

International education Magazine

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Study in New Zealand

Interview with Mr. Ben Burrowes, Regional Director, Asia, Education New Zealand Article by: Rachael Dyal and Khalid ALKhalaileh



Discover all New Zealand has to offer, from world-class education to breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture—a perfect destination for international students.

(PC: Auckland Brand Library)

Safe, peaceful and welcoming, New Zealand is not only a haven for tourists but also an ideal destination for university students seeking both quality education and serenity.

Nestled in the Pacific, this beautiful country invites international students into its classrooms and vibrant communities. From renowned attractions – such as the Lord of the Rings set – to several

high-quality universities, New Zealand offers students the chance to indulge in a unique blend of education and cultural immersion.

"We want to encourage international students into our local classrooms and communities," said Ben Burrowes, Regional Director, Asia, Education New Zealand. "We also want our young Kiwi kids to learn alongside people with different religions and cultures."

Currently, New Zealand hosts 55,000 international students and is home to eight globally ranked universities, guaranteeing high-quality education across the country.



New Zealand invites students from abroad to study at one of their prestigious universities PC: Mark Leedom

"I believe we're the only country in the world that can say all of its universities are ranked in the top 3 per cent globally," said Burrowes. "Wherever a student is studying, they can rest assured they're receiving a world class education."

In addition to traditional disciplines like engineering and health sciences, New Zealand's universities excel in specialized fields such as artificial intelligence, gaming, animation, and other programs tailored to emerging industries.

The Manaaki Scholarship Program is a key strategy to attracting international students to New Zealand, Burrowes explained. This government-funded initiative provides students from Asia and the Pacific Islands with an education designed to benefit their home countries.

"It's a fully funded scholarship by the New Zealand government, and those students who come are then returned to their home country where they can contribute to their national economy," he said. "We are essentially helping to build their workforce."

International students in New Zealand can also access work opportunities. Those pursuing their bachelor's degree or higher can work up to 20 hours a week during the semester and full-time during breaks, gaining both valuable experience and financial support.

"International students who study in New Zealand can work while they're enrolled, and after graduation, they have attractive post-study work rights," Burrowes adds. "Beyond the post-study work rights, there are further opportunities to stay longer through a skilled resident visa."

For many, New Zealand's affordability is another draw. Tuition costs range from \$15,000 to \$25,000 NZD annually, which compares favourably to fees in other countries, Burrowes added.

Burrowes also emphasized that for anyone considering education in New Zealand, it is an incredibly welcoming country with beautiful people that will make you feel at home.



Ben Burrowes (right) and Khalid ALKhalaileh (left) at NAFSA 2024 in New Orleans.

"We have a very special Indigenous culture in New Zealand, where we treat our visitors with respect, and we make them feel like they're living at home," he said. "And I think if you're moving miles away from your home country, you want to feel comfortable and feel welcomes, and New Zealand provides that."

By:

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