



## Information for education agents supporting students nominated under the 4<sup>th</sup> border class exception

The Government has approved entry to New Zealand for a group of 5,000 international students (Cohort 4). This cohort of students will have special permission to enter New Zealand, referred to as a border class exception. Education providers will be able to begin nominating students to the places within Cohort 4 they have been allocated in March/April 2022. Successfully nominated students will be able to begin the visa process from 13 April 2022. Once a visa has been issued students will be able to travel to New Zealand. Students are expected to begin arriving to undertake their study from mid-2022.

This information is to assist agents when working with any nominated students and their nominating education provider.

New Zealand education providers will be nominating students for entry to New Zealand as part of Cohort 4. Being nominated does not guarantee entry to New Zealand. Any nominated student will need to meet requirements for nomination and be approved by government agencies including the Ministry of Education and Education New Zealand (ENZ) before beginning the immigration steps required by Immigration New Zealand (INZ).

This sheet provides you with information that education agents will need to consider carefully when working with students interested in being nominated as part of Cohort 4.

### Nomination criteria

To be eligible for nomination, students must agree to meet **all** the following criteria:

**Student eligibility for nomination criteria:** Students must:

- Enter New Zealand on a student visa, and meet all visa requirements including providing evidence that they have access to:
  - For tertiary students at least NZD \$20,000 annually for living costs (or NZD \$1,667 for each month of study if their programme of study is less than thirty-six weeks).
  - For school students at least NZD \$15,000 annually for living costs (or NZD \$1,250 for each month of study if their programme is less than thirty-six weeks).
- Meet all COVID-19 prevention measures, this includes adhering to any travel restrictions, pre-departure tests and any isolation requirements in place at the time of entry to New Zealand; see: <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/>.
- Agree to sharing of private nomination information between themselves, their education provider and New Zealand Government agencies involved in the border exception process for the purpose of tracking their progress up to and including their commencement of study in New Zealand.
- Be 'travel ready' and able to arrive in New Zealand from mid-2022 and by October 2022 within the logistical constraints that exist.

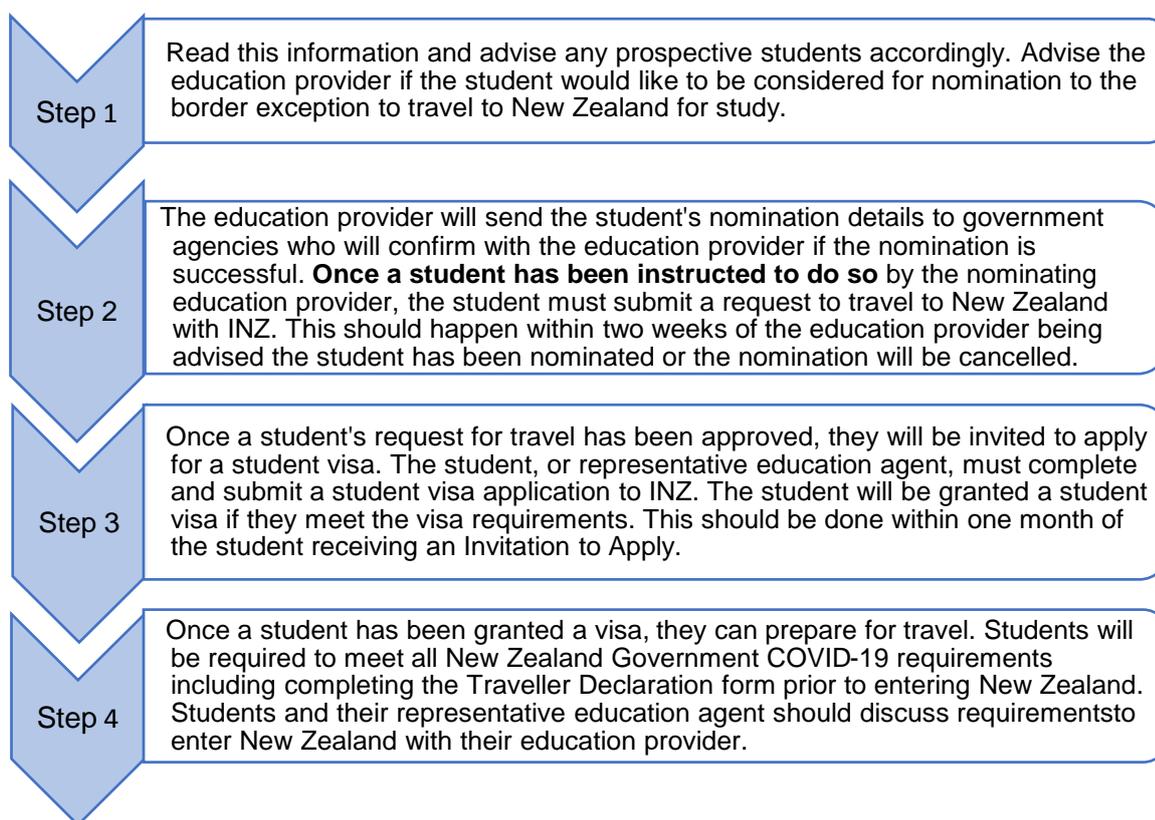
Enrol to study in a course eligible for Cohort 4 (refer to course eligibility criteria).

You will need to check with the education provider to confirm the student will be studying a course that meets the course criteria approved for Cohort 4.

### Prospective students

If you have a prospective student that meets the criteria, please notify the student's preferred education provider so that the student can be considered for nomination.

### Process Steps



### COVID-19 prevention measures to consider and explain to students before they confirm their interest in travelling to New Zealand

The global impacts of COVID-19 mean that there are currently issues to consider carefully before students confirm with an education provider that they would like to be considered for nomination and travel to New Zealand.

To be eligible for this border class exception a student will need to meet all COVID-19 prevention measures. This includes adhering to travel restrictions and pre-departure tests to enter New Zealand; see the link here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel/>.

From 1 November 2021, anyone entering New Zealand (17 years and older), who is not a New Zealand citizen, will require a full course of one of the COVID-19 vaccines approved by a government or approval authority and had received their last dose at least 14 days prior to arrival in New Zealand. For more information on vaccination requirements please visit: <https://covid19.govt.nz/international-travel/travel-to-new-zealand/vaccination-requirements-for-travel-to-new-zealand/>.

### Ability to fund their stay in New Zealand

A student will need to consider whether they have enough money to travel to and live in New Zealand at this time, and whether suitable flights are available.

If a student is invited to apply for a student visa, they will be required to provide evidence with their student visa application to show they have access to at least NZD \$20,000 annually for living costs if they are undertaking tertiary study (or NZD \$1,667 for each month of study if their course is less than thirty-six weeks). For school students to be granted a visa, they must show that they have at least NZD \$15,000 available per year of study remaining (or NZD \$1,250 per month of study, if they have less than one year of study left) to pay for their living costs.

As part of the student visa application, students will also be required to provide evidence to show they have paid tuition fees to the education provider.

Students may have difficulty finding employment due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 in New Zealand. Students must therefore be confident that they are able to meet their personal expenses out of the funds that they bring to New Zealand.

Students also need to be aware of possible changes in-study and post-study work rights for international students. These settings are currently being reviewed

### **Bringing family members with you**

If students have a guardian or partner and/or dependent children, they may be able to come with them to New Zealand if they are eligible for a visa based on their relationship to the student.

Students must tell their education provider if they plan to bring family members. Details must be included on the request for travel form.

### **Immigration Steps**

There is a two-part immigration process that students, or their representative education agent, will need to follow if the student is nominated under this border exception.

Once an education provider instructs a student to do so, they must submit a request to INZ to travel to New Zealand under this border exception. If a student will be accompanied by a guardian or partner and/or dependent children these family members must be included in their request for travel (RFT).

If a student meets the border exception requirements, INZ will invite the student to apply for a student visa. If the student's family plan to come with the student and they are eligible for a visa based on their relationship to the student, these family members will separately be invited to apply for an appropriate visa.

### **The New Zealand Traveller Declaration**

Everyone travelling by air to NZ after 31 March 2022 complete a [New Zealand Traveller Declaration](#).

Travellers must complete the New Zealand Traveller Declaration and be issued a New Zealand Traveller Pass before they can board their flight to New Zealand. Students can start their declaration as soon as they have been granted their visa.

We recommend that students complete their declaration on a computer or laptop, to make it easier to upload their documentation. Students can start their declaration 28 days before their flight, but they will need to provide a negative COVID-19 pre-departure test when they submit their declaration, unless they are exempt. If students start their declaration early and don't complete all the tasks, their declaration will be automatically saved (after completing the Your Passport information page) and a reference number will be emailed to each student with a unique code to access their declaration. This may be a feature students use if they want to start their declaration early, but then need to obtain their

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COVID-19 pre-departure test closer to travel. Further information can be found at [www.TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz](http://www.TravellerDeclaration.govt.nz).

### Agents' responsibilities in visa application process

Agents providing immigration advice offshore regarding student visas are exempt from the requirement to be licensed, however they must declare their involvement. Agents based in New Zealand must be licenced immigration advisors to provide immigration advice to students and their involvement is also required to be declared.

Anyone assisting the applicant for a visa must declare themselves when submitting the application. This should be done by completing the "Apply on Behalf/Assist" section in the Immigration Online student form.

If an adviser or agent is added or changed after an application has been submitted, then details of this must be uploaded to the application. This can be done by completing details within the separate form – "NZ 1160 - Immigration Adviser Details" and uploading this for to the student's online student visa application.

Failure to accurately declare whether an agent has provided advice or assisted with a visa application may impact the outcome of the application.

### Phased response to COVID-19

The New Zealand Government's process for managing COVID-19 includes phases that tells us what measures we need to take (such as wearing facemasks, and limitations on gatherings). More information on these settings can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/traffic-lights/life-at-red/>.

More information on New Zealand's response to Omicron can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/about-covid-19/our-response-to-omicron/>.

If a student comes to New Zealand, they must follow all COVID-19 restrictions. A student needs to be willing to accept the risks of COVID-19 being in the community. Their tuition fees will not be refunded if their course needs to shift to online delivery, for example. If they are unable to work, they need to have money to look after themselves.

### Costs

Students will need to understand there are costs that apply to visa applications and other costs may have increased due to the situation created by COVID-19. These costs are likely to include:

Item	Cost	When payable	More info
Request for Travel	\$45 per request	When you submit the RFT	
Student visa application	Approx. \$330	When you apply	Refer to the student checklist from INZ
Flights	Higher than pre-COVID-19	When you book the flight	Airlines and travel agents

### Once students arrive in New Zealand

If a student is approved for travel, we look forward to welcoming them to New Zealand. Education provider will be in contact with their prospective student, and you as their education agent, about support for their study in New Zealand and may be able to provide help with accommodation if needed.