

New student visa grounds-codes to support the transition of visa products to ADEPT

To: All Chief Operating Officer Immigration Branch Staff

From: Anna McLachlan, Business Product Owner, Immigration Design and Assurance

Action required: Discuss with your teams

Context

New AMS grounds-codes have been created to support the transition of international student visas to ADEPT. Grounds-codes are unique IDs made up of six letters used in AMS to describe sub-categories of visas (e.g. AAGAGY).

The purpose of this Visa Pak is to raise awareness of these new grounds-codes, the reason for creating them, and give guidance on when they should be used.

Updates

New Student visa grounds-codes

New student visa grounds-codes have been created to enable greater clarity for student customers on which international student visa is suitable for their situation.

It is common for applications from students who have financial support from their home government to be lodged under the Scholarship holder grounds-code, but Visa Operations replace these applications with a new application under the Full Fee-Paying grounds-code, reserving the scholarship holder grounds-code for Manaaki NZ Government Scholarship holders.

To reduce the manual effort in tidying these applications up, once student visa processing transitions to ADEPT, we have created the following two new grounds-codes:

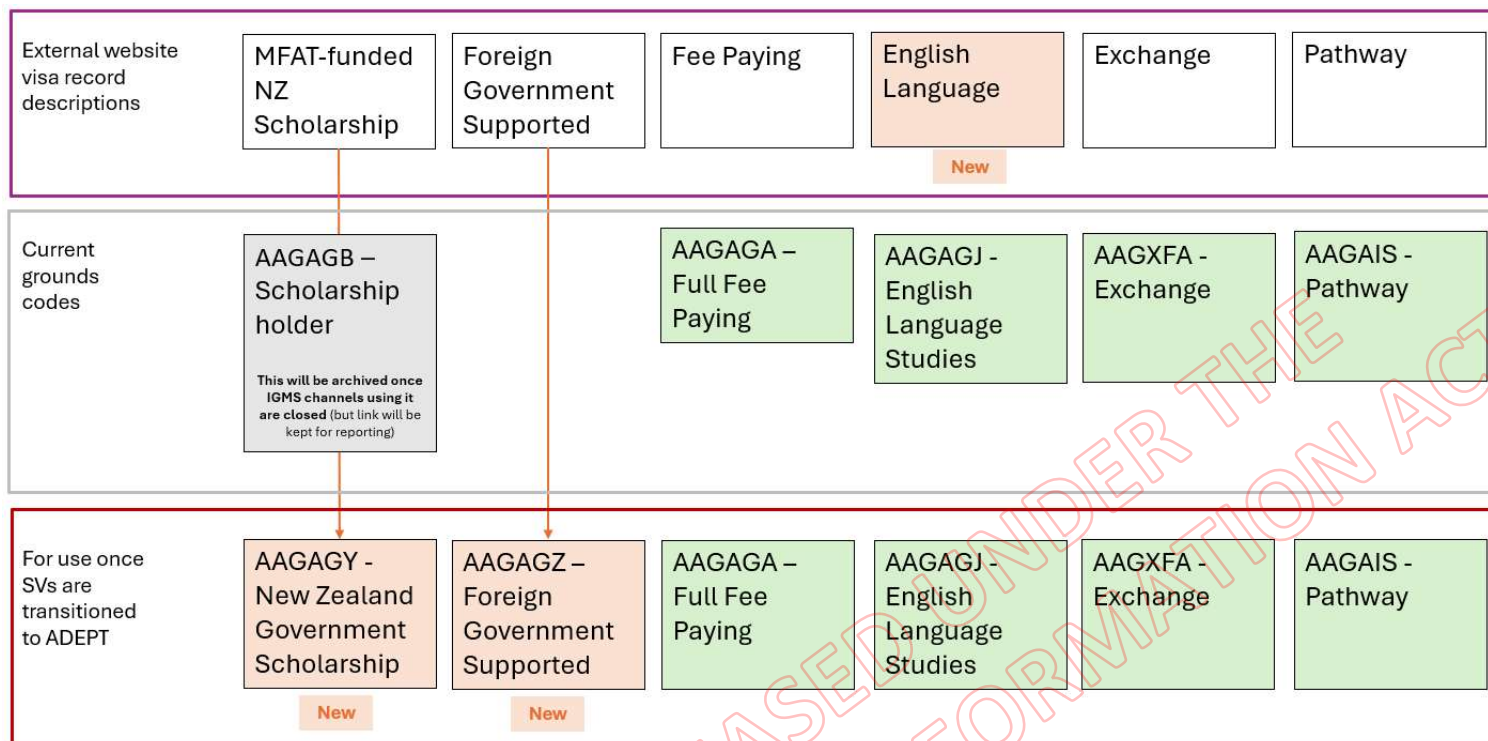
AAGAGY	Visa, Student, NZ Government Scholarship
AAGAGZ	Visa, Student, Foreign Government Supported

While ADEPT applications do not use AMS grounds-codes, all ADEPT applications do trigger the creation of a shell AMS application. Each visa product transitioned to ADEPT therefore needs to be mapped to a corresponding AMS grounds-code.

These new AMS grounds-codes should not be used for any applications lodged or raised by Visa Operations staff until the transition of international student visas to ADEPT, which is scheduled for **18 August 2025**.

Any international student visas submitted in IGMS will continue to use the existing grounds-codes. There will be a link kept between the old and new grounds-codes for reporting purposes.

After the transition of the international student visas to ADEPT, any AMS applications that are manually raised (for example to facilitate the granting of a different student visa than the one the applicant applied for) should use the new grounds-codes.



Action

Please discuss with your teams. Ensure these new AMS grounds-codes are used for any applications lodged or raised by Visa Operations staff from 18 August 2025.

Contact	Anna McLachlan
Publish on Visa Pak Database	Yes
Publish on INZ website (publicly available)	No
Visa Pak issue date	8 August 2025
Visa Pak number:	636