

## International education, student migration and government policy: A comparative study of Australia and New Zealand

Beibei Chiou<sup>1</sup>, Marilyn Waring<sup>2</sup>, Edwina Pio<sup>3</sup>

Institution of Public Policy<sup>1</sup>  
AUT University  
Auckland, New Zealand  
[beichi86@aut.ac.nz](mailto:beichi86@aut.ac.nz)

Institute of Public Policy<sup>2</sup>  
AUT University  
Auckland, New Zealand  
[marilyn.waring@aut.ac.nz](mailto:marilyn.waring@aut.ac.nz)

School of Business & Law<sup>3</sup>  
AUT University  
Auckland, New Zealand  
[edwina.pio@aut.ac.nz](mailto:edwina.pio@aut.ac.nz)

Since the late 1990's the study-migration pathway has been established in Australia and New Zealand. International students were considered ideal migrant candidates and were encouraged to apply for permanent residency upon completion. Consequently we have witnessed a significant growth in the number of international students commencing study in both countries. While the governments celebrated their success in developing a sizeable market share in international education, some unintended effects were also emerging. Public criticisms and global financial crisis had significant impacts on the policy development since 2008 onwards. This paper is based on a doctoral study that aims to understand the relationship between international education, student migration and government policy. Document analysis and semi-structured face to face interview were used to gather information. 'Systems analysis' is considered an appropriate methodology in understanding and explaining the relevant policy making. It seeks to make sense of this particular political system through policy institutions, policy actors, political economy and policy culture. Initial findings in this paper are extracted from interviews with 16 education professionals in both countries. It is hoped this doctoral study will contribute to a better understanding of international students and provide implications for future policy development.

### **Key Words**

Government policy, immigration policy, education policy, skilled migrant, international student, foreign student

---

<sup>1</sup> PhD Candidate

<sup>2</sup> Primary Supervisor

<sup>3</sup> Secondary Supervisor