



Te Pūkenga

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11 March 2025

[REDACTED]
By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2025, requesting the following information from Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga):

...for every ITP that sits within Te Pūkenga:

How many international student enrolments have been deferred due to visa processing issues, and how long have these enrolments been deferred for.

Can this request please cover every semester in 2024, as well as the most recent or upcoming semester in 2025.

Engagement and scoping process

As mentioned in my recent letter (Reference TP240149), [REDACTED] Government Relations Director, and his team have been engaging directly with you about your recent requests for information. I am aware they have kept you updated throughout the processing of this request.

Again, if you have any questions or wish to discuss the information within this response, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] directly via email at: uia@tepukenga.ac.nz or by phone on [REDACTED]

As outlined by my office already, we initially recommended your request be transferred to Immigration New Zealand. However, on 3 February we provided you an update that enquiries regarding transfer to a more appropriate agency were not successful. Therefore, we have endeavoured to provide you with some useful information regarding international ākonga (student) enrolment, deferrals and visa applications from our 16 provider-based business divisions that may be useful for your inquiries.

On 10 February we wrote to you advising of an extension to the timeframe for making a decision on your request to 13 March 2025. This letter provides a formal decision on your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Background

It is important that I reiterate the background context, provided to you on 22 January, regarding the information we are releasing to you, as set out below.

International ākonga applications may be deferred for many reasons under many different scenarios, not solely in relation to their visa applications. As previously indicated, when deferrals are identified as visa-related, it is not possible to ascertain the specifics in every case, and we can by no means conclude that issues were due to a processing delay. Several other visa-related issues may have arisen at the time. For example, which several business divisions reiterated in their responses, some deferrals do occur when ākonga make a late submission for a visa, meaning an application is simply not able to be processed with visa granted in time for their chosen start date.

As we are not able to supply information with the specificity you asked for, in order to provide you with the most useful information we could, as well as making accessing the information administratively achievable for both business division and national office kaimahi (staff), my office prepared eight questions for each of our provider-based business divisions to answer. With these eight questions we have done our best to provide you with information that may be useful and somewhat close to the original scope of your request.

These eight questions are set out in **Appendix One**.

The decision

Nine business divisions' responses to each question are set out at **Appendix One**. Three business divisions were not able to source and collate information in answer to the questions as they were written, due to the way their information is captured. Instead, they have provided certain information, which we are providing in case it assists with further context. This is set out at **Appendix Two**. The following three business divisions had a nil response to questions 1 and 5, so with no information in scope for the questions are not included in either appendix: NorthTec, Open Polytechnic, Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

We may publish our OIA responses and the information contained in our reply to you on our website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki | Chief Executive

Appendix One

Business Division	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
Ara	<4	0	<4	5 months	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eastern Institute of Technology*	8	0	<4	1 semester	21	<4	6	1 term - 1 semester
Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT)**	105	48	56	3 months - 1 semester	41	22	19	1 semester
Southern Institute of Technology	49	29	12	Maximum 5 months	9	5	0	N/A
Toi Ohomai	120	50	70	6 - 12 months	80	20	60	8 months
UCOL***	27	14	13	6 - 12 months	14	<4	13	6 months
Unitec	60	13	47	Semester 2, 2024	56	12	44	Semester 1, 2025
Whitireia and WelTec	19	6	13	1 - 2 trimesters	9	<4	8	1 trimester
Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki****	<4	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Based on how many ākongā requested an extension.

**Estimates only, based on INZ reports and MIT's paid/enrolled reports.

***Data has been compiled manually, cross referencing Immigration reporting with UCOL reporting.

****Applicants usually just move to the next available offering.

Questions for 2024 Semesters:

Semester One

- 1) How many international ākongā enrolments had their visa applications approved late and could not make their requested start dates, for semester one 2024?
- 2) Of those in Q1, how many were lost to us eg. withdrew or cancelled?
- 3) Of those in Q1, how many were deferred to later semesters?
- 4) Of the ākongā in Q3, how long have they been deferred for?

Semester Two

- 5) How many international ākongā enrolments had their visa applications approved late and could not make their requested start dates, for semester two 2024?
- 6) Of those in Q5, how many were lost to us eg. withdrew or cancelled?
- 7) Of those in Q5, how many were deferred to later semesters?
- 8) Of the ākongā in Q7, how long have they been deferred for?

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Appendix Two

Business Division	2024 International ākongā enrolments
Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology	784 ākongā withdrew at offer stage. 64 ākongā withdrew after payment. Those who withdrew at offer stage may have been given an offer three times, eg a Feb intake, July intake, Oct intake. Those who withdrew after payment, generally requested a refund due to a visa decline or a change in personal circumstances. Ākongā may be allowed to start late, subject to appropriate delegated level of approval.
Otago Polytechnic	81 ākongā requested a deferral for 2024. 16 ākongā requested a deferral for Semester 1. 34 ākongā requested a deferral for Semester 2. 31 ākongā requested a deferral for a full year programme. Ākongā may be accepted up to 2 weeks late due to visa issues.
Wintec	There were 572 new ākongā who's 2024 application reached Accepted in Progress/Pending Student Arrival. 42 were not granted a visa by 2024. 17 were granted a visa but never enrolled.

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