



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY  
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## Education report: Final 2019 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics

Date:	21 April 2020	NZQA Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	Report No.	CR 20479

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	<p><b>note</b> that final NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics are now available.</p> <p><b>note</b> that these statistics are scheduled to be released on NZQA's website on 28 April 2020.</p> <p><b>note</b> that communications for the release will be provided to your office.</p> <p><b>note</b> that schools will be able to access all final school level attainment statistics via NZQA's secure portal from 28 April 2020.</p> <p><b>note</b> that NZQA and the Ministry of Education will continue to conduct analysis of past attainment trends and actively monitor schools and student attainment during 2020.</p> <p><b>note</b> that the Ministry of Education has been consulted on this briefing.</p>	28 April 2020

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes/No

Round Robin Yes/No

### Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cell phone	1 <sup>st</sup> Contact
Kristine Kilkelly	Deputy Chief Executive, Assessment Division	04-463 3379	██████████	√

**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Withdrawn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:**

## Final 2019 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics

### Executive Summary

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- The final 2019 NCEA and UE attainment statistics are now available.
- Nationally, Year 13 NCEA Level 3 attainment increased by 1.2 percentage points, and University Entrance attainment by 0.4 percentage points for domestic students. The greatest increase by decile band for Year 13 NCEA Level 3 attainment was for decile band 1-3 schools (a 2.5 percentage point increase on 2018), and by ethnicity for the Year 13 Māori student cohort (2.2 percentage points).
- 2019 Year 12 NCEA Level 2 attainment held steady, with a 0.1 percentage point decrease on 2018 figures. Year 12 NCEA Level 2 attainment held steady for all decile bands. Year 12 ethnicity breakdowns showed some small increases and decreases.
- Year 11 NCEA level 1 attainment decreased by 1.8 percentage points on 2018 figures. Year 11 Level 1 NCEA attainment first dropped in 2017 (by 0.3 percentage points on 2016), then again in 2018 (by 2.6 percentage points on 2017). This is reflective of a small but steady decrease over the same period in the percentage of Year 11 students entered for sufficient credits to achieve NCEA Level 1. The decreases are in decile band 4-7 and 8-10 schools.
- NZQA proposes to publish the 2019 statistics on our website on 28 April 2020.
- NZQA and the Ministry of Education will continue to conduct analysis of past attainment trends and, in particular, the Ministry of Education will update its analysis of the attainment of the 2017-2019 Year 11 cohorts using the final data.
- As part of the monitoring and support for schools during COVID-19, NZQA and the Ministry of Education will also monitor data flows from schools for the rest of 2020, including the patterns of entries and results and grade distributions. This will provide early identification where support for student learning and attainment will be required, at a school or system level. There will be a particular focus on issues of equity and on vulnerable learners.

## Recommended Action

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It is recommended you:

- a. **note** that final NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics are now available.
- b. **note** that these statistics are scheduled to be released on NZQA's website on 28 April 2020.
- c. **note** that communications for the release will be provided to your office.
- d. **note** that schools will be able to access all final school level attainment statistics via NZQA's secure portal from 28 April 2020.
- e. **note** that NZQA and the Ministry of Education will continue to conduct analysis of past attainment trends and actively monitor schools' and student attainment during 2020.
- f. **note** that the Ministry of Education has been consulted on this briefing.

### Proactive Release Recommendation

NZQA recommends you

- g. **agree** that this report is proactively released after 28 April 2020 as part of the next publication of documents.



**Dr Grant Klinkum**  
Chief Executive  
21 April 2020

NOTED/APPROVED

**Hon Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

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# Final 2019 NCEA and University Entrance attainment statistics

## Purpose of Report

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1. The final 2019 NCEA and University Entrance (UE) attainment statistics are now available. This report provides a high-level overview of these statistics, broken down by decile band, ethnicity and gender, and comment on trends. Next steps for the public release of the statistics are also discussed.
2. The Ministry of Education has been consulted on this briefing.

## Background

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3. A briefing on the provisional 2019 NCEA and UE attainment statistics was provided to you on 16 January 2020<sup>1</sup>. The briefing noted that based on patterns observed in previous years, the final statistics available in April 2020 were expected to increase by one to two percentage points on the provisional figures<sup>2</sup>. It was also noted that final 2019 attainment statistics were expected to reach similar levels to 2018, with the exception of Year 11 NCEA Level 1 attainment.
4. These statistics are reported using the enrolment-based measure of attainment jointly developed by the Ministry of Education and NZQA. The enrolment-based cohort consists of New Zealand domestic students in Years 11 to 13 (aged less than 19 years on 1 January 2019) with a Ministry of Education recorded enrolment of one day or more in the academic year concerned. In 2019, there were 162,387 students in the enrolment-based cohort in years 11 to 13. In addition, there were 12,949 international students in Years 11-13.
5. The statistics measure Year 11 Level 1, Year 12 Level 2, Year 13 Level 3 and Year 13 UE attainment. This is the typical NCEA attainment pathway for students. However, NCEAs are achieved in different patterns to this, e.g. NCEA Level 2 attainment over two years (Year 11 and Year 12), or NCEA Level 2 attainment by Year 13. NZQA and the Ministry of Education continue to monitor changes in the patterns of NCEA attainment by students.
6. On 13 March 2020, the Ministry of Education provided a Briefing Note (Metis number 1220040) on the attainment of the 2017-2019 Year 11 cohorts using 2019 provisional NCEA data.
7. The tracked Year 11 cohort analysis using provisional data found attainment rates of NCEA Level 2 by Māori and Pacific students remained lower after two years, compared to the national cohort. For Māori students this is because the drop in the retention of Māori Year 11 students was larger (down 1.5 percentage points) between 2017 and 2018 compared to the national Year 11 cohorts which was more stable and only dropped 0.2 percentage points). This implies Māori students with lower participation in NCEA Level 1 are more likely to leave school before participating in NCEA Level 2 than other students.
8. The Ministry of Education will update the analysis of the tracked Year 11 cohorts from 2017-2019 using the finalised data and advise you if the conclusions differ. They will also continue to monitor the outcomes of the tracked Year 11 cohorts as the students' progress through school and into further study or work. It will be important to understand

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<sup>1</sup> CR20091, Provisional 2019 NCEA and University Entrance Attainment Statistics, 16 January 2020.

<sup>2</sup> This happens because some internally-assessed results are reported late by schools, and some students apply for a remark of examination papers which can result in further qualifications being awarded.

the long-term impact of the declines we have seen in NCEA Level 1 attainment, noting that this analysis will be complicated by broader labour-market impacts associated with COVID-19.

## Comment

### Overall national attainment

9. The final 2019 attainment statistics are as follows:

- a. 70.6% of Year 11 students attained NCEA Level 1 (43,065 of 60,902)
- b. 77.5% of Year 12 students attained NCEA Level 2 (42,677 of 55,101)
- c. 67.3% of Year 13 students attained NCEA Level 3 (31,165 of 46,304)
- d. 49.3% of Year 13 students were awarded UE (22,832 of 46,304)

10. Figure 1 below gives a ten year view of NCEA and UE attainment percentages<sup>3</sup>

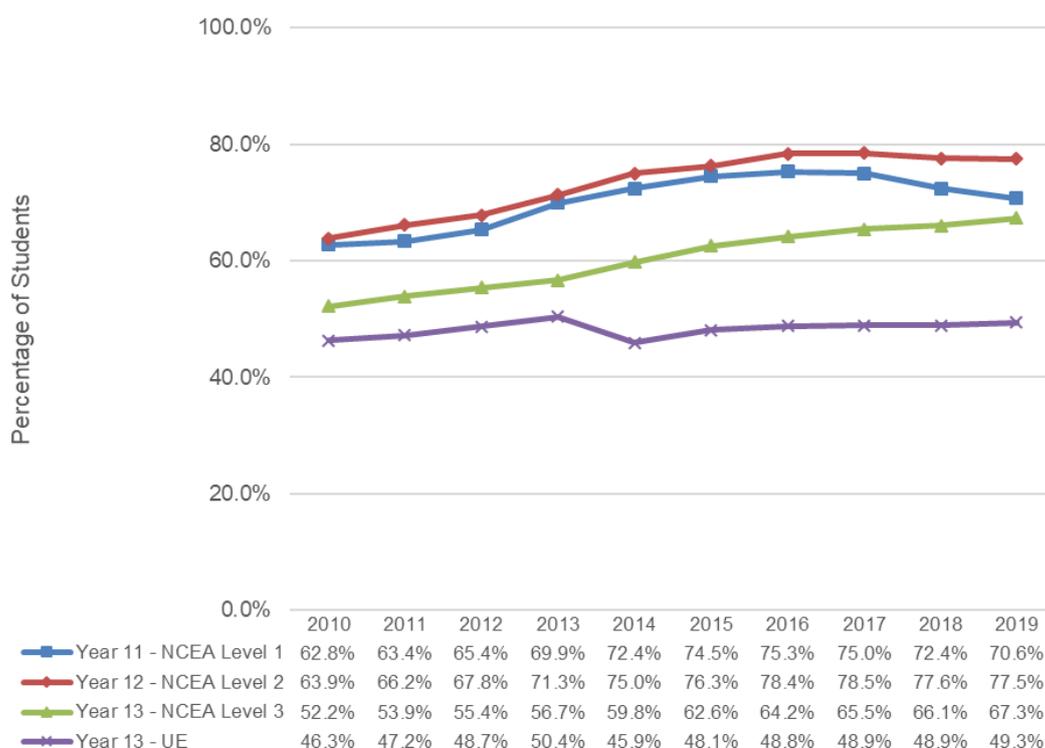


Figure 1: Enrolment-based NCEA and UE attainment 2010 - 2019

11. The final 2019 attainment statistics show that 2019 Year 11 NCEA Level 1 attainment decreased by 1.8 percentage points on 2018 figures. Year 11 Level 1 NCEA attainment first dropped in 2017 (by 0.3 percentage points on 2016), then again in 2018 (by 2.6 percentage points on 2017). As noted in our January briefing to you (see footnote 1), NZQA calculated an 'engagement in NCEA' indicator to better understand the lower Year 11 NCEA Level 1 attainment rate<sup>4</sup>. The engagement indicator for Year 11 Level 1 students has been decreasing slightly over the last few years, from 85.8% in 2017, to 84.7% in 2018, to 82.4% in 2019.

<sup>3</sup> The drop in UE attainment in 2014 was a result of changes made to the requirements for the UE award.

<sup>4</sup> The engagement indicator is the number of Year 11 students entered for 80+ credits divided by the number of Year 11 students enrolled at school.

12. The 2019 Year 12 NCEA Level 2 attainment held steady, with a 0.1 percentage point decrease on 2018 figures. The engagement indicator for Year 12 Level 2 students shows a steady percentage of Year 12 students entered for 60+ Level 2 or above credits (86.0% in 2017, 86.1% in 2018 and 85.7% in 2019).
13. Year 13 NCEA Level 3 attainment shows a steady increase over the last 10 years, and this continues in 2019, with a 1.2 percentage point increase on 2018 figures. The engagement indicator for Year 13 Level 3 students shows an increasing percentage of Year 13 students entered for 60+ Level 3 credits (77.1% in 2017, 77.8% in 2018 and 78.8% in 2019).
14. The 2019 Year 13 UE attainment shows a slight increase of 0.4 percentage points on 2018 figures.

### **National attainment by decile band, ethnicity and gender**

15. Appendix 1 Figures 1 to 12 provide a more detailed breakdown of attainment for 2010 to 2019 by decile band, ethnicity and gender. Comment on the trends is provided below.

#### ***Decile band – Figures 1-4***

16. The decrease in Level 1 attainment for Year 11s overall between 2018 and 2019 is reflected across Decile bands 4-7 and 8-10 (1.5 and 2.2 percentage point decreases respectively) but 2019 Year 11 Level 1 attainment is steady for decile band 1-3 (a 0.2 percentage point increase on 2018).
17. Year 12 NCEA Level 2 attainment held steady for all decile bands.
18. Year 13 NCEA Level 3 attainment increased across all decile bands with the greatest increase for decile band 1-3 schools (2.5 percentage points). The Year 13 NCEA Level 3 attainment 'gap' between decile bands is narrowing. In 2010 the percentage point attainment gap between decile band 1-3 and 8-10 schools was 31.7 percentage points. This has narrowed over the last ten years to 17.5 percentage points in 2019.
19. Year 13 UE attainment is holding steady for decile bands 8-10 and 4-7 but has increased by 2 percentage points for decile band 1-3.

#### **Ethnicity – Figures 5-8**

20. The decrease in Level 1 attainment for Year 11s nationally between 2018 and 2019 is reflected across all ethnicities but is slightly more pronounced for the European and Asian Year 11 students (a 2 and 3 percentage point decrease respectively) than for Māori and Pacific Year 11 students (a 0.7 and 1 percentage point decrease respectively).
21. While Year 12 NCEA Level 2 is holding steady overall and by decile band between 2018 and 2019, ethnicity breakdowns show some small increases and decreases. Year 12 Māori and Asian student attainment has increased slightly (by 0.3 and 1 percentage point respectively) and Year 12 Pacific and European student attainment has decreased slightly (by 0.9 and 0.4 percentage points respectively).
22. Year 13 NCEA Level 3 student attainment increased across all ethnicities between 2018 and 2019 with the greatest increase for the Year 13 Māori students (2.2 percentage points).
23. Year 13 UE attainment has increased for the Year 13 Māori and Pacific students (0.7 and 1.7 percentage points respectively), is holding steady for the Year 13 European students, and has decreased for the Asian students (by 0.8 percentage points).

## **Gender – Figures 5-8**

24. The decrease in Level 1 attainment for Year 11s overall between 2018 and 2019 is reflected across female and male Year 11 students (1.9 and 1.7 percentage point decreases respectively).
25. Year 12 NCEA Level 2 female student attainment has decreased slightly (by 0.8 percentage points) and Year 12 NCEA Level 2 male student attainment has increased slightly (by 0.5 percentage points).
26. Year 13 NCEA Level 3 attainment has increased for both female and male students (by 1.2 and 1.3 percentage points respectively).
27. Year 13 UE attainment has increased slightly for female students (by 1 percentage point) and decreased slightly for male students (by 0.2 percentage points).

## **Next steps**

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28. Final school level attainment statistics will also be made available to schools via NZQA's secure portal on 28 April 2020. This will be an update to the provisional statistics schools already have access to.
29. Final national 2019 NCEA, UE and New Zealand Scholarship attainment statistics will be made available on NZQA's website on 28 April 2020. NZQA will publish a short communication on our website about the final statistics. NZQA and the Ministry will work together, and with your office, in managing any communication requirements.
30. NZQA will publish an Annual Report on NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship Data and Statistics at the end of May 2020. You will be provided with a briefing and a draft copy of the report by mid-May 2020.
31. NZQA and the Ministry will continue to conduct analysis of past attainment trends and will be actively monitoring schools' and student attainment during 2020. Dataflows to NZQA from schools for the rest of 2020, in particular the patterns of entries and results and grade distributions, will be monitored. This will provide early identification where support for student learning and attainment will be required, at a school or system level. There will be a particular focus on issues of equity and on vulnerable learners.

Enrolment-based national NCEA and UE attainment by decile band 2010 – 2019

Figure 1: Year 11 NCEA Level 1

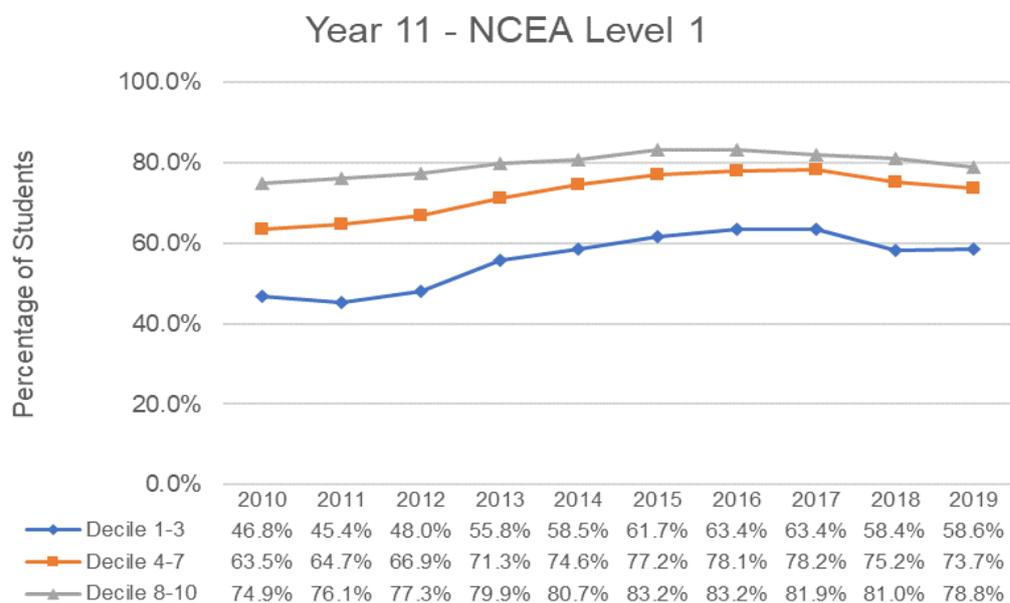


Figure 2: Year 12 NCEA Level 2

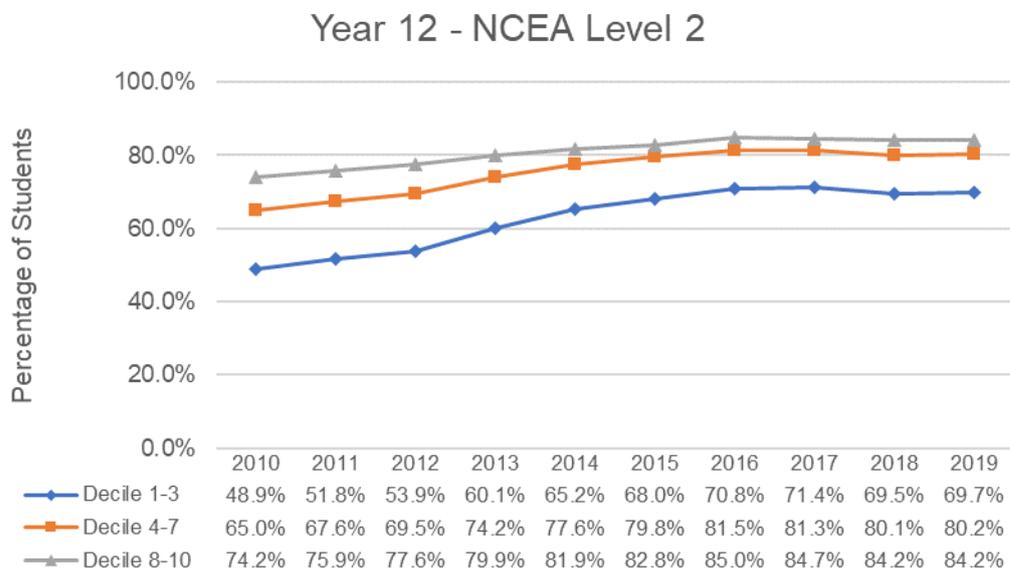


Figure 3: Year 13 NCEA Level 3

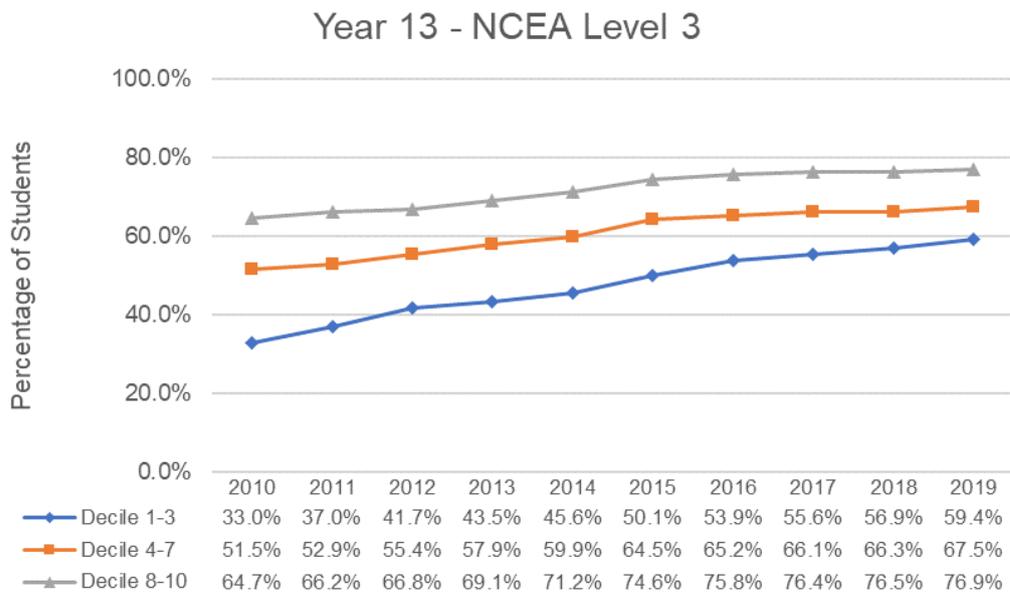
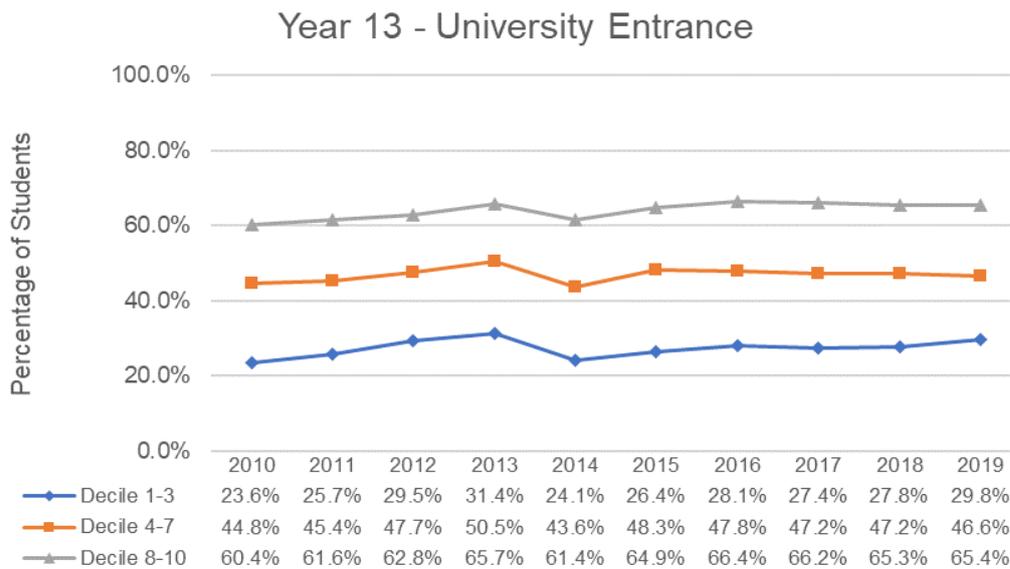


Figure 4: Year 13 UE



## Enrolment-based national NCEA and UE attainment by ethnicity 2010 – 2019

Figure 5: Year 11 NCEA Level 1

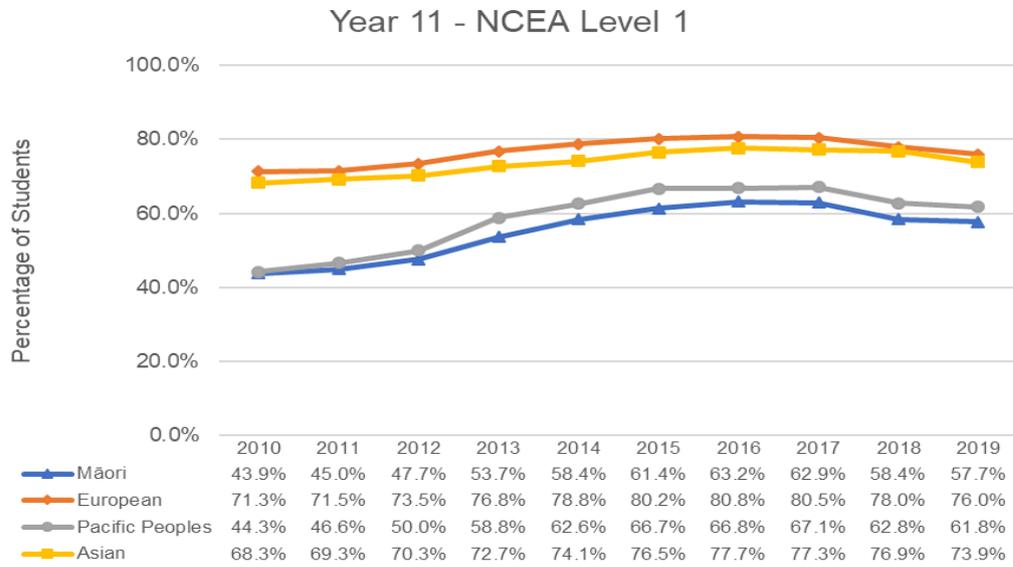


Figure 6: Year 12 NCEA Level 2

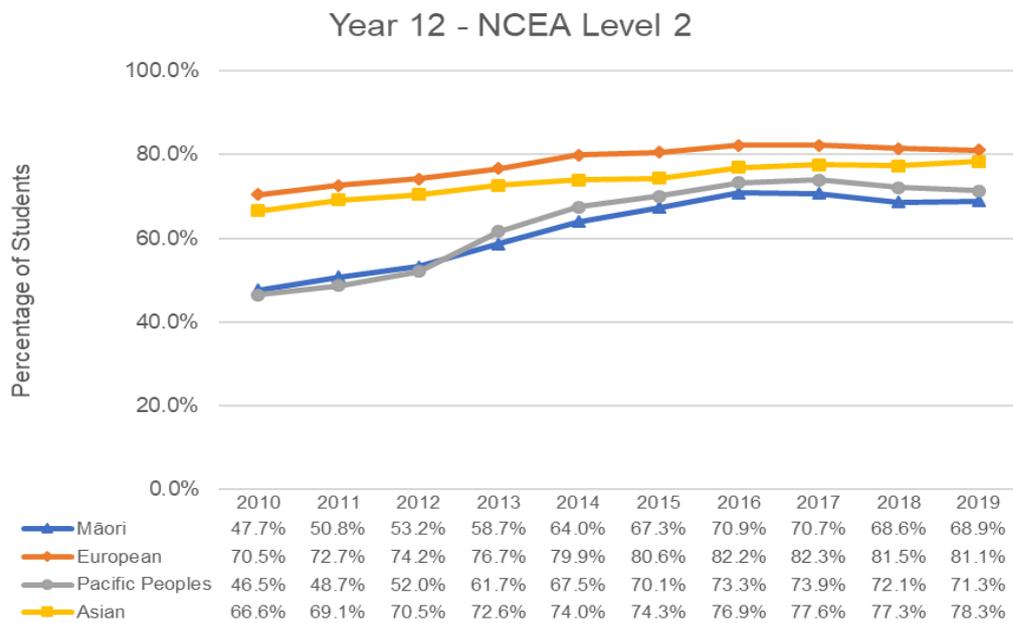


Figure 7: Year 13 NCEA Level 3

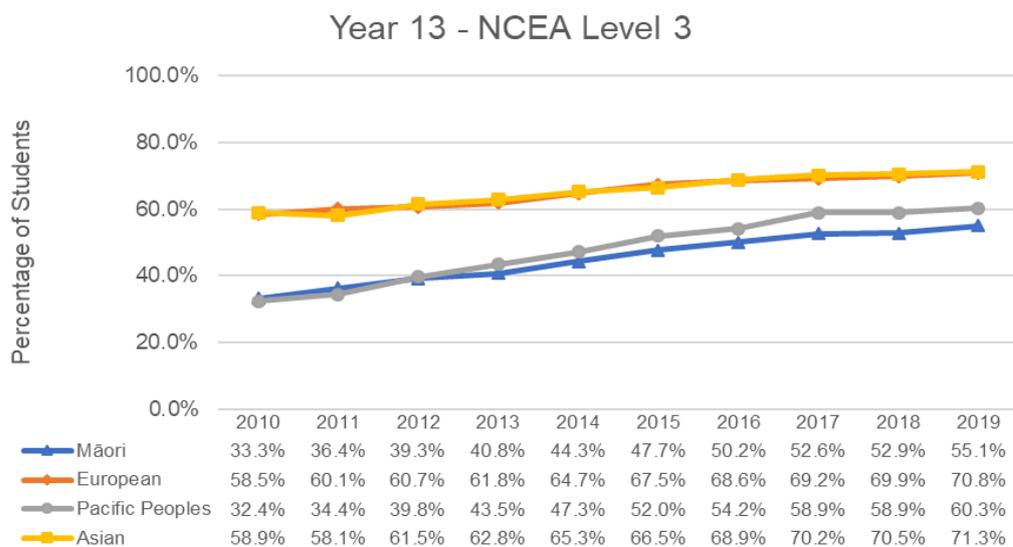
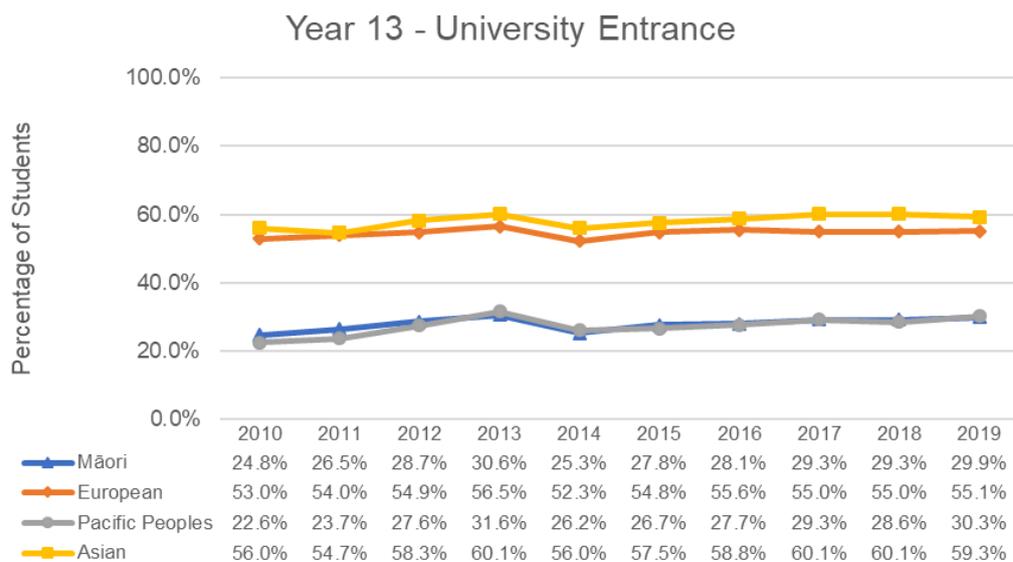
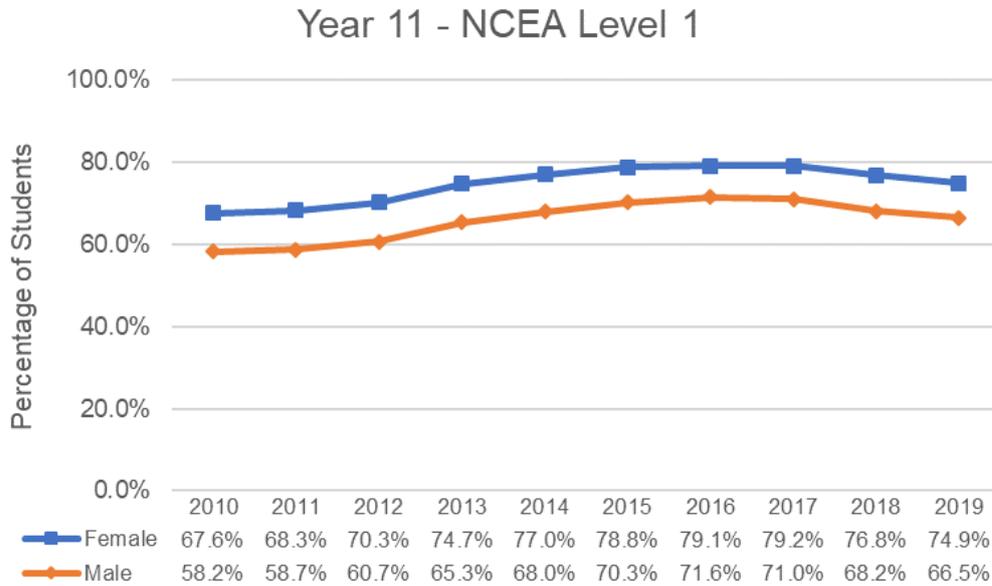


Figure 8: Year 13 UE



**Enrolment-based national NCEA and UE attainment by gender 2010 – 2019**

*Figure 9: Year 11 NCEA Level 1*



*Figure 10: Year 12 NCEA Level 2*

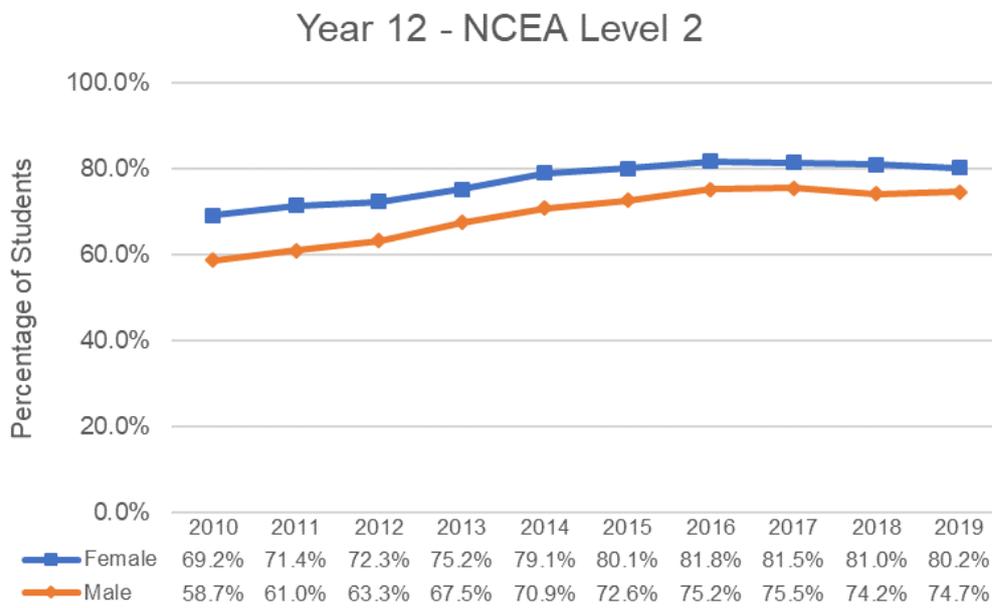


Figure 11: Year 13 NCEA Level 3

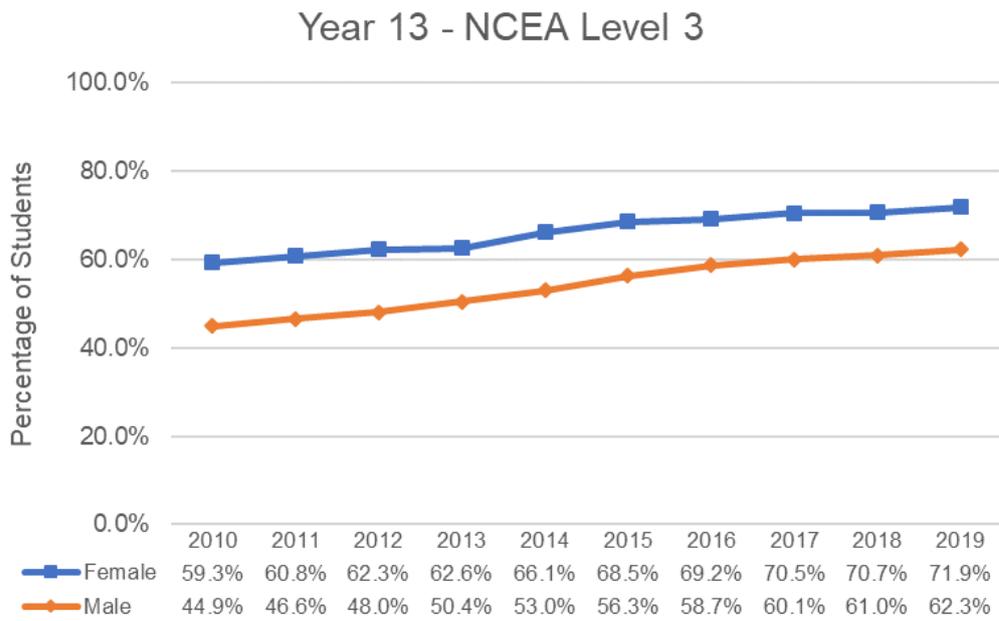


Figure 12: Year 13 UE

