



International Student Enrolments in New Zealand

2003 – 2009

30 May 2010

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Introduction

This report summarises the publicly available data, from three main sources, on enrolments of international students within New Zealand education provider sectors from 2003 to 2009. Summary information is also stated on the numbers of approved student visas and permits during 2003 to 2009.

This information is disaggregated by origin, according to the key markets of North Asia, South-East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America, and the developing markets of Latin America and South Asia. Further information is given on the estimated economic value-added to New Zealand from international education.

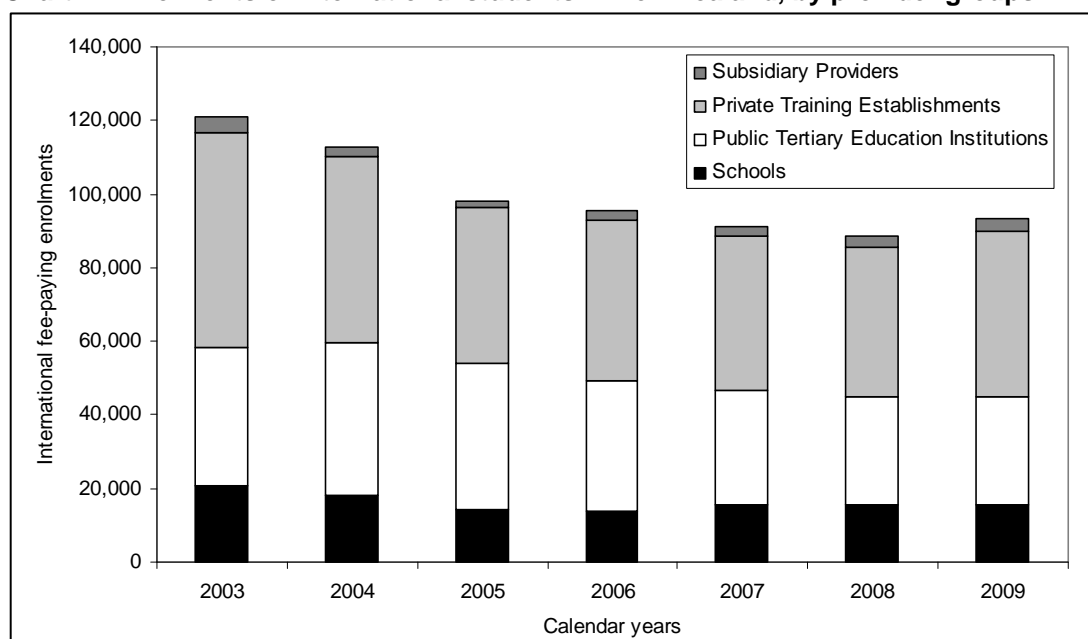
Summary

From a peak of 121,190 international fee-paying enrolments in 2003 there has been a 23% decline to 93,505 enrolments in 2009. This decline initially mainly affected private training establishments and schools, and from 2005 a reduction in total enrolments within the public tertiary education sector¹ was also recorded. In 2009 a near 6% increase in international enrolments was recorded, reversing the trend since 2003. The main beneficiaries of this growth were private training establishments, particularly English language schools. A graphical representation of this data is shown in Chart 1.

Table 1: International enrolments by provider groups	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Schools	20,935	18,311	14,447	13,934	15,574	15,660	15,462
Public Tertiary Education Institutions	37,407	41,528	39,613	35,261	31,143	29,127	29,435
Private Training Establishments	58,406	50,324	42,372	43,888	41,977	40,896	44,941
Subsidiary Providers	4,442	2,500	1,843	2,211	2,617	2,891	3,667
Totals	121,190	112,663	98,275	95,294	91,311	88,574	93,505
Annual % change	-5%	-7%	-13%	-3%	-4%	-3%	6%
Source: Export Education Levy database for the full calendar year for schools, public tertiary education institutions, and private training establishments (described as 'SDR' and 'non-SDR' private providers). The latter category <i>includes</i> English language schools. Public Tertiary Education Institutions are the 8 universities and 20 polytechnics/institutes of technology. Subsidiary providers are mainly the English-language training affiliates of some universities and high schools.							

¹ The tertiary education sector includes the publicly-funded institutions of the universities, institutes of technology/polytechnics, wananga, and teachers colleges; and the private training establishments (PTEs) that receive government funding for their students.

Chart 1: Enrolments of international students in New Zealand, by provider groups



International enrolments by origin

The information on enrolments can be disaggregated by the reported origins of the students, as shown in Table 2 and Chart 2. From 2006 the Export Education Levy system was used to request information from providers on the nationalities of their students, so the period for this data is different from the information on total enrolments.

The key trends evident since 2006 have been the falls in enrolments of Chinese students and Japanese students. These negative trends have been largely counter-balanced by rapid rises in enrolments of students from India and the Middle East, and to a lesser extent of students from Europe and Latin America.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	% change, 2006 - 2009
China*	32,612	24,754	20,592	20,780	-36%
South Korea	16,327	17,904	17,272	15,905	-3%
Japan	14,455	12,236	10,682	9,697	-33%
India	2,509	3,738	6,024	8,673	246%
Middle East	2,049	2,955	4,383	5,745	180%
Europe	7,634	9,241	9,324	10,426	37%
North America	2,716	2,698	2,651	2,698	-1%
Latin America	3,131	3,479	3,652	4,356	39%
All other economies	13,861	14,306	13,994	15,225	10%
Totals	95,294	91,311	88,574	93,505	-2%

* including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

The decline in Chinese interest up until 2009 has usually been ascribed to intensified competition from other countries for Chinese students (notably from Australia, the USA, Great Britain, and Canada), a greatly increased provision of higher education opportunities in China itself, and changes in the value of the New Zealand dollar. The last factor is understood to have had a particular impact on enrolments with English language schools.

Since 2006 there has been overall growth recorded from India, and from the source regions of the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America.

Chart 2: Enrolments of international students, by origin

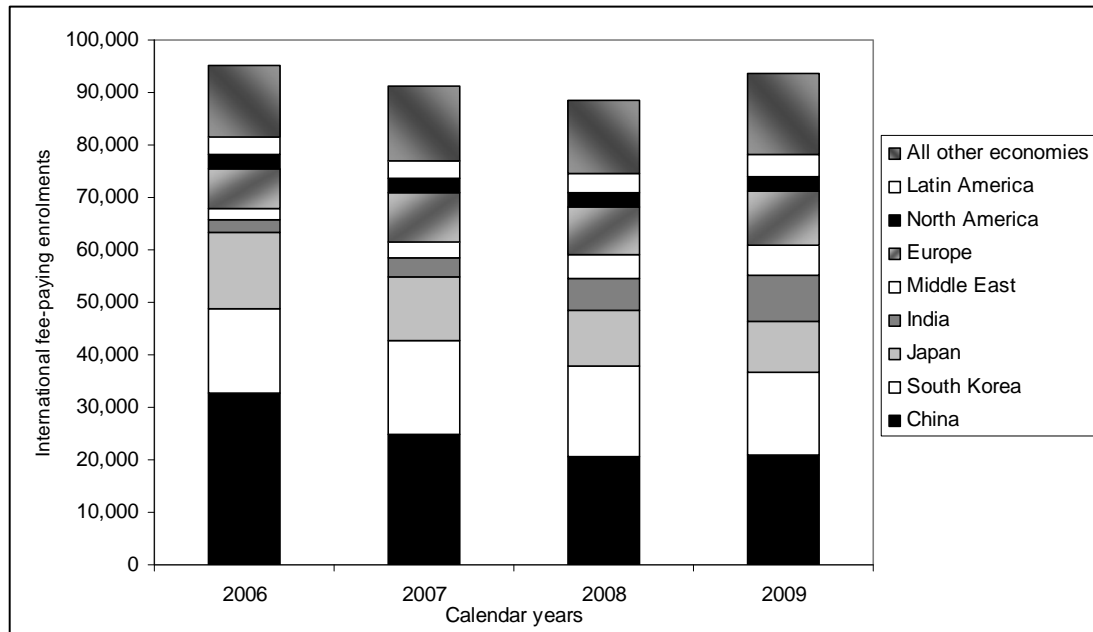
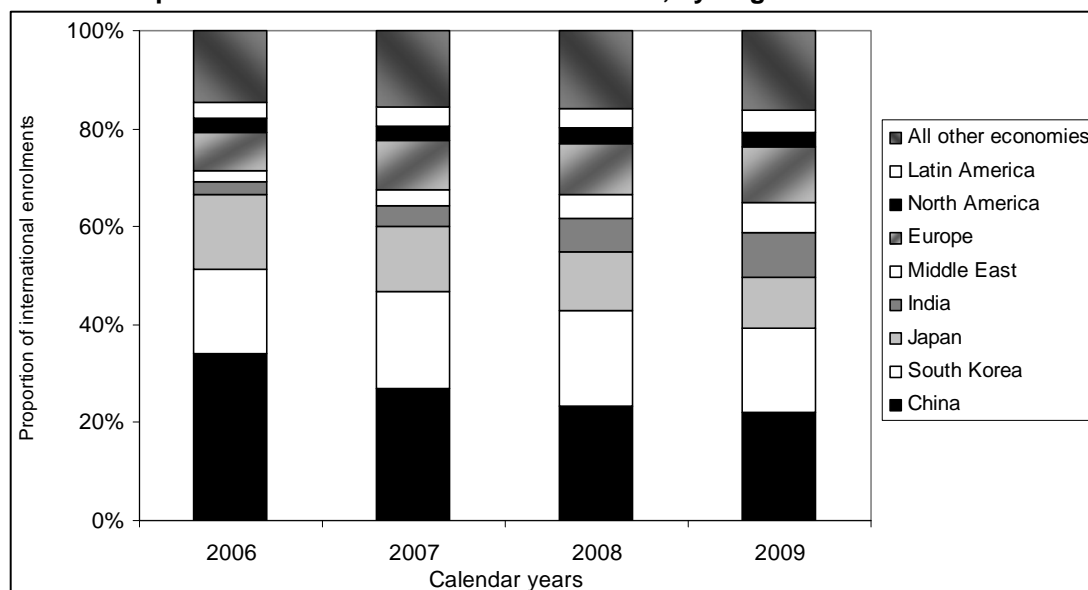


Chart 3 states the proportions of total international enrolments by student origins. In 2006 the 'top three' (China, Japan and South Korea) made up 66% of all enrolments. This proportion reduced to 50% for 2009. The increasing proportion of enrolments from India and the Middle East is clearly apparent in their respective shadings.

Chart 3: Proportion of total international enrolments, by origin



Student visas and permits

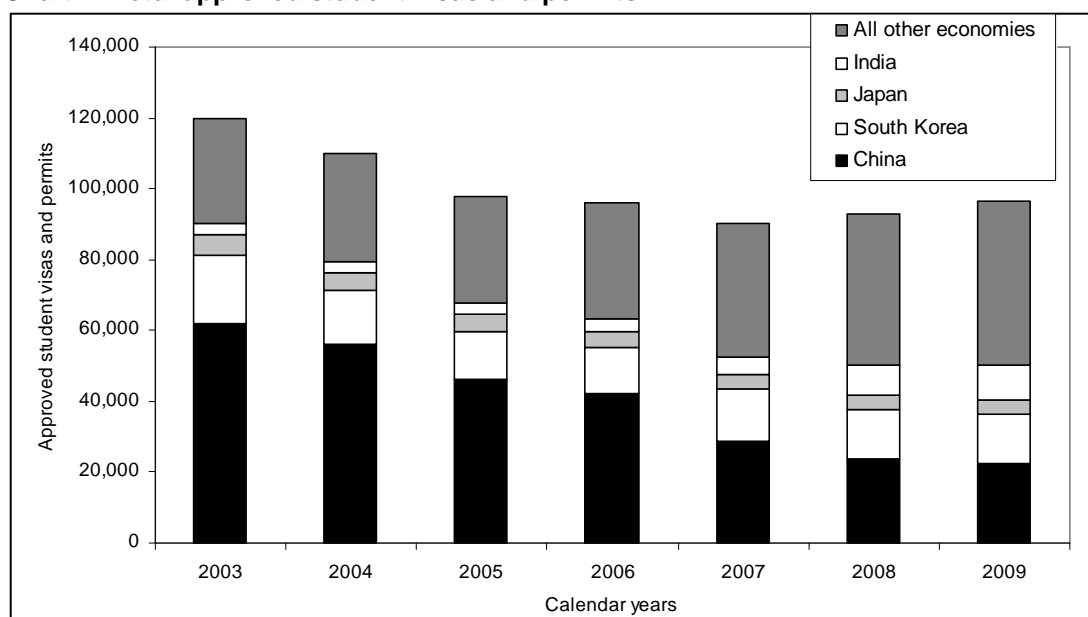
The Immigration Service of the Department of Labour collates information on the numbers of approved (and declined) applications for student visas and student permits². This information for key source countries is summarised in Table 3, on a calendar year basis.

Since the peak in 2003 there has been a 64% decline in total approvals for Chinese students, from 61,922 to 22,469 in 2009. Over the same period there was a 211% increase in student visa and permit approvals for Indian students, rising from 3,236 in 2003 to 10,076 in 2009. Approvals for Japanese and South Korean students have declined over time, whereas the share granted to students from other parts of the world have risen 57%, from 29,428 to 46,148.

Table 3: Approved student visas & permits, by origin	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% change, 2003 - 2009
China	61,922	55,937	46,223	42,007	28,874	23,764	22,469	-64%
South Korea	19,502	15,205	13,591	12,971	14,442	13,947	13,802	-29%
Japan	5,525	5,184	4,856	4,685	4,326	3,969	4,006	-27%
India	3,236	3,013	2,953	3,451	5,057	8,367	10,076	211%
Other economies	29,428	30,731	30,140	33,060	37,592	42,620	46,148	57%
Totals	119,613	110,070	97,763	96,174	90,291	92,667	96,501	-19%
Annual % change	13%	-8%	-11%	-2%	-6%	3%	4%	

² Student *visas* are applied for by people resident in other countries. Student *permits* are usually applied for by people who have already arrived in New Zealand, who wish to study here.

Chart 4: Total approved student visas and permits



A comparison with the enrolment information for calendar years shows that there is usually a close relationship with the total approved student visas and permits in each financial year. The notable exceptions are that the visas approved for people from Japan (and South Korea, to a lesser extent) are much lower than the enrolment numbers. This is because many Japanese students who are enrolled in short courses with English language providers are understood to be in New Zealand on *visitor* visas, which are not included in the student visa and permit records.

North Asia

The majority of international enrolments in New Zealand continue to come from the three main North Asian countries of China, Japan, and South Korea. These three countries provided 50% of all enrolments in 2009. There are also a significant number of students from Taiwan.

	<i>China (including Hong Kong SAR)</i>		<i>Japan</i>		<i>South Korea</i>		<i>Taiwan ROC</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	2,080	2,170	1,667	1,620	6,584	5,619	329	305
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	10,056	8,759	1,816	1,556	1,984	2,027	500	402
Private Training Establishments	7,989	9,227	6,688	5,781	8,075	7,592	1,162	1,035
Subsidiary Providers	454	624	505	739	546	667	127	102
Totals	20,579	20,780	10,676	9,697	17,189	15,905	2,118	1,844

The spread of Chinese students across provider groups is concentrated within the public tertiary education institutions and private training establishments. It is apparent that most Japanese students enrolled within private training establishments, as did students from Taiwan. South Korean students were

concentrated in the schools, and private training establishment sectors, with relatively few enrolled with public tertiary education institutions.

South East Asia

The following table shows a sectoral breakdown for the four largest South East Asia source countries for international students. There were increases in student enrolments recorded from Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam from 2008 to 2009. There are wide variations in the enrolment patterns of students. Malaysian students were mainly enrolled in public tertiary education institutions, whereas Thai students were predominantly enrolled with schools and private training establishments. Vietnamese student enrolments are more broadly spread across the provider groups.

Table 5: South-East Asia student enrolments	<i>Thailand</i>		<i>Malaysia</i>		<i>Vietnam</i>		<i>Indonesia</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	887	1,040	85	80	283	369	38	34
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	559	503	1,795	1,784	453	604	255	228
Private Training Establishments.	1,076	1,314	248	219	268	440	172	302
Subsidiary Providers	111	187	19	30	94	104	5	7
Totals	2,633	3,044	2,147	2,113	1,098	1,517	470	571

South Asia

There has been a rapid growth in enrolments of students from India from 2008 to 2009, particularly within public tertiary education institutions (mainly the polytechnics) and private training establishments.

Table 6: South-Asia student enrolments	<i>India</i>		<i>Pakistan</i>		<i>Bangladesh</i>		<i>Sri Lanka</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	76	70	4	1	3	1	7	5
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	2,992	3,933	104	74	26	41	120	140
Private Training Establishments.	2,971	4,661	52	182	28	44	64	72
Subsidiary Providers	1	9				5		1
Totals	6,040	8,673	160	257	57	91	191	218

It is notable that the 44% increase in enrolments of Indian students recorded from 2008 to 2009 is greater than the 20% increase in approved student visas and permits granted to Indian nationals from 2008 to 2009, as shown in Table 3.

The Middle East

Students from the Middle East studying in New Zealand are predominantly from Saudi Arabia, and these students have mainly enrolled in private training establishments – predominantly English language schools (58% in 2009).

Table 7: Middle East student enrolments	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>		<i>Oman</i>		<i>United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar & Bahrain</i>		<i>Turkey & Iran</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	231	288	12	14	33	21	11	17
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	955	1,467	157	164	97	120	45	67
Private Training Establishments.	2,406	3,187	76	84	90	157	78	108
Subsidiary Providers	508	522	35	19	23	12	28	16
Totals	4,100	5,464	280	281	243	310	162	208

Europe

Enrolments of European students are concentrated within private training establishments and the public tertiary education institutions. Enrolment information for the top four European source countries is stated in Table 8. From 2008 to 2009 there were marked increases in enrolments of German students in schools and private training establishments, and in French enrolments with private training establishments.

Table 8: European student enrolments	<i>Germany</i>		<i>France</i>		<i>Switzerland</i>		<i>Russia</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	1,672	2,008	63	65	22	29	109	110
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	460	447	113	169	30	33	304	297
Private Training Establishments.	950	1,124	1,218	1,439	1,225	1,224	679	606
Subsidiary Providers	16	24	55	100	48	79	56	70
Totals	3,098	3,603	1,449	1,774	1,334	1,364	1,148	1,083

North America

Enrolments of students from North America (overwhelmingly the United States of America) are predominantly within the public tertiary education institutions, primarily the universities.

Table 9: North America student enrolments	<i>United States of America</i>		<i>Canada</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	64	67	24	25
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	2,043	2,061	294	292
Private Training Establishments.	144	138	82	115
Subsidiary Providers.				
Totals	2,251	2,266	400	432

Latin America

Enrolments of students from Latin America (defined as the Central and South America regions) were mainly with private training establishments. Enrolment information for the top four source countries is stated in Table 10.

Table 10: Latin America student enrolments	<i>Brazil</i>		<i>Chile</i>		<i>Argentina</i>		<i>Colombia</i>	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Schools.	389	552	42	67	17	15	28	32
Public Tertiary Education Institutions.	95	105	92	76	24	16	23	39
Private Training Establishments.	1,938	2,235	338	354	104	163	249	372
Subsidiary Providers	59	73	53	53	10	8	27	32
Totals	2,481	2,966	525	550	155	202	327	475

International tertiary enrolments by qualification level

The tertiary Single Data Return (SDR) system operated by the Ministry of Education allows for detailed extraction of data on the enrolments of international students in public and private tertiary education providers, according to their qualification level. Table 11 presents the trend in international enrolments since 2002 (*note* – this data is not directly comparable with the Export Education Levy data).

It is notable that there have been marked changes in demand from international students for the qualifications taught by tertiary education providers. From 2003 to 2006 there was a 45% decline in international enrolments in certificate courses, followed by a 30% rise to 2009. Similarly, from 2003 to 2007 there was a 36% fall in enrolments in diploma courses, follows by a 44% increase to 2009.

There has been a consistent growth in international enrolments in postgraduate courses, rising 79% from 2003 to the end of 2009. There was a very marked increase in international doctoral (PhD) enrolments from 2005 to 2009 (rising from 692 to 2,405 students). This increase can largely be attributed to the 'domestic fees status for new international PhD students' policy introduced from 2006.

Table 11: International enrolments by qualification level	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% of total, 2009
Certificate	15,140	12,377	9,018	8,335	8,768	10,060	10,846	22%
Diploma	14,467	15,604	13,726	10,674	9,323	10,477	13,408	27%
Undergraduate	18,719	23,184	23,910	21,685	19,391	17,339	17,413	40%
Postgraduate	3,971	4,835	4,810	4,969	5,442	6,155	7,090	14%
<i>Total enrolments</i>	<i>52,297</i>	<i>56,000</i>	<i>51,464</i>	<i>45,663</i>	<i>42,924</i>	<i>44,031</i>	<i>48,757</i>	<i>100%</i>
Total students*	47,056	50,395	47,278	42,705	39,842	39,778	43,457	

Notes: Postgraduate totals include Honours degrees & Postgraduate Diplomas; Masters; & Doctorates.

* Students who were enrolled at more than one qualification level have been counted in each level.

Consequently, the sum of students is *less* than the sum of course enrolments.

Chart 5: Proportion of international enrolments by qualification level

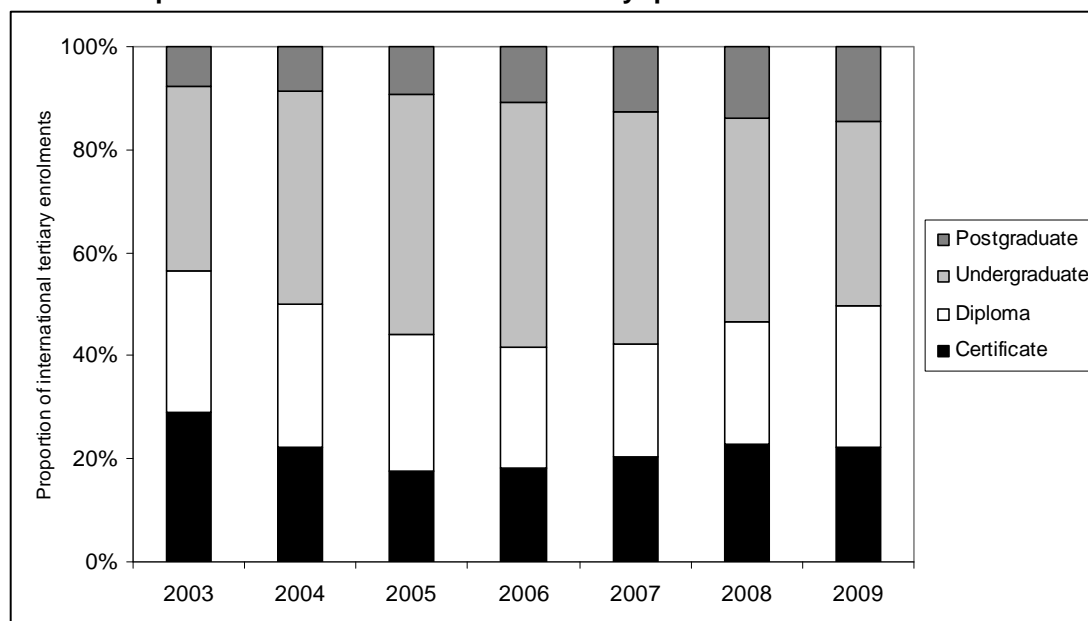
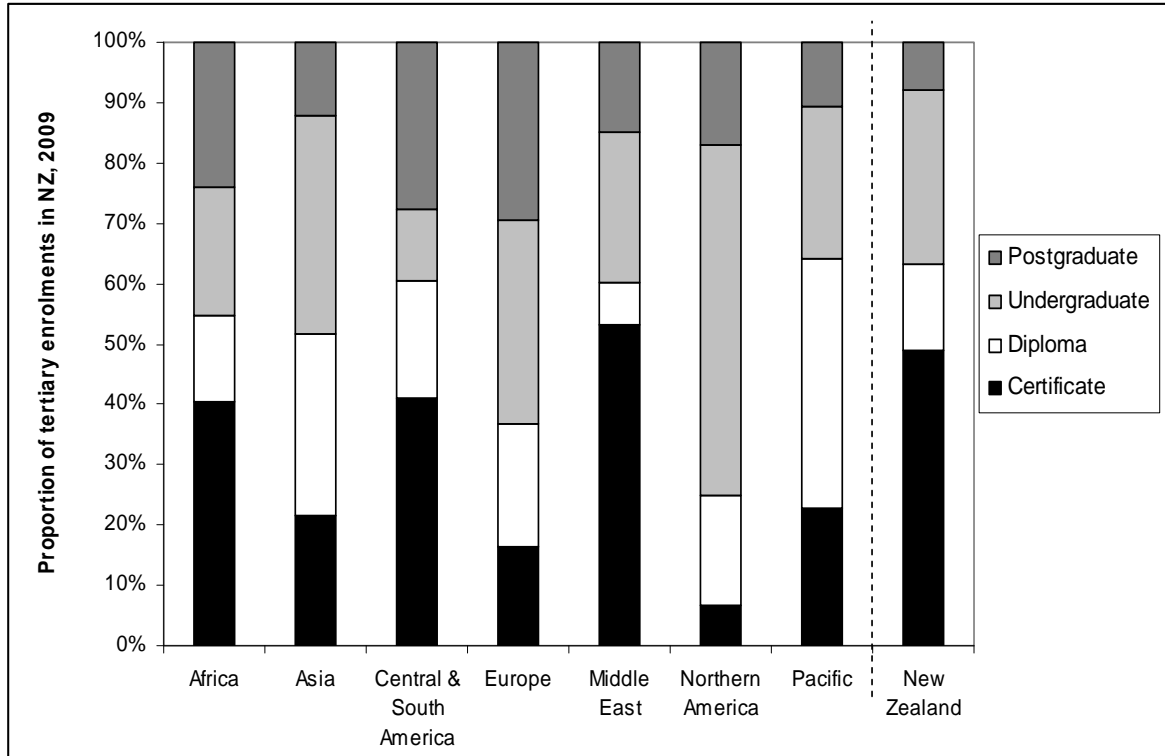


Table 12 shows there were substantial variations in the profile of qualifications enrolments according to the regional origins of international students. In 2009 the great majority of international tertiary students came from Asia (71%), followed by Europe (9%) and Northern America (7%). The largest proportion of Asia enrolments were in undergraduate courses (36%), as were most North American enrolments (58%). European enrolments had the highest proportion of participation in postgraduate courses (32%).

A comparison with New Zealand tertiary enrolments during 2009 shows that, overall, international enrolments were more focused on undergraduate studies (36% vs 29%), and had a substantially higher proportion of postgraduate enrolments (15% vs 8%). During 2009 the 43,457 international tertiary students made up just over 9% of all tertiary students enrolled with New Zealand education providers.

Table 12: Tertiary enrolments by region & level, 2009	Africa	Asia	Central & South America	Europe	Middle East	Northern America	Pacific	New Zealand
Certificate	295	7,617	343	721	1,113	212	545	245,352
Diploma	106	10,520	165	903	146	586	982	72,285
Undergraduate	154	12,715	97	1,472	520	1,853	602	144,937
Postgraduate	176	4,270	233	1,302	308	545	256	40,073
<i>Total enrolments</i>	731	35,122	838	4,398	2,087	3,196	2,385	502,647
Total students	661	30,944	789	4,071	1,786	3,079	2,127	425,650
% of students	2%	71%	2%	9%	4%	7%	5%	

Chart 6: Proportion of course enrolments by region of origin, 2009



Appendix 1: Sources

The information in this memorandum is based on public data released by the Ministry of Education and the Immigration Service of the Department of Labour.

The Export Education Levy

The calendar year information on international fee-paying enrolments is recorded for the Export Education Levy (EEL), which has been administered by the Ministry of Education since January 2003. The EEL is paid by all providers which enrol international fee-paying students. Information on the national origins of enrolments has been collected from January 2006.

A limitation of the EEL data is that it only records enrolments of international fee-paying students, and so does not include students who have domestic fees status with New Zealand state education providers. This group includes exchange students, and international Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students who enrolled from 19 April 2005.

The summary EEL data for the 2003 to 2009 calendar years is on the websites of Education Counts (www.educationcounts.govt.nz), and of the Education New Zealand Trust (www.educationnz.org.nz).

Tertiary enrolments

The Ministry's data on international enrolments within public and private tertiary education organisations is for calendar years, and summarises those students enrolled at any time during the year in formal qualifications of more than a weeks duration at the 35 public tertiary educational institutions and the 263 private providers that received Ministry of Education funding, or that enrolled students in receipt of student loans or student allowances. The statistics represent student numbers rather than enrolments, and include exchange, scholarship, and foreign fee-paying students. For more statistics on international students visit the Ministry's *Education Counts* website at http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/tertiary_education

Immigration data

The Immigration Service of the Department of Labour publishes monthly updates on the numbers of approved applications for student visas and permits (www.immigration.govt.nz). While this information source provides a timely update on the origins of prospective international students, the data is not able to be matched with the actual enrolments in different providers, as this information is not collected by the Department of Labour.

A point to be borne in mind when referring to student visa and permit data is that it can understate total student numbers, as many students enrolled with English language schools are believed to be in New Zealand on visitor visas.

Appendix 2: Export Education Levy information

Data from the Export Education Levy, administered by the Ministry of Education. Information on the tuition fee income received by providers from international fee-paying students shows an increase from 2007 to 2009.

Table 14: Tuition fee income, \$million		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Schools	Primary	\$31.7	\$29.5	\$21.2	\$18.9	\$22.6	\$18.6	\$16.9
	Secondary	\$135.1	\$125.1	\$96.0	\$87.1	\$95.7	\$100.0	\$105.1
	Sub-total	\$166.8	\$154.6	\$117.3	\$106.0	\$118.2	\$118.6	\$122.1
Tertiary Education Institutions	Polytechnics	\$89.2	\$94.7	\$85.9	\$70.1	\$64.4	\$67.1	\$76.2
	Colleges of Edn	\$3.4	\$4.5	\$4.1	\$2.5	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Universities	\$263.5	\$339.4	\$344.1	\$309.2	\$273.7	\$251.1	\$267.0
	Wananga	n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Sub-total	\$356.1	\$438.8	\$434.2	\$381.8	\$338.1	\$318.2	\$343.2
Private Providers	SDR providers	\$72.9	\$65.0	\$60.4	\$51.2	\$47.1	\$59.3	\$72.1
	Non-SDR	\$132.4	\$107.9	\$79.9	\$77.6	\$84.9	\$96.5	\$112.6
	Other Providers	\$0.6	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.2	\$0.1	\$0.1
	Sub-total	\$205.1	\$169.9	\$140.5	\$129.3	\$132.3	\$155.9	\$184.8
	Subsidiary	\$14.7	\$8.8	\$6.5	\$6.2	\$8.2	\$9.5	\$14.0
Total Tuition		\$742.7	\$772.1	\$698.5	\$623.3	\$596.8	\$602.3	\$664.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

The distribution of international fee-paying students within New Zealand can also be determined from the Export Education Levy. Table 15 shows the regional breakdown of student enrolments for the 2004 to 2008 period. It is apparent that, in 2009, well over half of international students enrolled with providers located in Auckland (58%), followed by Canterbury (15%), Waikato, Wellington and Otago (5% each).

Table 15: Distribution of International Fee-Paying Students	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	<i>Proportion of total, 2009</i>
Northland	567	431	412	524	480	474	1%
Auckland	57,839	51,058	52,327	49,262	50,189	54,620	58%
Waikato	8,163	6,847	6,233	5,576	5,453	5,138	5%
Bay of Plenty	2,380	2,396	2,175	2,355	2,331	2,525	3%
Gisborne	191	163	143	172	64	56	0%
Hawkes Bay	1,184	1,146	1,053	1,148	1,065	986	1%
Taranaki	923	1,087	931	884	1,087	1,198	1%
Manawatu-Wanganui	3,217	3,171	2,583	2,391	2,206	2,378	3%
Wellington	9,555	7,935	5,933	5,216	4,881	4,982	5%
West Coast	57	48	75	213	107	84	0%
Canterbury	21,322	17,439	17,208	16,881	14,441	14,171	15%
Otago	5,432	4,903	4,606	4,763	4,530	4,783	5%
Southland	293	279	251	207	267	463	0%
Tasman	122	93	125	136	143	134	0%
Nelson	948	906	813	952	983	1,011	1%
Marlborough	116	106	70	78	80	89	0%
Not known	354	267	356	553	267	413	0%
Totals	112,663	98,275	95,294	91,311	88,574	93,505	100%

Appendix 3: Economic benefit from international education

The economic contribution of the international education sector (ie. international fee-paying students enrolled in New Zealand educational institutions) to the New Zealand economy has previously been calculated by Infometrics, based on 2004 data from the Export Education Levy³. This study estimated that the overall economic benefit – including tuition fees paid, living costs for students, and multiplier factors for the wider economy – amounted to \$2.21 billion in 2004.

A further study was undertaken for the 2007/08 period⁴, based on a statistically significant survey of international students and research with New Zealand education providers which are active in other countries. The following table summarises the key findings of these research projects, together with data from the Export Education Levy on the fees revenue earned by providers from their enrolments of international students.

It is notable that the international education sector has consistently produced an annual economic benefit to New Zealand of over \$2 billion since 2004. The fees revenue, amounting to nearly \$664 million in 2009, also means international education is one of New Zealand’s top services export earners.

Table 16: Estimated economic value-added	Tuition fees revenue (Export Education Levy)	Estimated economic impact*	Offshore education earnings
2004	\$775 million	\$2.21 billion	n.a.
2005	\$699 million	n.a.	n.a.
2006	\$623 million	n.a.	n.a.
2007/08	\$597 million	\$2.1 billion	\$70 million

* Calculated by Infometrics. Economic impact includes tuition fees, living expenditure by students, and multiplier factors for the wider economy.

Table 16 refers to the extent of offshore earnings by NZ education providers and consultancies which are known to be active in other countries. This is an expanding area of business which has significant potential for further growth, particularly in the Gulf States and South-East Asia.

A number of New Zealand tertiary providers are becoming more active in establishing education joint ventures with providers in other countries (for example Victoria University’s small satellite campus in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; and a major project by a consortium of New Zealand providers in developing the vocational training sector in Oman).

³ “The Economic Impact of Foreign Fee-Paying Students” Infometrics, February 2006. This report can be downloaded from <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/international>

⁴ “The Economic Impact of Export Education” Infometrics, NRB and SkinnerStrategic, 30 June 2008. This report can be downloaded from <http://www.educationnz.org.nz>