Desire and desirability: the journey of Malaysian pre-service teachers in NZ

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Malaysian students have been attending New Zealand universities for many decades, but have been particularly noticeable in the fields of applied linguistics and education in recent years as a result of the Malaysian government’s commitment to trans-national pre-service teacher education. In this model of teacher education, Malaysian pre-service teachers spend two or more years studying at a New Zealand university before completing their studies in Malaysia.

Drawing on interviews with the pre-service teachers, and with New Zealand and Malaysian teacher educators, I explore some of the expectations that these different groups have about the time spent in New Zealand. The focus is on the development of teacher cognition, particularly the educational journey that begins before arriving in a teacher education programme, and that continues as a pre-service teacher.