

TeachNZ Scholarships Bonding Guidance

Scholarship bonding

When you complete your ITE programme, you will enter a bonding period. This is where you must teach in a New Zealand state or state-integrated school or kura, or licensed early learning centre for a set period. Work completed in private schools will not be counted. Bonding period length is based on the length of your scholarship.

If you do not meet the requirements in these terms and conditions, you will be liable to repay all or parts of the funds (fees and allowances) you received. This will depend on when you default on the terms and conditions.

Bonding period lengths

Each TeachNZ scholarship has different bonding period lengths. See the tables below for the bonding period lengths of all scholarships.

Bonding period for Te Huarau, Te Tipu Whakarito and Kupe scholarships

Study duration	Bonding period length
Less than 1 year, no allowance payment	Teach for 1 year in the 3 years after completing your qualification
1 year of full-time study 2 years of part-time study	Teach for 2 years in the 4 years after completing your qualification
2 years of full-time study 4 years of part-time study	Teach for 2 years in the 3 years after completing your qualification
3 years of full-time study 6 years of part-time study	Teach for 3 years in the 5 years after completing your qualification

Bonding period for Te Huawhiti and Te Waka Whakareai scholarships

Study duration	Bonding period length
2 years of part-time study, no allowance payment	Teach for 1 year in the 2 years after completing your qualification
1 year of full-time study 2 years of part-time study	Teach for 2 years in the 4 years after completing your qualification
2 years of full-time study 4 years of part-time study	Teach for 4 years in the 6 years after completing your qualification
3 years of full-time study 6 years of part-time study	Teach for 6 years in the 10 years after completing your qualification

Your bonding period will start on the first day of the month after you complete your qualification.

For example, if you completed study on 15 November 2020, your bonding period would start on 1 December 2020.

We will send you a confirmation email when you complete your bonding period.

Teaching work evidence

You must show evidence of teaching work completed during your bonding period. If you are teaching at a primary, intermediate or secondary school during your bonding period, we will check our internal payroll system for work evidenced.

If you are teaching at a licensed early learning centre, you and your employer must complete a bonding form and email it to us.

Complications with study or bonding

We understand that difficulties can occur during study or your bonding period. At the discretion of our review system, you may postpone and defer study and change settings of payments or bonding conditions. If you believe circumstances have impacted you passing your study or finding or maintaining a teaching job, contact us immediately.

Changes to study

You must inform us of any changes to your study, including:

- dropping a paper
- failing and then re-taking a paper
- studying additional non-compulsory papers
- changing your qualification
- changing tertiary provider.

Any changes may impact the cost of your scholarship. We must approve changes to qualifications or tertiary providers. Any qualification you intend to change to must be an approved qualification for the scholarship you have been awarded. The qualification must also be within the same priorities of that scholarship round.

Postponing study

You can request to postpone your study for up to one year, under exceptional circumstances. Postponement may be used flexibly during your scholarship. Any postponement must be approved by us.

If you stop studying for more than one year, or do not get approval from us before taking a break from study, your scholarship may be withdrawn. Any course fees and allowances you received through your scholarship would need to be repaid.

Withdrawal

Contact your tertiary provider for a refund if you withdraw from study. They will have a formal withdrawal procedure to follow. There may only be a short period of time at the start of the semester for your fees to be refunded. We consider any paper you withdraw from without a refund, or you don't complete, as a failed paper. Contact us and your tertiary provider as soon as possible if you decide to withdraw from or stop study.

Default and repayment

When you accept your scholarship, you sign an agreement, agreeing to the scholarship terms and conditions. If you do not meet the requirements in these terms and conditions you will be liable to repay all or parts of the funds (fees and allowances) you received. This will depend on when you default on the terms and conditions.

Ways you could default include:

- failing over 50% of your studies in the academic year
- postponing your studies for over one year
- withdrawing from your scholarship
- not completing the required amount of teaching according to your obligations
- not teaching in a school or setting that meets the bonding period requirements.

Repayment process

Once we identify that you are in default, StudyLink will verify the repayment amount. We will then email you the exact amount. The repayment process is outlined below.

1. We will send you a repayment form with the repayment letter. Sign and return the form to confirm you agree with the repayment amount.
2. Contact us within 21 days if you do not agree with the repayment amount or if your circumstances have changed and you require us to review your situation. We will begin a review process, which can take time to resolve.
3. After we issue your repayment notice, one of two steps will happen:
 - a. We will transfer the repayment amount to StudyLink as a Student Loan when you return your signed form. If you have an existing Student Loan, the repayment amount will be added to that, or StudyLink will create a new one for you.
 - b. Or, we will recommend to the delegated Manager that your debt be transferred for repayment. We will recommend this if you do not sign the repayment form agreeing to the amount or if we are unable to contact you.
4. You will be advised in writing that your debt has been transferred to StudyLink and that your scholarship will be closed.

Contact us

If you have any questions, we're here to help.

Email for bonding queries: teachnz.bonding@education.govt.nz