

Study plans for students considering overseas universities

The below information may be helpful for your Year 11 – Year 13 students and relevant staff members (Deans, Career Advisors, Heads of Department and International Directors).

NZQA Policy and International team supports the recognition of NZ qualifications internationally. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to us: internationalunit@nzqa.govt.nz

Advice for students considering overseas universities

NCEA Level 3 with University Entrance (UE) is widely recognised overseas. However, each country, state or university may set additional entry requirements.

It's best to plan study pathways as early as possible. If students are thinking of studying overseas in the future, they need to choose the right subjects, in line with the advice below.

Research the country's minimum university entry requirements for NCEA

See NZQA's information on [specific country requirements for the recognition of NCEA](#). In some countries, there may be certain states that have their own requirements as well.

Check entry requirements for the student's university of choice

Just like in New Zealand, some overseas universities and tertiary programmes have their own specific requirements for entry. Students must check directly with the university about their pre-requisites.

Know the number of credits you'll need

Some countries require students to achieve more credits than the minimum needed for NCEA.

For example, they need:

- at least 90 credits at NCEA Level 3 for Australia's [ATAR](#) and Germany's [Abitur](#) grade conversions.
- at least 90 credits at NCEA Level 3 for an NZQA calculated [Grade Point Average \(GPA\)](#). Other countries and agencies may use other data to calculate a GPA.

Make sure to meet subject requirements

Some countries and states require at least 18 credits per subject in an academic year. Make sure students have enough credits in NCEA *subjects*. This can differ from school courses.

Credits from a school course such as "Global Studies" might be reported under History, Geography and Statistics. However, it is unlikely that the course will generate sufficient credits in any of the individual three subjects for a student to achieve the required credits to represent a year's study in any one of them.

Note also that UE subjects are often better recognised overseas than non-UE subjects.

NCEA results documents

You can access or request NCEA results documents [through the NZQA website](#).