

Qualification Title: New Zealand Diploma in Architectural Technology (Level 6)

Qualification number: 2416

Date of review: 28 May 2018

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National Consistency Confirmed

Threshold: The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of:

Graduates of this qualification being able to work independently on small to medium scale building projects and/or under supervision on larger building projects to:

- Apply comprehensive industry knowledge to evaluate design principles for small, medium and large building projects in a design, building or construction related environment.
- Carry out feasibility studies for small, medium and large buildings.
- Establish the clients' requirements, develop and communicate a concept and building design, and prepare approval documentation for a building project in accordance with a clients' brief.
- Evaluate the performance of and select materials and finishes to be used in the building process.
- Prepare, organise and present architectural working drawings for small and medium buildings using manual and digital technologies in accordance with the statutory and regulatory environment.
- Understand the roles, documentation and administrative requirements of the construction industry, apply this knowledge and assist senior personnel through the tender process.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Ara Institute of Canterbury	Sufficient
Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT)	Sufficient
Open Polytechnic	Sufficient
Otago Polytechnic	Sufficient
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Universal College of Learning (UCOL)	Sufficient
Unitec Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Wellington Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Waikato Institute of Technology	Sufficient

Introduction

This is the first consistency for the New Zealand Diploma in Architectural Technology (Level 6). The diploma is a 240-credit qualification that was first approved in January 2015. For the period covered by this review providers identified 139 graduates.

Graduates for the 2015 and 2016 years were students who transferred to the New Zealand qualification with prior learning from the National Diploma that it replaced.

Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- 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 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

Evidence provided by education organisations included internal and external moderation, employer and graduate surveys, evidence of delivery of NZQA approved programmes, and internal programme review processes used to quality assure this provision.

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

Across the providers evidence of NZQA approved programmes, designed and delivered to develop the skills, attributes and knowledge in each of the graduate profile statements plus evidence that assessment is at the right level was the strongest evidence that the graduates matched the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold. An important component of this evidence was the moderation forum facilitated by the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) that all providers attended. At this forum each provider's assessments, related to two graduate outcome statements, were externally post-moderated. The forum is an annual process that provides an opportunity for benchmarking the standard of assessment across providers and contributes to national consistency.

Generally, evidence of real-world validity of graduates meeting the graduate profile supported consistency but was less convincing. This was because of the lack of representativeness of graduate and employer feedback and in some cases the information provided did not directly relate to the ability of graduates in relation to the graduate profile. Overall the evidence presented makes a reasonable case that graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

Examples of good practice

The annual external moderation meeting organised by the BCITO provides good evidence that graduates of the NZQA approved programmes have been assessed at the appropriate level across the providers. There was good evidence of quality assurance processes of the delivery of approved programmes that lead to the qualification.

Issues and concerns

Generally, knowledge about the performance of graduates in the workplace is an area to be improved. For most institutions the data is not representative because of low response rates

to surveys. Additionally, surveys used by several institutions were not well aligned with the graduate profile, consequently meaningful interpretation of the results is difficult.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

At several institutions International students gain the qualification. A common comment was that International students found it more difficult to complete the programme and find employment because of language difficulties. The reviewer recommends that the English language entry requirements for International students are reviewed to ensure that the NZQA required minimum requirements for diplomas at level 6 are appropriate for this qualification.