



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

This legislation is administered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). For more information please see:

Website: <http://www2.nzqa.govt.nz>

Contact phone: 0800 697 296

Contact address: PO Box 160, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Quality Assurance of Tertiary Education Providers Rules 2026

These Rules are made under section 452(1)(t) of the Education and Training Act 2020 by the Board of NZQA and the Minister of Education.

Contents

	Page
1 Title	1
2 Commencement	1
3 Interpretation	2
4 Quality management system	2
5 Organisational self-review and reporting to NZQA	3
6 Additional self-review content for work-based training	3
7 Monitoring	4
8 Sub-contracting	4
9 Student assessment material retention requirements	5
10 Revocation and transitional use of EER categories	5

Rules

1 Title

These are the Quality Assurance of Tertiary Education Providers Rules 2026.

2 Commencement

- (1) These Rules come into force on 19 January 2026.

3 Interpretation

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the Education and Training Act 2020

Code means the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021

ISB means an Industry Skills Board established under section 362 of the Act

tertiary education provider has the same meaning as in section 10 of the Act and includes ISBs while they provide work-based training, but excludes:

- (a) universities; and
- (b) persons or bodies described in paragraph (d) of that meaning

work-based training has the same meaning as in section 10 of the Act.

4 Quality management system

- (1) Tertiary education providers must have or create, maintain, keep up to date, and give effect to a quality management system that applies across all aspects of their education or training (*or both*) business.
- (2) The quality management system must as a minimum include coherent policies and procedures for:
 - (a) development and implementation of the system:
 - (b) organisational self-review, taking into account its purpose in rule 5(2):
 - (c) enrolment procedures:
 - (d) decision-making, financial delegations and financial controls:
 - (e) personnel recruitment, management and professional development:
 - (f) information management, including for:
 - (i) enrolling students:
 - (ii) student records (*enrolment and academic*):
 - (iii) up to date and accurate information to prospective students:
 - (iv) keeping public information up to date:
 - (v) providing information to government agencies, such as financial, statistical, and other relevant information:
 - (g) management of risks, including without limitation health and safety risks:
 - (h) maintaining academic integrity:
 - (i) programme and micro-credential management, including development, review, resources, and provision of programmes and micro-credentials for which the provider has accreditation:
 - (j) assessment and moderation:
 - (k) fair and equitable management of student complaints, student discipline and appeals:

- (l) compliance with relevant requirements of the Act and NZQA rules made under section 452 of the Act;
 - (m) meeting the relevant requirements of the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021.
- (3) Where tertiary education providers do not have a quality management system of the kind set out in rule 4(2) on 1 January 2026, they need to have created the system before 1 January 2027.
- (4) Upon request by NZQA tertiary education providers must provide a copy of their quality management system to NZQA.

5 Organisational self-review and reporting to NZQA

- (1) Tertiary education providers must each calendar year conduct organisational self-review.
- (2) The purpose of the self-review is to understand:
 - (a) the quality of education or training (*or both*) provided;
 - (b) the effectiveness of the tertiary education provider's quality assurance systems and practice;
 - (c) the outcomes achieved by the students of the tertiary education provider.
- (3) Each tertiary education provider must provide a report on their self-review to NZQA each calendar year that:
 - (a) identifies areas for improvement arising from its self-review and the provider's plan to address those areas;
 - (b) confirms its compliance with relevant requirements of the Act, NZQA rules made under section 452 of the Act, and the Code;
 - (c) describes its practice on specific themes or areas set out in an annual schedule published on NZQA's website;
 - (d) uses the format and guidance for the reports that NZQA from time to time publishes on its website.
- (4) After NZQA receives the report of a tertiary education provider's self-review:
 - (a) NZQA will schedule a discussion with the provider about the report;
 - (b) the provider must engage in that discussion.

6 Additional self-review content for work-based training

- (1) In addition to the self-review coverage of rule 5, a tertiary education provider of work-based training must also review the effectiveness of the arrangements it has in place to ensure the quality of the training and assessment of trainees undertaken in workplaces.
- (2) This review must include the effectiveness of:
 - (a) services designed to support employers, trainees, assessors and verifiers to undertake the training and assessment;

- (b) resources provided to employers, trainees, assessors and verifiers to support the training and assessment;
- (c) verification and moderation of assessment activities.

7 Monitoring

- (1) NZQA may give notice to a tertiary education provider to engage with NZQA in monitoring of particular qualifications, programmes, micro-credentials, or management of its education or training (*or both*) business, which may include site visits.
- (2) The tertiary education provider must participate and cooperate in that monitoring and in any site visit.
- (3) NZQA will publish processes and guidance for monitoring on its website.

8 Sub-contracting

- (1) This rule applies where:
 - (a) a tertiary education provider has been granted accreditation to provide an approved programme or micro-credential, or a consent to assess against standards; and
 - (b) proposes to use a sub-contractor to provide any education or training that forms part of that accreditation or consent to assess.
- (2) If the sub-contractor holds accreditation for the same programme or micro-credential, or has consent to assess against standards for that education and training, the tertiary education provider must notify NZQA of the sub-contracting arrangement prior to sub-contractor providing the education or training, and supply to NZQA the following information:
 - (a) a copy of the sub-contracting agreement which must outline the responsibilities and obligations of the parties;
 - (b) the duration of the arrangement;
 - (c) the reasons for the arrangement; and
 - (d) confirmation that any advertising and other information provided to prospective students clearly shows that the study or training involved is provided under a sub-contracting arrangement.
- (3) If the sub-contractor does not hold accreditation for the same programme or micro-credential or does not have consent to assess against standards for that education and training, the tertiary education provider must apply to NZQA for approval to engage the sub-contractor prior to any provision of education and training by the sub-contractor.
- (4) Applications under rule 8(3) must include the following information:
 - (a) the name of the sub-contractor;
 - (b) identification of the education or training to be provided under the arrangement;
 - (c) the rationale for the proposed sub-contracting arrangement;
 - (d) a copy of the sub-contracting arrangement between the tertiary education provider and the sub-contractor; and

- (e) evidence of internal quality assurance approval by the Chief Executive of the tertiary education provider or a senior manager with delegated authority from the Chief Executive.
- (5) NZQA will grant approval to an application under rule 8(3) where it is satisfied that:
 - (a) the tertiary education provider remains responsible for the sub-contractor meeting all of the tertiary education provider's obligations that are relevant for the accreditation or consent to assess;
 - (b) the sub-contractor will meet all relevant obligations in the Act and in rules made under section 452 of the Act in relation to the provision of the education or training;
 - (c) there is a formal documented arrangement between the tertiary education provider and the sub-contractor that includes provisions to ensure that NZQA is able to exercise its quality assurance and enforcement powers and functions in respect of the acts or omissions of the sub-contractor relating to the provision of the education or training;
 - (d) the information and advertising for the education or training clearly states that it is provided through a sub-contracting arrangement; and
 - (e) all student enrolments are through the tertiary education provider, and the tertiary education provider maintains all student enrolment and academic information.
- (6) To continue to maintain approval under rule 8(5) the tertiary education provider must ensure the sub-contracting is conducted at all times in accordance with the requirements set out in paragraphs (a) to (e) of rule 8(5).
- (7) A tertiary education provider is not compliant with this rule 8 where the sub-contractor purports to further sub-contract the delivery of education or training.

9 Student assessment material retention requirements

- (1) Institutions (*except for PTEs, which must comply with the record retention requirements set out in the Private Training Establishment Rules*) must either:
 - (a) keep all student assessment materials generated from education or training in which students are enrolled at the institution, or full copies of them, for at least 12 months from the date of completion of that education or training (*for the avoidance of doubt this includes assessment materials of education or training provided by sub-contractors of the institution*); or
 - (b) reach an agreement with NZQA on the retention of student assessment materials generated from education or training in which students are enrolled at the institution.

10 Revocation and transitional use of EER categories

- (1) The Quality Assurance (including External Evaluation and Review (EER)) Rules 2022 are revoked.
- (2) Tertiary education providers with a categorisation under the rules revoked by rule 10(1) may only refer to their latest categorisation, and must state with that categorisation the year the categorisation was received and that the EER system is no longer in operation.

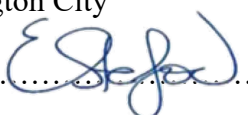
Click here to enter text.

Made by:

Board Chair signature: 

Date: 8 December 2025

City or town where signed: Wellington City

Minister of Education signature: 

Date: 19 December 2025

City or town where signed: ..Auckland.....

Board of NZQA and the Minister of Education

Explanatory note

This note is not part of these Rules but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These Rules set out the quality assurance requirements for tertiary education providers which includes:

- (a) having an up to date quality management system:
- (b) carrying out annual self-reviews:
- (c) reporting on the self-review to NZQA and discussions about it with NZQA:
- (d) monitoring:
- (e) sub-contracting requirements:
- (f) assessment records retention.

These Rules also revoke the Quality Assurance (including External Evaluation and Review (EER)) Rules 2022 which contained the EER quality assurance system.

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019 .	
Title	Quality Assurance of Tertiary Education Providers Rules 2026
Principal or amendment	Principal
Consolidated version	No
Empowering Act and provisions	Education and Training Act, section 452(1)(t)
Replacement empowering Act and provisions	Not applicable
Maker name	Board of NZQA and the Minister of Education
Administering agency	New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA)

Quality Assurance of Tertiary Education Providers Rules 2026

Date made	[day month year] <i>[Insert date of signing/approval. For consolidations use the publication date of the original “as-made” principal version].</i>
Publication date	Click or tap to enter a date <i>[Insert date first published/made available. For consolidations use the publication date of the original “as-made” principal version]</i>
Notification date	Not applicable Click or tap to enter a date
Commencement date	19 January 2026
End date (when applicable)	Not applicable
Consolidation as at date	Not applicable Click or tap to enter a date
Related instruments	Not applicable