



NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

One in Two Post-Study Work Visas Applications Declined in Auckland

Auckland Central Immigration offices currently has the highest post study international visa rejection rate with 49.5% of applications processed in May being declined.

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For international students who leave their home country to further their education in a foreign country, the post-study work visa aims to provide students with the opportunity to gain practical work experience to a later skilled employment. However, for many international students in Auckland, the high rejection rate, which means that one in two applications being rejected, removes any chance for these students to gain work experience related to their vocation.

As an advocate for international students in New Zealand, NZISA is concerned with post study opportunities provided for international students. As stated by Immigration Adviser Maricel Weischede the process "seems to be discretionary, and the application process is clearly unpredictable". Furthermore, in comparison to Auckland, Christchurch (62 approvals to 23 rejections in May) and Henderson (327 approvals to 39 rejections in May) have higher acceptance rate of visas. As the application process varies according to its branch, the immigration process, lacks consistency across New Zealand.

New Zealand's international education industry is estimated to be worth \$4.5 billion contributing greatly to the economy of New Zealand (International Education Dashboard 2016 report by Education New Zealand). However, the economic value of the international education sector will decline as the high rejection rate for post-study international visas will deter many prospective students from choosing New Zealand for furthering their education. As such, the New Zealand immigration process should be streamlined and consistent throughout the country, in order for international students to receive a fair opportunity to advance their career paths.

About NZISA

NZISA aims to be the representative body and advocate of all international students in New Zealand. We will enhance communication and cooperation between the international student community and the education sector in New Zealand. NZISA aims to explore new standards and to review existing best practice when accommodating, educating and advocating for international students in New Zealand.

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