



File Ref: SDE 32

**WORKFORCE (IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND)
INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION CIRCULAR NO: 08/16**

To: All Workforce/Immigration New Zealand (INZ) staff

Date: 19 December 2008

**STUDENT POLICY: (UPDATED) VISAS AND PERMITS FOR THE LENGTH OF
A COURSE OF STUDY**

Please **READ** this information and ensure that all staff members who may be affected are aware of what is required of them.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this Internal Administration Circular (IAC) is to clarify which students are eligible for a student visa or permit for the length of their course (LoC) of study.
2. This IAC replaces IAC 08/09.

Background

3. Student policy U6.38 has been updated to clarify which students may be granted a LoC visa or permit and to describe the required application process. The clarification is intended to apply to full fee-paying students, as scholarship students are already eligible for a LoC visa or permit.
4. Policy U6.35 (see policy at Appendix one) specifies that full scholarship, or fees scholarship, students may be granted a student permit for the length of the period of their award (up to a maximum of four years).
5. Policy U6.35 states that full fee students may be granted a student permit for the period for which they have paid course fees (up to a maximum of four years). However, full fee students may be granted a LoC visa or permit if the amended policy U6.38 (see policy at Appendix one) applies.

Arrangements with Education Providers

6. To obtain a LoC visa or permit under U6.38, students must be enrolled with an education provider with which INZ has a Memoranda of Understanding for the Students Online Initiative (SoL) which allows for the grant of LoC visas and permits.
7. In addition, the SoL education provider must indicate that they support the grant of a LoC visa/permit to the particular student applying for the LoC visa or permit.
8. A direct link is now available on the INZ website, which sets out a list of Students Online partners; see <http://www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/stream/study/application/educationproviders/>

Evidence Required

9. The SoL education provider must indicate their support for a student to be issued or granted a LoC visa or permit. If the SoL education provider's support is not indicated, then the student is not eligible to be granted a length of course visa or permit under U6.38.
10. The SoL education provider may indicate support for a student's LoC by a declaration on the student's offer of place, or by a separate letter accompanying the offer of place. There is no set format for providers to indicate their support; however the support must be in writing and provided at the lodgement stage of the visa or permit application.

Applications

11. Applications for a LoC visa/permit may be made through the following channels:
 - Paper based applications offshore (visas);
 - Paper based applications onshore (permits); and
 - Onshore through the Students Online channel (permits).
12. There are no changes to the student visa/permit application forms. Students who wish to apply for a LoC visa/permit must now provide written confirmation with their application, which indicates their SoL education provider's support
13. The fact that the above requirements for a LoC visa or permit application are met, is not, in itself, a reason for a visa or immigration officer to approve the application should the officer have concerns about the application.
14. If this IAC is inconsistent with any previous IAC, the instructions contained here prevail.

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Appendix One: Operational policy

U6.35 Currency of full student permits

Immigration Regulations 1999 reg 23(c)

- a. Student permits may be granted for the following periods:
 - i. for holders of full scholarships and fees scholarships who do not meet the requirements under U6.38, the period of the student's award (up to a maximum of 4 years), and
 - ii. for full fee students who do not meet the requirements under U6.38, the period for which the student has paid the course fees (up to a maximum of 4 years); and
 - iii. for full fee students and full scholarship students, who meet the policy requirements under U6.38, for the length of their course of study, regardless of the period for which they have paid course fees (up to a maximum of 4 years).
- b. If the course is based on the New Zealand academic year, permits may be issued for the academic year for which the student has paid, to expire on 31 March of the following year.
- c. If the course lasts for less than one year, or can begin at any time during the year, the permit may be issued to expire no more than one month after the period for which the student has paid.

Effective 26/11/2007

U6.38 Visas and permits for the length of a course of study

- a. Student visas and permits may be issued and granted for the length of a student's course of study, regardless of the period for which they have paid their course fees, where:
 - i the student has an offer of a place with an education provider with which INZ has a Memorandum of Understanding for the Students Online Initiative which allows for the grant of visas and permits for the length of course of study, and
 - ii the education provider supports the issue of a length of course visa or permit.
- b. Evidence of the education provider's support to issue a length of course visa or permit must be provided. Acceptable evidence may include written confirmation from the education provider, such as an offer of place which indicates the education provider's support.
- c. All applicants for visas and permits for the length of their course (if that course is for more than 12 months) must, at the time of application for their visa and/or permit provide a fully completed Medical and Chest X-ray Certificate (except in the case of a pregnant woman or child under the age of 11).
- d. All applicants for visas and permits for the length of their course (if that course is for more than 24 months) must, at the time of application for their visa and/or permit, provide police certificates from their country of citizenship and from any country in which they have lived for 5 or more years since attaining the age of 17 years (see E6.5).

Effective 08/12/2008