

28 January 2021



Dear Partner

We trust you are well. In preparation for the coming year, we would like to give you an update on the Covid-19 situation in New Zealand. We shall also share news from Immigration New Zealand and outline what it means for Incoming Study Abroad and Exchange students at Otago Polytechnic.

News from Immigration New Zealand

The Government acknowledges that the international educational sector has been significantly affected by Covid-19 and that the sector is keen to get international students back to New Zealand as soon as possible. However, the border remains closed to all but New Zealand citizens, residents and those granted a border exception.

On 14 January 2021, the Government approved an exception class for 1,000 (of 2,685) bachelor's degree level and above tertiary international students to return to New Zealand and continue their studies. These students need to hold or have held a valid visa to study in 2019/2020 and have studied in New Zealand in 2019 towards their current qualification and be returning to study with their current provider.

What it means for Study Abroad & Exchange enrolments

Reluctantly, and based on the best advice and information currently available, a decision has been made to cancel the Semester 2, 2021 Exchange Programme that would have started in July 2021. We are monitoring the situation closely and will inform you should there be further developments. For more information, please contact Vanessa Naidoo at studyabroad@op.ac.nz

Thank you for your support and co-operation and we look forward to welcoming your students to New Zealand in the future.

Kind Regards

Dr. Megan Gibbons
Chief Executive Otago Polytechnic