

Education New Zealand  
Manapou ki te Ao  
Level 5, Lambton House  
160 Lambton Quay  
PO Box 12041  
Wellington 6144  
New Zealand

P: +64 4 472 0788  
E: info@enz.govt.nz

www.enz.govt.nz  
www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz

28 February 2022

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

## Official Information Act 1982 request – Prime Minister’s Scholarships

I refer to your official information act request (OIA), received by Education New Zealand (ENZ) on 31 January 2022. We have addressed each of your questions separately below.

**1. Is there a strategy/plan or similar regarding the Prime Minister's Scholarships and COVID-19 travel restrictions? If so, please attach a copy of that strategy/plan.**

ENZ's approach regarding the Prime Minister's Scholarships and COVID-19 travel restrictions has aligned with Government travel advice for New Zealanders travelling overseas, not with restrictions for entry or re-entry at New Zealand's border.

Travel advice for New Zealanders is developed and provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and published on [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz). Our approach continues to be based on this advice, which is currently 'do not travel' for all countries. Therefore, your request for a strategy/plan regarding the Prime Minister's Scholarships and COVID-19 travel restrictions is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as it does not exist.

**2. What is the name of the team, manager and principal analyst/advisor in charge of the Prime Minister's Scholarships and the COVID-19 response.**

The Prime Minister's Scholarships are overseen and managed by the Student Experience and Global Citizens team. The Director of this team is Sahinde Pala. ENZ does not have any principal analysts/advisors. ENZ does not have a team, manager or principal analyst/advisor in charge of the COVID-19 response.

**3. What is the current criteria for re-opening the scholarships?**

Please refer to the response for question one.

**4. What are the current results against the criteria (for example, if there is a risk assessment model, please provide the results from that model).**

Please refer to the response for question one.

**5. What is the estimated timeline for re-opening the scholarships?**

Please refer to the response for question one.

Education New Zealand  
Manapou ki te Ao  
Level 5, Lambton House  
160 Lambton Quay  
PO Box 12041  
Wellington 6144  
New Zealand

P: +64 4 472 0788  
E: [info@enz.govt.nz](mailto:info@enz.govt.nz)

[www.enz.govt.nz](http://www.enz.govt.nz)  
[www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz](http://www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz)

## 6. Is it being considered to open the scholarships to certain countries and not others?

When it was established, the Prime Minister's Scholarship scheme was specifically aimed at enhancing New Zealand's economic, trade and education relationships with key trading markets, and in particular increasing the ability of New Zealanders to operate in a global trade environment. Based on New Zealand's trade and education priorities at the time, the regions selected were Asia and Latin America. Specific countries were not selected at the time, but as New Zealand's trade and education priorities adapt and change, this may be the case in future. Decisions about target countries are not currently being considered, however the additional layer of wellbeing and safety concerns associated with COVID-19 will continue to be a consideration, if and when the Prime Minister's scholarships are restarted. This may mean, for example, prioritising countries where there is a New Zealand consular presence, or where ENZ staff are easily accessible.

## 7. Will the scholarships be restarted before the MIQ system is finished or not? Please provide any documents justifying the decision including internal memos but not including email trails unless they provide the specific answer.

As outlined in the response to question one, decisions about the Prime Minister's Scholarship scheme are not linked to the MIQ system or inbound travel restrictions. Therefore there are no decisions in relation to this, and your request for documents justifying decisions in relation to the scholarships being restarted before the MIQ system is finished is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as the documents you request do not exist.

ENZ has included in this response the existing terms and conditions that apply to undertaking a Prime Minister's Scholarship, which you may find useful.

As you have now been registered on ENZ's mailing list in relation to the Prime Minister's Scholarships following your query to ENZ on 29 January 2022, you will be advised if and when the scholarship scheme reopens.

In preparing this information release ENZ has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or freephone 0800 802 602. If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Vignesh Nagasubramanian, Senior Advisor, Governance on [vignesh.nagasubramanian@enz.govt.nz](mailto:vignesh.nagasubramanian@enz.govt.nz).

**THINK  
NEW**<sup>®</sup>



**Education New Zealand  
Manapou ki te Ao**  
Level 5, Lambton House  
160 Lambton Quay  
PO Box 12041  
Wellington 6144  
New Zealand

P: +64 4 472 0788  
E: [info@enz.govt.nz](mailto:info@enz.govt.nz)

[www.enz.govt.nz](http://www.enz.govt.nz)  
[www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz](http://www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz)

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://enz.govt.nz/about-enz/information-releases/>, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

Di Solomon  
Director, Government and Stakeholders Relations