

## Wednesday Plenary

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Concert Chamber at Auckland Town Hall  
Queen St, Auckland, 1010, New Zealand

### ***The War on Grad Talent – Is International Education the Key to Unleashing Auckland’s Business Potential?***

Something is broken in Auckland, Tāmaki Makaurau. Local companies are waging a talent war when it comes to attracting and retaining skilled grads in high value industries. Despite chronic talent shortages, international students are often ignored by hiring managers as a credible alternative to an ever-shrinking local candidate pool. University-educated Kiwis have some of the highest mobility rates in the world, after graduation, through the “Overseas Experience”. This generation wants to start their OE during university, primarily for an employability benefit.

Multiple sessions throughout the conference will focus on these themes. In this frank conversation/debate from the coalface of NZ employers’ talent acquisition efforts, you will hear the realities of developing talent, both domestic and international, and how innovative leaders across the business eco-system are rethinking attitudes towards international students. How is your campus or organization serving these needs and working with local employers?

#### **Speaker panel:**

- Introduction: Brett Berquist, University of Auckland & Kate Moore, Academic Internship Council
- Moderator/Referee: Henry Matthews, Head of International Education, Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development
- Tim Watts: Director Talent Solutions (Chairperson New Zealand Association of Graduate Employers)
- Martin Devereux: Global Group Training Manager, Mainfreight
- Anne Fitisemanu: CEO, TupuToa
- Paul Scantlebury: Recruitment Strategy Implementation Leader and Global & Asia Pacific - Co-chair Ability, EY Oceania
- Louise Alexander: HR Director, Bell Gully

#### **Hosted By:**

