

Aide-Memoire: 2018 New Zealand Scholarship subject list biennial review

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	Dr Karen Poutasi, Chief Executive
Date:	6 September 2018
Reference:	CR18055

Purpose

1. This aide-memoire is to notify you about the outcomes of NZQA's recent consultation on whether there should be any amendments to the New Zealand Scholarship subject list.
2. NZQA proposes to release this briefing following the communication of the consultation outcomes to the sector. The communication is proposed for mid-September.

Background

3. Under section 253(1) of the Education Act 1989, NZQA administers the general assessment rules and procedures for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship.
4. NZQA reviews the Scholarship Subject List every two years in consultation with the Ministry of Education and stakeholders (the education sector and other interested groups). The last review was conducted in 2016 and resulted in no change to the Scholarship Subject List.
5. Revising the list biennially ensures that the subjects are sustainable, relevant and meet the government's goals and the sector's expectations. It also determines whether a current or proposed subject has the capacity to enable students to exhibit the high-level cognitive abilities necessary for the credibility of the Scholarship examinations.

Discussion

6. The 2018 consultation on whether there should be any amendments to the New Zealand Scholarship subject list was carried out from 10 May to 22 June 2018. NZQA specifically sought feedback on including Religious Studies as a subject and removing Latin and/or Sculpture from the list.
7. Each proposed subject was assessed against the criteria for a subject to be included on the New Zealand Scholarship Subject List. The eligibility criteria were initially written with the purpose of reviewing subjects to be added to the list, not removing them. The criteria will need to be amended for the 2020 review to address NZQA's concerns about subjects with declining cohorts.

8. Latin currently partially meets the criteria for a subject to be on the list. NZQA has concerns about the sustainability of maintaining a robust assessment due to small numbers of people available for a marking panel should numbers of candidates drop further.
9. Sculpture meets the criteria and NZQA has not experienced difficulties in recruiting suitable people for a marking panel.
10. Latin and Sculpture will remain on the list for 2019 but their continuing inclusion will be reassessed in the 2020 Scholarship List review.
11. Religious Studies meets the criteria and has sufficient support to be included on the list from 2020.

Next steps

12. The outcomes will be communicated to the sector via a circular to schools and a summary report on the website in mid-September 2018.
13. NZQA will also commence work on amending the eligibility criteria for future use to ensure the ongoing validity and integrity of the New Zealand Scholarship Award.



Karen Poutasi (Dr)

Chief Executive, NZQA

06/09/18

Chris Hipkins

Minister Education

___ / ___ / ___