

# New Zealand National Higher Education Equity Policy

## Governance

The Ministry of Education is responsible for defining national higher education policy (<https://www.education.govt.nz/further-education/tertiary-administration/>). The Tertiary Education Commission handles funding related to tertiary education institutions (<http://www.tec.govt.nz/>).

## Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- Tertiary Education Strategy 2014-2019 (2014)
- Māori Tertiary Education Framework (November 2003)
- Education Act 1989, reformed by the Education (Tertiary Reform) Amendment Act 2002 (2002 No 50)

## Equity in Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- The Tertiary Education Strategy does not focus much on equity itself, but it does include the broad provision of “maintaining existing participation levels and improving them, particularly for some groups. (p. 21)”
- The Māori Tertiary Education Framework (2002) provides policy guidelines for increasing Māori access and affordability of tertiary education.
- The 1989 education legislation incorporates equity, calling for a tertiary education system that “fosters, in ways that are consistent with the efficient use of national resources, high quality learning and research outcomes, equity of access, and innovation;” (Part 13: inserted, on 23 July 1990, by section 35 of the Education Amendment Act 1990 (1990 No 60).)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Minority groups: Māori and Pasifika students, refugees
- Students with disability

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

- There is one for the Maori community

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

- Not at the higher education level, but the general anti-discrimination provisions of the law apply to all walks of life. The Ministry of Women's Affairs is working with the Tertiary Education Commission to eliminate any *de facto* discrimination and encourage more young women to consider joining male-dominated professions.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

What are the main financial instruments to promote equity?

- Fees Free program for recent school leavers (one year of tertiary education or two years of industry education) (<https://www.feesfree.govt.nz/>).
- Needs-based scholarships and grants
- New Zealand also has an income-contingent student loan program.
- Equity-linked financial incentives are built into the funding formula to allocate public resources to higher education institutions: there is equity funding for Māori and Pasifika students and for students with disabilities through the Tertiary Education Commission. This funding adds to the "Student Achievement Component" funding to cover some of the costs associated with providing additional support to students in these population groups. (<http://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/equity-funding/>)

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- "Participation of under-represented ethnic and socio-economic groups is encouraged through creating more flexible education pathways, recognizing prior learning, incentivizing providers to enroll such groups (for instance through setting out aspirations and specifying objectives in

accountability documents), as well as expanding provision in areas that were easier for educationally disadvantaged groups to access (such as labor market and “second chance” education and industry training).”

(<https://www.productivity.govt.nz/sites/default/files/nzpc-rn-2016-1-history-of-tertiary-education-reforms.pdf>)

- The government and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority recognize Māori tertiary education institutions under section 162 of the Education Act 1989. There are currently three such institutions, also known as Wānanga: “A wananga is characterized by teaching and research that maintains, advances, and disseminates knowledge and develops intellectual independence, and assists the application of knowledge regarding ahuatanga Maori (Maori tradition) according to tikanga Maori (Maori custom).” (<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/audience-pages/wananga/>). The three Wananga are: (i) Te Wananga o Raukawa, (ii) Te Wananga o Aotearoa, and (iii) Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi.

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

### **Quality Assurance**

Do the quality assurance criteria take equity elements into consideration? In what way?

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The Tertiary Education Commission is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

### **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

New Zealand does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

### **Sources**

Ministry of Education <https://www.education.govt.nz/further-education/tertiary-administration/>

Tertiary Education Commission <http://www.tec.govt.nz/>

Māori Tertiary Education Framework, November 2003  
<https://www.education.govt.nz/further-education/policies-and-strategies/maori-tertiary-education-framework/>

Fees Free Program <https://www.feesfree.govt.nz/>

Tertiary Education Strategy 2014-2019 <https://www.education.govt.nz/further-education/policies-and-strategies/tertiary-education-strategy/>

Education Act 1989, reformed by the Education (Tertiary Reform) Amendment Act 2002 (2002 No 50)  
[http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0080/latest/DLM175959.html?search=ts\\_act@bill@regulation@deemedreg\\_education\\_resel\\_25\\_a&p=1](http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0080/latest/DLM175959.html?search=ts_act@bill@regulation@deemedreg_education_resel_25_a&p=1)

“Equity Funding,” Tertiary Education Commission  
<http://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/equity-funding/>