

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Certificate in English Language (Foundation Level 1)

**Qualification number:** 1879

**Date:** 18 June and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Final decision on consistency of qualification:** National Consistency is confirmed

The evidence confirms that for the majority of programmes graduate outcomes are being achieved to a consistent and appropriate threshold.

### Threshold

*The threshold to determine consistency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of:*

Graduates demonstrating that they have achieved mastery of the language skills outlined in the graduate profile at a level comparable to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) low A1, with the ability to study at the NZCEL (Level 1) or operate at an equivalent level to high A1. This is evidenced by:

- Alignment of the curriculum, including core texts and assessments to the specified CEFR levels and other relevant points of reference.
- Moderation of programmes' activities and assessments with other NZCEL programme providers
- Analysis of achievement data
- Graduate and destination data showing preparedness for higher level, including next user feedback, for example teachers, employers or other community stakeholders.

### Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Final decision on sufficiency of TEOs evidence, will be updated as other TEOs show sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Christchurch Polytechnic	Sufficient
Waiariki Polytechnic	Sufficient
Whitireia Polytechnic	Sufficient

## Introduction

This 60 credit programme is intended for learners who have no command, or a very limited command of English. This qualification was developed by NZQA National Qualifications Services (NQS) and listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) in 2012. The qualification states that its purpose is to allow the Aotearoa New Zealand community, employers and educational institutions to recognise the level at which the graduate can use English for general purposes. This qualification is aligned to the CEFR low A1 level.

This qualification is the first of a number designed as a pathway for learners to be able to progress. It is intended graduates from the New Zealand Certificate in English (Foundation) (Level 1) will be able to study the New Zealand Certificate in English (Level 1) and then, upon graduation move to the New Zealand Certificate in English (Level 2). This is the first consistency review.

## Background and special focus

The qualification outlines a graduate profile, with suggested credit values and possible unit standards that can be used to assess the graduate outcomes.

At the time of the review two Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) who attended the review had graduated learners from this qualification. Seven TEO attended as observers, as they were yet to graduate students from their programmes.

The review of this qualification was held in conjunction with a review of 1880 and 1881.

Although well signalled, it is important to recognise that consistency reviews are new for TEOs and NZQA and therefore determining sufficiency and thresholds of evidence is to some extent a collaborative, formative and iterative process. The reviewer noted that those who had participated in an earlier review were better prepared with evidence.

## Evidence

### **How well does the evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?**

TEOs supplied a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the outcomes at the right level. In assessing the sufficiency of the evidence provided by each education organisation, the reviewer was mindful of the criteria outlined on page 10 of the guidelines. The criteria used to judge this evaluation question:

- the nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented
- how well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- the extent to which the tertiary education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Most providers supplied evidence that pertained to all three qualifications.

## Programme design: alignment and benchmarking

A number of TEOs submitted evidence to demonstrate how their programme had been designed to align with the graduate outcomes. This included the use of curriculum alignment frameworks to ensure assessment and learning outcomes aligned with the graduate profile and use of the CEFR descriptors.

## Robust moderation

Most TEOs presented evidence of moderation processes that gave them assurance they were assessing at the right level for the qualification. Moderation plans and responses to moderation feedback were also supplied to demonstrate good practice. The reviewer noted strong practice occurring when external moderation was happening between a range of providers offering the qualification. This cross programme moderation gives assurance that providers are assessing at a consistent level.

## Analysis of Achievement Data

TEO supplied the reviewer with results from the programmes, showing course and qualification achievement data. An analysis of results gives good information to programmes about how well learners are achieving the qualification and component parts of the programme.

## Graduate Destination Data

Most organisations supplied data that outlined where graduates had gone on completion of their qualification. Many had moved to study English at the next level and evidence that they were succeeding was also presented. Many providers also had feedback from teachers at the higher level, attesting to the language level of graduates. Some providers had feedback from graduates who self-assessed themselves against the graduate profile.

Many TEOs noted that they were putting in place processes to ensure the systematic collection of this data.

In addition to the minimal threshold evidence TEO also supplied a range other documents to support their analysis. This included quality assurance and programme review documents and evidence of stakeholder feedback.

## Special Focus

No special focus

## Examples of good practice

Good practice highlighted during the review included:

- referencing core texts and assessments to the relevant CEFR levels and other useful points of reference
- assessment schedules showing how different graduate outcomes were formatively and summatively assessed during the course of a programme
- text analysis to ensure alignment with the right degree of complexity
- TEO fora where texts and assessments were shared to judge consistency of levels

- engaging with stakeholders to plan and check 'real-world' context for programme development and review
- feedback from next level programmes, to ensure graduates' English is at appropriate level.
- gaining graduate and other key stakeholder feedback on how well they match the graduate profile

### **Issues and concerns**

Some TEOs found issues of progression for graduates from level 2 to level 3. Graduates were not ready for the next level.

### **Recommendations to Qualification Developer**

Explore comments regarding graduates readiness to graduate to the next level along with level 1 and 2.