

Description of the New Zealand Tertiary Education System 2016

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 the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, which is a founding document of New Zealand that establishes the relationship between the Crown and Māori. The Treaty protects Māori knowledge and skills (mātauranga Māori) as a national taonga (treasure) and ensures that Māori have full and equal participation in society, including education, as Māori.

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 (NZQF)

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/understand-nz-quals/.

The NZQF has ten levels, which increase in 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	
4	
3	Certificates
2	
1	

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

Two organisations quality assure and approve qualifications in New Zealand:

- The *New Zealand Qualifications Authority* (NZQA). NZQA approves all programmes and qualifications developed by wānanga, PTEs, ITPs, industry training organisations and other tertiary providers, excluding universities - www.nzqa.govt.nz.
- The *New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee* (operating as Universities New Zealand-Te Pōkai Tara). Universities New Zealand's Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) approves all university qualifications - www.universitiesnz.ac.nz.

Both organisations apply the programme approval rules set by NZQA, to ensure that a programme is based on clear and consistent aims, content, outcomes, and assessment practices. Information on New Zealand's quality assurance processes can be found at: www.nzqa.govt.nz/qa-nz-education.

Government agencies

The Ministry of Education is the government department responsible for developing the broad policy framework for tertiary education - www.education.govt.nz.

The Tertiary Education Commission is a Crown Entity responsible for managing the Government's investment in tertiary education - www.tec.govt.nz.

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

Comparability with other national qualifications frameworks

Ireland

NZQA and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland agreed that Irish and New Zealand degree level qualifications are broadly compatible. For more information, see: www.nzqa.govt.nz/ireland.

Malaysia

NZQA and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency have agreed on the comparability of New Zealand and Malaysia's Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees. For more information, see: www.nzqa.govt.nz/malaysia.

Australia

NZQA and the Australian Department of Education and Training have agreed that qualifications on the NZQF and the Australian Qualifications Framework are comparable on a direct level-to-level basis. For more information, see: www.nzqa.govt.nz/australia.