

# Have our students got what it takes? Report on work by the New Zealand Ministry of Education on global knowledge and competencies

Marie-Louise Siddle<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Senior Policy Analyst, International Division, New Zealand Ministry of Education, Wellington, New Zealand, [marie-louise.siddle@minedu.govt.nz](mailto:marie-louise.siddle@minedu.govt.nz)

The “global competencies” or “international skills” project began in 2008 as a response to questions raised in the context of the Government’s international education policy: What is well-developed global knowledge? What are the skills to succeed in multicultural and multilingual settings in New Zealand and overseas?

An international literature review completed in 2009 provided answers to these two questions, and has led to further research to elaborate on why our students need to develop global competencies, how they might be developing them, if their development of global competencies is being measured or has been measured, and the ways in which students’ global competencies have been assessed overseas.

While the project began in 2008, it has been provided renewed impetus by the release in 2011 of the Government’s *Leadership Statement for International Education* which includes the objective that we must “Increase New Zealanders’ skills and knowledge to operate effectively across cultures”.

This session will share the Ministry’s findings to date, and touch on planned next steps:

- The skills and qualities that are included in the term “global competencies”
- Why all students need global competencies – they’re not just for diplomats
- Options for developing students’ global competencies
- How to go about checking students have got the skills and knowledge they’re going to need.

## Keywords:

Global competence, global knowledge, international education, multicultural, multilingual, New Zealand, skills, students.