

## Introduction

New Zealand's universities are large institutions, collectively employing approximately 21,500 full-time staff and turning over \$4.15 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> The universities teach around 178,000 students and produce around 44,000 graduates each year (88% at bachelor's degree level or higher). Universities spend around \$1.17 billion on research and are home to 70% of the country's researchers. National and international evidence suggests that investing in universities is a positive way to grow an economy.

Universities, their staff, graduates, and educational and research activities form an important backbone to the New Zealand economy. Universities train and produce highly skilled workers. They produce research that underpins new growth and development. They nurture and develop the country's future researchers and innovators.

Well-regarded universities, such as New Zealand's eight universities, attract talented staff and students from across the country and around the world, with positive flow-on effects for the regions that house them and for the country. Universities make a significant contribution to the regions that house them, their contribution representing up to 6.3% of regional GDP, counting University and student spending that contributes directly to regional GDP. [1]

## The current problems

Due to the closure of the border, there are not many international graduates in 2021. All institutions and universities have lost a lot of money. If all graduates lose the hope of settlement, New Zealand may lose students (as far as I know, Canada is the most powerful competitor because their immigration policy is to assign residency rights to new graduates). In the previous petition (the URL are showed below), many new graduates and potential freshmen expressed extreme disappointment and considered leaving because they were abandoned by one-off visas.

Petition1:

<https://www.change.org/p/immigration-new-zealand-allow-2021-university-graduates-join-one-off-resident-visa-application>

Petition2:

<https://www.change.org/p/new-zealand-government-expand-eligibility-for-the-2021-one-off-resident-visa>

## Suggestions

The one-off visa should be assigned to new graduates in Nov 2021. Because the number is small, issuing one-off visas to new graduates is good publicity with little risk: We welcome new students after the border is opened.

If 2021 new graduates can get one-off visas, their story will be a good example to attract new students to consider studying in New Zealand. They will introduce more and more friends, family or colleagues to study in New Zealand

## Bibliography

- [1] Universities NZ – Te Pūkai Tara, "Growing New Zealand's economy," April 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz/sector-research/growing-new-zealand-economy>. [Accessed October 2021].

## References