Nov 2017 – 11 Mar 2018			Decided 1 Nov 2018 – 11 Mar 2019		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	74.2%	96.9%	99.6%	68.6%	92.6%	98.8%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	27.4%	90.9%	98.3%	27.6%	53.7%	83.0%
Private Training Establishments	39.7%	90.8%	98.0%	32.3%	65.2%	90.3%
Universities	58.7%	93.0%	98.2%	50.61	88.5%	97.3%

Proactively released

15 March 2019



Re: Immigration New Zealand Information for Private Training Establishments

The below factsheet has been compiled by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Visa Services to provide you with an overview of student visa application processing.

This factsheet will be provided to you on a fortnightly basis until mid-April to ensure you and your members are given a current picture of student visa decisions, processing times and applications being processed during the student peak.

This is the first student visa peak following the implementation of the new Visa Processing Operating Model (VPOM) which aligned and consolidated visa processing by product type. Student Visas are now processed in three INZ offices – Palmerston North (primarily onshore students), Mumbai and Beijing (offshore students). INZ has the ability to move work across the visa processing network when peaks or surges appear. To respond to the student peak other INZ offices will be utilised when volumes are above manageable levels.

Notes on the data included in this factsheet

- The student visa application types included in this data are: full fee paying, English language studies, scholarship, exchange, and pathway.
- Decisions and processing time statistics in this report are based on when an application is decided, i.e. when an immigration officer informs an applicant that their application has been approved, declined or approved in principle. Where an application has been approved in principle the application will not be completed (and the visa granted) until the applicant has provided the requested information, e.g. evidence of tuition fee payment, confirmation of place, submission of passport.
- This report applies different data parameters and uses different source data compared to the reports made available by Education New Zealand. As such, it is likely that you will see differences in the statistics reported.

If you have any feedback or comments on the factsheet please email Engagement@mbie.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand

Current Volumes for Private Training Establishments

Table 1: On hand student visa applications for PTE students* held at INZ as at 11 March 2019

INZ Office	Tendered Month												Total
	Jul18	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19				
Mumbai					15	203		439	476	143			1,282
Beijing						2	14	72	72	72			160
Palmerston North	2	1	3	9	11	12	43	304	288				673
Other			2	1	3	6	5	27	20				64

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Table 2: Undecided student visa applications for PTE students* held at main INZ student visa processing offices as at 11 March 2019

INZ Office	Applications On Hand	Applications Unallocated ¹	Oldest Unallocated
Mumbai	1,282	560	85 days
Beijing	160	23	2 days
Palmerston North	673	261	19 days

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

¹ "Unallocated" refers to applications which have not yet been assigned to an Immigration Officer for assessment.

Cross-Sector Comparisons

Current Volumes

Table 3: Number of student visa applications on hand by tendered month (as at 11 March 2019, by provider type*)

Provider Type	Tendered Month												Total
	Jul18	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	
Schools					3	17	30	259	412	721			
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics			1	2	31	366	1,001	697	305	2,403			
Private Training Establishments	5	1	8	10	29	223	501	879	523	2,179			
Universities	3	5	4	6	22	50	118	744	1105	2,057			
(not recorded)					3	8	24	53	406	494			

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Accepted Volumes

Table 4: Accepted student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Accepted 2017	Accepted 2018	Accepted 2019 (to 11 Mar)
Schools	7,597	7,857	1,280
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,687	8,832	2,485
Private Training Establishments	15,723	14,810	2,840
Universities	13,595	14,501	3,779
(not recorded)	616	620	322
Total	46,218	46,620	10,706

Decision Volumes

Table 5: Decided student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017		Decided 2018		Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)	
	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate
Schools	7,277	96.2%	7,223	96.4%	1,772	97.3%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,395	76.6%	7,995	79.8%	1,813	82.8%
Private Training Establishments	15,470	76.5%	13,974	81.0%	2,677	82.3%
Universities	12,988	95.1%	13,409	94.6%	4,548	97.3%
(not recorded)	300	63.0%	278	72.3%	67	70.0%
Total	47,440	85.1%	42,879	87.6%	10,877	90.3%

Processing Times

Table 6: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore

Provider Type	Decided 2017			Decided 2018			Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	79.4%	96.5%	99.4%	73.4%	96.0%	99.4%	54.8%	86.1%	97.9%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	41.7%	83.3%	97.0%	39.3%	86.0%	97.7%	27.0%	47.5%	74.8%
Private Training Establishments	46.3%	83.3%	96.8%	49.1%	88.5%	97.9%	30.0%	60.3%	85.7%
Universities	63.8%	92.2%	97.5%	62.5%	91.6%	97.3%	46.4%	86.5%	96.9%

Table 7: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore during peak months.

Provider Type	Decided 1 Nov 2017 – 11 Mar 2018			Decided 1 Nov 2018 – 11 Mar 2019		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	74.2%	96.9%	99.6%	68.6%	92.6%	98.8%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	27.4%	90.9%	98.3%	27.6%	53.7%	83.0%
Private Training Establishments	39.7%	90.8%	98.0%	32.3%	65.2%	90.3%
Universities	58.7%	93.0%	98.2%	50.61	88.5%	97.3%

Proactively released

15 March 2019



Re: Immigration New Zealand Information for English New Zealand

The below factsheet has been compiled by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Visa Services to provide you with an overview of student visa application processing.

This factsheet will be provided to you on a fortnightly basis until mid-April to ensure you and your members are given a current picture of student visa decisions, processing times and applications being processed during the student peak.

This is the first student visa peak following the implementation of the new Visa Processing Operating Model (VPOM) which aligned and consolidated visa processing by product type. Student Visas are now processed in three INZ offices – Palmerston North (primarily onshore students), Mumbai and Beijing (offshore students). INZ has the ability to move work across the visa processing network when peaks or surges appear. To respond to the student peak other INZ offices will be utilised when volumes are above manageable levels.

Notes on the data included in this factsheet:

- The student visa application types included in this data are: full fee paying, English language studies, scholarship, exchange, and pathway.
- Decisions and processing time statistics in this report are based on when an application is decided, i.e. when an immigration officer informs an applicant that their application has been approved, declined or approved in principle. Where an application has been approved in principle the application will not be completed (and the visa granted) until the applicant has provided the requested information, e.g. evidence of tuition fee payment, confirmation of place, submission of passport.
- This report applies different data parameters and uses different source data compared to the reports made available by Education New Zealand. As such, it is likely that you will see differences in the statistics reported.

If you have any feedback or comments on the factsheet please email Engagement@mbie.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand

Current Volumes for English New Zealand Members

Table 1: On hand student visa applications for English New Zealand PTE students* held at INZ as at 11 March 2019

INZ Office	Tendered Month							Total
	Aug18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19		
Mumbai	-	3	5	22	68	17	115	
Beijing	-	-	-	3	18	29	50	
Palmerston North	1	1	1	6	72	64	145	
Other	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Table 2: Undecided student visa applications for English New Zealand PTE students* held at main INZ student visa processing offices as at 11 March 2019

INZ Office	Applications On Hand	Applications Unallocated ¹	Oldest Unallocated
Mumbai	115	40	31 days
Beijing	50	16	2 days
Palmerston North	145	43	20 days

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

¹ "Unallocated" refers to applications which have not yet been assigned to an Immigration Officer for assessment.

Cross-Sector Comparisons

Current Volumes

Table 3: Number of student visa applications on hand by tendered month (as at 11 March 2019, by provider type*)

Provider Type	Tendered Month												Total
	Jul18	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19				
Schools	-	-	-	-	3	17	30	259	412			721	
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	-	-	1	2	31	366	1,001	697	305			2,403	
Private Training Establishments	3	1	8	10	29	223	501	879	523			2,179	
Universities	2	5	4	6	22	50	118	744	1105			2,057	
(not recorded)	-	-	-	-	3	8	24	53	406			494	

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Accepted Volumes

Table 4: Accepted student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Accepted 2017	Accepted 2018	Accepted 2019 (to 11 Mar)
Schools	7,597	7,857	1,280
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,687	8,832	2,485
Private Training Establishments	15,723	14,810	2,840
Universities	13,595	14,501	3,779
(not recorded)	616	620	322
Total	46,218	46,521	10,706
English New Zealand Member institutes	4,148	4,414	883

Decision Volumes

Table 5: Decided student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017		Decided 2018		Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)	
	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate
Schools	7,277	96.2%	7,223	96.4%	1,772	97.3%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,395	76.6%	7,995	79.8%	1,813	82.8%
Private Training Establishments	11,470	76.5%	13,974	81.0%	2,677	82.3%
Universities	2,588	95.1%	13,409	94.6%	4,548	97.3%
(not recorded)	300	63.0%	278	72.3%	67	70.0%
Total	44,441	85.1%	42,879	87.6%	10,877	90.3%
English New Zealand Member institutes	4,031	90.0%	4,164	89.7%	936	91.8%

Processing Times

Table 6: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017			Decided 2018			Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	79.4%	96.5%	99.4%	73.4%	96.0%	99.4%	54.8%	86.1%	97.9%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	41.7%	83.3%	97.0%	39.3%	86.7%	97.7%	27.0%	47.5%	74.8%
Private Training Establishments	46.3%	83.3%	96.8%	49.1%	88.5%	97.9%	30.0%	60.3%	85.7%
Universities	63.8%	92.2%	97.5%	62.5%	91.6%	97.3%	46.4%	86.5%	96.9%
English New Zealand Member institutes	65.0%	95.8%	99.4%	62.0%	94.9%	99.6%	33.0%	70.3%	95.8%

Table 7: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore during peak months.

Provider Type	Decided 1 Nov 2017 – 11 Mar 2018			Decided 1 Nov 2018 – 11 Mar 2019		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	4.2%	96.9%	99.6%	68.6%	92.6%	98.8%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	27.4%	90.9%	98.3%	27.6%	53.7%	83.0%
Private Training Establishments	39.7%	90.8%	98.0%	32.3%	65.2%	90.3%
Universities	58.7%	93.0%	98.2%	50.61	88.5%	97.3%
English New Zealand Member institutes	53.9%	94.8%	99.9%	36.8%	77.4%	97.1%

Proactively released

Nationality Comparisons

Table 8: Decided student visa applications for English New Zealand PTE students of specific nationalities tendered offshore.

Nationality	Decided 2017		Decided 2018		Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)	
	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate
Brazil	795	90.2%	869	90.2%	247	94.0%
China	368	83.4%	395	91.4%	64	90.6%
Colombia	615	88.5%	602	82.7%	106	89.6%
Japan	330	98.8%	384	99.7%	110	100%
South Korea	339	97.6%	297	98.6%	77	98.7%
Russia	38	79.0%	48	70.8%	4	25.0%
Taiwan	70	92.9%	75	93.3%	13	92.3%
Turkey	15	0.00%	16	0.00%	1	0.00%

Table 9: Time to decide student visa applications for English New Zealand PTE students of specific nationalities tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017			Decided 2018			Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Brazil	52.0%	96.5%	99.8%	63.2%	93.7%	99.9%	11.4%	65.0%	96.3%
China	78.0%	98.9%	100%	73.0%	95.7%	99.2%	68.8%	98.4%	100%
Colombia	60.8%	93.0%	99.2%	35.0%	93.8%	99.8%	0.00%	42.5%	92.5%
Japan	92.1%	99.4%	99.7%	90.1%	99.2%	99.7%	91.0%	100%	-
South Korea	89.4%	98.8%	99.1%	88.6%	98.1%	99.3%	92.2%	98.7%	98.1%
Russia	39.5%	94.7%	100%	20.8%	62.5%	93.8%	0.00%	0.00%	100%
Taiwan	74.3%	97.1%	100%	61.3%	92.0%	100%	7.69%	53.9%	100%
Turkey	13.3%	80.0%	100%	31.3%	100%	-	0.00%	0.00%	100%

15 March 2019



Re: Immigration New Zealand Information for Schools

The below factsheet has been compiled by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) Visa Services to provide you with an overview of student visa application processing.

This factsheet will be provided to you on a fortnightly basis until mid-April to ensure you and your members are given a current picture of student visa decisions, processing times and applications being processed during the student peak.

This is the first student visa peak following the implementation of the new Visa Processing Operating Model (VPOM) which aligned and consolidated visa processing by product type. Student Visas are now processed in three INZ offices – Palmerston North (primarily onshore students), Mumbai and Beijing (offshore students). INZ has the ability to move work across the visa processing network when peaks or surges appear. To respond to the student peak other INZ offices will be utilised when volumes are above manageable levels.

Notes on the data included in this factsheet

- The student visa application types included in this data are: full fee paying, English language studies, scholarship, exchange, and pathway.
- Decisions and processing time statistics in this report are based on when an application is decided, i.e. when an immigration officer informs an applicant that their application has been approved, declined or approved in principle. Where an application has been approved in principle the application will not be completed (and the visa granted) until the applicant has provided the requested information, e.g. evidence of tuition fee payment, confirmation of place, submission of passport.
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If you have any feedback or comments on the factsheet please email IEengagement@mbie.govt.nz.

Kind regards,

Jeannie Melville
Assistant General Manager, Education and Tourism
Visa Services
Immigration New Zealand

Current Volumes for Schools

Table 1: On hand student visa applications for school students* held at INZ as at 11 March 2019.

INZ Office	Tendered Month						Total
	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19		
Mumbai	2	10	10	20	5		47
Beijing		1	4	18	40		63
Palmerston North	1	6	12	219	361		599
Other			4	2	6		12

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Table 2: Undecided student visa applications for school students* held at main INZ student visa processing offices as at 11 March 2019.

INZ Office	Applications On Hand	Applications Unallocated ¹	Oldest Unallocated
Mumbai	47	16	80 days
Beijing	63	15	2 days
Palmerston North	599	228	15 days

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

¹ "Unallocated" refers to applications which have not yet been assigned to an Immigration Officer for assessment.

Cross-Sector Comparisons

Current Volumes

Table 3: Number of student visa applications on hand by tendered month (as at 11 March 2019, by provider type*)

Provider Type	Tendered Month												Total	
	Jul18	Aug18	Sep18	Oct18	Nov18	Dec18	Jan19	Feb19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19	Mar19		
Schools					3	17					30	259	412	721
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics			1	2	31	366					1,001	697	305	2,403
Private Training Establishments	3	1	8	10	29	223					501	879	523	2,179
Universities		5	4	6	22	50					118	744	1105	2,057
(not recorded)	3				3	8					24	53	406	494

*This only includes applications which have an education provider recorded. There may be some applications in the system where the provider has not yet been recorded.

Accepted Volumes

Table 4: Accepted student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Accepted 2017	Accepted 2018	Accepted 2019 (to 11 Mar)
Schools	7,597	7,857	1,280
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,687	8,832	2,485
Private Training Establishments	15,723	14,810	2,840
Universities	13,595	14,501	3,779
(not recorded)	616	620	322
Total	46,218	49,620	10,706

Decision Volumes

Table 5: Decided student visa applications tendered offshore.

Provider Type	Decided 2017		Decided 2018		Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)	
	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate	Total Decided	Approval Rate
Schools	7,277	96.2%	7,223	96.4%	1,772	97.3%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	8,395	76.6%	7,995	79.8%	1,813	82.8%
Private Training Establishments	15,470	76.5%	13,974	81.0%	2,677	82.3%
Universities	12,988	95.1%	13,409	94.6%	4,548	97.3%
(not recorded)	300	63.0%	278	72.3%	67	70.0%
Total	44,440	85.1%	42,879	87.6%	10,877	90.3%

Processing Times

Table 6: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore

Provider Type	Decided 2017			Decided 2018			Decided 2019 (to 11 Mar)		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	79.4%	96.5%	99.4%	73.4%	96.0%	99.4%	54.8%	86.1%	97.9%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	41.7%	83.3%	97.0%	37.3%	86.0%	97.7%	27.0%	47.5%	74.8%
Private Training Establishments	46.3%	83.3%	96.8%	49.1%	88.5%	97.9%	30.0%	60.3%	85.7%
Universities	63.8%	92.2%	97.5%	62.5%	91.6%	97.3%	46.4%	86.5%	96.9%

Table 7: Time to decide student visa applications tendered offshore during peak months.

Provider Type	Decided 1 Nov 2017 – 11 Mar 2018			Decided 1 Nov 2018 – 11 Mar 2019		
	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days	Decided Within 10 Days	Decided Within 30 Days	Decided Within 60 Days
Schools	74.2%	96.9%	99.6%	68.6%	92.6%	98.8%
Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics	27.4%	90.9%	98.3%	27.6%	53.7%	83.0%
Private Training Establishments	39.7%	90.8%	98.0%	32.3%	65.2%	90.3%
Universities	58.7%	93.0%	98.2%	50.61	88.5%	97.3%

Proactively released