International Qualifications Assessment (IQA)

The IQA is an in-depth assessment of qualifications completed outside New Zealand. The process includes checking the recognition status of your overseas qualification in the country of award and analysing details of the qualification. The IQA provides an assessment of which level your overseas qualification compares to on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), and, where possible, to a New Zealand qualification type.

- The process will take up to 35 working days.
- Cost is NZD746.
- A maximum of five qualifications can be evaluated per application. After this a new application must be lodged.
- The Fast-Track option is available to guarantee a processing time of up to 20 working days. This costs an additional NZD404.
- We aim to complete your application in the timeframes above but depend on you supplying the correct and required documents in the proper format.

QRS may also require further information on your qualification. We will notify you if we need additional documents or details, or if there are delays.

NZQA takes qualification fraud seriously and may contact any relevant third party organisation to verify information provided by you in your application. If we find fraudulent information, we will provide that information to the relevant enforcement agencies, including Immigration New Zealand.
Application Purposes

Please read the instructions for the IQA carefully. It is important that you select the correct application purpose/s so that your Recognition Statement includes the necessary information.

You can select more than one application purpose for your application.

Immigration

Select this purpose if you plan to migrate to New Zealand and require an IQA for your visa application to Immigration New Zealand. This includes Skilled Migrant Resident, Long Term Skill Shortage, Essential Skills and Silver Fern visas.

Check your qualification against Immigration New Zealand's List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (LQEA). If your qualification is listed on LQEA and your only purpose is immigration, you may not need an IQA.

Read more about the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment

If you are applying under a skill shortage list (such as the Long Term Skill Shortage List) you will need to provide the occupation group and code for your occupation on a form that is available from our 'Documents Required' page. If you do not include this form in your application we will not assess your qualification against a skill shortage list.

You can view the Skill Shortage List Checker on Immigration New Zealand’s website to find these lists and occupation groups and codes.

See the Skill Shortage List Checker

If you are unsure about which visa you are applying for, or whether you need an IQA for your immigration application, contact Immigration New Zealand. NZQA cannot provide immigration advice.

Contact Immigration New Zealand

Employment

Select this purpose if your future New Zealand employer needs to know how your overseas qualification compares to the NZQF. Consult your employer to know whether you will need an IQA.
Some industries require an IQA for employment. Check with the relevant New Zealand registration body, or Industry Training Organisation (ITO) before submitting an application.

Contact details for professional registration bodies are available through Immigration New Zealand’s list of Occupational Registration bodies. A list of all ITOs is available on the Directory of ITOs.

Learn about Immigration New Zealand’s list of Occupational Registration Bodies

See the list of New Zealand ITOs

Further Study

Select this purpose if recognition of your overseas qualification is required for entry into a New Zealand study programme. Contact the New Zealand education provider before submitting an application for an IQA to ensure it is necessary.

Teacher Registration/Teacher Salary

Teacher registration and teacher salary purposes for an IQA are only necessary if you completed your Initial Teacher Education (ITE) overseas and you wish to work as a school or early childhood teacher in New Zealand. If you plan to teach at the tertiary level you do not need to seek registration with the Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand. If you have a current New Zealand teacher registration but have an additional overseas qualification that needs to be assessed, select teacher salary as your application purpose. This is because the New Zealand Ministry of Education uses the IQA to set salary rates for teachers with overseas qualifications.

Some overseas teaching qualifications may be exempt from assessment for the purposes of teacher registration. Note that if your initial teacher education (ITE) qualification is on the pre-approved list but not the List of Qualifications Exempt from Assessment (LQEA), you may require an IQA for immigration purposes (residency pathway). Read more about pre-approved overseas teaching qualifications.

NZQA cannot provide teacher registration or teaching salary advice.

You can learn more about becoming a teacher in New Zealand on the Teach in New Zealand website.

If you have questions about the registration process, contact the Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Contact the Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand
About the IQA

The IQA results in a Recognition Statement (formerly called IQA Report) which is the evaluation of your overseas qualification against the NZQF. The primary information provided is a comparison to an NZQF Level, and if possible, a qualification type. This information can be used by Immigration New Zealand, employers, educational institutions, and professional registration bodies to better understand your qualification.

The Recognition Statement is only issued digitally (sent to you via email).

Up to five qualifications can be evaluated in the IQA. Only one person’s qualifications are evaluated per application.

A Recognition Statement does not guarantee admission to education programmes, employment, registration or immigration. Those education providers, employers, registration bodies and other government agencies will make decisions regarding your suitability for those purposes when you apply.

The IQA does not result in a statement of authenticity for your qualification. However, we may request verification from authorities in the countries of award to complete the assessment.

Sections of the Recognition Statement

The Recognition Statement records the purpose/s for which you are seeking qualification recognition. The purpose/s you choose for your application may affect what you can use the IQA for and what additional information is included, such as comments about a skill shortage list.

The Recognition Statement has three major areas: a table with details about your qualification (qualification title, awarding body, year of award, standard programme duration), the assessment outcome, and comments. Below is a description of the Assessment Outcome and Comments section.

**Assessment Outcome:** This section states the NZQF level, and if possible, the qualification type that your overseas qualification is most comparable to.

The Recognition Statement will say if your qualification has been compared to a ‘generic’ New Zealand qualification type, such as a certificate, diploma, or bachelor’s degree. If New Zealand does not have a qualification type similar to your overseas qualification type, the assessment outcome will be a ‘qualification’ with a corresponding level on the NZQF. NZQA does not provide comparison to specific qualifications on the NZQF.
For example, an assessment outcome could be either a master’s degree at NZQF Level 9 or a qualification at Level 9, but will not say ‘Master of Business Administration’ at Level 9.

**Comments:** In this section there may be additional information about your qualification, such as the application of transferred credits or whether your qualification could be compared to a qualification on a skill shortage list.

### Documents Required for an IQA

Scanned documents are required for the IQA application. NZQA does not accept original (paper/hard copy) documents. Documents must be uploaded to the online application.

[Learn more about documents required for the IQA](#)

### Next Steps

Before you begin your application:

- Know which purpose/s you will choose for your IQA application, and
- Check the ‘Documents Required’ section to ensure that you have all necessary forms for your IQA purpose/s, and
- Have all of your materials scanned as PDFs (files not to exceed 5MB) to upload, and
- Allow up to one hour to complete the application.

[START IQA APPLICATION](#)