

Reform of Vocational Education

What the Government's proposals mean for learners

Thank you for taking an interest in the Reform of Vocational Education. We want to hear your views on these proposals. The changes we propose are complex, and we need the detailed knowledge and the different perspectives of people across New Zealand to get them right.

This fact sheet is a companion document to the Reform of Vocational Education consultation discussion document, which is published here: <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/reform-of-vocational-education/>. It provides additional information on what the proposed reforms would mean for learners.

Learners' current plans for study and training in 2019 will not be impacted

All learners can feel confident to enrol in vocational education in 2019. Ensuring learners can complete their study as planned – during 2019 and beyond – will be a top priority throughout any change process. **Information for international students is also available at the above link.**

What should learners understand about the proposals?

At the heart of the Government's reform of vocational education is a goal to ensure that the needs of learners, employers and communities drive the system, to help us raise living standards for everyone in New Zealand. We want a system that truly delivers to the regions of New Zealand, and our proposals would help to ensure that you can learn the skills that employers need anywhere in New Zealand.

Learners often have to choose between workplace- and provider-based education, rather than having programmes that combine the best of workplace- and provider-based education into one programme that better meets their learning and pastoral needs.

Specifics of the proposals for learners

Learning through the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology

A New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology would replace the current Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs). It would offer high-quality vocational education throughout New Zealand, building on and expanding the regional campuses of the current ITP network.

A vision for NZ

A strong, unified vocational education system that is sustainable and fit for the future of work, delivering what learners, employers and communities need to be successful.

Have your say

The government is seeking feedback on the proposals for the Reform of Vocational Education by Wednesday 27 March 2019. The link above will also take you to our online survey where you can respond to the questions posed and more.

You can also provide feedback by attending a face-to-face consultation event. Details on these events are available at <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/reform-of-vocational-education/>

This means that rather than enrolling at your local ITP, you would enrol with the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology, and attend a regional campus.

You could move around the country from campus to campus of the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology (and potentially between other education providers too) without interrupting your studies. The New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology would also offer distance education.

The courses on offer to you in your region would not be limited by what your local campus could provide on its own – each campus would be able to draw on the resources of the whole New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology system to offer what the region needs.

Alongside its vocational delivery, the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology would continue to deliver foundation education, non-vocational certificate and diploma delivery (eg te reo and tikanga Māori provision), and degree and postgraduate education, as ITPs currently do.

A clear role for education providers

For apprentices and other industry trainees, a tertiary education provider, rather than an industry training organisation (ITO), would work with your employer to support your learning (both on and off-job). You would receive more hands-on support for your learning and pastoral needs from the education provider while on-the-job.

If you're a student in vocational training at an education provider, you can expect more programmes that incorporate both classroom-based and work-based learning. And it would be easier to transfer between education providers and employers partway through your course of study. You would also get more hands-on experience of the job you're training for.

What are the benefits to learners?

The proposed changes to the vocational education system would mean that you would get better educational and employment outcomes from vocational education and vocational education would be more responsive to your needs:

- » You would be able to move easily between provider- and workplace-based learning, and the vocational education system would offer more learning experiences that resemble apprenticeships, whether or not you're employed
- » You would be able to move throughout the vocational education network, particularly between regional campuses of the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology
- » You would be equipped with the skills needed to succeed in the world of work, and industry skills bodies and providers would collaborate to ensure this occurs
- » your vocational education and training would be closely linked to the workplace, and providers would be responsible for supporting workplace-based vocational education
- » pathways from school into tertiary vocational education would be easier for you to navigate
- » vocational education would be held in high regard as a good first choice for post-school education.

What are the impacts on learners?

For students studying in 2019...

You can go ahead and enrol in vocational education courses in 2019 with confidence that the system will support you to proceed with your study throughout any future change process.

The proposals in this document may go ahead in this or another form, but the Government won't make any decisions until we have heard and carefully considered feedback from this consultation process. Even if the changes go ahead

Key changes

- » You would be able to move easily between provider- and workplace-based learning.
- » You'll be equipped with the skills needed to succeed in the world of work.
- » The vocational education system would offer more provision that resembles apprenticeships, regardless of whether you're employed.

as currently envisaged, you should not notice any major changes to how the system operates in 2019. Education providers and ITOs would be gearing up for transformation, but it would be “business as usual” for their delivery to and support of learners. Ensuring all learners can complete their study as planned – during 2019 and beyond – will be a top priority throughout any change process.

For Institutes of Technology and Polytechnic students...

What’s NOT changing is that...	But the Government’s proposals would mean that...
<p>You can enrol at an ITP to study toward a qualification at a campus near where you live – or by distance if you prefer.</p>	<p>If you enrol after 1 January 2020, you’d likely be enrolling at the new New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology – and over time you’d likely have more choice of programmes on offer at your local campus and online. The programmes would be consistent nationwide, so even if you were studying at a physical campus, you could move around the country and continue your study without having to transfer between institutions.</p>
<p>You would have access to a local or regional campus with learning and support services, as well as a campus social and cultural life.</p>	<p>The campus would be part of the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology and would still provide the same support services.</p>
<p>You would be able to complete your studies and graduate.</p>	<p>If you enrol in 2019 but graduate after 1 January 2020, then you would likely graduate from the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology, rather than from the ITP you enrolled in. The Government would consult during 2019 on how your Record of Achievement would reflect this.</p>
<p>You would receive an accredited and quality assured qualification.</p>	<p>Your qualification would reflect standards set by industry, so you’ll know you’re ready for work.</p>
<p>You would be able to access loans and allowances, if eligible.</p>	<p>Delivery would be more flexible, so it would be easier for you to combine study with work.</p>
<p>Your ITP would provide you with a high-quality, practical, personalised and well-supported vocational learning experience, with extra help on hand from tutors and other support services when you need it.</p>	<p>The New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology would have nationwide services and networks to support students, rather than 16 ITPs each doing their own thing. You might keep on learning from the same tutors and lecturers as before, or they might change.</p>
<p>You can enrol in foundation or degree-level courses at an ITP, not just vocational certificates and diplomas.</p>	<p>The foundation or degree courses would be offered by the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology</p>
<p>You can do workplace-based learning as part of your study, if your programme is designed that way.</p>	<p>More programmes would be designed to include workplace-based learning, so that more students get an experience of the workplace during their study. This makes them more employable and also helps them be confident the job they’re training for is a good fit for them.</p>
<p>You might find a job part-way through your programme, and would face a choice about whether or not to continue with your study.</p>	<p>You could stay enrolled at the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology, which would support you to finish your programme while you are working.</p>

For trainees and apprentices...

What's NOT changing is that...	But the Government's proposals would mean that...
<p>You would be able to keep working with your current employer while starting / completing your traineeship or apprenticeship</p>	<p>Your employer would be supported by an education provider (the proposed New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology, a private training establishment, or a wānanga) to help you complete your qualification, instead of by an ITO.</p> <p>You would graduate with a qualification awarded by the education provider, rather than the ITO you originally signed up with. The Government would consult during 2019 on how your Record of Achievement would reflect this.</p> <p>The qualification would reflect skill standards set nationwide by industry.</p>
<p>Your traineeship or apprenticeship reflects the skill standards set by your industry.</p>	<p>All vocational education (whether on- or off-job) would meet industry-set standards.</p>
<p>You would be supported to complete formal learning while you work.</p>	<p>You would receive support for your learning and pastoral needs from an education provider, rather than an ITO. The education provider would make sure you can access the learning support and off-job learning activities you need to meet the requirements of your qualification.</p>
<p>You might change jobs or employers partway through your traineeship or apprenticeship, and would face a choice about whether or not to continue with your study.</p>	<p>If you change employers but are doing a similar job in a similar location, you would be able to continue to complete your programme with your education provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your new employer supports it and your new job is similar to your old one, then you could continue with your existing apprenticeship/trainee arrangements. • If your new employer isn't so keen, or if your new job is different to your old one, you could continue your study off-job with the education provider. <p>If you are enrolled at a national organisation, such as the New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology, then you would be able to continue your programme even if you move to a different part of New Zealand, with support from your new local campus.</p>

For private training establishment and wānanga students in a vocational education programme...

<p>You can do workplace-based learning as part of your study, if your programme is designed that way.</p>	<p>More programmes would be designed to include workplace-based learning. This would help make you more employable and the experience of working would help you be confident the job you're training for is a good fit for you.</p>
<p>You might find a job partway through your programme, and would face a choice about whether or not to continue with your study.</p>	<p>You may be able to stay enrolled with your education provider, which could support you to finish your programme while you are working.</p>
<p>You would be able to access loans and allowances, if eligible.</p>	<p>Where and how you learn would be more flexible, so it would be easier for you to combine study with work.</p>

For university students...

There are no direct impacts on university students from the vocational education reforms.

What happens after I provide feedback?

We expect that many people will be interested in having a say on the future of vocational education in New Zealand. Everyone's feedback is welcome. We'll carefully consider what we've heard in engagement meetings, along with the feedback sent in to the survey, email address and phone line. The Minister and Cabinet will receive a summary of all the feedback, which will inform their decisions about the Reform of Vocational Education. You can expect to hear about these decisions around mid-2019. We'll also continue to draw on feedback and ask for more conversations as we work through how to implement the Government's decisions.

Are you looking for more detail?

Technical discussion documents that go into greater detail on the specifics of the proposals are available at <https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/reform-of-vocational-education/>. Questions on the details are available on the technical discussion documents and online when you indicate that you wish to provide specific feedback to the following topics:

- » Proposal on roles of providers and industry bodies
- » Proposal on a single New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology
- » Proposal on a unified funding system