



NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

“The Path that Leads Home”

Freedom for Onshore International Students to Finally Return Home for the Holidays

Issued by NZISA on 15th January 2022

The New Zealand International Students' Association is delighted to announce that onshore international students can now return home without the fear of being stuck abroad, following the Government's [announcement](#)¹ of their five step plan.

The [announcement](#) that New Zealand borders will be open to offshore temporary visa holders was certainly a huge step towards welcoming more international students, current and new, back into the country. However, this positive development came with an asterisk – onshore international students were still ineligible to leave the country. The anguish of not being able to return home to loved ones has been distressing for many, a chronic long standing issue. Many international students approached NZISA and expressed their downfall of discontinuing studies to be with their families, and the mental health challenges relating to not being able to see



family in over two years. One student said, “we still won’t be able to leave New Zealand to see our families come April 13th – this is absolutely heartbreaking and

unfair.” Another said “why are we not allowed to return once we have left? Many other countries allow their students to go home and return again for studies.”

NZISA has been working tirelessly with the support of Education New Zealand (ENZ), constant communication with Immigration New Zealand (INZ), and the Ministry of Education (MOE) - notably Minister Chris Hipkins, to amplify the concerns of our onshore students to be able to visit their families without being stuck abroad. After years of advocating, onshore international students can now return to their home countries from *12th April 2022 at 11.59pm*. They will be able to do so without the dread of being stranded abroad rendering INZ’s [Step 3 - From Tuesday 12 April, 11:59pm](#)¹.

NZISA is pleased with the current progress and we hope to maintain our positive relationships with Government agencies and our key stakeholders, incorporating the perspectives of international students for decisions pertaining to our welfare, education, and future. Nothing about us, without us. Here’s to more wins for our international student community in 2022 – better days ahead!

For more information on travel and border restrictions for Tertiary International Students, visit:

1. [New Zealand Border entry requirements](#)
2. [Border Reopening announcement](#)



Media Contacts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vikram Selvaraj', written in a cursive style.

Vikram Selvaraj

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Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bingyan Jiang', written in a cursive style.

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