



## Briefing Note: Australians Studying in New Zealand

<b>To:</b>	Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	2 November 2017	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1088960
<b>Drafter:</b>	Julie Keenan	<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Key contact and number:</b>	Claire Douglas [Redacted]	<b>Round robin:</b>	No
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	Yes		

### Key Messages

Australians studying in New Zealand can access tertiary tuition subsidies. After 3 years' residence, they can also access interest free loans for fees, and interest free loans and student allowances for living costs.

The fees-free tertiary education policy is not expected to change Australians' current eligibility for tuition subsidies, loans, or allowances.

However, eligibility for fees-free tertiary education is yet to be determined. Ministers are considering options, including linking fees-free eligibility to current eligibility for tuition subsidies or loans.

### Recommendations

We recommend that you:

- forward this briefing note to the Prime Minister by 3 November, in preparation for her visit to Australia.



Claire Douglas  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers**

2/11/2017

## Purpose

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1. The Prime Minister has requested a briefing on what the 100 days fees-free tertiary education policy means for Australians studying in New Zealand, in preparation for her visit to Australia. This briefing provides background information, current funding provisions and eligibility, and high level information on what the 100 days fees-free policy could mean for Australians studying in New Zealand.

## Australians studying in New Zealand

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2. In 2016, there were 4,610 students with Australian citizenship enrolled in New Zealand tertiary education while residing in New Zealand (4,535) or overseas (75). Of these, 3,665 were Student Achievement Component (SAC)-funded students paying domestic fees, 110 were in Youth Guarantee, and 455 were full-fee paying students, either domestic or residing overseas. The majority (4,045) are enrolled in formal study i.e. working toward a recognised qualification, rather than in non-formal learning. In comparison, in 2015 there were over 12,000 New Zealanders studying in Australian higher education.
3. In 2016, 985 Australians started study at Level 3 or higher in New Zealand, for the first time.
4. There is no reliable data on the length of New Zealand residence of Australian students.

## Australian students in New Zealand can access tertiary tuition subsidies, loans for fees, and student loans and allowances for living costs

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5. Australians in New Zealand qualify as domestic students, receiving SAC tuition subsidies and paying domestic fees.
6. After three years' residence, Australians and permanent residents studying in New Zealand also qualify for interest free student loans (for fees and for living costs) and for student allowances. This residence requirement aims to increase the Government's confidence that Australians and permanent residents who receive student support will remain in New Zealand and contribute to our society and economy after studying.

## What does the fees-free tertiary education policy mean for Australians studying in New Zealand?

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7. We do not expect that the fees-free policy will reduce Australians' access to current support for tertiary education. It is expected that Australians will continue to access existing tertiary tuition subsidies, interest free student loans and allowances as they do currently.
8. The scope and scale of eligibility under the fees-free tertiary education policy is yet to be determined. The current preferential treatment of Australians in New Zealand is likely to be considered in advice on eligibility for fees-free tertiary education. Like New Zealanders, Australians who have studied previously would not be eligible under the fees-free policy.

## Next steps

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9. We recommend that you forward this briefing to the Prime Minister by Friday 3 November, in preparation for her visit to Australia.