



WORKFORCE (IMMIGRATION NEW ZEALAND)
INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION CIRCULAR NO: 08/09

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

Date: 07 July 2008

**STUDENT POLICY: 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 of study.

Background

2. According to policy U6.35 (see policy at Appendix one) 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). 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).
3. The exception to this is if policy U6.38 applies (see policy at Appendix one). U6.38 states that full fee students and full scholarship students may be granted a student permit 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), if they have an offer of place with an education provider with which Immigration New Zealand (INZ) has an arrangement with concerning the grant of visas and permits for the length of courses of study.
4. Policy U6.38 was introduced in March 2003, when there were no arrangements with any education providers for granting length of course visas or permits. INZ now has Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with Students Online partners which allows for the grant of a student visa or permit for the length of a student's course of study.

Arrangements with Education Providers

5. To obtain a length of course visa and permit under U6.38 students must be enrolled with an education provider with which INZ has a MoU and must make their application through the Students Online channel.

6. A direct link is now available on the Immigration website which sets out a list of Students Online partners with whom INZ has a length of course arrangement with, see www.immigration.govt.nz/loc .
7. If this IAC is inconsistent with any previous IAC, the instructions contained here prevail.

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.

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, if the student has an offer of a place with an education provider with which the New Zealand Immigration Service has an arrangement concerning the grant of visas and permits for the length of courses of study.
- b. 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).
- c. 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).

