



TR18.9507



Briefing Note: Embargoed results of the 2019 QS Graduate Employability Rankings

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	11 September 2018	Priority:	Medium
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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

Note the analysis of the embargoed results of the 2019 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings.

Note that this Briefing will be proactively released after the ranking results are published.

Summary

- The 2019 QS Graduate Employability Rankings will be published on Tuesday 11 September at 12.01pm, New Zealand time. QS has provided the results to the Ministry of Education under embargo, and they must not be shared until the public release of the rankings.
- There was little change in ranking for New Zealand universities, with the University of Auckland improving four places from last year to be ranked 71, while the remaining six New Zealand universities listed in the published results all remained in the 301-500 rankings band.
- In previous years, there has been no coverage of this ranking in the New Zealand media.

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11/09/2018

Noted - Hon Hipkins
 18/9/18
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Background

1. The Ministry of Education monitors the release of international university rankings throughout the year. We brief you on the rankings because:
 - they are sometimes covered by the New Zealand media and the media may seek ministerial comment on the performance of the New Zealand universities
 - in the past, individual universities, Universities New Zealand, and Education New Zealand, have used the results of the rankings (for example, in marketing for international students).

Release of the 2019 results

2. The 2019 QS Graduate Employability Rankings will be published on Tuesday 11 September at 12.01pm, New Zealand time. QS has provided the Ministry with the results under embargo. They must not be shared until the public release.
3. We will share this briefing with the Tertiary Education Commission, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand Qualifications Authority, and Education New Zealand before the results are published.

How important is this ranking?

4. The QS Graduate Employability Rankings focuses on only one aspect of university performance (graduate employability) and are of less importance than the most followed rankings – the QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, and the Academic Ranking of World Universities.
5. There has been no New Zealand media coverage of this ranking in the past but some universities comment about the results on their respective websites.

The methodology

6. This is the fourth edition of the QS Graduate Employability Rankings. For the last two years, QS has published rankings for the top 500 universities and used five categories to assign an overall ranking. These are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Categories used to determine the overall QS Graduate Employability Rankings

Categories	Description	Weighting
Employer reputation	Based on a global survey of graduate employers	30%
Alumni outcomes	Mapping of educational paths to leadership lists	25%
Partnerships with employers	Engagement with industry in research and other areas	25%
Employer-student connections	Opportunities to connect on campus or online	10%
Graduate employment rates	Adjusted to account for national averages	10%

7. It is not clear how comparable some of the measures are, both nationally and internationally, especially the graduate employment rate.

The 2019 results for New Zealand universities

8. The 2019 results show little change in the ranking of the listed New Zealand universities (see Table 2). The University of Auckland remains the highest-ranked New Zealand university (71) and improved four places from last year.
9. The ranking for the remaining six listed New Zealand universities (301-500) was unchanged from last year.

Table 2: QS Graduate Employability Rankings for New Zealand universities 2018-2019

University	2018	2019
University of Auckland	75	71
University of Otago	301-500	301-500
Victoria University of Wellington	301-500	301-500
University of Canterbury	301-500	301-500
Massey University	301-500	301-500
University of Waikato	301-500	301-500
Auckland University of Technology	301-500	301-500

Future monitoring of rankings

10. There are a number of international university rankings systems and we will continue to brief you on them.
11. The next high profile ranking to be released is the 2019 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. It is being released on 26 September.

Proactive release

12. It is intended that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree