



NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

Another Win for International Students

Flexible working conditions granted for international students working
in the health sector

Issued by NZISA on 22nd September 2021

The New Zealand International Students' Association is pleased to announce that following our August 30th press release,¹ the Government has accepted our proposal to provide an exemption for flexible working hours (beyond 20hrs/week) for international students. Today, Immigration New Zealand announced that while New Zealand (or the student's area) is in Alert Level 3 or 4, two groups of international students are eligible work beyond the 20 hours/week prescribed by their student visa. The two groups are outlined below:

1. International students working in critical health roles

- The Government has retained the definition of 'critical health worker role' from the last lockdown, with the addition of key COVID-19 support roles such as testing and clinical roles. (cleaning or other support services are not included)
- This also applies to interim visa holders who held a student visa immediately before their interim visa.

¹ [Left out of the support provided to the team of 5 million. Have international students been forgotten once again?](#)

- To qualify, international students must have been employed as a critical health worker the day before their area entered Alert Level 3 or 4.
- These flexible visa conditions only apply while New Zealand or the student's area is at Alert Level 3 or 4. Otherwise, standard visa conditions apply.

2. *International students who want to work as COVID-19 Testers or Vaccinators*

- International student eligible to work in COVID-19 testing centers or vaccination centers, may do so without a restriction on their hours provided that their area is under Alert Level 3 or 4.
- International students do not need to have been previously employed as a vaccinator or tester to be eligible for flexible work conditions under this category.
- For example, this would apply to an international student in an area that is under Alert Level 4, who is studying medicine and is invited by their District Health Board to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations or to support with COVID-19 swabbing.
- These flexible visa conditions only apply while New Zealand or their area is at Alert Level 3 or 4. Otherwise, the standard student visa conditions will apply.

In the face of another wave in the pandemic, this timely exemption gives international students the opportunity to contribute significantly to the national COVID-19 recovery efforts. NZISA appreciates the Government's uptake of our proposal. Moving forward, we as an association will continue to advocate for fair work rights and fight discrimination against international students.

For more information on the working hours flexibility, please visit the [Immigration New Zealand website](#).

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