

Validation of temporary approvals for programmes delivered by distance offshore online

Temporary approval for offshore online delivery

As a result of COVID-19, some Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) were granted a temporary programme change enabling online offshore provision to current international students who were unable to return to New Zealand. TEOs intending to deliver via this method beyond 30 June 2020 must participate in NZQA's validation process.

Validation process

The validation process is designed to provide assurance that TEO systems for delivering offshore online learning are managed effectively to meet learner needs.

The key focus of the validation process is to ensure that offshore online provision is of an equivalent quality to onshore provision.

Each TEO is required to submit:

- a report and supporting evidence that covers the programme validation criteria and minimum expectations for offshore online delivery set out in the table below
- a sample of assessed learner work and learner admission files to be specified by NZQA

NZQA will follow up with the TEO to clarify any queries or request further information if required.

Programme validation criteria

Criterion	Evidence expectations
Programme design, delivery, and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning activities provided via the LMS are intentional, measurable and effective in facilitating online learning that supports the achievement of learning outcomes • Delivery methods and contact hours meet learner needs, including the management of time zone differences • Learning hours match those approved by NZQA • Learner progress and achievement is monitored and comparable with onshore delivery
Assessment and moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment tasks are purposefully designed for online delivery • There is an effective system for ensuring the authenticity of online learner work • The system for moderation of assessments that learners complete offshore online is as effective as onshore moderation
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching staff receive ongoing professional development in facilitating online courses, and/or designing and developing learning resources appropriate for offshore online delivery

Criterion	Evidence expectations
Student information and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems for general, academic, and technical support are effective in catering for all learners • The learner experience and satisfaction are comparable with onshore delivery

Validation process outcomes

NZQA communicates the validation outcome in a summary to the TEO. There are two possible validation process outcomes:

Validation process outcome	Indicators
Programme approval validated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme continues to meet temporary approval criteria for offshore online delivery • Education organisation is proactively managing quality • Improvements have been self-identified and implemented
Programme approval not validated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme has some or serious weaknesses • Education organisation is not identifying or addressing gaps or weaknesses • Significant improvements required to meet temporary approval criteria for offshore online delivery