

Offshore Education Questionnaire Results

Executive Summary

- 140 providers¹ responded to the questionnaire
- 28 providers are delivering offshore education
- Articulation and distance delivery are the main types of offshore education
- From the providers that responded, 2,955 have students studying offshore
- The main countries for offshore delivery are currently China and Tonga
- 58 providers are planning or investigating delivery of offshore education in the future
- Articulation, distance, and twinning are the main types of offshore education being planned or investigated.

Purpose

NZQA circulated a questionnaire on the current and future provision of offshore education to providers on 3 June 2011 and results were collected until 4 July 2011. The questionnaire sought an understanding of the scale and type of offshore education delivery and potential offshore delivery in the future.

Results

Response Rate

NZQA received 140 responses (18.8 per cent of providers). This represents a good cross-section of the tertiary education sector.

Table 1: Number of responses by provider type

Provider	No. Providers
PTEs	120
ITPs	10
Universities	5
Wānanga	2
GTOs	1
Course Owner	2
Total	140

¹ Provider covers universities, institutes of technology and polytechnics, wānanga, private training establishments, government training establishments, and course owners.

Current Offshore Delivery

28 providers stated they were currently involved in offshore education. This represents 20 per cent of the providers that responded. Table 2 provides a breakdown by provider type.

Table 2: Number of providers delivering education offshore, by provider type

Provider	No. Providers
PTEs	15
ITPs	8
Universities	5
Wānanga	0
GTO	0
Course Owner	0
Total	28

Types of offshore provision

The most frequent types of offshore education delivery were distance and articulation. Combined they represent more than half of the different types of offshore education. Table 3 provides a breakdown of the type of offshore education.

Table 3: Number of providers involved in offshore education, by type of delivery

Type of offshore delivery	No. Providers
Articulation	11
Distance	12
Twinning	5
Double/Joint Degree	6
Satellite Campuses	2
Study Centre or Teaching Site	2
Franchise	0
Validation	0
Independent Institutions	0
Other	5 ²

Overseas Countries

The delivery of education offshore takes place in a number of different countries. The main countries are: China, Australia, India, South Korea, Tonga, Germany and Malaysia. The number of providers involved in a country is presented in Table 4.

The inclusion of a number of the countries in the list is reflective of a small number of students from a country often studying via distance learning.

² This includes the provision of training materials, assistance with curriculum development, short courses, and delivery that could not be categorised.

Table 4: Number of providers involved in countries

No. providers	Countries
1	Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Singapore, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iran, Ireland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, Zimbabwe, Bahrain, Hungary, Mongolia, Japan, Italy
2	Philippines, Fiji, United Arab Emirates, USA, Russia, Cook Island, Czech Republic, Vietnam
3	Switzerland, France, United Kingdom
4	Tonga, South Korea, Germany, Malaysia
5	
6	India
7	
8	Australia
9	
10	
11	China

Number of students

The questionnaire indicated that there are currently 2,955 students studying with New Zealand providers offshore. The figure is likely to be higher as there were a number of incomplete results that did not allow for their inclusion in the total number of students. Table 5 provides a breakdown of student numbers by provider type.

It was not possible to identify the number of full-time equivalent students (EFTS) as there were a number of incomplete results for the question.

Distance delivery is usually associated with smaller groups of students and across a number of providers. Although, the results do not allow student numbers to be matched to delivery type or overseas country, it is possible to identify countries where there is a high number of students enrolled offshore. Combined, China and Tonga represent just under a third of all students.

Table 5: Number of students by provider type

Provider	No. students
ITPs	1449
PTEs	855
Universities	623
Wānanga	0
Other	0
Total	2955

Usefulness of current guidelines

The questionnaire asked providers how useful they found the existing NZQA guidelines on overseas delivery. Of the 28 education organisations involved in the delivery

offshore, 24 provided an answer to this question. Table 6 provides a breakdown of responses on the assessment of the usefulness of current guidelines.

Table 6: Assessment of usefulness of current guidelines by provider type

Current requirements	No. Providers
Very Useful	0
Useful	7
Not Useful	7
Not aware of guidelines	10
Total	24

Of those 10 that were not aware of the guidelines, 70 per cent were private training establishments. The remainder of the providers that they were unaware of the guidelines were universities.

Involvement and cooperation with overseas quality assurance and regulatory bodies

The results indicate engagement with host country quality assurance and regulatory bodies is context and country specific. Providers that deliver in China, except those using distance delivery, work with the China Ministry of Education on delivery in China. This is also the case with some providers delivering in Malaysia, Vietnam, and Tonga.

It is common for providers in partnership with an overseas organisation to manage engagement with host country quality assurance bodies through the partner organisation.

Providers delivering offshore using distance delivery usually do not engage with host country quality assurance bodies.

Future provision

58 providers stated they were considered delivering offshore education (41.4 per cent of providers who responded). It is, however, difficult to develop a comprehensive picture of the planned offshore education delivery in the future as many providers stated that they were still in the exploratory phase. This is reflected in the results by the high frequency of responses that were not specific or the answer could not be categorised.

The most frequent type of offshore delivery planned for the future offshore delivery was articulation. 20 providers are considering offshore delivery through articulation and the next largest was 14 providers considering distance delivery and twinning, respectively. Table 7 provides a breakdown of future offshore education delivery by type.

Most providers currently involved in offshore delivery will focus on continuing to expand their existing types of provision, if they intending to increase offshore delivery, and may expand into some new countries or focus areas. The majority of the new future offshore delivery by providers not currently operating offshore is in the PTE sector. Table 8 shows the number of providers considered offshore delivery by provider type.

Table 7: Number of providers planning or investigation future offshore delivery by type of delivery

Type of delivery	No. Providers
Articulation	20
Distance	14
Twinning	14
Double/Joint Degree	5
Satellite Campuses	5
Study Centre or Teaching Site	2
Franchise	4
Validation	3
Independent Institutions	1
Other	5
Unspecified/uncategorised	20

Table 8: Future offshore delivery by provider type

Provider	No. Providers
PTEs	42
ITPs	9
Universities	5
Wānanga	2
Other	0
Total	58

Current Policies and Procedures

The questionnaire asked providers to identify if they currently had policies and procedures for delivery offshore including for contractual arrangements, partnerships and relationships, student support, fee refunds, and delivery in areas such as staffing, curriculum, academic standards, programme design. This information is presented in Table 9.

Overall, around 30 per cent of providers have specific policies and procedures in place for offshore delivery.

Providers currently delivering offshore were likely to have specific policies and procedures for offshore delivery with it ranging from 60 – 75 per cent.

The proportion of providers planning or investigating future delivery offshore with specific policies and procedures was lower and ranged from 48 – 57 per cent.

Table 9: Proportion of providers with specific policies and procedures for offshore delivery

	Contractual Arrangements	Partners and Relationships	Student Support	Fee Refunds	Delivery
All providers					
Yes	27.9	32.1	30.7	30.7	30.7
No	70.7	64.3	64.3	65.7	65.7
Providers delivering offshore					
Yes	75.0	75.0	64.3	60.7	67.9
No	21.4	17.9	32.1	35.7	28.6
Providers planning to deliver offshore					
Yes	48.3	56.9	51.7	51.7	53.4
No	48.3	37.9	41.4	43.1	44.8