



News from the Registrar

November 2017

What's in this issue:

- Acceptable English evidence
- Pathway Visas
- Immigration New Zealand – visa applications
- Important reminders for agents and students
- Contact details

Greetings from ACG!

This year has seen a period of great change in ACG. We have added more schools and programmes, we have refreshed our brand image and we have made changes to the international team who look after our international students.

The international team now has three senior line managers to assist you to provide the highest level of service:

Head of Admissions – Schools and Pathway Programmes

Ms Dharanya Soundarrajan: Dharanya.Soundarrajan@acgedu.com

Head of Student Administration (Manager of the International Centre at the ACG Pathway Campus)

Mr Jeff Su: Jeff.Su@acgedu.com

Head of Student Welfare and Compliance (with oversight of accommodation processes)

Mr Arthur Johnson: Arthur.Johnson@acgedu.com

Please don't hesitate to contact them direct or you can contact me if we can assist with any situation.

Acceptable English Evidence

English evidence: registered schools

The following programmes are delivered by schools registered with the Ministry of Education. We can deliver school-based programmes, some foundation programmes and also ACG English.

- Our five schools
- ACG English
- University of Auckland Certificate in Foundation Studies
- Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Studies Programme

We set the required level of English a student must provide to receive an offer of place. We also determine how we can assess this evidence.

International tests

- IELTS, TOEFL, Pearson PTE, Cambridge English

Tests we approve in NZ

- Tests approved by NZQA
- Tests approved by the New Zealand universities
- NCEA Level 2 Literacy
- Trusted English language schools in NZ

Our own tests

- ACG English Language Test – at our ACG Pathways Campus in Auckland
- NSIA English Language Test – at NSIA Campus in Auckland

Offsite tests

- We are also applying for registration for an internet-based test which can be assessed anywhere as long as the student being tested has a good internet connection and their computer includes a camera. More on this new test next month.

Plus, other acceptable evidence may be considered depending on a range of factors: who delivered the assessment, confidence we have in the test, support by trusted associates,

English evidence: Private Training Establishments (PTEs)

NZQA sets the English level for the certificates, diplomas and degree level study that are delivered by PTEs. They have recently announced changes to Rule 18 which has forced PTEs to make changes. Rule 18 applies to:

- AUT University Certificate in Foundation Studies
- Our vocational colleges

Students offshore:

Must submit an international approved test result using one of these tests:

- IELTS
- TOEFL
- Pearson PTE
- Cambridge English

Students onshore:

The tests that can be accepted will depend on the student's passport and that country's visa approval rate with Immigration NZ. The 2016 profile determines the required acceptable tests for students in 2017. In January 2018 the 2017 profile will be announced and PTEs must follow this profile from February 2018.

For further details, please refer to

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/qa-system-for-teos/english-international-students/>

	Students from countries with >80 percent visa approval	Students from countries with <80 percent visa approval
International Tests (IELTS, TOEFL, Pearson Pet and Cambridge English)	Yes	Yes
NZQA approved programme – NZCEL (NZ Cert of English Language)	Yes	Yes
Provider English Tests approved and registered with NZQA	Yes	NO

- Students require the approved English evidence for their programme of study.
- If the student commences in a Level 3 programme and requires / presents an IELTS 5 with no band less than 5 they have presented the required evidence.
- If they would like to add another programme of study but this requires the student to be at higher level of competency, then students from countries with less than 80% visa approval must provide a new international test result. Only students from countries with approval rates greater than 80 percent can be assessed by an approved provider test.

These rules have been established by NZQA and apply to all PTEs and also to students who will study at a Polytech.

The rules do not apply to registered schools or entry to a NZ university.

ACG Education programmes and PTEs that must meet the Rule 18 English requirements are:

- All our vocational schools
- AUT University Certificate in Foundation Studies

Students in ACG English School

- We will continue to deliver our major test 4 times a year as most students are not on a pathway to a PTE
- When students are on a pathway to a PTE we will also make sure they are tested by the test that is approved by NZQA
- ACG will cover the cost of a student's qualifying international English test when they are from a <80 percent visa approval country

Students in The Campbell Institute

- When students are on a pathway to a PTE we will also make sure they are assessed by a test that is approved by NZQA
- ACG will cover the cost of a student's qualifying international English test when they are from a <80 percent Visa Approval country

Students in New Education Group colleges

- When students require a higher level of reported ability we will arrange for them to be tested by an NZQA-approved English test
- ACG will cover the cost of a student's qualifying international English test when they are from a <80 percent visa approval country

ACG Education will cover the cost of an international test for current students of ACG

- When they will continue their study with ACG, and
- When they have presented a qualifying test result
- Reimbursement will be made 1 month after the commencement date of the new programme

The following programmes are delivered by schools that are approved and registered with the New Zealand Ministry of Education. These schools deliver school-based programmes, some foundation programmes and also ACG English. These schools are not required to adopt Rule 18 requirements set by NZQA.

- Our five schools
- ACG English
- University of Auckland Certificate in Foundation Studies
- Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Studies Programme

Pathway Visas

- A great initiative from Immigration New Zealand
- We can provide Pathway Visa nomination letters for students applying for the following schools:
 - > ACG Senior College
 - > ACG Parnell College
 - > ACG Sunderland College
 - > ACG Strathallan College
 - > ACG Tauranga
 - > University of Auckland Certificate in Foundation Studies
 - > AUT University Certificate in Foundation Studies
 - > ACG English
 - > The Campbell Institute
 - > Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Studies Programme
 - > New Zealand School of Tourism
 - > Yoobee School of Design
 - > Animation College
 - > AMES IT School
- A Pathway Visa may cross providers and can last up to 5 years
- A Pathway Visa may be for up to 5 years of study in one school registration
- A Pathway Visa applicant needs to meet INZ's student visa requirements for the first programme of study
- Pathway Visa applicants do not need to have the funds available for 5 years of study but must be able to show that funding sources are available for at least five years. This could just mean the parents are in stable employment
- A Pathway Visa can be changed – in many cases just a Variation of Change will be required
- A Pathway Visa saves up to 5 years of stress with not having to make new student visa applications every year

For further details, please refer to INZ:
<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/about-visa/pathway-student-visa>

Immigration New Zealand – visa application

Students on shore

For students who are studying at these schools and programmes ACG is approved to assist them with a Provider On Line Visa. Students must be able to visit the ACG Pathways Campus, 345 Queen St, Auckland.

- ACG Senior College
- ACG Parnell College
- ACG Sunderland College
- ACG Strathallan College
- ACG Tauranga
- University of Auckland Certificate in Foundation Studies
- AUT University Certificate in Foundation Studies
- ACG English
- Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Studies Programme

For students at NZMA we can assist if they visit the NZMA Campus at Sylvia Park.

INZ are about to make changes to this exciting initiative; we hope that means for ACG Education that we can provide the same level of service to all our international students.

Students who are on shore (in New Zealand)

For students who we cannot assist with Provider On Line the ACG student support team can provide students with the documentation to apply for or extend a student visa.

Please note that manual visa applications will end very soon within New Zealand and students will need to use INZ Direct On Line application portal.

For further details, please refer to INZ:
<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/our-online-systems/applying-for-a-visa-online/immigration-online/how-to-use-immigration-online/making-online-application>

Students who are off shore

For students who are not in NZ we cannot assist with Provider On Line.

The admissions team can provide the documentation to apply for or extend a student visa.

Please note that outside of New Zealand the Manual Visa application process will end late in 2018 and students will need to use INZ Direct On Line application portal.

For further details, please refer to INZ:
<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/our-online-systems/applying-for-a-visa-online/immigration-online/how-to-use-immigration-online/making-online-application>

INZ Direct On Line application portal

Have you used the online student visa application channel available on the Immigration New Zealand website?

You can register to apply on behalf of your clients.

- You should try the online portal – the process is similar to a manual application but the real advantage is the speed of processing
- Countries where students formerly needed weeks to obtain Approval in Principle are achieving outcomes within a week
- If a visa branch is busy the application can be assessed by INZ staff in other branches
- Agents do not need to be approved as a Licenced Immigration Agent to use the “apply on behalf” function

For further details, please refer to INZ:
<https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/our-online-systems/applying-for-a-visa-online/immigration-online/how-to-use-immigration-online/making-online-application>

Important reminders for agents and students

Airport arrival details

We need these at least two weeks prior to arrival to arrange a student’s accommodation and airport transfer.

The airport transfer fee we charge covers the cost of transferring the student and their bags to their accommodation.

If parents or relatives are travelling with the student to New Zealand, unless we are advised prior to arrival the transfer staff may not be able to assist in the parents’ transfer. If there is space in the vehicle, the driver will require a payment of NZ\$60.00 per passenger in cash.

Enrolment acceptance form

The contractual arrangements between a student and his/her parent with ACG are completed by:

- **ACG providing an offer of place and**
- **ACG receiving a signed enrolment acceptance form.** The form must be signed by the student and the parent – we can accept either the English or the Chinese version
- We need these in plenty of time to arrange the student’s accommodation and then advise the details. We also need to arrange the student’s transfer to the accommodation.

Student visas

Students are required to commence the course with a valid student visa.

This visa could be a label fixed to the student’s passport by Immigration NZ or it may be an eVisa – a visa received by email from Immigration NZ.

The visa must record these details:

- **Student name and date of birth**
- **Programme being studied**
- **Name of the school**

When a student arrives at the college and attends the orientation we require:

- **Passport** – a copy of the photo page
- **Student visa** – a copy of the visa for the ACG programme enrolled into
- **eVisa** – a copy of the email received advising a student visa has been granted

Making a payment

- **ACG Student Fees Trust** - ACG has changed its banker for the trust, it is now the ANZ Bank. All ACG Education student fee requests now advise the same bank for making payments. It is important that when you or the student make the payment we must receive the confirmation telegraphic transfer form from the sending bank to assist us to track the arrival of the funds. We receive many deposits each day and a deposit which includes the student's name and student ID number is very easy to identify.

Payments are accepted by telegraphic transfer in NZ Dollars and US Dollars

- **Credit Card** - Payments can also be made by credit card – these payments must be made using our form. If you would like a copy please request a copy of our form.

Contact details

Phone +64 9 307 5399

Fax +64 9 377 7125

Emails:

admissions@acgedu.com

This is our preferred email address for students who will join a registered school or a university pathway programme

neweducationadmissions@acgedu.com

This is our preferred email address for students who will join a vocational college

Accommodation

accommodation@acgedu.com

These email addresses will be checked on public holidays and if there are urgent matters these will be responded to.

After hours' emergency contact ACG Schools Division and for ACG arranged homestay

+64 21 288 9849

This number is to be used for emergencies and is NOT to be used for matters which can be attended on a normal working day.

Richard Kensington

Registrar

Email: richard.kensington@acgedu.com