



Entering NCEA and NZ Scholarship

A guide for students/ākonga,
caregivers and whānau 2024

NZQA

Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Tēnā koutou katoa

The **National Certificate of Educational Achievement** (NCEA) is the main national qualification for secondary school students/ākonga in New Zealand. It is made up of internally and externally assessed standards listed on the [Directory of Assessment and Skills Standards](#). Assessment for externally assessed standards include exams and portfolios of work.

NCEA is recognised by employers and used for selection by universities both in New Zealand and overseas. **New Zealand Scholarship** is an award that recognises top secondary school students. Students who achieve NZ Scholarship receive a monetary award. Students who receive multiple NZ Scholarships may also be recognised through NZQA's Top Scholar Award ceremony.

How do I become a candidate for NCEA or NZ Scholarship?

When your school or kura first sends your entries to NZQA in late Term 1, you automatically become a candidate for NCEA. If you are interested in entering for NZ Scholarship, your school/kura can help you enrol in this as well.

Results of every standard you achieve will be recorded on your New Zealand Record of Achievement.

If you are doing any other study, for example at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu or another provider, you will need to tell your school/kura.

Find more information, please visit www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/

NCEA Levels and Certificates

NCEA Level	Requirements
Level 1	60 credits are required at any level (Level 1, 2 or 3) plus 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits and 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits. For information about which standards apply go to: Literacy and Numeracy :: NZQA
Level 2	60 credits at Level 2 or above The Level 1 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau requirements must also be met.
Level 3	60 credits at Level 3 or above The Level 1 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau requirements must also be met.

If you have questions about Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau, talk to your school/kura.

You only need to meet the Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau requirements once. You do not need to meet them again for other levels of NCEA.

National Secondary Examinations Timetable

The 2024 Examination Timetable is available on the NZQA website www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/exam-timetable-and-key-assessment-dates/exam-timetable/. Check with your teacher/kaiako if you have any End of Year timetable clashes. They will work with NZQA to manage these.

Special Assessment Conditions

If you have sensory, physical, medical, or learning difficulties, you may be able to get help to access assessments during the year. This help is called Special Assessment Conditions. Your school/kura needs to apply to NZQA on your behalf to access this help and will explain what this means for you. There is no cost to you for this. For more information, please visit www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/ncea-for-teachers-and-schools/special-assessment-conditions/

How do I gain entrance to a New Zealand university?

University Entrance (UE) is the minimum requirement for getting into a New Zealand university. Many universities and other tertiary providers have further programme-specific entry requirements. You'll need to talk to them to find out the exact requirements for individual programmes of study, including limited entry programmes.

To gain UE you will need:

- NCEA Level 3
- 14 credits at Level 3 in each of three UE approved subjects
- Literacy - 10 credits at Level 2 or above, made up of:
 - 5 credits in reading standards
 - 5 credits in writing standards
- Numeracy – 10 credits at Level 1 or above, made up of:
 - co-requisite Level 1 Numeracy unit standard (US 32406) or Te Pāngarau (US 32412); or
 - [achievement standards](#)

Go to www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-secondary-quals/university-entrance/ or ask your teachers/kaiako for further information.

Fees for International Students

Entry for assessment for NCEA and NZ Scholarship is free of charge for Domestic students/ākonga.

International Fee-Paying students must pay the following amount to enter for assessment for NCEA and/or NZ Scholarship:

- *NCEA entry* *\$383.30 per candidate*
- *Each NZ Scholarship subject* *\$102.20 per subject*

You pay international student fees to your school/kura. They will be able to tell you when and how much to pay. Your school will pay fees to NZQA by 31 October 2024.

MyNZQA learner account

The MyNZQA learner portal shows all your secondary school results, awards, qualifications, and endorsements.

In the MyNZQA learner portal you can:

- view your entries and results
- upload digital submissions for marking
- apply for reviews or reconsiderations
- request a Record of Achievement.

Information on how to create a MyNZQA learner account is available at [Create or activate account](#) on the NZQA website. You also use these login details to access digital external assessments.

Results released to universities

In January 2025, NZQA will send all Level 2, Level 3, and University Entrance results that have been authorised for release to all New Zealand universities to help process pre-enrolments. If you do not want your results to be released, you **must** tell your school or kura.

Studying overseas

If you're planning to study overseas, contact the institution(s) where you intend to study as early as possible. Make sure you understand their enrolment requirements, procedures, and deadlines. Australian universities can access your results directly from NZQA systems, unless you have specifically requested that your results are not made available.

Completing a digital external assessment

NZQA is offering digital external assessments in NCEA subjects in 2024, along with New Zealand Scholarship Media Studies. Please refer to the [National secondary examinations timetable](#) for the full list of subjects being offered digitally. This is available on the NZQA website. Your school or kura will let you know which external assessments they are offering digitally and help you prepare.

Along with the revision you would do for external assessments, you need to get familiar with the digital exam platform. Activities to familiarise yourself with the digital assessment platform and prepare your device can be found on our website: www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/external-assessment/about-digital-external-assessment/

Find out more at www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/ or talk with your school/kura.