



Border Exceptions for a Small Number of international Students

The government announced a new border exception category today that will allow 250 international PhD and postgraduate students to enter New Zealand and continue studies that were disrupted by COVID-19. This move is a symbol of the government's commitment to international education.

The Ministry of Education will now its work with the sector and relevant government agencies, to ensure a safe and considered process is developed for identifying and granting entry for eligible students. Students eligible for entry will be identified and contacted directly by providers.

There is no application process for students. Students will be nominated for entry by their providers and prioritised based on the considerations below, be subject to immigration processes and will be granted entry to the country as and when capacity becomes available in the MIQ system. We hope the first students will start to arrive in November 2020, with the majority of students arriving in the new year.

The 250 international PhD, and Masters students, must hold or have held a visa to study in 2020 but have been unable to enter New Zealand due to COVID-19. Priority will be given to students enrolled in a qualification that involves practical components (for example, medicine, veterinary, engineering, laboratory sciences, agricultural research) who must be in New Zealand to progress or complete their study.

The Education Minister acknowledges that other international education providers may be disappointed that their students are not a part of this border exception group. This small group was selected to ensure that demand on our quarantine facilities and the complex nature of bringing students back into the country can be carefully managed. This is, however, a step in the right direction for the sector more broadly and the Government will review other possible border exceptions, when it is safe to do so.

Ministerial press release can be viewed here <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/minister/hon-chris-hipkins>

Ministry of Education information can be viewed here <https://www.education.govt.nz/covid-19/advice-for-tertiary-students/border-exceptions>