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IMMIGRATION SURVEY MONITORING PROGRAMME



**SETTLEMENT OUTCOMES OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
 2009 MIGRANTS SURVEY (PILOT)**

International education is estimated to contribute more than \$2.3 billion annually to New Zealand's economy.¹ New Zealand also benefits when international students choose to stay here after their study, particularly those who gain good qualifications and can enter the market in areas with skill shortages. The experiences these students have while in New Zealand not only influence prospective migrants from the students' home countries, but also influence their decision to seek permanent residence in New Zealand.

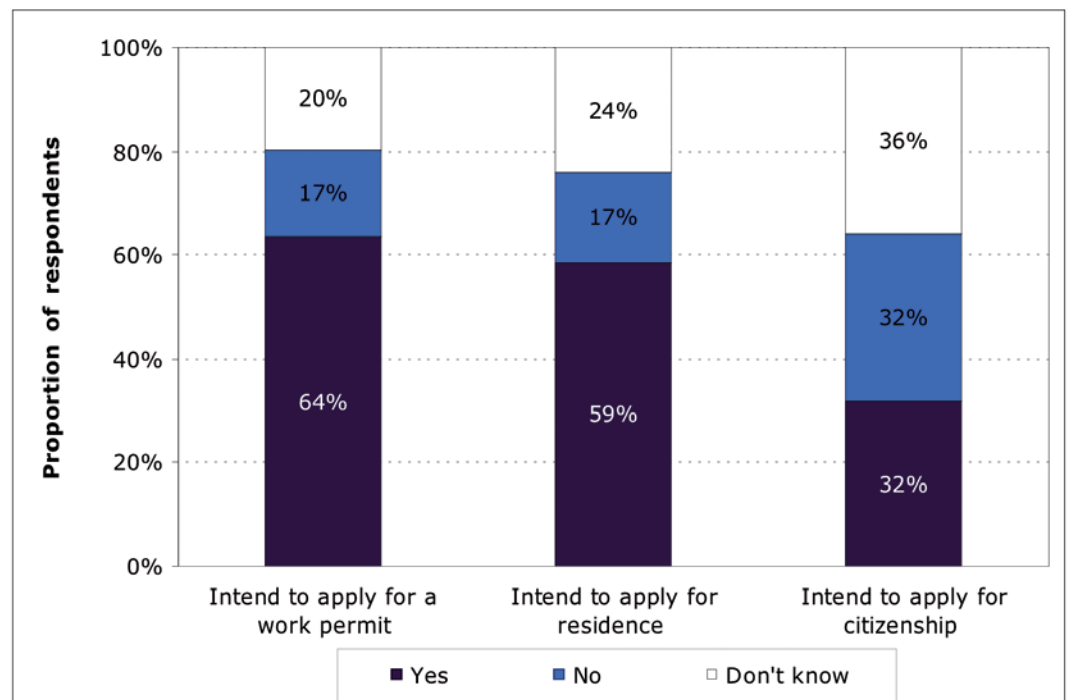
The 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot) took place between August and October 2009 and achieved a sample of 288 international students.

KEY FINDINGS

The reasons students choose to study in New Zealand are complex with almost a third of students giving multiple reasons for coming to New Zealand. The environment was most commonly mentioned, followed by the degree or institution having a good reputation. For those who selected only one reason for choosing New Zealand, having friends and family here and the environment were the most common reasons.

Most students (64 percent) intended to apply for a work permit once they had finished their studies. As temporary workers with New Zealand qualifications and experience, they are well placed to become skilled migrants. A similar proportion (59 percent) intended to apply for residence (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Intention to stay in New Zealand after study



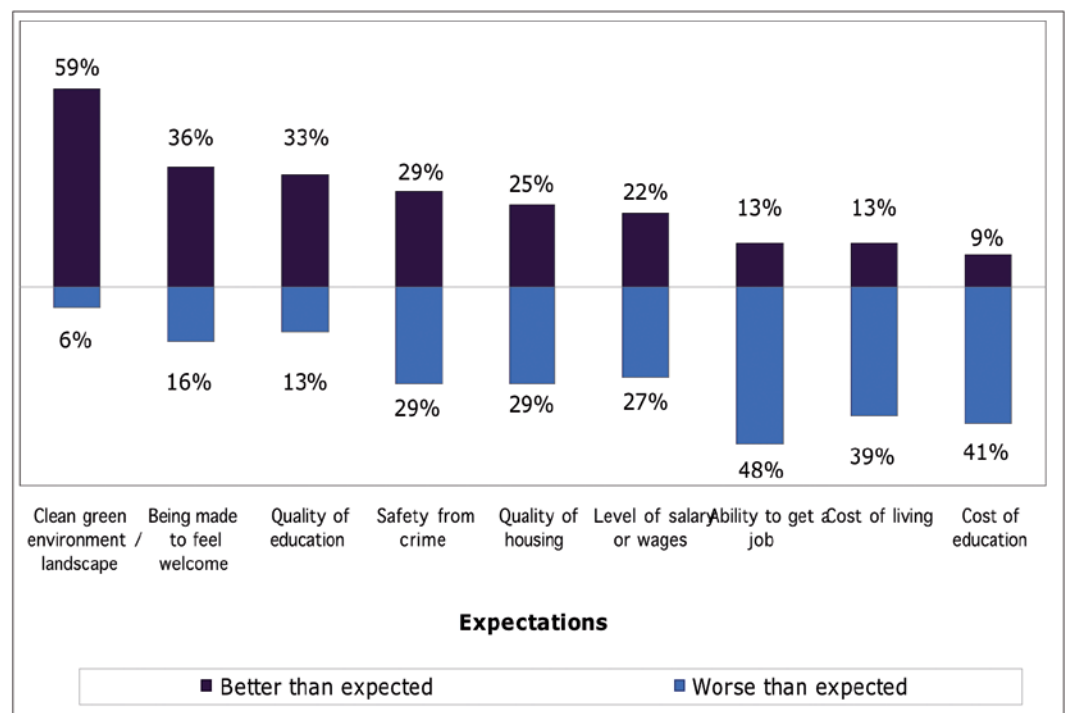
Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme, 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

1. Infometrics, NRB, and Skinnerstrategic (2008) *The Economic Impact of Export Education*. Wellington: Ministry of Education. www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/international/35324/35364.

Whilst the majority of students intended to apply for residence, the actual transition rate to residence for students is much lower. Additionally, only around a third of students intended to apply for citizenship. This low rate may reflect the restrictions on holding dual citizenship. Four-fifths of respondents came from countries that did not allow dual citizenship.

New Zealand exceeded respondents' expectations on several factors, but many students found life in New Zealand more difficult than they had expected it would be. Fifty-nine percent of international student respondents found New Zealand's environment or landscape was better than they expected it would be, and 36 percent were made to feel more welcome than expected. This contrasted with 48 percent who found getting a job harder than they expected it would be, and around 40 percent who found the cost of living and cost of education higher than expected (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Things about New Zealand students found better or worse than they had expected



Note: Respondents could give multiple responses.

Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme, 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

Overall, 71 percent of respondents stated they felt safe or very safe in New Zealand. However, the experience of discrimination was associated with respondents' feelings of safety. Those who had never or infrequently faced discrimination were far more likely to feel safe than those who had faced discrimination three or more times.

The Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme encompasses new migrants to New Zealand (temporary and permanent), employers, and the New Zealand public. Its purpose is to build an evidence base of information about migrants' settlement and labour market outcomes, employers' experiences with migrants, and community attitudes towards immigration and migrant integration.

→ For further information please contact research@dol.govt.nz, or visit www.immigration.govt.nz/research