

# **Mate, bring on the Master of International Education**

**Christopher H Beard<sup>1</sup>**

chris.beard@vuw.ac.nz

<sup>1</sup> Foundation Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand

## **Masters for the international education sector**

Because of the growing economic importance of the international education sector in Australia and New Zealand, there is an increasing need to critique export education as a sub-specialist field in both countries. This need is more likely to be addressed if Masters programmes that include a specialised focus on the industry are developed. Currently, there are a limited number of postgraduate courses in Australia, and in New Zealand the sector is set apart as a lead export earner without an industry-specific qualification.

A Master of International Education (MIE) that includes a specialised focus on export education would be immediately relevant to a range of educators and professionals. These include international programme managers in the secondary and tertiary sectors; bridging programme directors and teachers; international student advisors; student counsellors, teachers and lecturers dealing with significant numbers of international students, marketers, industry representatives and government officials. More specialised postgraduate research in export education is likely to open up clearer pathways for those with a career interest in international education. An MIE would also help foster flexible, interdisciplinary and innovative thinking in a young sector that remains vulnerable to boom-bust cycles.

This paper will highlight several complex student experience issues that highlight the need for more specialised research and evidence-based practice in the sector. Comment and feedback will be welcome following the presentation.

The Faculty of Education at Victoria University of Wellington is currently investigating the establishment of a Master of International Education (distance learning delivery).

## **Key Words**

International education, evidence-based practice, postgraduate programmes, vocational pathways