

## Section 2: Qualification structure, progression and pathways



**Carl**—Experienced ESOL Tutor, new to NZCEL

# *What is NZCEL?*



**Ariya**—parent of a prospective international student

New Zealand Certificate in English Language (NZCEL) qualifications are intended for learners of English as an additional language. They are available for permanent and temporary residents, and international students who have successfully completed NZQA approved programmes delivered in New Zealand.

They are nationally recognised by universities and other tertiary providers and can provide a direct pathway into most New Zealand certificate, diploma, undergraduate and post-graduate qualifications.

NZQA sets English language entry requirements for international students through the Programme Approval, Recognition and Accreditation Rules.

Providers are responsible for making sure that the international students they enrol have the required level of English proficiency for the level they want to study at. This includes verifying any test results or qualifications to make sure they are authentic.

Providers must keep evidence of this proficiency in their enrolment records for at least two years from the date of enrolment.

The Appendix of the Programme Approval, Recognition and Accreditation Rules sets out the approved tests and required outcomes that may be used as evidence of English language proficiency for international students.

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- NZCEL Qualification Structure
- Readiness for NZCEL
- NZCEL Progressions Mapped to CEFR and IELTS
- NZCEL Study Pathways into Mainstream Programme

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## NZCEL Qualification structure

The NZCEL suite consists of thirteen qualifications at different levels informed by the [Common European Framework of Reference \(CEFR\)](#):



[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Foundation\) \(Level 1\) \[Ref:1879\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Level 1\) \[Ref:1880\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Level 2\) \[Ref:1881\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(General\) \(Level 3\) \[Ref:1882\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Applied\) \(Level 3\) \[Ref: 3667\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Academic\) \(Level 3\) \[Ref: 4998\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(General\) \(Level 4\) \[Ref: 3669\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Employment\) \(Level 4\) \[Ref: 3668\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Academic\) \(Level 4\) \[Ref:1883\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(General\) \(Level 5\) \[Ref: 5001\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Employment\) \(Level 5\) \[Ref: 5000\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Academic\) \(Level 5\) \[Ref:1884\]\(external link\)](#)

[New Zealand Certificate in English Language \(Advanced\) \(Level 6\) \[Ref: 4999\]](#)

A diagram of the New Zealand Certificates in English Language structure can be found [here](#).

## Readiness for NZCEL



NZCEL Foundation is the starting point for the NZCEL suite of qualifications; however, it does not correspond to the starting point for all beginner learners of English. To successfully undertake NZCEL Foundation, including the Reading and Writing components, it is recommended that learners:

- Have had the opportunity to become familiar with the Latin alphabet, and the features of script in English (e.g. script from left to right, and text from top of page to bottom of page).
- Have a basic knowledge of letter-sound correspondence in English and how sounds/phonemes are combined into words.
- Have a small bank of very common words that they can recognise and read without significant effort.
- Have developed basic literacy (in English or any other language), including awareness of word boundaries, and the grouping of words into phrases, clauses and sentences.

Learners who have not had the opportunity to develop these skills will need significant literacy support if undertaking NZCEL Foundation.

# NZCEL Progressions mapped to CEFR and IELTS



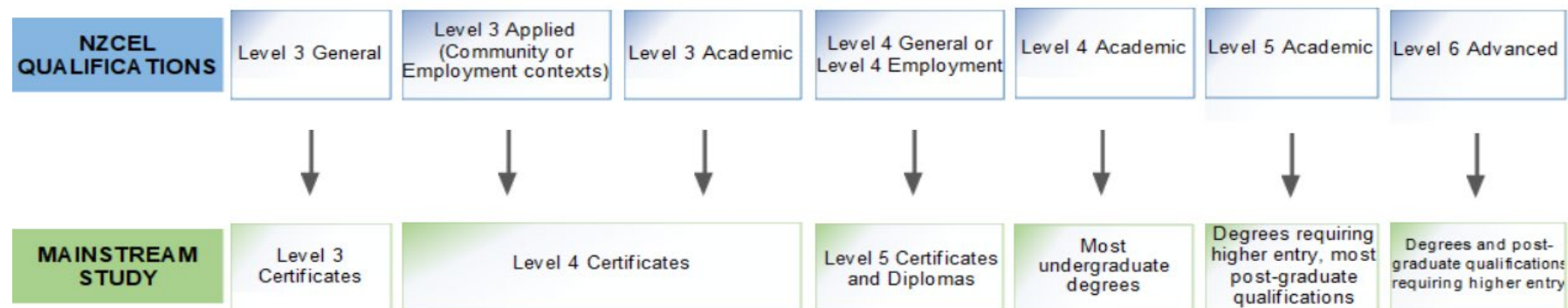
CEFR equivalent on exit

IELTS equivalent on exit

C1				7.0
high B2				6.5
mid B2				6.0
low B2				5.5
high B1				5.0
mid B1				4.5
A2				
A1				

## NZCEL Study pathways into mainstream programmes

NZCEL graduates may meet the English proficiency requirements to enrol in mainstream programmes, as shown below



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