



Ref: OI/20/00623

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9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request, received on 28 August 2020, for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- How many EFTS studied Level 3 or above, broken down by year, for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019?
- What percentage of university students who received fees free in 2018 did not continue with their studies in 2019.

1. How many EFTS studied Level 3 or above, broken down by year, for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019?

The information sought as to Equivalent Full-Time Students (EFTS) at Level 3 or above is provided in the following table and should be read in conjunction with the notes provided below the table:

Volume of delivery (EFTS) at level three and above from 2015 to 2019		
Reporting year	Volume of delivery (EFTS)	
	Domestic	International
2015	212,670	42,175
2016	211,680	43,395
2017	206,400	42,445
2018	204,620	42,240
2019	201,745	42,610

Notes:

- This data is publicly available at the Education Counts website, specifically at https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data/assets/excel_doc/0015/41703/Provider-based-Equivalent-Full-Time-2010-2019a.xlsx, tab EFT 3.35 (Domestic and international equivalent full-time student units (EFTS) by sub-sector, provider and qualification type/NZQF level 2010-2019). All notes and caveats provided at tab EFT 3.35 apply to the above information.
- Figures provided are broken down for both domestic and international EFTS for the years requested.



2. *What percentage of university students who received fees free in 2018 did not continue with their studies in 2019?*

The TEC does not collect information on the reasons learners may pause or discontinue their studies. However, we have analysed learners enrolled at universities who benefited from Fees Free in 2018 and who continued studying in 2019. We have ascertained that 11% of learners who both enrolled for study at a university and benefited from Fees Free in 2018 either paused or discontinued their studies in 2019.

Therefore 89% of fees free benefiting students at a university in 2018 continued their studies in provider-based tertiary education in 2019 (at a university, wānanga, New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology subsidiary and/or private training establishment).

Notes:

- The figure of 89% was based on the distinct count of learners who benefited from Fees Free in 2018 and who were also reported in 2019 course enrolment data. A learner can enrol in more than one Tertiary Education Organisation (TEO). These learners are counted once in the totals.
- Results are based on information reported through the Single Data Return (SDR) for the purposes of funding tertiary education. The data does not include any reporting outside of the SDR and relies on the accuracy of data reported by TEOs.
- This data has been compiled specifically to respond to this question. It uses administrative data collected by the TEC for the purposes of funding tertiary education. Care should be taken when making comparisons with data collected or compiled for other purposes.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

The TEC intends to publish its response to this request on our website with your personal details removed. Consistent with the Act, we are publishing responses in the interests of transparency and accountability, and to improve access to official information.

Nāku noa, nā



Tim Fowler
Chief Executive
Tertiary Education Commission