

Update on changes to titles of qualifications listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework

July 2014

What is happening?

Titles of qualifications listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) are changing.

This means that over time, new and reviewed qualifications listed at levels 1-6 on the NZQF will have “New Zealand” in their titles. The use of the term “National” or a provider name in a qualification title is being phased out as qualifications are reviewed.

How does this affect the qualification I gained – it does not say “New Zealand” – is it still valid?

This change to titles does not affect the validity of NZQF-listed qualifications.

Qualifications – new, reviewed, and phased out of use – listed on the NZQF remain valid qualifications.

What is the NZQF?

The NZQF is the definitive source for accurate and current information on quality assured qualifications in New Zealand.

All qualifications listed on the NZQF convey the skills, knowledge and attributes a graduate has gained.

All qualifications are reviewed periodically to ensure they remain useful, relevant and fit for purpose.

Do international agencies know about this change?

NZQA has been working with groups across the education sector in New Zealand and internationally for some time to provide information about the changes to titles and to provide assurance that all NZQF-listed qualifications remain valid.

To assist former learners and international agencies during the phase out period, NZQA has added information to its website, including downloadable fact sheets and sample certificates.

New Zealand has a well-respected qualification system that is credible and robust. International agencies with any doubt as to the validity of qualifications because of the title changes taking place will find further detail available to them on the NZQA website and can contact NZQA directly for further clarification regarding the NZQF.

You may also wish to download the information guide for international agencies on the NZQA website.

Is there anything I need to do?

You do not need to do anything – the change in titles of new and reviewed qualifications does not affect the validity of NZQF-listed qualifications.

Will any new qualifications have the word “National” in them?

Yes, the word “National” will continue to be used to distinguish secondary school qualifications at levels 1-3, namely National Certificates of Educational Achievement, known as NCEA.

Why are these changes happening?

These changes arose from the targeted review of qualifications undertaken in 2009 that aimed to ensure New Zealand qualifications remain useful and relevant to current and future learners, and their employers.

Where can I find out more?

You can find more information on the NZQA website.