

# Description of the New Zealand Tertiary Education System 2013

This document provides information on the New Zealand tertiary education system for the Tertiary Education Qualification Statement (TEQS), a Diploma Supplement-equivalent.

## Introduction

New Zealand's tertiary education system encompasses all post-secondary school education. The system includes a range of public and private independent, self-governing tertiary education organisations (TEOs) that award tertiary education qualifications. Each type of TEO makes a distinctive contribution to the tertiary education system, as outlined in the Education Act 1989. The Act recognises the strengths and differences of each type of TEO across the whole system.

The tertiary education system reflects Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi as a founding constitutional document of New Zealand. The Treaty is an agreement between the Crown and Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand. Programme and qualification content, as well as institutions, reflect and address the spirit of partnership embodied in the Treaty.

Degree-level qualifications may be granted by universities, institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs), wānanga (Māori centres of tertiary learning) and some private training establishments (PTEs).

## New Zealand Qualifications Framework

The NZQF is a comprehensive list of all quality assured qualifications in New Zealand. The qualifications on the NZQF can be viewed and compared at: [www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf)

The NZQF has 10 levels. Levels are based on complexity: level 1 is the least complex and level 10 the most.

LEVEL	QUALIFICATION TYPES
10	Doctoral Degree
9	Master's Degree
8	Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates, Bachelor Honours Degree
7	Bachelor's Degree, Graduate Diplomas and Certificates
6	Diplomas
5	Certificates

## Credits

A total of 120 credits is considered an annual full-time study load for a student. 120 credits is equivalent to 60 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

## Quality Assurance

There are two organisations that quality assure and approve qualifications in New Zealand:

- *New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee* (operating as Universities New Zealand). Universities New Zealand's Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) approves all university qualifications [www.universitiesnz.ac.nz](http://www.universitiesnz.ac.nz)
- *New Zealand Qualifications Authority* (NZQA). NZQA approves all programmes and qualifications delivered by wānanga, PTEs, ITPs and other tertiary education providers [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)

The two organisations use the same criteria for approval to ensure that a programme is based on clear and consistent aims, content, outcomes and assessment practices, which meet the necessary criteria and requirements. Information on New Zealand's quality assurance processes can be found at: [www.nzqa.govt.nz/qa-nz-education](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qa-nz-education)

## Government Agencies

The Ministry of Education [www.minedu.govt.nz](http://www.minedu.govt.nz) is the government department responsible for developing the broad policy framework for tertiary education.

The Tertiary Education Commission [www.tec.govt.nz](http://www.tec.govt.nz) is a Crown Entity responsible for managing the Government's investment in tertiary education.

NZQA [www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz) quality assures tertiary programmes and qualifications (as outlined above) and education providers, evaluates overseas qualifications and administers the NZQF. NZQA fulfils the role of National Education Information Centre [www.nzqa.govt.nz/neic](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/neic) under the Lisbon Recognition Convention (1997).

## Comparability projects with other National Qualifications Frameworks

### Ireland

NZQA and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland have compared the two countries' national qualifications frameworks. It was agreed that Irish and New Zealand degree level qualifications are broadly compatible. The full report can be downloaded from [www.nzqa.govt.nz/qual-compatibility-project](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qual-compatibility-project)

### Malaysia

NZQA and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency have agreed that the New Zealand Qualifications Framework Level 7 Bachelor degree and the Malaysian Qualifications Framework Level 6 Bachelor degree are comparable.