

NZQCF Qualification-type descriptions | Ngā whakaahuahanga o ngā momo tohu i te NZQCF

Level Te Kaupae	Qualification type Te momo tohu	Purpose Te pūtake	Credit requirements Ngā here ā-whiwhinga	Outcomes Ngā putanga
1	Certificate level 1 He Pōkaitahi Kaupae 1	Qualifies individuals with basic knowledge and skills for a field of study, work and/or community involvement.	A minimum of 40 credits at level 1 or above.	A graduate of a level 1 certificate is able to: demonstrate knowledge of some facts and information relevant to a field of study; perform simple activities; identify simple problems or goals; contribute to group or team activities; communicate basic information; work in a highly structured environment; work mostly under supervision with limited responsibility for own learning and performance.
2	Certificate level 2 He Pōkaitahi Kaupae 2	Qualifies individuals with introductory knowledge and skills for a field of study, work and/or community involvement.	A minimum of 40 credits at level 2 or above.	A graduate of a level 2 certificate is able to: demonstrate knowledge of some facts and information and understanding of some concepts relevant to a field of work or study; perform a range of familiar activities; identify simple problems or goals and recommend a solution or plan; contribute to group or team activities and acknowledge views and experiences of others; communicate basic information and share ideas on familiar topics; work in a highly structured environment; work under some supervision with some responsibility for own learning and performance.
3	Certificate level 3 He Pōkaitahi Kaupae 3	Qualifies individuals with knowledge and skills for a specific role(s) within fields/areas of work and/or preparation for further study.	A minimum of 40 credits at level 3 or above.	A graduate of a level 3 certificate is able to: demonstrate knowledge of some keys facts and information in a field of work or study and understanding of the underpinning concepts; perform some unfamiliar activities; examine familiar problems or goals and recommend a solution or plan; contribute significantly to group or team activities and acknowledge views and experiences of others; communicate familiar information and share ideas on some unfamiliar topics; work in a structured environment; work mostly autonomously with responsibility for own learning and performance.
4	Certificate level 4 He Pōkaitahi Kaupae 4	Qualifies individuals with knowledge and skills to work or study in broad or specialised field(s)/areas.	A minimum of 40 credits at level 4 or above.	A graduate of a level 4 certificate is able to: demonstrate knowledge of the keys facts and information in a field of work or study and understanding of the underpinning concepts and key principles; perform moderately complex or unfamiliar activities; examine unfamiliar problems and recommend a solution or plan; help create a collaborative culture within a group or team by role modelling and encouraging the contributions of others; communicate familiar information and share ideas on a range of unfamiliar topics; work in a structured environment with some unpredictability; work autonomously with responsibility for own learning and performance and some responsibility for others in workplace contexts.
5	Certificate level 5 He Pōkaitahi Kaupae 5	Qualifies individuals with in-depth technical or theoretical knowledge and skills within an aspect of a specific field of work or study.	A minimum of 40 credits at level 5 or above.	A graduate of a level 5 certificate is able to: demonstrate in-depth technical or theoretical knowledge within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study and understanding of the underpinning concepts and key principles; customise an approach for completing moderately complex or unfamiliar activities; apply problem-solving techniques to generate solutions for moderately complex problems; lead the creation of a collaborative group or team culture; communicate moderately complex information and share ideas with an unknown audience using an appropriate communication medium and method; work in a dynamic environment; take responsibility for managing activities and projects and managing others in workplace contexts.
	Diploma level 5 He Pōkairua Kaupae 5	Qualifies individuals with in-depth technical or theoretical knowledge and skills within a specific field of work or study.	A minimum of 120 credits at level 4 or above including at least 72 credits at level 5 or above.	A graduate of a level 5 diploma is able to: demonstrate in-depth technical or theoretical knowledge in a specific field of work or study and understanding of the underpinning concepts and key principles; customise an approach for completing moderately complex or unfamiliar activities; apply problem-solving techniques to generate solutions for moderately complex problems; lead the creation of a collaborative group or team culture; communicate moderately complex information and share ideas with an unknown audience using an appropriate communication medium and method; work in a dynamic environment; take responsibility for managing activities and projects and managing others in workplace contexts.
6	Certificate level 6 He Pōkaitahi Kaupae 6	Qualifies individuals with specialised technical or theoretical knowledge and skills within an aspect(s) of a specialised or strategic context.	A minimum of 40 credits at level 6 or above.	A graduate of a level 6 certificate is able to: demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study and understanding of the underpinning concepts and key principles; develop new methods for completing moderately complex or unfamiliar activities; adapt problem-solving techniques to generate solutions for moderately complex problems; lead a group or team on moderately complex projects and motivate others; communicate moderately complex information and share ideas with a range of audiences using customised communication media and methods; work in a dynamic environment with some ambiguity; take responsibility for leading and managing activities and projects, and leading and managing one or more teams in workplace contexts.
	Diploma level 6 He Pōkairua Kaupae 6	Qualifies individuals with specialised technical or theoretical knowledge and skills in specialised/strategic contexts.	A minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or above including at least 72 credits at level 6 or above.	A graduate of a level 6 diploma is able to: demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge in a specific field of work or study and understanding of the underpinning concepts and key principles; develop new methods for completing moderately complex or unfamiliar activities; adapt problem-solving techniques to generate solutions for moderately complex problems; lead a group or team on moderately complex projects and motivate others; communicate moderately complex information and share ideas with a range of audiences using customised communication media and methods; work in a dynamic environment with some ambiguity; take responsibility for leading and managing activities and projects, and leading and managing one or more teams in workplace contexts.

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7	Diploma level 7 He Pōkairua Kaupae 7	Qualifies individuals with specialist technical knowledge and skills within a niche area of study or specialist vocational context. A programme of study leading to a level 7 diploma builds on significant prior achievement within the same or a related area of study.	A minimum of 120 credits at level 5 or above including at least 72 credits at level 7 or above.	Open to those who have achieved 120 credits at level 5 or above or equivalent, within the same or a related area of study.	A graduate of a level 7 diploma is able to: demonstrate broad knowledge of a range of technical or theoretical concepts and a systematic understanding of an area of professional practice or body of knowledge; apply highly developed skills and specialised methods to perform complex activities; examine an area of professional practice or body of knowledge and generate solutions for complex problems; lead or collaborate within a group or team on cross-functional projects and motivate others; communicate complex information and share insights with a range of audiences using optimised communication media and methods; work in a dynamic environment with frequent ambiguity; take responsibility for own professional practice and development.
	Bachelor's Degree He Tohu Paetahi	Provides individuals with a systematic and coherent introduction to a body of knowledge of a recognised major subject (or subjects, in the case of a double degree or a double major), as well as to problem-solving and associated basic techniques of self-directed work and learning. A Bachelor's Degree involves at least one sequential study programme in which content is progressively developed such that it might form a basis for postgraduate study and/or professional practice. Bachelor's Degrees are taught mainly by people engaged in research.	A minimum of 360 credits at levels 5 to 7, with a minimum of 72 credits at level 7 or above. Some Bachelor's Degrees, notably in professional fields such as engineering, the health sciences and law, encompass additional credits and may require a longer period of study. For example, an eight-semester (four-year) degree would normally be equivalent to 480 credits. The degree should specify a spread of credits across levels, so that the qualification demonstrates progression, reflects the requirements of the degree definition and achieves the associated learning outcomes in a way that is appropriate to the subject area.	Open to those who have met the specified entrance requirements, normally at level 3 on the NZQCF. A programme of study leading to a Bachelor's Degree builds on prior study, work or experience.	A graduate of a Bachelor's Degree is able to: demonstrate intellectual independence, critical thinking and analytic rigour; engage in self-directed learning; demonstrate knowledge and skills related to the ideas, principles, concepts, chief research methods and problem-solving techniques of a recognised major subject; demonstrate the skills needed to acquire, understand and assess information from a range of sources; demonstrate communication and collaborative skills. A person who holds a Bachelor's Degree might be eligible to enrol in a postgraduate qualification.
	Graduate Certificate He Pōkaitahi Paetahi	Designed primarily as a vehicle for degree or equivalent level diploma graduates to pursue further study at an advanced undergraduate level. Typically designed as a bridging qualification to postgraduate study for individuals developing educational, professional or vocational knowledge in a new discipline, profession or subject area; and/or as a broadening or deepening of skills or knowledge already gained in an undergraduate qualification.	A minimum of 60 credits, including at least 40 credits at level 7 or above.	Entry is open to degree graduates. However, subject to the regulations of the award, those who have been able to demonstrate equivalent practical, professional or educational experience of an appropriate kind may be granted admission.	In addition to the Bachelor's Degree outcomes, a person with a Graduate Certificate is able to demonstrate some outcomes of a Bachelor's Degree in a new area of study. A Graduate Certificate may provide the basis for postgraduate study.
	Graduate Diploma He Pōkairua Paetahi	Allows degree graduates to pursue a significant body of study at an advanced undergraduate level. Typically designed as a bridging qualification to postgraduate study, as well as broadening knowledge and skills in a familiar subject or discipline, or developing knowledge in a new area.	A minimum of 120 credits, including at least 72 credits at level 7 or above.	Entry is open to degree graduates. However, subject to the regulations of the award, those who have been able to demonstrate equivalent practical, professional or educational experience of an appropriate kind may be granted admission.	In addition to the Bachelor's Degree outcomes, a person with a Graduate Diploma is able to demonstrate some outcomes of a Bachelor's Degree in a new area of study. A Graduate Diploma may provide the basis for postgraduate study.

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8	Bachelor Honours Degree He Tāhū Paetahi	<p>Recognises study at an advanced level. It prepares qualification holders for entry into professional practice in some disciplines and/or provides a supported introduction to independent research carried out at higher levels.</p> <p>It may be either a 480-credit (or more) degree with study at an advanced level that requires a particular level of achievement, or a discrete 120-credit degree following a Bachelor's degree.</p> <p>Research in the context of a Bachelor Honours Degree develops an individual's ability to design and undertake a project under supervision, and to report on this in an appropriate way. It sharpens the individual's analytical and communication skills and provides a supported introduction to planning, conducting and reporting on the type of independent research that may be undertaken at higher levels.</p> <p>The award of honours recognises outstanding achievement, meritorious achievement or a pass. These may be termed first class honours, second class honours: first or second divisions, and third-class honours.</p>	<p>A minimum of 120 credits at level 8 or above including a research component of at least 30 credits.</p> <p>A 480-credit (or more) degree has a minimum 480 credits. At least 120 credits are at level 8 or above including a research component of at least 30 credits.</p> <p>In special cases¹ a 480-credit (or more) degree may have a minimum 60 credits at level 8 or above including a research component of at least 30 credits at level 9.</p>	<p>A 480-credit (or more) degree is open to those who have met the specified entrance requirements, normally at level 3 on the NZQCF.</p> <p>Entry to a 120-credit discrete degree is normally based on achievement of above average performance in the credits within the Bachelor's Degree that are relevant to the proposed honours study.</p>	<p>A graduate of a Bachelor Honours Degree is able to: engage in self-directed learning and advanced study; demonstrate intellectual independence, analytic rigour, and the ability to understand and evaluate new knowledge and ideas; demonstrate the ability to identify topics for original research, plan and conduct research, analyse results, and communicate the findings to the satisfaction of subject experts.</p> <p>Achieved to an appropriate standard, a Bachelor Honours Degree should prepare graduates for admission to further postgraduate study.</p>
	Postgraduate Certificate He Pōkaitahi Tautara	<p>Designed to extend and deepen an individual's knowledge and skills.</p> <p>A Postgraduate Certificate involves credits from a specified subject and related areas. It recognises continuing professional development or academic achievement in advance of a Bachelor's Degree.</p>	A minimum of 60 credits at level 8 or above.	A Bachelor's Degree, or Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma in a related subject, or relevant skills and knowledge acquired through appropriate work or professional experience.	<p>A graduate of a Postgraduate Certificate is able to show evidence of advanced knowledge about a specialist field of enquiry or professional practice.</p> <p>A Postgraduate Certificate provides the basis for further postgraduate study.</p>
	Postgraduate Diploma He Pōkairua Tautara	<p>Designed to extend and deepen an individual's knowledge and skills.</p> <p>A Postgraduate Diploma recognises continuing professional development or academic achievement in advance of a Bachelor's Degree. .</p> <p>A Postgraduate Diploma may be awarded with distinction.</p>	A minimum of 120 credits at levels 7 and above, with a minimum of 72 credits from level 8.	A Bachelor's Degree, Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma, or relevant skills and knowledge acquired through appropriate work or professional experience.	<p>A graduate of a Postgraduate Diploma is able to show evidence of advanced knowledge about a specialist field of enquiry or professional practice.</p> <p>A person who holds a Postgraduate Diploma may be eligible to enrol in a Master's Degree.</p>

¹ Special cases are most likely to be degrees in which professional or accreditation requirements make it difficult to meet the 120-credit level 8/9 requirement, e.g. degrees in law or engineering.

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9	Master's Degree He Tohu Paerua	<p>Qualifies individuals who can apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research, a pathway for further learning, professional practice and/ or scholarship.</p> <p>A Master's Degree is at a level demonstrably in advance of undergraduate study. It requires individuals to engage in research, advanced scholarship or demonstrate an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice.</p>	<p>A minimum of 120 credits at levels 8 and above, with at least 40 credits at level 9.</p> <p>Master's Degrees typically consist of 120, 180, or 240 or more credits.</p>	<p>A minimum entry qualification of a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent.</p> <p>For a Master's Degree of less than 240 credits, additional entry requirements are:</p> <p><i>For a 120-credit Master's Degree:</i></p> <p>a Bachelor Honours Degree, a Postgraduate Diploma or an undergraduate degree followed by relevant professional experience. In exceptional circumstances a pathway from a four-year undergraduate degree to a 120-credit Master's Degree may be established.</p> <p><i>For a 180-credit Master's Degree:</i></p> <p>a Bachelor's Degree completed at a specified level of attainment.</p> <p>Providers of programmes leading to a Master's Degree are responsible for establishing entry requirements.</p> <p>Admission as an individual to a Master's Degree is based on the evaluation of documentary evidence (including the academic record) of the individual applicant's ability to undertake postgraduate study in a specialist field of enquiry or professional practice.</p> <p>Exceptionally, applicants not meeting the minimum entry qualification requirement but with extensive, substantial and appropriate documented professional experience may be considered.</p>	<p>Master's Degrees are constituted in one discipline or coherent programme of study.</p> <p>They may be undertaken by taught courses or research, or by a combination of both.</p> <p>A Master's Degree predominantly by research includes a thesis or creative work worth at least 90 credits.</p> <p>A Master's Degree predominantly by coursework is achieved through courses, project work, creative work and research in varying combinations. It builds on undergraduate study in the same academic field, on the more generic graduate attributes of an undergraduate degree in other fields or, in some cases, on relevant professional experience.</p> <p>Master's Degrees that build on generic attributes and/or experience (often called 'conversion Master's') are usually in professional fields and are recognised as appropriate professional preparation by the profession or industry concerned.²</p>	<p>A graduate of a Master's Degree is able to: show evidence of advanced knowledge about a specialist field of enquiry or professional practice; demonstrate mastery of sophisticated theoretical subject matter; evaluate critically the findings and discussions in the literature; research, analyse and argue from evidence; work independently and apply knowledge to new situations; engage in rigorous intellectual analysis, criticism and problem-solving.</p> <p>If a Master's Degree includes a component of supervised research of not fewer than 40 credits at level 9, the graduate is also able to: demonstrate a high order of skill in the planning, execution and completion of a piece of original research or creative scholarly work; apply such skills learned during the study programme to new situations.</p> <p>The research should be completed to internationally recognised standards and demonstrate that the graduate has a capacity for independent thinking.</p> <p>A person who holds a Master's Degree achieved to an appropriate standard, that includes a research component of at least 40 credits at level 9, may be considered for admission to a programme of advanced study and/or original research leading to a Doctoral Degree.</p>

² In limited situations, a longer coursework Master's Degree of at least 360 credits and aiming at preparation for professional practice may have a title that includes the word 'doctor'. These are cases where the title does not cause confusion with a doctoral degree at level 10 of the NZQCF and where there are established international conventions for the title within the profession concerned. For example the Juris Doctor is internationally recognised as a postgraduate initial legal qualification

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10	Doctoral Degree He Tohu Kairangi	<p>A research degree leading to a substantial and original contribution to knowledge.</p> <p>It is normally the culmination of study which begins at the bachelor level and reaches a stage beyond the masters, whereby the individual becomes an increasingly independent scholar. For the PhD/DPhil and named doctorates, the development takes place under the guidance of recognised experts in the field of study and under circumstances that allow the individual access to appropriate research resources.</p> <p>The contribution to knowledge is judged by independent experts applying contemporary international standards of the discipline. The hallmark will be the individual's substantial development as an independent researcher as attested by the educational institution and/or as demonstrated by submitted work.</p> <p>The major component of all doctorates is original research, which can include a substantial contribution to an established, multidisciplinary, collaborative research activity.</p> <p>The body of work that leads to the award of a doctorate will be one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a thesis, which may include published work• creative work with an exegesis• coursework in combination with a thesis, which may include published work, or creative work with an exegesis.	<p>A Doctoral Degree requires at least 360 credits at level 10.</p> <p>Normally this represents 3 to 4 years of full-time study.</p>	<p>A Bachelor Honours or Master's Degree achieved to a specified level (which includes having undertaken research), an approved international equivalent, or other approved evidence of adequate training and ability.</p>	<p>The following types of Doctoral Degree are recognised:</p> <p><i>Doctor of Philosophy</i></p> <p>A thesis constitutes the entire body of work on which the award of the qualification will be judged. Coursework may also be prescribed for the individual, but this will only contribute to the preparation for the doctoral research. Where appropriate, individuals may include creative work as part of the thesis requirement.</p> <p><i>Doctorate in a specified field or discipline - the named doctorate</i></p> <p>For a doctorate in a specified field, coursework may contribute to the assessed programme of study, but research, which may include scholarly creative activity, and the associated thesis must occupy at least two full-time academic years and contribute not less than two-thirds of the overall credit for the degree. The coursework, which is to be at a standard in advance of that expected for a master's paper, must be part of a coherent programme with the research work, and should normally cover no more than one full-time academic year.</p> <p>An individual for a named doctorate must gain a passing grade in both the coursework and the thesis, which may include creative work.</p> <p><i>Higher Doctorate</i></p> <p>Higher Doctorates are awarded for work of special excellence, as judged by experts of international standing, which is completed before a person makes an application to enrol for the degree. Individuals will normally be expected to have completed at least ten years of scholarly work and to have published extensively. Publication will normally be in scholarly books and/or in reputable international journals. Individuals in the visual or performing arts will have made equally outstanding contributions in their creative work.</p>	<p>A graduate of a doctoral degree is able to: design and conduct or supervise research or projects for the generation of new knowledge or innovation in a specialist field; make informed judgements on complex issues; contribute the advancement of learning and/or professional practice.</p>