



## Tertiary Provider and International Bulletin

Thursday 14 January 2021

### **COVID-19 Update - Border exception for some returning international tertiary students**

On 14 January 2021, the Government approved an exception class for 1,000 bachelor's degree level and above tertiary international students to return to New Zealand and continue their studies. These students need to hold or have held a valid visa to study in 2020 and have studied in New Zealand in 2019, or 2020 towards their current qualification and be returning to study with their current provider.

This exception provides the sector a further opportunity to welcome back international students and delivers on a part of the Government's long-term recovery plan for the international education sector.

The Government will continue to work with the sector to consider how suitable models can be developed to bring in more students over time as and when it is safe to do so. Capacity at MIQ will remain a significant consideration in any further exceptions and International Education also needs to be considered alongside a number of competing priority sectors. Providers should take a conservative approach to planning for 2021 and prepare for a range of scenarios.

### **Eligibility criteria and process**

To be eligible for this border exception students will need to

- be studying at bachelor degree level or above
- hold or have held a visa for 2020
- have studied in New Zealand in 2019, or 2020 toward their current qualification and be returning to study with their current provider, and
- provide evidence that they have access to \$20,000 annually to meet living costs.

Priority will be given to students who are closest to graduation.

Students will need to undertake the border exception process with Immigration New Zealand. Entry for these students will be phased and dependent on the availability of space in our managed isolation and quarantine facilities to ensure their arrival does not impact on the ability of New Zealander citizens and residents to return home.



All students entering New Zealand will comply with Government advice and regulation relating to COVID-19, which includes a 14-day managed isolation period in Government facilities, payment of the isolation charges and relevant mandatory COVID-19 testing. Students will need to book their space through the allocation system and are will be responsible for the standard charges for managed isolation.

Students with questions about this border exception should contact their providers in the first instance. The Ministry will work directly with Peak Body representatives to manage the process.

Read the Minister's announcement, [here](#).

View information from the Ministry of Education, [here](#).

**Things change quickly so stay up to date by following the links below:**

For health advice, please refer to the Ministry of Health's website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For cross-agency information about COVID-19, including what support is available, health advice, and travel restrictions visit the All-of-Government website <https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

For resources in Te Reo Māori, visit <https://covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/translations/te-reo-maori/>

For information to support Pacific communities, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MinistryforPacificPeoples/>

For resources in [sign language and easy read formats](#).

To keep updated on travel restrictions and visa information visit <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/media-centre/news-notifications/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

For additional advice for tertiary providers/whare wānanga visit the Ministry of Education website <http://www.education.govt.nz/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-3/>

