

Statement on Student Rights in New Zealand

In New Zealand, tertiary students have certain rights and entitlements to ensure a fair and supportive learning environment. While these rights may be subject to specific institutional policies, the following outlines general rights commonly afforded to tertiary students in New Zealand:

1. Right to Access Education:

Students have the right to access quality education without discrimination based on race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

2. Right to a Safe and Inclusive Environment:

Students have the right to learn in an environment free from harassment, bullying, and discrimination.

3. Right to Information:

Students have the right to receive accurate and timely information about courses, programs, fees, and any changes affecting their academic journey.

4. Right to Privacy:

Students have the right to privacy regarding their personal information, academic records, and other confidential data in accordance with privacy laws.

5. Right to Freedom of Expression:

Students have the right to express their views and opinions within the bounds of respectful and lawful discourse.

6. Right to Appeal and Complaints:

Students have the right to appeal academic or disciplinary decisions and to make complaints about any unfair treatment or academic concerns.

7. Right to Representation:

Students have the right to be represented in academic and disciplinary matters, including the right to bring a support person to meetings.

8. Right to Academic Integrity:

Students have the right to be assessed fairly, and institutions must uphold academic integrity standards, ensuring that students are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged.

9. Right to Accommodations for Disabilities:

Students with disabilities have the right to reasonable accommodations to ensure they can participate fully in academic and extracurricular activities.

10. Right to Fair Assessment:

-Students have the right to fair and transparent assessment processes, including clear grading criteria and timely feedback.

11. Right to Timely and Accessible Support Services:

Students have the right to access support services, including counselling, academic advising, and health services, in a timely and accessible manner.

12. Right to Student Representation:

Students often have the right to be represented by student associations or unions, advocating for their interests on campus.

13. Right to Cultural Respect:

Students have the right to be treated with cultural respect, acknowledging and valuing diverse cultural backgrounds.

These rights are foundational to the tertiary education experience in New Zealand. It's important for students to familiarise themselves with specific policies and procedures at their respective institutions to ensure a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities.