

Aide-Memoire: NCEA and NZ Scholarship results and statistics release dates

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education
From:	Jann Marshall, Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment
Date:	21 December 2023
Reference:	OC00582

Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides you with key dates and milestones leading to and post release of 2023 NCEA and NZ Scholarship results and annual statistics and the associated media communications.

Key events

Results release

2. Results from 2023 NCEA external assessments will be released on 17 January 2024 and on 8 February 2024 for NZ Scholarship.
3. On 11 January, you will be provided with a briefing on the Annual 2023 Provisional NCEA and University Entrance (UE) statistics, ahead of 17 January results release. This report provides a national overview of these statistics, broken down by ethnicity, gender and equity index.
 - Initial results are provisional as schools have until the end of February 2024 to submit further results from internally assessed standards and students can apply for review¹ or reconsideration of their results.
 - For NCEA examinations, reviews and reconsiderations are open until 21 February 2024. Reviews and reconsiderations for NZ Scholarship are open until 1 March 2024.
4. You will also be provided with a copy of the final media releases and back pocket Q&As. See Appendices 1 and 2 for copies of the draft media statements and back pocket Q&As.

¹ A student can apply for a review if they feel their grade has been incorrectly assigned. This does not require a remark and there is no associated fee. Reconsideration is where a script requires a remark and there may be cost involved depending on whether it was successful or not.

NCEA results release

5. Media releases, through our media contacts including radio, print and TV, are planned for 16 and 17 January 2024 (refer Appendices 1 and 2). In summary:

- On 16 January (day before results release), the media release and social media post, provides a 'heads up' that NCEA results are coming out the following day, information about how students can check their results, and a note on what students can do if their results are not what they were expecting (or hoping for).
- On 17 January (day of results release), there is
 - i. a media release, in the morning of results release (usually around an hour after results are online) saying these are now available.
 - ii. a media release near the end of the day, noting how many students have checked their results. This release also addresses any issues that may arise during the day.

Note: On results release day, where individual media outlets contact NZQA for interviews, we provide a general media statement with high level commentary on NCEA attainment and university entrance compared with previous years. Specific questions from the media are answered using the set of standard Q&As, wherever possible.

6. From 17 January, students can access their 2023 NCEA external assessment results online. Students can also access the results for the second² Literacy & Numeracy | te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau co-requisite assessment event. Individual student results are also available to schools and kura.

7. NZQA's Student Assessment hub website (see <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/student-assessment-hub/>) contains information for students about NCEA results and how they can access their results online through their student login. Students are also able to access results of internally assessed standards if their schools have submitted these to NZQA during the year.

8. On 19 January 2024, provisional school and national NCEA and university entrance attainment statistics will be available to schools via NZQA's secure portal. They are not available to the public at this time.

NZ Scholarship

9. Media releases are also planned for 8 and 9 February 2024 for the release of results for NZ Scholarship. Media releases will be developed when results are finalised.

- On 8 February (day of scholarship results release), the media release advises about the availability of results and provides a summary of the number of students who received an award. It also advises that the names of Premier Award, Outstanding Scholar Award and Top Subject Scholar Award winners will be posted on NZQA's website on the afternoon of 9 February.
- On 9 February (day after scholarship results release), NZ Scholarship award winners for Premier Awards, Outstanding Scholar Awards and Top Subject Scholar Awards are published on our website and promulgated through a media release. The number of winners in each category is also provided.

² Results for the first Literacy & Numeracy | te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau co-requisite assessment event held in June 2023 are available on the Ministry of Education website (see <https://ncea.education.govt.nz/NCEA-corequisite-standards-Results>)

Final statistics

10. On 22 April 2024, you will be provided with a briefing on the Annual 2023 final NCEA and UE statistics, ahead of publication of the data on NZQA's website on 29 April.
11. Attainment rates usually increase by one to two percentage points between January provisional numbers and April final reported numbers.
12. NZQA's Annual report on NCEA, University Entrance and NZ Scholarship Data and Statistics will be published end of May 2024.

Table of dates and key events

13. The following table provides dates and a description of key events.

DATE	Description
11/01/2024	Briefing to Minister on the Annual 2023 Provisional NCEA and UE statistics, including the results for the second Literacy & Numeracy te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau co-requisite assessment event ahead of 17 January results release to students.
17/01/2024	2023 NCEA results release, including the results for the second Literacy & Numeracy te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau co-requisite assessment event. Results are also made available to schools and kura.
19/01/2024	Provisional school and national NCEA and university entrance attainment statistics available to schools via NZQA's secure portal.
31/01/2024	Publication of the national results for the second Literacy & Numeracy te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau co-requisite assessment event on the Ministry of Education's NCEA.education website.
08/02/2024	2023 NZ Scholarship results release to schools and students.
22/04/2024	Briefing to Minister on the annual 2023 final NCEA and UE statistics ahead of publication of the data on NZQA's website
29/04/2024	Publication of 2023 national NCEA, University Entrance and NZ Scholarship attainment data files on NZQA's website
End May 2024	Publication of NZQA's Annual report on NCEA, University Entrance and NZ Scholarship Data and Statistics



Jann Marshall

Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment

21 December 2023

Hon Erica Stanford

Minister of Education

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Appendix 1: NCEA results draft media releases

Media release: 16 January 2024 (day before results release) – DRAFT

NCEA results available tomorrow

More than 160,000 students will be able to access their NCEA results from 2023 through [the New Zealand Qualifications Authority \(NZQA\) website](#) tomorrow.

In addition to checking their results, students will be able to see whether they have been awarded Course Endorsements, a Certificate Endorsement or University Entrance.

Students who have forgotten their National Student Number (NSN) or [Student Login](#) details will be able to get assistance from Awhina, NZQA's chatbot.

NZQA has also extended its call centre opening hours until 7pm tomorrow, with extra staff ready to answer specific queries students may have about their NCEA results.

The NZQA call centre can be contacted on 0800 697 296 or by emailing helpdesk@nzqa.govt.nz. For privacy reasons, NZQA can only give results and NSNs to the students themselves.

Students will be able to access their assessed NCEA exam papers online from **the fourth week of** January. After assessed papers are available, students can apply for [a review or reconsideration](#) if they believe an error has been made in marking.

Results for New Zealand Scholarship exams are on track to be released on 8 February, with the announcement of Top Scholar Award winners the following day.

ENDS

Note for editors:

NZQA does not pre-announce the time results will be released, however this is traditionally early in the day, within working hours.

After results are released, students have an opportunity to request a review or reconsideration of their examination papers, additional results can be received from summer school programmes, and schools may submit corrected or late-reported results from internal assessment. In-depth data analysis of student attainment will be undertaken once these processes have been completed.

Media contact:

NZQA Communications
media@nzqa.govt.nz or 027 457 5783

Media release: Morning, 17 January 2024 (day of results release) – DRAFT

NCEA results released

More than 160,000 students can now view their NCEA results from 2023 on [the New Zealand Qualifications Authority \(NZQA\) website](#).

Students unsure of their National Student Number (NSN) or Student Login can ask Awhina, NZQA's website chatbot, or contact NZQA's contact centre on 0800 697 296 or by emailing helpdesk@nzqa.govt.nz. For privacy reasons, NZQA can only give results and NSNs to the students themselves.

NZQA's call centre will stay open until 7pm tonight, with a specialist team of experienced advisors to answer students' questions about their results and offer further guidance.

For students who have not achieved the credits they need to attain NCEA or receive UE, there is [information on the NZQA website](#) about the range of options and support available.

Students can view assessed NCEA exams through the [Student Login](#) from 24 January.

After their assessed papers are available, students have until 22 February to apply for [a review or reconsideration](#).

Students who sat New Zealand Scholarship exams will be able to view their results online from 8 February, and after papers are returned, can apply for a review or reconsideration until **9 March**.

ENDS

Media contact:

NZQA Communications

media@nzqa.govt.nz or 027 457 5783

Media release: 4.40pm, 17 January 2024 (day of results release) – DRAFT

Students access 2023 NCEA results online

More than **XX**,000 students had accessed their 2023 NCEA results via [the New Zealand Qualifications Authority \(NZQA\) website](#) by 4.30pm, after results became available early this morning.

Deputy Chief Executive Assessment, Jann Marshall, says the day has been successful, with thousands of students logging in to check their results and share them with whānau and friends.

“Since exams finished on 30 November, more than **800,000** scripts have been marked before NCEA qualifications, endorsements and University Entrance awards were processed,” Jann Marshall says.

Jann Marshall says NZQA’s call centre will be open until 7pm, with extra staff on hand to answer questions students may have about their NCEA results or University Entrance. The NZQA call centre can be contacted by calling 0800 697 296 or emailing helpdesk@nzqa.govt.nz.

Students unsure of their National Student Number (NSN) or [Student Login](#) details can also ask Awhina, NZQA’s website chatbot.

“Students who have not received the results they hoped for, or have not achieved the credits they need, can find [information on the NZQA website](#) about the range of options and support available to them,” Jann Marshall says.

ENDS

Media contact:

NZQA Communications
media@nzqa.govt.nz or 027 457 5783

Appendix 2: Back pocket Q and A for results release of Exams 2023 (Note: these are still in development)

What will NZQA do if attainment results are much lower/higher than normal? Can they be altered retrospectively?

No, results are not altered (or “scaled”).

Why are students given a set date when results will be put online?

Announcing an official release date well in advance provides students with certainty about when they will be able to see their exam results.

Will schools and universities have access to the results before students?

Results are released to universities around the same time as they are officially released by NZQA.

NZQA works with universities to ensure a smooth process is in place to support students as they transition into further learning. Universities do have access to preliminary results but they are not confirmed until NZQA officially releases final results.

What information about student attainment will be available on Results Release Day?

NZQA releases results to students as quickly as possible, before detailed analysis or comparative study is complete.

At the end of April, confirmed achievement data will be made publicly available on the NZQA website, as it is each year.

Why are detailed statistics not available at the same time as student results?

NZQA releases results to students as quickly as possible. Results are released before detailed analysis or comparative study is complete.

Final attainment data will not be available until April, as results from summer school programmes and some internal assessments might not be reported until early in the new calendar year. At the end of April, the final attainment data is made publicly available on the NZQA website.

The Annual Statistics Report, produced by NZQA in June each year, is a detailed analysis of the data at a system level.

NCEA:

Is NCEA still ‘fit for purpose’ in today’s technologically driven society?

NCEA is internationally recognised and prepares students well for higher education, training or work. It is a very flexible qualification, able to assess what a learner knows, what a learner can demonstrate and what they can do – it isn’t restricted to only being a written exam.

Changes being made to NCEA will enhance the qualification in key areas, such as strengthening literacy and numeracy requirements. NZQA is working with the Ministry of Education to implement these changes.

NCEA assessment can cover a wide range of learning activities from practical experiments and skills to building something, a speech or a maths calculation. It is designed to capture a student’s learning and acknowledge it.

Achievement results from NCEA paint a rich and accurate picture of a student’s skills and knowledge. It is an excellent qualification.

As the person in charge of NCEA at NZQA, what does your role involve? (directed at Jann Marshall)

I manage the Assessment Division of NZQA.

NZQA administers the NCEA exams – which is what the Assessment Division of NZQA is best known for. My team works with school staff and various other education experts to set, prepare and mark the NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship exams, including the digital exams which around 380 schools will offer in one or more subjects this year

My staff members also work, mainly with the secondary sector, around quality assurance of the assessment practice of secondary schools, and developing and maintaining unit standards and national qualifications.

What do you think of other school qualifications like Cambridge? Does Cambridge prepare kids for university as well as NCEA?

I can’t speak for other school qualifications but universities across New Zealand tell us that NCEA prepares students well and NCEA students go on to further study across the world.

Why is moderation of NCEA so important?

Because NCEA is New Zealand’s secondary school qualification, recognised nationally and internationally, it is important it is rigorously assessed and valued as credible and robust.

NCEA has both internal and external moderation of internal assessment judgements.

Through the internal moderation process, NZQA requirements help schools achieve valid, fair, accurate and consistent assessment of teacher-assessed student work. The process each school uses to check and improve the quality of internal assessment materials and teachers’ assessment decisions is regularly reviewed by NZQA.

NZQA also carries out external moderation of internally assessed standards to verify teachers’ judgements and ensure they are assessing at a national standard.

Has NCEA always been moderated?

Yes, there has been national moderation of internally assessed standards contributing to NCEA since its introduction in 2002.

Why do students apply for derived grades?

Students can apply for a derived grade if they are unable to attend an NZQA external exam session due to illness or misadventure, or if performance is impaired in preparing for or during an exam session.

The purpose of the derived grade is to ensure that no student is disadvantaged in achieving to their full potential due to exceptional circumstances. If a student is unable to take part in all or some of the national end-of-year NCEA exams, their school can use standard-specific work they produced during the school year to submit a recommended grade for each affected standard to NZQA.

Examples of scenarios where a derived grade could be approved are available on the NZQA website: <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/ncea-for-teachers-and-schools/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/derived-grades/information-for-candidates/illness-injuries-or-events/>

How many derived grade applications have you have had this year?

Data to be confirmed. Not available until early in the new year

How often are derived grade applications accepted?

Schools had until 5 December to submit derived grade applications and can make their applications at any time up until this date.

How do students know if their derived grade application has been accepted?

Applications are made to NZQA by schools after discussion with students and their parents or guardians. All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis and schools receive a response directly from NZQA.

Impact of disruption due to online platform performance issues

Q&As in development

Fees for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship:

How much is the NCEA fee?

There are no fees for domestic secondary students to enter NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship, this also includes students from the Cook Islands and Niue.

This ensures there are no financial barriers and ensure all the credits received towards NCEA will be visible in a student's Record of Achievement.

Do international students still need to pay?

International students entering NCEA in New Zealand have an annual fee of \$383.30 and \$102.20 per subject to enter New Zealand Scholarship exams.

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