Studying in New Zealand

New Zealand’s education system allows for flexibility, choice and great support. At its heart is the New Zealand Qualifications’ Framework (NZQF). This lists all qualifications in a series of levels, from Level 1 to 10, and includes certificates, diplomas and degrees. Whether you’re studying at secondary or tertiary level, it’s a good idea to check that your study programme will lead towards a qualification listed on the NZQF, because this means it’s quality assured.

All about New Zealand qualifications

A look at the New Zealand Qualifications’ Framework and the education levels within it.

• Understanding New Zealand qualifications (NZQF)
• Levels and qualification types (certificates, diplomas, degrees)
• Search for a qualification

Secondary school and NCEA

In New Zealand, secondary education runs from Year 9 (around 12-years old). Students generally work towards the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA), where they begin level one in Year 11 and work through to level 3 in Year 13.

• Understanding NCEA
• Choosing secondary school subjects
• International recognition of NCEA
Tertiary education

Students ready to continue their study have a great selection of tertiary education options to choose from in New Zealand, from universities to institutes of technology and polytechnics, private training establishments, wānanga, or workplace training.

- About tertiary education in NZ
- Choosing a tertiary qualification
- Tips for choosing a tertiary provider
- Search recognised education providers in New Zealand

International students in New Zealand

New Zealand welcomes international students from all around the world. New Zealand’s qualifications are world-class, and we have a number of systems in place to make sure our international students are looked after well.

- Information for international students
- Quality assurance of education in New Zealand
- Caring for International Students - The Code of Practice