

New Zealand English Language Training for Officials (NZELTO) Asia

Intake 64

27 August – 27 November 2026

Overview

The NZELTO scheme provides an opportunity for Foreign Ministry officials to undertake an intensive thirteen-week English language course in New Zealand. The objective is to enhance the English language skills of participating officials to enable them to represent their countries effectively in international forums where English is the medium of communication, and to strengthen ties with New Zealand and between participating countries.

When?

In-country pre-programme communication July – Aug 2026	In New Zealand at Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) 27 Aug – 27 Nov 2026	Post-course in-country workplace project Dec 2026-Feb 2027
<p>Information will be sent to officials.</p> <p>There will be online meetings to convey key programme information and engage with all participants via Zoom.</p> <p>There will be pre-departure briefings held online in conjunction with Posts where relevant.</p>	<p>13 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive tailored English Language Training programme at the ELI including language learning, intercultural communication, New Zealand culture and good governance. • Introduction to New Zealand culture, society, New Zealand’s economy, New Zealand’s system of government and international issues • The course theme of Education including educational leadership, issues in education & international perspectives. • Workplace communication & visits. • A field trip. • IELTS training & testing 	<p>Undertake a workplace-based project on the intake theme and prepare a 10-minute presentation.</p> <p>There will be online meetings to provide support and connect with participants.</p>

Note: Applicants need to read and understand this outline before applying.

Possible Participants

Government officials and employees of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) working in a technical or policy role and who have a proven need for using English in their work and developing their understanding of issues in Education. Participants can be involved in education policy and curriculum development across all the main levels of education (early childhood, primary, secondary or tertiary). This includes from the perspective of specific groups e.g., people with disabilities, public health education, youth, disadvantaged groups, ethnic minorities.

Applicants must explain how education is related to their work.

Note: This is not a teacher training course, and we do not envisage current classroom teachers would be eligible.

Possible ministries and government organisations are:

- Education – all levels
- Labour
- Higher education
- Culture
- Vocational training
- Educational research
- Religious affairs
- Planning agencies
- Health

This is not an exhaustive list, and candidates are also invited from other relevant ministries and state-owned enterprises.

To be eligible for a Manaaki New Zealand Scholarship, all the following statements must be true:

- I am a citizen of the following countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam.
- From the date my application is submitted, I will have lived in my country of citizenship for the last two years or more.
 - Exception for diplomatic corps and their family: A member of the diplomatic corps or a dependant of a member of the diplomatic corps, living outside their own country, can apply for a Scholarship.
- I am not a citizen or permanent resident of any of the following countries: New Zealand, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, any European Union country, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, or the United States of America.
 - Exceptions: Applicants who possess dual citizenship where the second citizenship is either Portugal, France or Belgium can also supply
- I will be between the ages of 25 – 45 years old at the time I start the scholarship.
- I am not currently serving in the military.
- Within the last five years, I have not had a New Zealand Scholarship terminated.

Applicants must also acknowledge and agree that:

- They have received endorsement from their employer to attend this training programme.
- They expect to meet the academic entry requirements (including English language requirements) for their planned training programme.

Selection Criteria

Individual applicants should meet the following criteria:

- English language proficiency IELTS 4.5 – 5.5 or equivalent
- Direct connection with theme, preferably in a technical or policy role
- English is used frequently for work
- Age range: 25 - 45 years old
- If you have completed tertiary-level study in an English-speaking country, you are **not eligible** to apply for the NZELTO programme

Applications are encouraged from:

- Female candidates
- Candidates from provincial centres who need to use English regularly in their work

Preference will be given to applicants who submit a strong application. Do the following:

- Read and understand this course outline.
- Use your own words - using Artificial Intelligence or translation tools weakens an application. AI is not your friend!
- State clearly how you use English in your work and how your work is connected to education in your country.
- Don't copy someone else's application.
- Give honest answers.

Key Learning Outcomes

The overarching goal underpinning NZELTO Asia is to support sustainable economic development in participating nations through improved use of English for international communication and to facilitate and contribute to enduring cooperation, economic and people-to-people ties between Aotearoa New Zealand and participating countries.

By the end of the course the following learning outcomes will be delivered:

- Improved English language capability.
- Improved application of English to the course theme of Education
- Improved understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's role and impact relevant to the course theme through workplace interactions and guest lectures
- Improved confidence in presenting in English

Key application and selection dates

- The application window will be open to receive applications from **19 January to 27 February 2026**.
- Language testing will take place from **6 April to 24 April 2026**. You must be available to complete testing during this period.
- Offer letters will be sent to successful candidates from the week of **25 May 2026**.