

## Education New Zealand Briefing

<b>Title:</b>	Student visa summary: September 2019		
<b>Date:</b>	19 September 2019	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security level:</b>	Unclassified	<b>ENZ ID no:</b>	1920-053

### Action sought

Addressee:	Action sought:	Deadline:
	<p><b>Note</b> that Education New Zealand will release the September 2019 student visa summary on 27 September 2019.</p>	
Minister of Education	<p><b>Forward</b> this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information.</p> <p><b>Agree</b> that this briefing is proactively released as part of the October 2019 release.</p>	

### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name:	Position:	Telephone:	Cell phone:	1 <sup>st</sup> contact
John Goulter	General Manager, Stakeholders and Communications	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Angela Meredith	Accountability Manager	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	x

*Withheld under s9(2)(a) of the OIA*

### 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 Withdrawn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

- a. **note** that Education New Zealand will release the September 2019 student visa summary on 27 September 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 October 2019 release

Agree /  Disagree



John Goulter  
General Manager, Stakeholders and  
Communications  
Education New Zealand



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

26/9/19



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## Purpose

1. This paper summarises the September 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 27 September 2019.

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## 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.

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## September 2019 student visa summary

7. In the August 2019 year to date, there were 25,888 first-time student visas approved, down 2% compared to the same period in 2018. In the July and August 2019 months, there was positive growth in the number of first-time student visas approved compared to the same months in 2018, up 16% and 12% respectively. This positive month-on-month growth has been driven by increasing numbers of first-time student visas being approved for study outside Auckland.
8. First-time student visas approved for study in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty have increased by approximately 30% in the August 2019 year to date compared to the same period in 2018. The growth in these two regions is due to increasing numbers of approved first-time student visa applications by Indian students. These Indian students will study at private training establishments in the Waikato and at institutes of technology and polytechnics in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty. This growth may be related to immigration policies which aim to have New Zealand's regions increasingly share in the benefit of international education.

9. There were 1% fewer valid student visas<sup>1</sup> on 7 September 2019 compared to September 2018. There was a slight softening of the decline of valid student visas due to the growth in the number of first-time student visas approved in the July and August 2019 i.e. there were 3% fewer valid student visas at the beginning of August 2019 compared to August 2018.
10. Immigration New Zealand had 5,470 student visas on hand and awaiting processing on 9 September.

### Next steps

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11. On 27 September 2019, ENZ released the *Visa Summary: September 2019* (Appendix One) in its online intelligence portal, [IntelliLab](#).

### Proactive release

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12. 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Appendix One: Visa Summary: September 2019

