



HRK German Rectors' Conference
The Voice of the Universities

**New Zealand-Aotearoa - German
Academic Links Agreement**

**Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara (UNZ)
(The New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee)**

and the

**German Rectors' Conference
(Hochschulrektorenkonferenz / HRK)**

agree to promote academic links between the two countries in the interest of the higher education institutions in both countries and make the following framework agreement.

ARTICLE 1
Purpose and Membership

(1) The partners to this agreement intend to promote exchange in the areas of teaching, research and scholarship.

(2) A higher education institution which is represented by Universities New Zealand – Te Pūkai Tara or the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz and which becomes a signatory to this agreement is entitled to cooperate in accordance with this agreement with any signatory from the other country.

(3) This framework agreement will be supplemented by details of partnership arrangements negotiated bilaterally between cooperating institutions in each country. While signatories are expected to promote cooperation, no higher education institution is expected to enter into partnership obligations beyond its resources.

ARTICLE 2
Fields of Cooperation

Cooperation will be sought:

- in the exchange of undergraduate students on both sides;
- in the placement of New Zealand and German graduates and researchers to foster and implement research projects;
- in the exchange of senior and junior staff and research assistants to implement research projects and for teaching;
- through participation in symposia and other academic events;
- in establishing research and teaching contacts and exchanging research information and
- in joint teaching and joint study programme arrangements.

ARTICLE 3
Students

(1) New Zealand and German students on academic exchange for periods of a semester or more and who remain enrolled in a degree or provide evidence of a formal leave of absence by the home institution as participants of the exchange agreement (in the case of German institutions either in the form of a *Beurlaubung* or by *Exmatrikulation*) and have paid any compulsory fees and charges in the home institution will not be required to pay additional tuition fees in the host institutions.

(2) Exchanges will be arranged at the individual institutional level. Each participating institution will be responsible for managing its reciprocity requirements.

(3) The host institutions will provide to the home institution a statement/transcript of study undertaken and/or credit point achievements of each exchange student, in an agreed form.

ARTICLE 4

Admissions

(1) Students will be granted admission on agreement with home and host institutions based on their records of achievement, goals and the comparability of courses to be undertaken.

To guide admission decisions, Universities New Zealand – Te Pūkai Tara and the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz will engage in further consultations to set up recommendations for admission for New Zealand and German students and graduates at the higher education institutions in both countries, including the admission to doctoral studies. These recommendations will become part of this agreement as Appendix 1.

ARTICLE 5

Staff

(1) Proposals regarding the allocation of academic staff or researchers to a host institution will be agreed in writing between the departments and institutes concerned well in advance of the period of stay.

(2) The parties to the agreement share the view that due consideration should be given to the wishes of both parties regarding any exchange of personnel.

ARTICLE 6

Arrangements and Support

(1) The partner institutions agreeing on exchanges and attachments will attempt to provide every necessary support to participants in the exchange during their stay. They will allow the participants to use (as far as possible) the host institution's academic resources and amenities on the same terms as members of the host institution in the same category.

(2) The host institution will endeavour to help participants gain access also to necessary facilities such as archives, libraries, museums, and laboratories which are required for the successful completion of their academic programme or research in the host institution.

(3) Participating students will enjoy the same rights and privileges and be subject to the same regulations and discipline as students of the host institution.

ARTICLE 7

Finance

(1) Parties to the agreement will endeavour to finance the programme envisaged. They will inform each other in good time about the availability and allocation of funding. The availability of funding will determine the scope of the programme in any period.

(2) Details of the implementation of programmes in partner institutions will be jointly worked out by the appropriate academic institutes and departments and approved by appropriate authorities in those institutions. Specific work programmes of this kind do not rule out additional academic contacts.

(3) Universities New Zealand - Te Pōkai Tara and the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz may facilitate broad national academic contact and exchange programmes with varying degrees of voluntary involvement of signatory institutions in the two countries.

ARTICLE 8

Consultation

Representatives of Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara and the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz will meet at regular intervals to consider the progress of cooperation and to instigate further projects.

ARTICLE 9

Duration

This agreement will be valid for five years. It will be valid for a further five years unless one of the parties gives written notice of discontinuation at least six months before the date of its termination. Any amendments will be agreed in writing after joint consultations.

ARTICLE 10

Entry into Force

This agreement will come into operation after each party has gone through the appropriate procedure of assent and authorisation and after the signed texts of agreements have been exchanged.

20 December 2023

For
Universities New Zealand – Te Pōkai Tara

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. de la Rey' with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Cheryl de la Rey
Chair

20 December 2023

For
the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Rosenthal' in a cursive style.

Professor Dr. Walter Rosenthal
President

APPENDIX 1

NEW ZEALAND-GERMAN ACADEMIC LINKS AGREEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

Decisions on admission of students with German qualifications to New Zealand universities and students with New Zealand qualifications to German higher education institutions will be made by the receiving institution.

To assist universities in the decision-making process, Universities New Zealand – Te Pūkai Tara (UNZ) and the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (HRK) have agreed to the following recommendations. They are aware that changes of structures and standards in both systems may require, from time to time, a review of these recommendations.

(1) Language

German and New Zealand students wishing to study in the other country should demonstrate an appropriate level of competence in the language of tuition.

(2) Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

In principle, periods of study at higher education institutions in New Zealand or Germany should be regarded as comparable on a year-to-year basis. However, there are programmes and awards in each system that do not lend themselves to direct comparisons with awards in the other system and these should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Also, individual institutions may have specific standards such as grades or other evaluation requirements to be satisfied as prerequisites for admission to particular programmes of study at a higher level and in the same discipline.

(2.1) Admission of German Students and Graduates

Holders of a German bachelor's degree awarded after three years of study should be eligible for admission to New Zealand graduate programmes (including relevant master's programmes) which have as a prerequisite a three-year undergraduate degree or equivalent.

Holders of a German bachelor's degree awarded after four years of study should be eligible for admission to New Zealand graduate programmes. They may be considered on a case-by-case basis for candidature for doctoral studies in New Zealand if the degree includes a substantial thesis or research project and has been awarded with an overall grade of "good" or "very good".

Holders of a German master's degree or a *Magister* or *Diplom* or a *Staatsprüfung* may be considered for candidature for doctoral studies in New Zealand.

Other students should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

(2.2) Admission of New Zealand Students and Graduates

Holders of a New Zealand bachelor's degree awarded after three years of study should be eligible for admission to graduate studies (Master programmes) in accordance with the profile of their prior studies.

Holders of a New Zealand bachelor's degree with Honours, with thesis or research project and the classification "First Class" or "Second Class, Upper Division" may be considered for candidature for doctoral studies in Germany.

Holders of a New Zealand master's degree by research should be eligible for candidature for doctoral studies in Germany (*Doktorand*).

Holders of a New Zealand master's degree by coursework should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

(3) Doctorate

The New Zealand Doctorate and the German Doctorate should be regarded as equivalent.

20 December 2023

20 December 2023

For
Universities New Zealand –
Te Pōkai Tara

For
the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz



Professor Cheryl de la Rey
Chair

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