

## Recognition of Overseas Qualifications

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The Qualifications Recognition Services (QRS) assesses qualifications to determine whether overseas qualifications can be recognised in New Zealand. QRS compares between those overseas qualifications and the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF).

QRS is a team within NZQA and operates separately from other government departments in New Zealand or the Education Council. QRS does not provide advice or answer questions about registration (e.g., teacher registration), or employment in New Zealand. You should contact the relevant authority directly to get the correct advice and information you need. You can find more information on our website.

Read more about our [Principles and Policies \(PDF, 274KB\)](#).

## Qualifications We Can Assess

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Do you hold an overseas qualification and plan to live, work, or study in New Zealand? You can have your qualification assessed by Qualifications Recognition Services (QRS) against the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF).

In New Zealand all qualifications need to meet the definition of a qualification. Your overseas qualification will need to meet this minimum standard to be assessed.

For us to assess and attempt to recognise your qualification, it must:

- be a complete programme of study, and
- be awarded by a provider that is nationally recognised or accredited by a government-mandated authority in the country of award, at the time of award
- have a minimum of 400 notional learning hours, and

- include achievement of a set of learning outcomes through a formal

## Qualifications We Do Not Assess

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We do not assess the following kinds of awards or experience:

- academic secondary school qualifications (such as high school or college diplomas)
- incomplete programmes of study that did not result in awarding a qualification
- programmes that do not meet the minimum requirement of the equivalent qualification (40 credits or 400 notional hours), or
- certificates of attendance, or
- certificates of proficiency (if they do not also include formal learning outcomes)
- letters or certificates of work experience, or
- apprenticeships without formal training programmes, or
- professional or specialist training certificates (such as CISCO or other industry-specific certificates)

## Our Services

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QRS offers three types of assessments. Read below about each assessment, when you need them, how you can use them, and how to apply.

### International Qualifications Assessment (IQA)

The IQA is an in-depth assessment that provides a Recognition Statement for your qualification in the New Zealand context. It can be used for immigration, employment, and salary purposes.

[Read more about the IQA](#)

## Pre-Assessment Result (PAR)

The PAR is a preliminary assessment to help you understand the requirements for a qualification that is comparable to one on the NZQF. It is used only for immigration purposes.

[Read more about the PAR](#)

## Overseas Study Assessment (OSA)

The OSA is for people (New Zealand residents) who have completed a qualification overseas and want to apply to Inland Revenue NZ (IRD) to have the tax on the qualification written off.

[Read more about the OSA](#)

[Learn more about our fees and additional services](#)

## Contact Us

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Other questions? [Contact QRS here](#) or at [QRS@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:QRS@nzqa.govt.nz) or

+64 (4) 463 3000 (Freephone in NZ: 0800 697 296).