

## Unspecified Credits available to school-leavers in response to an Adverse Event(s)

The *NZQA Assessment Rules for Schools and Candidates 2023* have been amended to provide for the application of Unspecified Credits to the qualifications record of approved candidates whose attainment has been impacted by an Adverse Event(s). An Adverse Event is an uncontrollable event of such proportions or intensity that it has a direct and significant prolonged impact on a school and student.

### What are Unspecified Credits?

NZQA may approve entitlement of up to five (5) Unspecified Credits to students in schools who meet the eligibility criteria due to prolonged significant unforeseen circumstances.

Unspecified Credits:

- can only be used once to achieve the student's highest qualification available within the current academic year;
- do not appear on a Record of Achievement;
- do not have a grade attached to them (A, M, E);
- are not assigned to any subject or course; and
- cannot contribute to the University Entrance Level 3 approved subject requirements, or literacy or numeracy requirements.

### Why are we introducing Unspecified Credits?

Students' attainment of qualifications can be affected by the prolonged impact of Adverse Event(s). During a disruption to teaching, learning and assessment, students may not be able to remain engaged with schooling because of shared or individual circumstances.

There are existing mechanisms by which schools apply their own mitigations in case of disruption to students' assessment programmes. NZQA expects that schools will continue to use the flexibility of the NCEA qualification to alleviate the impact of unexpected events and meet individual student needs.

There are existing mechanisms by which NZQA works with schools to mitigate the impact of short-term disruptions for individuals or groups of students. NZQA will continue to use these processes, such as the application of derived grades at scale, as appropriate.

### Who is eligible for Unspecified Credits?

NZQA will work closely with schools to determine if applications for Unspecified Credits are needed.

Eligible students should

- have accessed a range of documented, school-managed mitigations
- have experienced 20-29 days of prolonged disruption during the current academic year due to the impact of an event
- have achieved within 5 credits of the requirement for the highest level of qualification available for their current academic year
- be leaving school during or at the end of the academic year.