Growing New Zealand’s Economy

$3.6b total expenditure annually accounts for about 1.3% of NZ’s gross domestic product.

GDP UP
NZ’s GDP is 3-6% higher because of the impact that a university education has on the productivity of the workforce.

GDP 4.1% HIGHER
Universities have a significant regional impact. GDP is 4.1% higher on average across regions that have universities.

GENERATE $4.5b ANNUALLY
A 10% increase in higher education research spending will ultimately increase GDP by 1.7–1.84%, e.g. another $80m into research annually would generate $4.5b annually within 10-20 years.

Driving Research and Innovation

$870m+ spent by universities on research annually

20% RETURN
20% estimated annual return on university research.

28% OF R&D
Universities account for 28% of New Zealand’s R&D expenditure.

25% OF APPLIED RESEARCH
Drive 65% of all NZ’s basic research expenditure and 25% of applied research expenditure.

Universities contribute up to $19.95b to the regions in which they are located & individually drive 1.6% to 6.5% of regional GDP.

Home to 70%
of all of New Zealand’s researchers
more than 27,100 researchers, including 16,400 student researchers.

50%+
Around 54% of university research expenditure is on primary industries, energy, manufacturing, construction and transport, the environment, health and our economic framework.

9% OF GDP
The stock of all knowledge generated by NZ universities, and adopted across the wider economy, accounts for around 9% of GDP.

Efficient and Effective Universities

New Zealand universities produce outputs for only 82% of what it costs in Australia – and 64% of what it costs in Canada.

Annual expenditure per student in equivalent US$*

- University of Auckland: $16,674
- Auckland University of Technology: $15,185
- University of Waikato: $16,219
- Massey University: $15,484
- Victoria University of Wellington: $15,479
- University of Canterbury: $15,479
- Lincoln University: $16,219
- University of Otago: $16,674

* Tertiary: Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctoral degrees (and R&D activities)

New Zealand’s Universities

University of Auckland
Auckland University of Technology
University of Waikato
Massey University
Victoria University of Wellington
University of Canterbury
Lincoln University
University of Otago

Key Facts & Stats

Sources of university income

- Government tuition grants, PBRF and research grants etc: 49.3%
- Student tuition fees: 29.2%
- Other income: 25.5%

Key Facts & Stats

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Sources and further information

Data relate to the most recent year available. For a full list of sources used to produce this document and links to original reports, refer to www.universitiesnz.ac.nz. Further information is also available in the 2018 ‘Growing New Zealand’s Economy’ report.

Almost half of recent Māori university graduates were the first in their families to attend university, one third are parents and 70% are female.

Enriching Knowledge and Understanding

173,880 total students,
= 132,915 full-time equivalent students (EFTS). 30% of students (51,575) are studying at postgraduate level

146,190 domestic students, including 16,775 Māori students (11% of domestic students) and 11,970 Pasifika students (8% of domestic students).

1 per $90,000 NZ currently has one university per approx. $90,000 people (in line with international norms).

88% SATISFIED WITH LIFE 88% of NZers with a degree or higher qualification have high levels of satisfaction with life compared with 83% of those with lower level qualifications and 77% of those with no qualifications. Degree holders also have higher levels of trust, a greater sense of purpose, better self-rated health and are more accepting of diversity.

$220m+ NZ universities spend around $220m on research annually, including over $220m on research that enriches our social and cultural understanding, political and legal systems.

Building Māori and Pasifika Success

↑28% Māori bachelor’s degree EFTS have increased by 28% in the universities since 2008.

↑53% Pasifika bachelor’s degree EFTS have increased by over 50% in the universities since 2008.

Achieving Excellent Graduate Outcomes

43,000+ graduates each year 91% at bachelor’s degree level and above.

$1.38m A typical bachelor’s degree graduate earns more over their working life than a non-graduate.

Age 33 the average age by which a degree pays off.

Median hourly earnings are 55% higher for NZers with a degree or higher qualification compared with those with no qualifications – more than twice the earnings premium of those with lower-level tertiary qualifications.

55% HIGHER EARNINGS

8.7 YEARS 8.7 years’ median time to pay off student loan for a bachelor’s degree (based on those who left study in 2015).

97% EMPLOYED Unemployment rate for people with a bachelor’s degree or higher is approximately 3%, i.e. half the rate for all 25 – 29 year olds.

32% HAVE A DEGREE 32% of NZers aged 25–64 years have a bachelor’s degree or higher – around the same as Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and Australia.

HIGH COMPLETION RATES 8 years after starting a university qualification, only 14% of full-time domestic university students have not completed compared with 33% in ITTF. This low non-completion rate also compares well internationally, with comparator countries ranging from 18% – 40%, or more.

50% Half of university bachelor’s degree students are now studying science, technology, engineering, health, agriculture or the environment as their predominant field of study.

Advancing International Education

27,690 international students = 16% of all university students, similar to the proportion in countries like Australia and the UK.

5th largest export earner International Education generates $4.5 billion annually. Universities alone generate over $1.1 billion annually.

Citizenship of international students enrolled in NZ universities

32,000 JOBS For every $1m spent by international students, GDP is increased by $1.6m – supporting around 32,000 jobs.

42% POSTGRAD NZ universities attract high-calibre international students: 16% are studying at PhD level. Overall, 42% are enrolled in postgraduate qualifications.

50% PLAN TO WORK IN NZ Half of all international PhD students plan to work in NZ after graduation – most in education and training, healthcare, and science and technology.

Delivering Quality Teaching and Learning

92% of international university students choose to study in NZ because of the strong reputation of our universities.

66% OF AWARDS Universities employ around 21,700 full-time equivalent staff. University staff were awarded 66% of National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards over the past 5 years; universities employ approximately 60% of all academic staff.

RANKED ABOVE GLOBAL LEVELS An annual survey of international university students ranked satisfaction with their overall learning experience and with physical and virtual facilities and resources above global levels. Research shows that 60% of undergraduate students own 3 or more internet-capable devices and that most students prefer and learn best in a blended learning environment.

70–80% Today 70–80% of NZ universities’ library collection expenditure is on electronic resources and online materials.