



A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING  
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDY

# Study in New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

New Zealand Government

# Coming to study in New Zealand



See: [www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand)

 **New Zealand** offers an excellent choice of schooling at the secondary level. You will be taught in an English-speaking environment, sharing classes with New Zealanders and other international students, and encouraged to participate in all areas of learning.

You can trust that a New Zealand education will give you the skills and knowledge you need for both your future career and life in the world today.

Secondary study usually lasts five years from when a student is aged 13 to 17 years. Most secondary schools in New Zealand are government schools, and teach a national curriculum.

New Zealand's secondary schools offer nationally and internationally recognised qualifications. All national secondary qualifications are monitored and checked by government and education agencies.

New Zealand's education system is considered world class. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) compares the educational performance of teenagers in over 70 countries through their Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). New Zealand consistently ranks among the top countries in the world in these assessments. ●

## National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA)

The National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) are the main qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand.

You can be confident that you can use NCEA towards future study either in New Zealand or another country.

NCEA is awarded at three levels; 1, 2 and 3. Students usually gain NCEA level 1 in year 11 (aged 15), level 2 in year 12 (aged 16) and level 3 in year 13 (aged 17).

NCEA is a very flexible qualification and can be personalised according to each student's ability and interests. You may study one or more subjects at a higher level if you are very good at that subject(s). For example, if you are studying at Level 2 but are very good at Mathematics, you can study Mathematics at Level 3. ●

Te Reo Māori



Physics

Generic Technology

Agricu

### NCEA offers many subjects to suit you

Each year, you can choose from a wide range of over 40 subjects, depending on what is offered at your school. In year 11, you will probably take a broad range of subjects which might include English, Mathematics and Science and two or three other subjects. In years 12 and 13 you will start thinking about what areas you need to focus on for your future study or career.

If you have a particular career in mind, you can start to match subjects to suit your future career choice. Find out which subjects you will need from your school or the university, polytechnic, institute of technology or private training establishment (higher education providers) where you intend to study.

NCEA allows schools to develop learning courses to suit students' needs and then assess what they know against standards (the skills and knowledge that you are expected to know). Most courses will be tested, or assessed, with a mixture of internal assessment (work that is set and marked by individual schools), and with external assessment – end-of-year external examinations that are set and marked by The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). NZQA checks that assessment is fair across all secondary schools in New Zealand. ●

Acco

Processing Techno

Chemis

Te Reo Rang

Economics



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Biolog

Media Studies

Technologies



Geography

Social Studies



Culture and Horticultural



Accounting

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Mathematics and Statistics

Science



Home Economics

English

Health



Digital Technologies

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Business Studies

Construction and Mechanical



Physical Education



### NCEA recognises excellence

Students are recognised for high achievement at each level by gaining NCEA with Merit or NCEA with Excellence. High achievement in an individual course is also recognised with Merit or Excellence grades.

Merit and Excellence grades will help you gain entry into a university course and are viewed positively by employers. ●

## Other awards

By taking certain subjects, students can achieve University Entrance (UE). UE is usually the minimum requirement for entry to university. Most universities want to see a lot of Merit and Excellence grades in your results. These will improve your chances of gaining entry into your chosen university course.

The very best students are encouraged to do the end-of-year New Zealand Scholarship examinations. The material is the same as NCEA level 3, but the standard of performance required is much higher.

New Zealand Scholarship requires students to demonstrate high-level critical thinking within complex situations and is well regarded both within New Zealand and internationally. ●

## Using NCEA after leaving school

You need to ensure the subjects you study for NCEA are appropriate for entry into university and other higher education providers both in New Zealand and in other countries. Your teachers can help you with subject choices. For further information see: [www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea)

NCEA is a national school-leaver qualification and well recognised overseas. It is well regarded by employers and used for selection by universities, both in New Zealand and other countries. Independent research has shown that if you do well in NCEA, you are likely to do well in your first year at university.

Prestigious universities, like Oxford University in the United Kingdom and Harvard University in the United States of America accept applications from students with New Zealand's University Entrance certificate and NCEA level 3 endorsed with Excellence.

New Zealand also has equivalency arrangements with Thailand and Germany, which means they accept students with NCEA qualifications. Students with NCEA Level 3 have gained access to universities around the world. ●



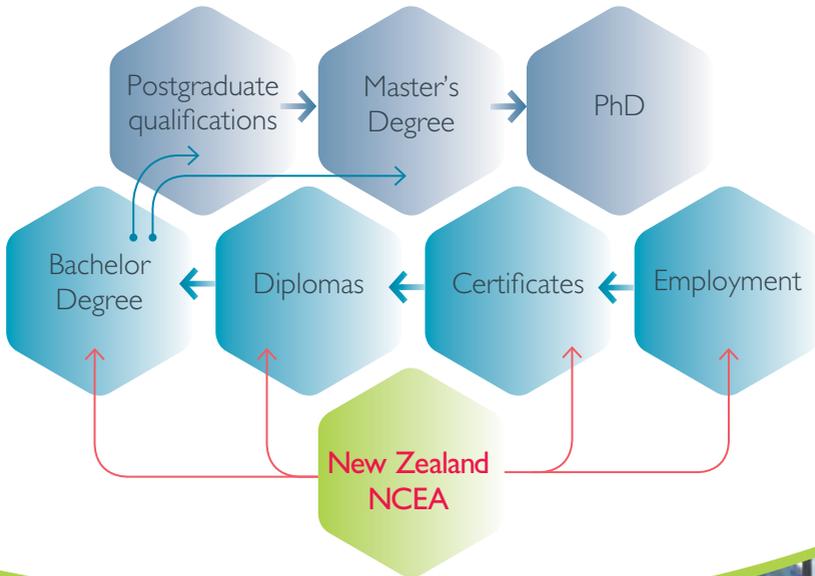
## Getting your results

NZQA administers NCEA and holds a database of all results. You can access your results via the NZQA website and request printed copies. ●

## Support for English language learners

Students who come from non-English speaking backgrounds are supported in schools. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programmes build on the students' language skills and provide a bridge, enabling students to participate in New Zealand schools. ●

## NCEA Pathways





# More information

New Zealand  
Qualifications  
Authority

[www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea)

Details on NCEA and other qualifications

New Zealand  
Educated

[www.newzealandeducated.com](http://www.newzealandeducated.com)

Links and information about living and studying in New Zealand

Ministry of  
Education

[www.minedu.govt.nz/nzeducation](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/nzeducation)

Full information on education in New Zealand

Education  
New Zealand

[www.educationnz.govt.nz](http://www.educationnz.govt.nz)

Information about New Zealand's international education promotion and representation worldwide



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