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26 August 2024

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

## Official Information Act 1982 request – queries on the New Zealand School Scholarship (NZSS) programme in Viet Nam

I refer to your official information act request (OIA), received by Education New Zealand (ENZ) on 28 July 2024, requesting the following:

1. How many applicants and winners have there been each year since 2019?
2. A breakdown of winners' GPA and IELTS/English scores, the cities they come from, and their grades in Vietnam by year.
3. How many of the winners each year actually came to study in New Zealand and how many of them stayed for further study?

The NZSS is the flagship initiative under the New Zealand School Sector Strategy in Viet Nam. It was launched in 2019 and is co-funded by ENZ and a selection of New Zealand secondary schools and is exclusively offered to Vietnamese students for Grades 8-10. Each scholarship provides a 50% subsidy on the full-year school tuition fees of the first year of study at a New Zealand secondary school.

I understand you have contacted other areas of ENZ, including our in-country staff based in Ho Chi Minh City, to obtain information on the NZSS.

We will respond to each of your questions in turn:

*How many applicants and winners have there been each year since 2019?*

Please find a table below detailing the number of applicants and awardees since 2019. Please note that NZSS did not run during the pandemic, when New Zealand's borders were closed.

	2019	2023	2024
Applicants	64	97	73
Awardees	20	17	14

*A breakdown of winners' GPA and IELTS/English scores, the cities they come from, and their grades in Vietnam by year.*

Due to privacy concerns, we will not provide you with successful awardees' grades nor a breakdown of their individual Grade Point Average (GPA) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores. These parts of your request are declined under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, privacy of natural persons.

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However, we can provide a range of successful awardees' GPA and IELTS scores and provide you the cities where successful awardees live, for 2019, 2023 and 2024;

2019

Cities: Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Vung Tau,  
GPA range: 8.6 – 9.4  
IELTS range: 6.0 – 7.0

2023

Cities: Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hung Yen, Vung Tau  
GPA range: 8.5 – 9.7  
IELTS range: 5.5 – 7.5

2024

Cities: Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Da Lat  
GPA range: 8.0 – 9.5  
IELTS range: 6.0 – 7.5

*How many of the winners each year actually came to study in New Zealand and how many of them stayed for further study?*

We are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist or cannot be found, despite reasonable efforts to locate it.

It is the responsibility of the successful awardee to apply for the appropriate student visa to Immigration New Zealand. ENZ does not help, support, assist or facilitate this in any manner whatsoever.

You may wish to approach Immigration New Zealand directly, however, please note that it would not be able to provide you with personal information regarding applicants, such as their visa status and length of stay, which is how we have interpreted your question to relate to, due to individual privacy considerations.

You may find the following tables useful, which contains data on all fee paying and scholarship student visa application decisions. It covers the years 2022 and 2023 and only those people outside New Zealand when they applied. Note these are provided by Immigration New Zealand but we believe it may assist you with your queries on Vietnamese students applying for student visas to study in New Zealand from offshore.

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/assist-migrants-and-students/assist-students/international-markets/student-visa-decision-data/offshore-student-visa-application-decisions-for-2022>

<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/assist-migrants-and-students/assist-students/international-markets/student-visa-decision-data/offshore-student-visa-application-decisions-for-2023>

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If you still wish to do so, you can contact Immigration New Zealand at [www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/make-a-request-for-official-information](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/make-a-request-for-official-information).

Information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests, where possible. Please contact us if you have any questions about this.

Yours sincerely

Di Solomon  
General Manager  
Government Relations