International Education Factsheet

OUTCOMES FOR INTERNATIONAL TERTIARY STUDENTS

This factsheet outlines the current information on the outcomes for international students enrolled with New Zealand’s tertiary education organisations. These include universities, polytechnics, and private training establishments which receive government funding.

Enrolment trends

In 2013 a total of 47,951 international students were enrolled with New Zealand tertiary education organisations (NB: The columns in Figure 1 overstate the totals slightly, because every year some students enrol in multiple qualification levels).

Of the 47,951 students, the top five source countries were China (33.2%), India (16.1%), the USA (4.9%), South Korea (4.3%), and Malaysia (3.9%).

Completion of degree courses

International students enrolled in New Zealand’s eight universities have had a consistently higher rate of completion of bachelors degree courses.

During 2013 the completion rate for international students was 94%, while the same ratio for domestic students was 87%. 
Transition from study to work and residence

Following completion of their studies, international students can move into work and residence in New Zealand.

From 2008 to 2012 there was a rise in the transition to work in New Zealand by students who enrolled with polytechnics and private training establishments.

From 2007 to 2012 the transition rate for international university students declined, likely reflecting their differing career plans (see below).

A 2010 study of immigration data found that 23% of foreign fee-paying university students (who enrolled from 2003 to 2006) made the transition to work by 2009, and 15% made the transition to residence.

(NB: ITPs are Institutes of Technology/Polytechnics)

Career plans of international students

A 2011 study found that 62.8% of international (non-PhD) university students planned to work in New Zealand, and 41.5% planned to return to work in their country of origin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where students planned to work</th>
<th>International non-PhD</th>
<th>International PhDs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work in New Zealand</td>
<td>62.8%</td>
<td>49.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work overseas</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work in your country of origin</td>
<td>41.5%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Graduate Longitudinal Study New Zealand: Baseline Survey 2011 (www.glsnz.org.nz)

1 All final-year international PhD students in 2011 were invited to take part in the study, resulting in oversampling of this sub-cohort.)