Welcome to the Pasifika webpage of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Here you will find helpful information and resources to help support Pasifika learners engaged in the New Zealand secondary education system.

Takiala Pasifika 2017-2020

NZQA is committed to contributing to Pasifika educational achievement and success through the work that it does. Since 2009, NZQA has set out that commitment in successive Pasifika strategies. The Takiala Pasifika 2017-2020 (Takiala) is the current strategic action plan that guides NZQA towards achieving its vision of:

“Pasifika qualifying for the future world”

The word Takiala is a Tokelauan term which means a guide or pathway. The Takiala has three goals:

• Accelerated Pasifika learner success
• Pasifika world-view observed and reflected in our work
• Partner with education system agencies to support a 50% lift in Pasifika learner achievement at NCEA Level 3 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subject related areas by 2020

NCEA ma le Pasifika

NCEA ma le Pasifika is an information programme that provides guidance to Pasifika parents, learners and families to better understand NCEA, and how you can support your children to succeed.
NZQA has pamphlets called "Understanding NCEA" that explains the importance of NCEA and videos called "How NCEA works". The pamphlets and videos are available in the Samoa, Tonga, Niue, and English languages.

**Pamphlets**

Te kite maramaanga i te NCEA (Cook Islands Māori) - Understanding-NCEA-Cook-Islands-Maori.pdf (PDF, 2.1MB)

Ko hono fakahinohino 'o e NCEA (Tongan) - NZQ161-TonganUnderstNCEA-d4.pdf (PDF, 2.2MB)

Ia malamalama i le NCEA (Samoan) - NZQ161-SamoanUnderstandNCEA-d3.pdf

Ko e maamaaga ke he NCEA (Niue) - NZQ161-NiueanUnderstNCEA-d4.pdf (PDF, 1.7MB)

Understanding NCEA (English) - Understanding-NCEA-A5-brochure-ENGLISH.pdf

**Videos**

**Pasifika in STEM**

NZQA's Future State Programme is a multi-year programme of work to help ensure learners qualify for a future world that is increasingly global and digitally connected. One of the goals of the Future State Programme is:

"For NZQA to partner with education system agencies to support a 50% lift of Pasifika student achievement at NCEA Level 3 in one or more standards in STEM subject related areas by 2020".

The Pasifika component of the STEM goal will be measured by:

"The total number of Pasifika students from NZQA enrolments in the 'given year' who obtained 14 credits in one or more Level 3 core STEM subjects"

"Pacific youth need to be armed with skills, knowledge and confidence in STEM subjects so they can take part in an innovation based economy. Those skills are essential for much of the workforce. By combining STEM skills with Pacific values and creativity, New Zealand Pacific youth can play key roles in addressing challenges such as climate change, digital connectivity and resource management" - Ministry for Pacific Peoples
The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Taupulega was established in January 2017. The word Taupulega is a Samoan/Tokelauan term which means Council of Advisors.

The purpose of the STEM Taupulega is to provide support, advice and guidance to work with external partners to realise the Pasifika in STEM target:

“To achieve a 50 percent lift in NCEA Level 3 Pasifika student achievement, in one or more standards in STEM related subjects by 2020.”

The members of the STEM Taupulega are selected for their skills, experience and expertise that contribute to the purpose and objectives of the role.

James Penfold - Chairperson

James Penfold is the recipient of the 2016 Prime Minister’s Pacific Youth Award for the AKO Aotearoa STEM Award category.

A New Zealand-born Tongan, James gained entry into medical school as part of the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS) at the University of Auckland which provides support throughout the admissions process. In 2016, James was a tutor for Māori and Pacific students at the University of Auckland, teaching Biology for Biomedical Science to classes of around 30-50 students. Tuākana offers an opportunity for whakawhanaungatanga and group learning to both Māori and Pacific students.

He also worked for Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS), tutoring many of the first year students seeking admission to the medical programme and also teaching Medical Science to classes of 40-50 first-year students. In addition to becoming a doctor, James wants to work with organisations that address Pacific and Māori community issues, such as nutrition and re-employment after incarceration. He is currently working with colleagues on an initiative to address the barriers to Hauora, involving mala’e and marae to determine how best to provide services in an accessible, acceptable and appropriate manner.
Ronemia Teumohenga

Ronemia Teumohenga was the recipient of the 2016 Prime Minister’s Pacific Youth Awards for the Government Communications Security Bureau category for her input into promoting science to Pasifika students. At just 18 years old, Ronemia is focused on a career that can help people, and empower Pasifika communities in New Zealand.

Ronemia was a leadership prefect in humanities and sciences at Palmerston North Girl’s High, and her Manawatu Science and Technology bronze award. During her time at school, Ronemia has met regularly with younger Pasifika pupils at her school to help tutor them.

Ronemia is of Tongan, Samoan and Tokelauan descent, and speaks some Tongan. In 2017, she started her first-year science course – Health Sciences First Year at the University of Otago.

Dianne Sika-Paotonu

Dianne Sika-Paotonu of Tongan descent, is a Biomedical Scientist who leads research in New Zealand. She is the Associate Dean (Pacific) at the University of Otago, Wellington, Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine. In the past Dianne has worked at the Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) in Perth Western Australia where she remains an Honorary Research Associate at both Institutions. She served as the Scientific Lead for the Penicillin Research work with a team based at the Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccines and Infectious Diseases in Perth.

Dianne is also an Investigator working on projects such as “The Pharmacokinetics of Benzathine Penicillin G-towards a new long-acting penicillin formulation for Rheumatic Fever and Rheumatic Heart Disease” and the National Science Challenge/Healthier Lives funded work “Circulating tumour DNA for better cancer management”, among others. She is a member of the New Zealand based research team investigating the Immunogenetics of Rheumatic Fever connected with the Genome Wide-Association Study International Consortium.

Dianne completed her PhD in Biomedical Science at Victoria University of Wellington based at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. Dianne’s research interests are areas of health research relevant to Pacific populations living in New Zealand and in the Region.
J’aime Laurenson

After a few years as a Management Consultant at Deloitte, J’aime is now working at a tech start-up company, Auror. In 2010, J’aime graduated from the University of Auckland with first-class honours degrees (conjoint) – the first student to do so. He then completed a Masters of Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship. While at university, J’aime also arranged mentoring for Pacific engineering students in a scheme which has contributed to a 100 percent retention rate, and higher than average pass rates. He was also the recipient of the Prime Minister’s Pacific Youth Awards in 2010, winning the Leadership Award category.

J’aime currently looks after the Product at Auror, a company that is transforming the way Police and businesses prevent and solve crime in real-time. Auror makes it easy to report crime incidents, solve more crime, and prevent it in the future, using the power of intelligence and data to make communities safer. Their software platform has already helped affect hundreds of arrests, prevented thousands of crimes, and helped businesses.

Joy Eaton

Joy Eaton joined the Starpath team, as Deputy Director, in early 2011. Starpath, a University of Auckland project for equity and excellence, has a focus on supporting schools to open opportunities to students to follow a pathway to degree level study. The project is currently undertaking an investigation into the enablers and barriers to gaining University Entrance as a qualification.

Joy started her career in education as a geography and social studies teacher at Tangaroa College and has since held a number of senior management roles in mid-low decile schools, including four years as principal at Henderson High School in West Auckland.

Joy has a deep academic interest in the role of hope in the sustainability of innovation and change in education and, as part of a Research Fellowship with UNITEC, wrote a paper entitled ‘The Life and Death of Change’.

Recently, Joy has been actively involved, as an Expert Partner, in the development of cluster school collaborations and has continued to support community work with an interest in youth mentoring.

Natalie Faitala

Natalie Faitala is the current Chair for the Pasifika Post Primary Teachers Association Pasifika Komiti. She is also employed as the Head of the English department at Wesley College, Pukekohe.
In 2013, Natalie completed a Masters in Education (1<sup>st</sup> class honours) from the University of Auckland, her thesis focused on Pasifika pathways - educational journeys. She also completed her Bachelor of Education (B. Ed), Social Sciences in 1999 from the University of Waikato.

Natalie’s father hails from Tongareva, in the Northern Cook Islands. Her family returned to the Cook Islands when she was a teenager where she completed her senior secondary schooling. She returned to Rarotonga in 1999 and taught at Tereora College for five years. Natalie has been an executive member of Komiti Pasifika, PPTA for 5 years and has participated in various Pasifika education advisory roles.

**Virginia Baker**

Virginia (Jinny) Baker is a senior social scientist at the Institute for Environmental Science & Research Ltd (ESR) and specialises in community engagement in science. She has worked on a number of projects, including chemical exposures, waste management, drinking water, and intervention models to tackle complex issues like Type II diabetes.

Jinny is a sociologist that utilises ‘systems thinking’, ‘co-design’ and participatory research approaches to support scientists, policy makers and communities to work together to build meaningful social change. Jinny is passionate about supporting youth science and education, and has a strong commitment to working in partnership with Māori and Pasifika.

Aotearoa NZ is a special place, we have unique cultural and knowledge frameworks to inform our practice, and immense capacities to build stronger collective approaches for improving environmental outcomes.

**STEM Resources**

**Pasifika STEM Champion Stories**

Achievement in STEM subjects at NCEA keeps pathway options open for further studies or training beyond school and can lead to careers and broader range of employment opportunities. The Pasifika Champion Bio is a resource that captures the journey of Pasifika individuals who share the decisions they made to study STEM courses and the many opportunities afforded to them.

*Jaime-Laurenson.pdf (PDF, 631KB)*

*James-Penfold.pdf (PDF, 568KB)*

*Lincoln-Timoteo.pdf (PDF, 318KB)*