

Validation of temporary approvals for training schemes 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 training scheme change enabling online offshore provision to existing and new students. 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.

The onus is on each TEO to provide evidence to NZQA that approval criteria are continuing to be met in practice. Evidence must cover the targeted criteria and minimum expectations for offshore online delivery set out below.

Each TEO can decide how it wishes to present the information to NZQA. However, as an example, a brief report with supporting evidence (such as learner achievement data, satisfaction surveys) would suffice. NZQA will follow up with the TEO to clarify any queries or request further information if required.

Validation criteria

Criterion	Evidence expectations
Programme design and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The delivery platform, learning activities and assessments are effective in facilitating learning and assessment that supports the achievement of learning outcomes Delivery methods and contact hours meet learner needs, including the management of time zone differences There is an effective system for ensuring the authenticity of learner work Learner progress and achievement is monitored and comparable with onshore delivery
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 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 summarises the validation outcome in a letter to the TEO. There are two possible validation process outcomes:

Validation process outcome	Indicators
Training scheme approval validated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training scheme continues to meet temporary approval criteria for offshore online delivery • Education organisation is proactively managing quality • Improvements have been self-identified and implemented
Training scheme approval not validated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training scheme 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