

Press release

**Students struggling to find university places
urged to consider a working holiday in New Zealand**

London, August 17 2010: As new figures suggest that record numbers of A-level students will be turned away from the country's leading universities on results day this Thursday (August 19), Immigration New Zealand is encouraging young people to gain valuable experience and life skills by taking a working holiday to 'the land of the long white cloud.'

A recent *Guardian* poll suggested as many as 170,000 students could find themselves left without a place on a degree course as 'institutions declared themselves full, more than a week before the clearing system opens.' Ross Grigg, regional manager for Immigration New Zealand suggests that this actually presents a perfect opportunity to take time out to discover a new country, gain valuable experience and even study along the way.

"While your chosen university might be full, New Zealand offers unlimited places on its working holiday scheme and in many cases, applications can be approved in less than three days when submitted online.

"We have lots of short term working opportunities for young people, including skilled employment, which not only provides you with much needed travel-income, but also makes a great addition to your CV.

"For those who want to continue their studies, the working holiday visa also offers the opportunity to combine travelling with education – allowing participants to study a wide range of courses, from short research projects to courses in horticulture, the arts or even journalism, at world class institutions. Student Visas are also obtainable for those looking to undertake a full-time degree course in New Zealand."

Nearly 10,000 people from the UK apply for a working holiday visa for New Zealand each year, allowing UK residents between the ages of 18-30 to live, work and travel throughout the country for up to two years. The visa can be applied for online at www.newzealandnow.govt.nz.

More information about New Zealand's educational prospects can be found by visiting <http://www.newzealandeducated.com/>

Ends

Notes to editors

Statistics taken from *The Guardian* 'Clearing 2010: 'Full' universities turn away record number of students' on Monday August 9 2010: <http://bit.ly/acURaj>

Further Information

For more information on working and living in New Zealand, please visit www.newzealandnow.govt.nz. This site has a media section. You can also call 09069 100 100 (calls cost £1 per minute).

For journalist enquiries, case studies or further media information, please contact Jenny Groutage or Geoff Saltmarsh at The Saltmarsh Partnership on 020 7928 1600 or email jenny/geoff@saltmarshpr.co.uk