Many paths to success
Everyone can continue learning after they leave school.
The diagram below shows typical next steps for students,
but these are not the only possibilities.

NCEA level 1 or less?
NCEA level 2?
NCEA level 3?

Where to from school?
Make your way to employment through education

Level 1-3 certificates
Level 4-6 certificates, diplomas
Level 7-10 degrees, diplomas

NCEA is the National Certificate of Educational Achievement
apprenticeships, cadetships, traineeships
All qualifications in New Zealand, including NCEA, are assigned a level. Levels are based on complexity, with level 1 the least complex and level 10 the most complex. NCEA sits at levels 1, 2 and 3.
Many paths to success

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Leaving school with...?

NCEA level 1 or less?

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NCEA level 3?

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**Going on to further education**

**Tertiary education**
- wānanga, private training establishments (PTEs), polytechs, institutes of technology, universities.

**Workplace learning**
- employers with industry training organisations and tertiary education providers

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**Level 1-3 certificates**

Read more on page 4

**Level 4-6 certificates, diplomas**

apprenticeships, cadetships, traineeships

Read more on page 6

**Level 7-10 degrees, diplomas**

Read more on page 8
LEAVING SCHOOL WITH ....

NCEA level 1 or less?

Want to increase your chances of getting work, an apprenticeship or traineeship?

Your NEXT STEP is to study for a certificate at levels 1-3. A certificate can take 12 to 40 weeks full-time.
WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH LEVEL 1 TO 3 QUALIFICATIONS DO FOR A JOB?
Here are some examples:

- Beekeeper
- Farm worker
- Nursery worker
- Contact centre worker
- Retail sales assistant
- Nanny
- Nursing support worker
- Painter
- Tiler
- Welder

PAY NO FEES
Ask education providers about:

- **Youth Guarantee** if you are 16 to 19 years old and want to continue to study full-time for up to two years at levels 1 to 3.
- **Foundation Education** if you are under 25 years old and don’t have NCEA 1 or 2.
- **Māori and Pacific Trade Training** if you are 18 to 34 and want to gain trade qualifications and an apprenticeship.

WHERE YOU CAN STUDY
What does your local private training establishment (PTE), polytech, or wānanga offer?
If you find a job, you may be able to train for a level 2 or 3 qualification with the help of your employer and the industry training organisation.

COST
Many courses are free - see PAY NO FEES.
Otherwise fees vary from around $1000 for 12 weeks of full-time study up to $8000 for one year.

WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH LEVEL 1 TO 3 QUALIFICATIONS EARN?

$20K $50K, median full-time wage, NZ, 2013 $150K
LEAVING SCHOOL WITH ....

NCEA level 2?

Want to prepare for work in a trade, technical role or other skilled occupation?

Your **NEXT STEP** is to study for a certificate or a diploma at levels 4-6. A *certificate can take 1 year full-time; a diploma 1-2 years.*
WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH LEVEL 4 TO 6 QUALIFICATIONS DO FOR A JOB?

Here are some examples:

- Event Manager
- Florist
- Hairdresser
- Community worker
- Baker
- Computer technician
- Engineering trades worker
- Telecoms technician
- Civil engineering technician
- Electrician

WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH LEVEL 4 TO 6 QUALIFICATIONS EARN?

$20K
$50K, median full-time wage, NZ, 2013
$150K

WHERE YOU CAN STUDY

You might choose a wānanga, institute of technology, polytech, private training establishment (PTE) or university.

You might look for an employer who will train and support you to get a qualification while you work.

NZ APPRENTICESHIPS

Available in a range of trades through industry training organisations.

Apply if you are over 16 and have a job with an employer keen to train you.

You will study and work towards a qualification, probably at level 4.

The industry training organisation will support you and your employer.

Most apprenticeships take 3-4 years to complete but you earn while you learn.

COST

Around $6000 to $8000 per year of full-time study.

WHERE YOU CAN STUDY

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LEAVING SCHOOL WITH ....

NCEA level 3?

Want to prepare for work in a trade, technical role or other skilled occupation?

Your NEXT STEP is to study for a certificate or a diploma at levels 4-6. Go to previous page of this brochure.

Want to prepare for work in a professional role or other high-skilled occupation?

Your NEXT STEP is to study for a degree at levels 7-10. A bachelor’s degree takes 3-4 years full-time.
WHERE YOU CAN STUDY

You might choose a wānanga, institute of technology, polytech, private training establishment (PTE) or university.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To enrol for a degree you need to have university entrance and meet any additional specific requirements for your chosen degree.

COST

Around $6000 to $8000 per year of full-time study. But courses in some fields, such as medicine and business, can be much more.

SCHOLARSHIPS

All tertiary education providers offer scholarships – and not just to the best students. Talk to them about what’s on offer.

WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH LEVEL 7 TO 10 QUALIFICATIONS DO FOR A JOB?

Here are some examples:

- Industrial designer
- Environmental engineer
- Food technologist
- Science technician
- Medical radiation technologist
- Social worker
- Teacher
- Brewer
- Business analyst
- Programmer

WHAT DO PEOPLE WITH LEVEL 7 TO 10 QUALIFICATIONS EARN?

$20K  $50K, median full-time wage, NZ, 2013  $150K
Where do young people go from school?

The value of NCEA level 2

Many employers see NCEA level 2, or something near it, as a basic requirement in a job applicant, apprentice or trainee.

On the other hand they also say qualifications are not the only thing they look for. Attitude, self-management and people skills are very important.

Leaving school without NCEA level 2

In recent years around 20% of 15 to 19 year olds have left school and not enrolled in further education. Of these, just over half have found any kind of work.

Young people aged 16 to 19 don’t have to continue at school to gain NCEA level 2, if school really is no longer an option for them.

They may be able to study for an equivalent qualification free at a local tertiary provider and get started on a practical pathway – see page 4.

Students who are interested in a trade or practical pathway can often work towards this and NCEA level 2 while they are at school. Their options can include work experience or courses at a tertiary education provider. Ask schools about Vocational Pathways, Gateway, STAR, trade academies and service academies.
Choosing tertiary education

Around 40,000 young people leave school each year and go on to study at a polytech, institute of technology, university, private training establishment or wānanga the next year.

There is plenty of information available about tertiary education providers and their courses.

Entering trades training

In recent years around 9000 young people have started apprenticeships or traineeships each year.

The qualifications needed to work in trades or technician roles are mostly gained through learning on the job as an apprentice or trainee – see page 7.

The training involves the employer, an industry training organisation and often a tertiary education provider.

The government is trying to increase the number of employers and young people working towards trades qualifications through NZ Apprenticeships.

When you leave school...

**DO SOMETHING**

– it is crucial to get involved in something as a first step to choosing a career direction. There are level 1 to 3 courses that can help you **work out what you want to do.**
To get more information and advice start with these websites:

- **careers.govt.nz**: all you need to help you make a good decision about your next step
- **gotatrade.co.nz**: information on industry training for 30 trades
- **nzqa.govt.nz**: information on how NCEA works
- **studylink.govt.nz**: tools and advice about student loans and allowances
- **tec.govt.nz**: information on NZ apprenticeships
- **youthguarantee.net.nz**: names of tertiary education providers offering fees-free places

*New Zealand Government*