

Re-starting international education – fact sheet

Re-starting international education

International students contribute \$5.1 billion a year to the New Zealand economy. Most of this money does not come from tuition fees, but from spending on accommodation, food, tourism, entertainment etc.

Spending by international students supports around 50,000 Kiwi jobs.

Our policy plan

National would allow tertiary education providers to bring international students into New Zealand, under strict quarantine and testing protocols, to support our education sector and economic recovery.

Incoming international students would need to undergo stringent health tests and quarantine measures and stay at facilities that are certified and audited by the Ministry of Health.

There are significant economic gains to be had if we move fast. We could attract students who would normally go to other countries to study, or those who want a full experience of campus life.

These students spend significant amounts of money in New Zealand. The average international university student spends more than \$28,000 and for every dollar spent the flow-on benefit to the economy is estimated to be \$1.60.

Spending by these students would also help New Zealand's tourism industry recover.

Policy highlights

- Students would need to pass health checks before they board planes, as they go through customs into quarantine, and prior to being released from quarantine.
- Education providers would handle quarantine procedures. Their health protocols will need to be approved and audited by Ministry of Health officials.
- All costs would be borne by the education providers, who would be able to pass these onto students if they chose.
- National would suspend working rights for new international student visas for a year so New Zealanders do not have to compete for jobs with people from overseas when jobs are scarce.
- Exceptions would be in place for those who already have existing student visas and some postgraduate students.
- National would consider further legislative changes to strengthen enforcement of quarantine if it is deemed necessary.