

Briefing: NZQA's International Work

To:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
From:	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
Date:	18 July 2024
Reference:	OC01032

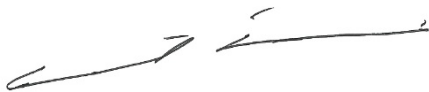
Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with an overview of NZQA's international work.

Background

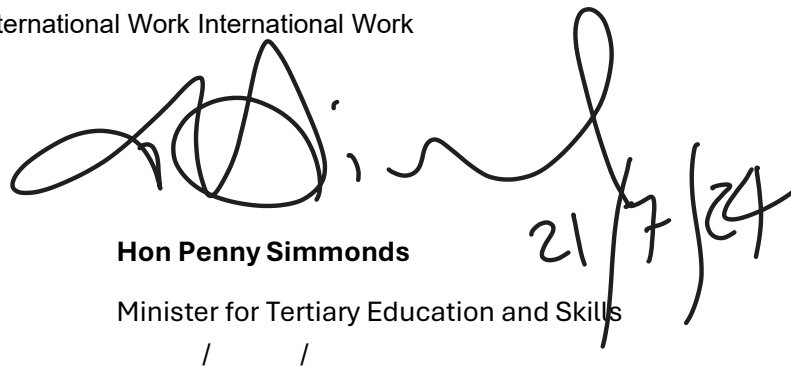
2. NZQA's international functions are outlined in the Education and Training Act 2020. Key features of our international work include furthering the reputation of New Zealand qualifications overseas and supporting labour and student mobility.
3. The work contributes to assuring all learners, including international students, that New Zealand's qualifications are valued and credible here and abroad.
4. NZQA discharges a range of responsibilities to support qualifications recognition as part of New Zealand's international treaty obligations under UNESCO conventions and bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements. New Zealand is a party to:
 - the UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region ("the Lisbon Convention"), acceded by New Zealand in 2007.
 - the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education ("the Tokyo Convention"), acceded by New Zealand in 2014.
5. NZQA also led the process for New Zealand to become part of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education (Global Convention). New Zealand is in the final stages of ratifying the Convention.
6. Appendix 1 provides an overview of NZQA's international work and some of the key workstreams.

Appendix 1: New Zealand Qualifications Authority International Work International Work



Dr Grant Klinkum

Chief Executive, NZQA
18 July 2024



21/7/24

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
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New Zealand Qualifications Authority International Work

NZQA's international work supports qualifications recognition and delivers on the legislative requirement for NZQA to assist other countries in relation to qualifications and quality assurance

International Qualifications Recognition

NZQA evaluates overseas qualifications against the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (NZQCF) for immigration purposes.

NZQA received over 19,000 International Qualification Assessment (IQA) applications in the 2022/23 financial year (a 230% increase from 2021/22). The volumes are impacted by skilled migrant immigration policies.

MBIE engages NZQA's services to compile the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (LQEA), containing select qualifications from quality-assured and credible overseas educational institutions. The LQEA facilitates a streamlined pathway for migrants with overseas qualifications on the list.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) and NZQA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to fund 1,200 Teaching IQA packages in 2023/24 (compared with 2,400 in 2022/23).

NZQA is New Zealand's designated National Information Centre (NIC) under the Lisbon and Tokyo conventions. We provide information about New Zealand education system to other countries, education providers, employers, and individuals. New Zealand (NZQA) is the elected President of the Tokyo Convention for 2024 and 2025.



NCEA recognition overseas and administering NCEA in the Pacific

New Zealand has formal arrangements with key partner countries for the recognition of the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) overseas.

For Australia and Germany, NZQA converts NCEA results to the Australian ATAR and German Abitur scores. This is a ranking-based score derived from the learner's performance in relation to their year group. This direct conversion enables NCEA graduates to more easily apply to Australian and German universities and also supports learners to use NCEA overseas including for university entrance.

NZQA administers NCEA in the Cook Islands and Niue. NZQA is discussing with Niue the refreshing of the current MOU in relation to the facilitation of NCEA in Niue.

Since 2020, Tokelau has been transitioning its qualifications model from the University of South Pacific (USP) to NCEA. Students study NCEA with Te Kura and complete some skills-based assessment through the Eastern Institute of Technology. Currently, we are working with MoE, MFAT, ERO, and Te Kura to build the capability and capacity of the Tokelau schools to deliver standards-based assessment and the NCEA qualification.



Qualification Recognition Projects

NZQA has partnered with Pacific Community's Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP), to implement the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade funded (\$6.9m) Pacific Qualifications Recognition project from 2024 to 2028. The project aims to strengthen the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF), improve recognition of Pacific qualifications, and enable opportunities for skilled employment for Pacific people. The project delivers on New Zealand's obligations under the PACER Plus trade agreement and associated Labour Mobility Arrangement and involves Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Kiribati and Nauru.

The Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) recognises overseas qualifications in China. NZQA and CSCSE have a long-standing relationship and are currently working on a project to strengthen the Recognition of Distance Learning Qualifications. CSCSE would like to jointly report the work to the 3rd Global Digital Education conference in 2025.

NZQA and the Philippines Commission of Higher Education are working on a joint project to recognise each other's bachelor's degrees.



Assessment & quality assurance exchanges with other countries

NZQA contributes to and learns from world class assessment practice including digital assessment.

In relation to tertiary education quality assurance international relationships, NZQA has MOUs - including risk-based data sharing arrangements - with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). We also have a close working relationship with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and regularly share quality assurance practice between the two countries.

NZQA presented at an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Assessment and Certification in October 2023 on online assessments, with specific reference to literacy and numeracy. We subsequently provided input into an Ofqual project to identify the opportunities, challenges, risks, and benefits of on-screen examinations in England.



Qualifications & quality assurance in South Pacific & Asia

- New Zealand worked in partnership for a decade alongside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) & Australia to help to establish the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf).
- NZQA quality assures the Cook Islands Tertiary Institute.
- NZQA supported the Samoan and Tongan qualifications agencies as part of an MFAT-funded Project 2012-2017.
- NZQA has worked in support of the Fiji Higher Education Commission since its establishment in 2010.

