



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

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2021 New Zealand Scholarship results release

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| Date: | 9 February 2022 | NZQA Priority: | Medium |
| Security Level: | In confidence | Report No. | CR23697 |

| | Action Sought | Deadline |
|-----------------------|---|----------|
| Minister of Education | <p>a. note that NZ Scholarship results will be released on 10 February 2022.</p> <p>b. note the award winners will be announced on 11 February.</p> <p>c. note that provisional 2021 New Zealand Scholarship statistics have been produced.</p> <p>d. note that the 2021 provisional Scholarship statistics show that the overall trends for Scholarship have been maintained from previous years.</p> <p>e. note that there is no significant difference in attainment of Scholarships and Outstanding Scholarships in regions with high levels of COVID-19 disruption compared to previous years.</p> | |

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes

Round Robin: Yes

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

| Name | Position | Telephone | Cellphone | 1 st Contact |
|---------------|--|-------------|------------|-------------------------|
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The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

Ministry of Education Tertiary Education Commission Other (specify)

Minister's Office to Complete:

Noted Seen Approved

Needs change

Withdrawn

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's comments

Declined

Referred to:

Comments:

2021 New Zealand Scholarship results release

Recommended Action

It is recommended you:

- a. **note** that NZ Scholarship results will be released on 10 February 2022.
- b. **note** the award winners will be announced on 11 February.
- c. **note** that provisional 2021 New Zealand Scholarship statistics have been produced.
- d. **note** that the 2021 provisional Scholarship statistics show that the overall trends for Scholarship have been maintained from previous years.
- e. **note** that there is no significant difference in attainment of Scholarships and Outstanding Scholarships in regions with high levels of COVID-19 disruption compared to previous years.

Proactive Release Recommendation

NZQA recommends.

- a. **agree** that this report is not proactively released until the attainment data has been finalised in April.

Agree/Disagree



Dr Grant Klinkum
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive
9 February 2022

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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2021 New Zealand Scholarship results release

Purpose of Report

1. The provisional 2021 New Zealand Scholarship (Scholarship) attainment statistics are now available. This report provides an overview of these statistics, broken down by ethnicity, gender, decile and region. It includes some early analysis on the effect that COVID-19 had on Scholarship participation and outcomes.

Background

2021 Scholarship examination round

2. The 2021 New Zealand Scholarship examinations were held from 22 November to 14 December, concurrent with the NCEA examinations. The examination round proceeded without significant incident. The 2021 Scholarship results will be made available to students on Thursday 10 February 2022, with award winners announced the next day.
3. In line with normal practice, the Technical Overview Group Assessment (TOGA) met on 26-27 January 2022 to review the data for the 2021 NZ Scholarship round, setting the cut scores for Scholarship and Outstanding Scholarship for each subject and confirming the Premier and Outstanding scholars. TOGA also notes a number of matters arising from the Scholarship round that NZQA needed to consider for the future:
 - a. The need to review and increase monetary value of Scholarship awards
 - b. Four subjects did not meet the 3% threshold, including Chemistry for the second year in a row¹
 - c. The continuing decline in cohort sizes for languages, particularly European languages
 - d. Ongoing concern about equity of participation – particularly relating to lack of females, and Māori and Pacific students among Premier Award recipients
 - e. Concern about possible negative impact on student wellbeing arising from participation in high numbers of Scholarship subjects (more than five or six).

Provisional Scholarship results data

4. In 2021, a total of 2,128 students achieved one or more Scholarship subject awards (see appendix one); of which 12 students achieved a Premier Award, 53 students achieved an Outstanding Scholar Award, 263 students achieved a Scholarship Award, 33 students achieved a Top Subject Scholarship Award, and 1,859 students achieved a Single Subject Award².
5. This is similar to 2020, where a total of 2,151 students achieved one or more Scholarship subject awards; of which 12 students achieved a Premier Award, 58 students achieved an Outstanding Scholar Award, 208 students achieved a Scholarship Award, 36 students

¹ The Level 3 cohort for each subject is defined as students who have achieved credits in internal standards at Level 3 and/or entered external standards at Level 3 totalling 14 credits. The provisional cohort is calculated early in November and confirmed in early December.

Provided the standard is met, Scholarship will be awarded to 3% of the Level 3 cohort, plus or minus 0.25%, while Outstanding Scholarship will be awarded to 0.3% of the cohort.

For small cohorts, (<1000 candidates), the 3% figure may vary by plus or minus 5 candidates if agreed by TOGA.

² One student achieved 2 Top Subjects Awards, and one student achieved 3 Top Subject awards.

achieved a Top Subject Scholarship Award, and 1,860 students achieved a Single Subject Award.

Scholarship trends and regional differences

Scholarship entry trends

6. Scholarship entry trends remained consistent with 2020 and 2019 levels. There was an increase in the number of non-assessed results compared with previous years, but this is a continuation of an existing trend.

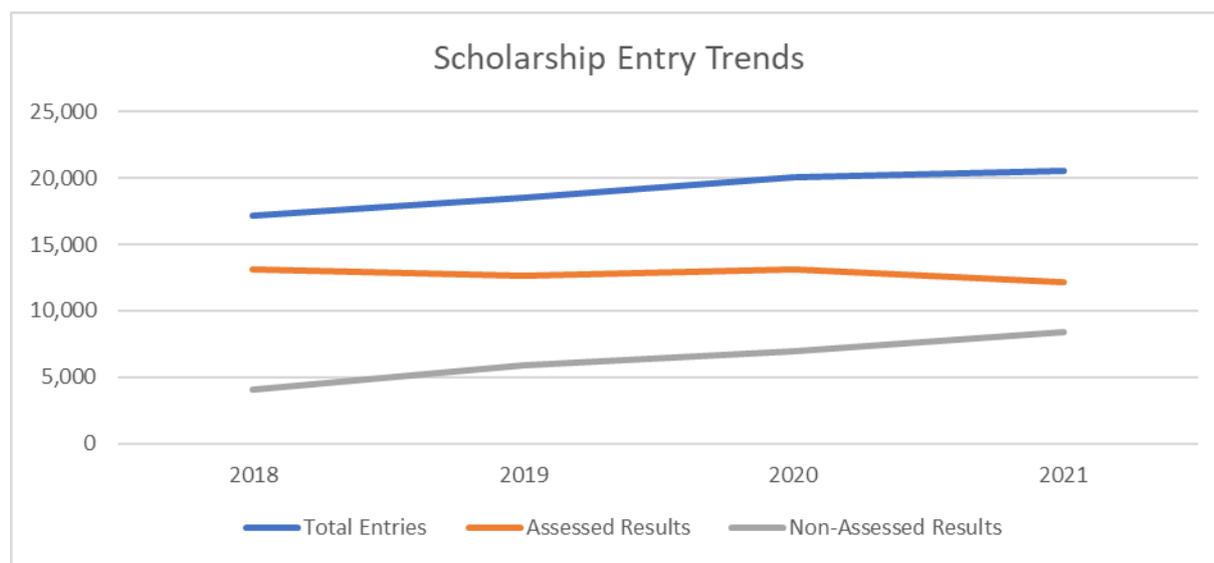


Figure 1: Scholarship entry trends

Regional differences

7. As shown in Figure 2 below, the regions that experienced prolonged COVID-19 disruptions (Auckland, Waikato and Northland) had results consistent with 2020. This indicates that the disruptions, as well as the interventions that NZQA implemented for NCEA (i.e. the unexpected event grade and learning recognition credits) did not significantly impact students' ability to prepare for and attend the Scholarship examinations.

| | Result | Auckland | Hamilton/Waikato | Northland | Rest of NZ | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 2020 | Absent | 3171 | 572 | 72 | 3054 | 6869 |
| | No Award | 5228 | 632 | 44 | 3872 | 9776 |
| | Outstanding Scholarship | 210 | 15 | 1 | 121 | 347 |
| | Scholarship | 1663 | 130 | 17 | 1177 | 2987 |
| | Subject Not Attempted | 62 | 8 | 1 | 45 | 116 |
| | Entries | 10334 | 1357 | 135 | 8269 | 20095 |
| | 2021 | Absent | 4516 | 436 | 102 | 3028 |
| No Award | | 4647 | 416 | 64 | 3638 | 8765 |
| Outstanding Scholarship | | 233 | 25 | 2 | 97 | 357 |
| Scholarship | | 1654 | 156 | 18 | 1187 | 3015 |
| Subject Not Attempted | | 131 | 25 | 4 | 186 | 346 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Entries | 11181 | 1058 | 190 | 8136 | 20565 |
|--|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|

Figure 2: Regional data

Summary

8. Overall, the results for the 2021 Scholarship examination round are consistent with previous years. There is no significant difference in attainment of Scholarships and Outstanding Scholarships in regions with high levels of COVID-19 disruption compared to previous years.
9. Scholarship entries stayed within expected parameters, but absences were higher in Auckland than in 2020.
10. This indicates that schools were largely successful in supporting their students to prepare for and feel confident about the 2021 Scholarship examinations. COVID-19 had minimal impact on the number of students attempting scholarship, or on the regional levels of Scholarship attainment.
11. There were no unusual patterns either nationally, or for Auckland, Northland or Waikato this year in terms of the number of Single Subject Awards, Scholarships and Outstanding Scholarships awarded. Premier Awards are given to up to 10 to 12 of the very top scholars. As in recent years, TOGA recommended 12 Premier Awards be granted.

Next steps

12. NZQA will consider the matters raised by TOGA. NZQA is continuing to review its approach to COVID-19 and unexpected events for the wider NCEA system – this review will include recommendations for NZ Scholarship where appropriate.

Appendix 1: NZ Scholarship Monetary awards

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Premier Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the very top 7 to 12 Candidates. The minimum eligibility requirement to be considered for this award is achievement of at least three Scholarships at “Outstanding” level in the same year. The number of recipients for this award is restricted and achieving the minimum requirement will not guarantee an award.• \$10,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study. |
| Outstanding Scholar Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the next 40-60 top Candidates. The minimum eligibility requirement to be considered for this award is achievement of three Scholarships including at least two at “Outstanding” level in the same year, or more than three Scholarships including at least one at “Outstanding” level in the same year. The number of recipients for this award is restricted and achieving the minimum requirement will not guarantee an award.• \$5,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study. |
| Scholarship Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Candidates who achieve New Zealand Scholarship in three or more subjects in the same year and for Candidates who achieve two Scholarships at "Outstanding" level in the same year.• \$2,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study. |
| Top Subject Scholar Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the top Candidate in each one of the New Zealand Scholarship subjects.• \$2,000 each year for up to three years for as long as the recipient maintains at least a ‘B’ grade average each year of their tertiary study. |
| Single Subject Awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Candidates who achieve New Zealand Scholarship in one or more subjects.• A ‘one-off’ award of \$500 per subject, for up to two subjects, (maximum payment \$1000). |