

Qualifications at levels 1-6 for specific overseas requirements

Amendment to the NZQF Qualifications Listing and Operational Rules on 8 November 2013

An amendment to the NZQF Qualifications Listing and Operational Rules came into effect on 8 November 2013. It enables listing of qualifications on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) at levels 1-6 that meet particular needs (most probably regulatory) of an overseas country.

The amended rules are available on the NZQA website at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/>.

Which qualifications are covered by the amendment?

Qualifications for specific overseas requirements are listed only at levels 1-6 of the NZQF. They are tailored to specific needs in an overseas country (or countries) for vocational education and training at certificate and diploma levels.

New Zealand tertiary education providers are increasingly responding to opportunities to deliver quality assured vocational training and qualifications offshore. In most cases New Zealand qualifications at levels 1-6 are well suited to overseas labour markets. However, in some exceptional circumstances, New Zealand qualifications at levels 1-6 lack the required overseas (most probably regulatory) content for a particular country and a separate qualification may be developed for listing on the NZQF.

How are qualifications for specific overseas requirements distinguished from others?

The key differences from other NZQF qualifications at levels 1-6 are:

- The purpose statement clearly states the use of the qualification in a particular country.
- The title of the qualification provides a clear indication of the country in which it has a predominant use.
- “NZQF” is part of the title. This avoids confusion with qualifications developed by the overseas country’s education authorities. A hypothetical example is the NZQF Diploma in Engineering (Civil) (Level 6) (Country name).
- At the ‘approval to develop’ stage of the application, the applicant must provide evidence of satisfying the requirements of the relevant regulatory body or bodies of the overseas country - instead of the distinct need in New Zealand. The applicant must also establish why an existing NZQF qualification cannot meet this need.

Qualifications for specific overseas requirements are listed in the usual way on the NZQF. Users can browse for such qualifications by using the country name as a key word.

How are qualifications for specific overseas requirements quality assured?

Listing a qualification on the NZQF makes its quality-assured status transparent. Qualifications for specific overseas requirements must undergo the same rigorous quality assurance as all other qualifications.

At levels 1-6, this includes the requirement for qualification developers to demonstrate that a suitable equivalent qualification is not already available. In addition, the developer must identify and establish they

had met the specific requirements from another country that the New Zealand qualification would not normally need to meet.

What is the approval process for programmes leading to these qualifications?

In most circumstances, education providers are seeking offshore delivery of qualifications for specific overseas requirements.

Tertiary education providers wishing to deliver an NZQF qualification offshore must apply for NZQA programme approval and accreditation (universities apply to Universities New Zealand). Providers must also meet the [NZQF Offshore Programme Delivery Rules](#).

The Offshore Rules supplement the standard programme approval and accreditation rules to ensure that offshore programmes have comparable quality outcomes to programmes delivered in New Zealand.

Can students in New Zealand study qualifications for specific overseas requirements?

The primary use of qualifications for specific overseas requirements is offshore delivery.

International students studying in New Zealand may also be enrolled in programmes leading to qualifications for specific overseas requirements.

Domestic students are not denied access to the overseas qualifications, but regulatory content specific to other countries is unlikely to be relevant to them if they seek assurance that their qualification meets New Zealand regulatory requirements, e.g. for trade certification boards.

NZQF qualifications at levels 1-6 are also already recognised by many overseas regulatory bodies, so domestic students are only rarely likely to be interested in a qualifications designed for a specific overseas country. However, NZQA does not prevent providers from enrolling domestic students.

The Offshore Delivery Rules in summary

New Zealand institutions remain responsible for the quality of learning and assessment delivered offshore regardless of who is delivering the programme. Institutions are responsible for the actions and performance of any offshore partner organisation and must proactively monitor the quality of delivery.

New Zealand institutions must be accredited even if they do not intend to offer the programme within New Zealand. The same applies if offshore partners deliver the whole programme.

Summary of the special offshore approval criterion

1. **The design of the programme** is suited to delivery in the host country and the needs of offshore students.

Summary of the special offshore accreditation criteria

2. **Any offshore partner organisation** is a reputable legal entity with tertiary education experience and financial stability. They must have appropriate ownership, management, facilities, educational resources and student services.
3. **There is a formal agreement** with any offshore partner specifying how rules and processes will be complied with, including clear channels of authority and accountability and covering compliance with local requirements.
4. **Resources** are of comparable quality, type and availability to those used in New Zealand and appropriate to enable successful outcomes for overseas students.
5. **Assessment** methods, criteria and moderation are consistent with programmes in New Zealand, and appropriately adapted for offshore delivery.
6. **Teaching staff** have suitable qualifications, experience, teaching skills, management and oversight, appropriately adapted to offshore delivery.
7. **Student and academic support services** are effective and there are procedures for student complaints.
8. **Relevant and accurate information** can be accessed by intending and enrolled students can, including information on the language of delivery and assessment.
9. **Fee refund provisions** are clear, and will not undermine the educational reputation of New Zealand. In the event of programme closure appropriate alternative education will be available.
10. **Quality assurance and management systems** are suitable for offshore delivery and quality assurance requirements in the host country are met.

To maintain approval for offshore delivery

Institutions must keep a permanent and accurate record of student enrolment and achievement. Institutions are required to undertake self assessment, participate in external evaluation and regular reviews of the programme and its delivery offshore.

How does NZQA evaluate applications?

Applications of offshore delivery must meet the standard Rules for Programme Approval and Accreditation and the Offshore Delivery Rules. Programme approval includes meeting any requirements for the related qualification listed on the NZQF. Where the institution already holds approval and accreditation for delivery of the programme in New Zealand, evaluation of the application will focus on the Offshore Delivery Rules.

Where a programme is new, and/or unique to offshore delivery, the applicant will need to meet the standard Rules for Programme Approval and Accreditation and the Offshore Delivery Rules.