



ITENZ

Independent Tertiary Education
New Zealand



PTEs deliver a wide range of qualifications and training across New Zealand

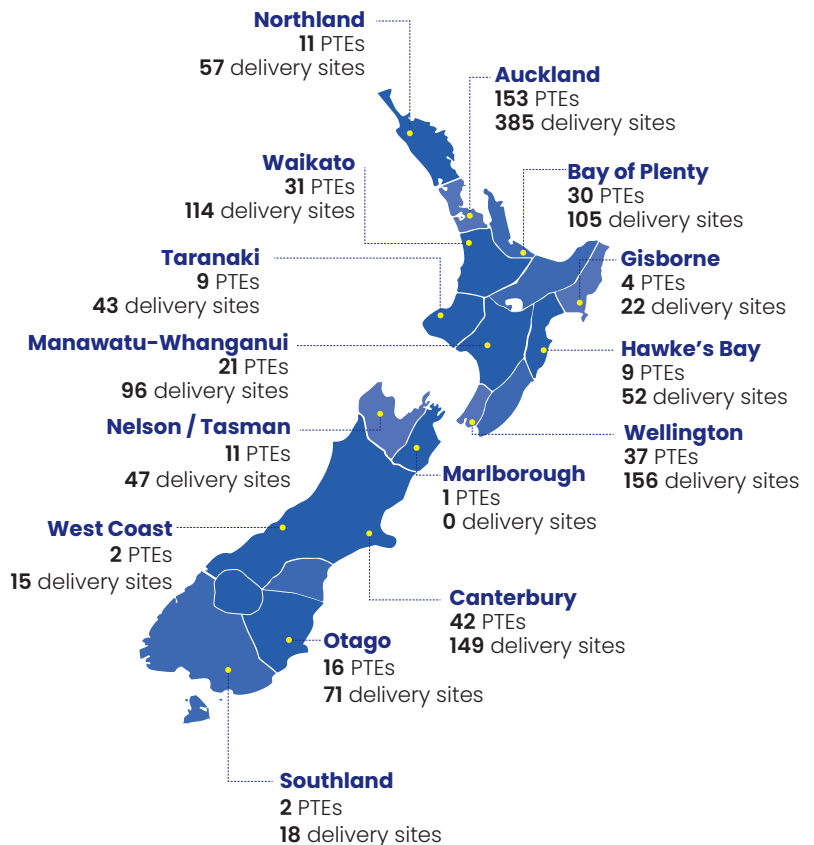
New Zealand's Private Tertiary Establishments (PTEs) provide a wide mix of quality education options for hundreds of thousands of domestic and overseas learners each year.

There are 381 registered PTEs with over 1,300 sites throughout the country. Just over half of these are funded to deliver New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved qualifications.

[Research commissioned by Independent Tertiary Education New Zealand \(ITENZ\)](#) found that during 2022:

- PTEs offered 1,665 different programmes to learners, leading to 800 qualifications
- PTEs arranged training for 16,975 industry-based apprentices and trainees, accounting for approximately 11 per cent of all industry-based learners
- 52,440 learners were enrolled in funded PTEs – 92 per cent were domestic students and eight per cent were fee-paying international learners
- 2,310 international students were enrolled at unfunded PTEs – including 1,565 at English language schools (ELS)
- Hundreds of thousands of learners also participated in other programmes at PTEs, including non-formal learning and/or on-the-job training and courses shorter than one full week (e.g., first aid or workplace health and safety)
- The 184 funded PTEs employed 6,850 staff. However, total staff numbers including unfunded PTEs may be double this number.

Location of PTE providers



The size and scope of the PTE sector

The PTE sector comprises a diverse mix of privately owned tertiary education provider organisations. While many are small in size, it also includes some large organisations.

These provide a wide mix of formal programmes of post-school education or training, of varying levels and course lengths and encompassing a large array of skills and industries.

There are PTEs in every region of New Zealand. The highest numbers are in Auckland with 153 delivery sites. Wellington has 37 PTEs, with 156 sites, and the Waikato has 31, with 114 sites. Canterbury has the highest number of PTEs for the South Island with 42 delivering programmes at 149 sites, followed by Otago with 16 PTEs over 71 sites.

ITENZ chief executive Wayne Dyer says that, while many people don't know what PTEs are, they will very likely know or work with someone who has studied through one.

"PTEs play an important role in ensuring the New Zealand workforce has relevant skills, producing work-ready employees with highly-relevant skills and capabilities.

"This came across very clearly from stakeholders and employers who took part in the qualitative research as well as in NZQA evaluators' reports."

Wide-ranging study options

Funded PTEs are registered with NZQA and offer programmes including foundation-level qualifications, diplomas, degrees and apprenticeships. They are eligible to apply for funding through the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). Learners include students with student loans or allowances.

The main fields of study for funded students include human welfare studies and services, education, management/commerce, health, food and hospitality, engineering, IT, creative arts, agriculture and environmental studies, architecture and building, and natural and physical sciences.



Unfunded PTEs include those offering full fee-paying programmes to domestic learners or short unfunded courses, and establishments enrolling only international students – including specialist English language schools (ELS).

For unfunded PTEs, the most common types of programmes are first aid/safety, English language, business/management and trade and services.

Under the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE), the role of arranging industry was assigned to PTEs, Te Pūkenga (New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology) and wānanga (education providers using tikanga Māori ways of teaching).

In 2022, 10 PTEs featured in the Education Counts list of 24 organisations providing industry training. These PTEs accounted for over 10,000 apprentices and nearly 7,000 trainees.

Countrywide, students at PTEs are studying at foundation level up to post-graduate, with the most common levels being certificate/diploma levels 5-7 and certificate level 3.

During 2022, eighteen percent were studying a degree level or above, including 4 per cent at postgraduate level.

Twenty nine per cent were at certificate/diploma levels five to seven, with the rest studying from certificate levels one to four.

Most PTEs – 89 per cent – are privately owned, five per cent are incorporated societies and six per cent are owned by a trust. Some are part of other

companies. Genesis Energy, Transpower, Air New Zealand, and NGOs such as Plunket, the Salvation Army and YMCA all have registered PTEs.

Researchers identified that PTEs have a higher ratio of academic staff to students (11.9) than either universities or Te Pūkenga.

Māori learners represented 22 per cent of enrolments at funded PTEs, compared with 21 per cent representation across the whole tertiary sector. The proportion of Māori or Pacific staff at funded PTEs was also higher than at Te Pūkenga or universities.

While the 2022 figures for international students still reflected the impacts of the pandemic, 27 per cent of international students at PTEs and ELS combined were from China, 24 per cent from India, nine per cent from Japan, and 40 per cent from other countries.

The research project was undertaken on behalf of ITENZ by NielsenIQ using a combination of primary and secondary research.