



15 April 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 22 March 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

*I'm hoping you can help me with some figures surrounding your graduate and internship programmes.*

- 1. First, how many people applied in the 2020 intake for each programme?*
- 2. Second, how many people applied for the 2019 intake of each programme?*
- 3. Third, did you take more or less applicants than usual in the 2020 intake, and if so what was the reasoning behind this.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

For the past seven to eight years, the Ministry has centrally run a Policy Graduate programme and Educational Psychologist Internship. In 2018 a centrally run Ministry-wide Summer Internship programme was also established.

The Ministry also participates in several cross-agency internship and graduate programmes, including the following:

- Analytics and Research in Government Programme,
- Government Health and Safety Programme,
- Tupu Toa, Tupu Tai,
- Department of Internal Affairs Finance Graduate Programme,
- GovTech talent programme, and
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Graduate Procurement programme.

The table below outlines the number of applications to the Ministry's Summer Internship and Graduate Policy Analyst Programmes for the 2019 and 2020 years:

Programme	2019 Applications	2020 Applications	Increase
Summer Internship Programme	418	624	206
Graduate Policy Analyst Programme	266	323	57

In 2020, we received more applications for both programmes when compared to 2019. The increase in the number of applications seen during 2020 could in part be attributed to the impact COVID-19 had on the labour market. Unemployment rates inevitably rose with more

OIA: 1254667

National Office, Mātauranga House, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington 6011

PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140. Phone: +64 4 463 8000 Fax: +64 4 463 8001

people looking for opportunities and at the same time the amount of intern / graduate opportunities available seemed to decrease.

Together, the rise in demand and decrease in supply of opportunities would likely have impacted the amount of applications we saw for our programmes. A stronger employer brand presence and a more proactive attraction campaign may also have contributed to the higher application numbers in 2020.

In 2019, we placed seven interns from the centrally run recruitment process for the Summer Internship Programme and hosted 14 interns in total. In 2020, we placed 18 interns from the same centrally run recruitment process and hosted 27 interns in total. This total number of interns includes those interns hosted via the cross-agency programmes (Tupu Toa, Tupu Tai, Analytics and Research in Government, and the Government Health and Safety programme).

We offered 13 more placements for the Summer Internship Programme during 2020 than in 2019. This is in line with the trends we have seen since the inception of the programme in 2018. The programme is in its third year and each year we have seen more interest from host teams and applicants, hence the increase in intern positions available.

We appointed the same number of Graduate Policy Analysts for both the 2019 and 2020 programme intakes, appointing six people for each programme.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at [media.team@education.govt.nz](mailto:media.team@education.govt.nz). If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Kate Tibbitts  
**Chief People Officer**  
**Business Enablement and Support**