

Update on changes to titles of qualifications listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework



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Titles of qualifications listed on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework are changing

1. Qualifications listed at levels 1-6 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) are now being listed with “New Zealand” in their titles. The use of the term “National” or a provider name in a qualifications title is being phased out. Eventually all qualifications listed at levels 1-6 on the NZQF will have “New Zealand” in their title. “National” will continue to be used to distinguish secondary school qualifications at levels 1-3, namely National Certificates of Educational Achievement.
2. This update explains how the NZQF was established, the review of qualifications listed on it, and why the titles of qualifications listed on the NZQF are changing as a result.

The New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)

3. The NZQF is the definitive source for accurate and current information on all quality-assured qualifications in New Zealand. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) is the New Zealand government agency responsible for managing the NZQF.
4. The NZQF was established in July 2010 as a single unified framework for all New Zealand qualifications. The NZQF replaced two previous qualifications systems: the National Qualifications Framework and the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications.

Why the NZQF was established: the Targeted Review of the Qualifications System

5. The NZQF was established as the result of the Targeted Review of the Qualifications System (the Targeted Review), which was carried out between 2008-2009 to ensure that New Zealand qualifications are useful and relevant to current and future learners, employers and other stakeholders. The Targeted Review found that the previous qualifications system was difficult for learners and employers to use and understand, and that it contained a large number of similar qualifications. More information about the Targeted Review is in Appendix 1.

Outcomes of the Targeted Review

6. A key result of the Targeted Review was the establishment of the NZQF as a single location for all quality-assured qualifications in New Zealand. The NZQF listing rules ensure that information about qualifications listed on the NZQF is clear and consistent. This makes it easier to find information about qualifications in New Zealand.
7. Another result of the Targeted Review was to establish a mandatory process for regularly reviewing quality-assured qualifications listed on the NZQF to ensure that they

remain relevant and fit-for-purpose. This process is known as 'mandatory review of qualifications'.

Mandatory review of qualifications

8. All quality-assured qualifications in New Zealand are undergoing or have completed a mandatory review process for the first time. This process started in 2011 and will finish by the end of 2014. There is more detailed information about the mandatory review process in Appendix 3.
9. Reviews provide an opportunity for qualification developers to work together to look strategically at their sector's workforce and skill needs to ensure the range of qualifications on the NZQF meet those needs. Qualification developers are education organisations or other bodies recognised by NZQA as capable of developing qualifications who are responsible for developing qualifications for their sectors.
10. As a result of the reviews, new qualifications are being developed, and the old qualifications are being phased out of use – which means they are listed as 'expiring' and then 'discontinued' on the NZQF. While these older qualifications will no longer be offered to new learners, they will still be listed on the NZQF, and are still valid qualifications.
11. Where the review process reveals that new qualifications are required to meet sector needs, those qualifications are developed and listed on the NZQF.

Outcomes of the mandatory review process

12. New qualifications developed as the result of reviews will reduce the duplication and proliferation of qualifications that has made the New Zealand qualifications system difficult to understand.
13. Reviews will result in qualifications that are uniformly structured and that meet the new requirements for listing on the NZQF. These qualifications will be easier to understand and compare.
14. While there will be fewer qualifications listed on the NZQF, qualification providers will be able to design and deliver programmes to meet the requirements of qualifications more flexibly to meet local requirements. A programme is a detailed plan for learning that leads to the award of a qualification. There may be a variety of programmes that lead to the same qualification, but with different approaches, structures and emphases.
15. Education organisations who deliver programmes towards these new qualifications will also be entitled to award qualifications.

Changes to qualification titles listed on the NZQF

16. Over time, new and reviewed qualifications at levels 1-6 listed on the NZQF will have "New Zealand" in their title. These qualifications are non-university qualifications. The

use of the term “National” or a provider name in a qualifications title is being phased out as qualifications are reviewed and new qualifications are developed. “National” will continue to be used to distinguish secondary school qualifications at levels 1-3, namely National Certificates of Educational Achievement.

17. Qualifications with “New Zealand” in the title are all those other non-university qualifications, and will have the following features:
 - Qualifications listed at levels 1-6 of the NZQF will have “New Zealand” in their title
 - Qualification providers will be able to award New Zealand Qualifications
 - Older National qualifications will be listed as ‘discontinued’ on the NZQF
 - If a qualification is listed on the NZQF website under any status, then the qualification is approved. See <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/> for further information.

18. Certificates for qualifications with “New Zealand” in the title will have the following features:
 - The New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) logo must be used
 - The qualification title must be displayed in full. The level of the qualification and NZQF reference number should also be included
 - The certificate and/or diploma must include a qualification statement:

This is to certify that on [day] [month] [year]
[name of learner]
has met the requirements of the programme leading to the above qualification
and was awarded this qualification by [awarding qualification name]
 - Name of the student must be in full and must be the legal name
 - As specified in the qualification award section of the qualification document:
 - the logo of the awarding organisation *must* be included
 - the relevant qualification developer logo *may* be included
 - A signature from a representative of the awarding organisation and role/job title is required. This must be completed by the CE or other senior staff with authority to confirm award on behalf of the organisation
 - The date of issue of the certificate/diploma and the National Student Number are required.

Appendix 1 – The Targeted Review of the Qualifications System

The Targeted Review of the Qualification System at levels 1-6 on New Zealand's ten-level qualifications framework commenced in 2008. The review aimed to ensure that New Zealand qualifications are useful and relevant to current and future learners, employers and other stakeholders.

The Targeted Review was a key deliverable of the NZQA Statement of Intent 2009-2011. The review was initiated in response to concerns raised by employers, employees and unions about the clarity and relevance of qualifications, particularly vocational qualifications.

Findings of the Targeted Review

The 2008-09 review found that the qualifications system was difficult for learners, employers and industry to understand because it:

- was not relevant to some employers and industry
- was not user-friendly, and the status of qualifications was unclear
- contained a large number of similar qualifications which made distinguishing between qualifications and identifying education/career pathways difficult.

Changes recommended by the Targeted Review

A package of seven changes was recommended by the review and approved by the NZQA Board for implementation. These were to:

1. Establish a unified New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF)
2. Require the use of existing quality assured qualifications, and change the design rules for National and New Zealand qualifications to allow for more inclusion of local components
3. Require mandatory periodic reviews of qualifications to determine whether they are still fit for purpose
4. Strengthen and standardise qualification outcome statement requirements
5. Introduce a mandatory pre-development assessment stage for qualification developers
6. Strengthen industry involvement in qualification development
7. Provide clear information about whether a qualification is active, inactive or closed.

All recommendations, apart from change 3, were implemented in 2010. Change 3 to require mandatory periodic reviews of qualifications commenced in early 2011.

Overall, the changes streamline and simplify the qualifications system. The establishment of the NZQF as a single location for all qualifications has made it easier to find information about qualifications. The provision of information about the status of every qualification has reduced the number of available qualifications. The new requirements for listing qualifications on the NZQF will prevent the duplication and proliferation of qualifications.

Appendix 2 – Understanding New Zealand qualifications

The New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) is the definitive source for accurate and current information on quality assured qualifications in New Zealand. This appendix provides an overview of New Zealand qualifications: the information you can find on the NZQF about the purpose, types and levels of qualifications. There is more information available on this page of the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/

For every qualification listed on the NZQF, the following information is publicly available:

- Qualification title
- Qualification type – such as Certificate, Bachelor’s Degree, Doctoral Degree
- Qualification level on the NZQF – between 1-10
- Outcome Statement – this describes the knowledge, skills, and attributes of a graduate who has been awarded the qualification
- Credit value – this relates to the amount of learning in the qualification
- Subject area classification
- Qualification status – whether the qualification is ‘current’, ‘expiring’, or ‘discontinued’.

Types and levels

Diagram: Level descriptors and qualification types on the NZQF

Level	Qualification Types
10	Doctoral Degree
9	Master’s Degree
8	Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates, Bachelor Honours Degree
7	Bachelor’s Degree, Graduate Diplomas and Certificates
6 5	Diplomas
4 3 2 1	Certificates

Qualification types

All quality assured qualifications listed on the NZQF fit into a qualification type: a certificate, diploma or degree. Each qualification type is defined by an agreed set of criteria which includes the level at which the qualification is listed and the number of credits required at each level. The table below sets out a list of qualification types with links to their definition on the NZQA website.

Certificate	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/certificate/
Diploma	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/diploma/
Bachelor's Degree	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/bachelor-s-degree/
Graduate Certificate	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/graduate-certificate/
Graduate Diploma	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/graduate-diploma/
Bachelor Honours Degree	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/bachelor-honours-degree/
Postgraduate Certificate	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/postgraduate-certificate/
Postgraduate Diploma	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/postgraduate-diploma/
Master's Degree	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/master-s-degree/
Doctoral Degrees	www.nzqa.govt.nz/studying-in-new-zealand/nzqf/understand-nz-quals/doctoral-degree/

Levels of qualifications

The NZQF has ten levels. Levels are based on complexity, with level 1 the least complex and level 10 the most complex. All qualifications on the NZQF are assigned one of the ten levels. It is possible for qualifications to include credit achieved at levels above and below the overall level at which the qualification is listed.

Outcome statement

All qualifications on the NZQF contain an outcome statement which describes the knowledge, skills and attributes of a graduate.

Different learners will achieve the outcomes in different ways, so outcome statements are an indicator of the minimum achievement expected from a qualification.

Each outcome statement includes the following:

- Graduate profiles that identify the expected learning outcomes of a qualification. This is captured in notions of what a learner will know, understand and be able to do when they achieve the qualification

- Education pathways that identify other qualifications that a graduate can enrol in after completing this qualification. Where qualifications are stand-alone and do not prepare graduates for further study, the outcome statement should make this clear
- Employment pathways (or contribution to the community) that identify the areas in which a graduate may be qualified to work, or the contribution they may make to their community.

Credit value

All qualifications on the NZQF have a credit value. The credit value relates to the amount of learning in the qualification.

In determining the amount of learning in a qualification, a qualification developer estimates how long it would typically take a person to achieve the stated outcomes in the context specified and to demonstrate that achievement through assessment. This determines the credit value for a qualification. One credit is equal to ten notional hours of learning. Notional learning hours include:

- Direct contact time with teachers and trainers—"directed learning"
- Time spent in studying and doing assignments and undertaking practical tasks—"self-directed" or "on-task" learning
- Time spent in assessment.

For government funding purposes, a full-time single year programme is equal to 120 credits. However, the credit system allows for a range of ways to structure programmes, which is not limited by the concept of a single-year programme measure.

Subject area classifications

All qualifications on the NZQF are assigned a six-digit code from the New Zealand Standard Classification of Education (NZSCED) classification system. The NZSCED classifies a qualification into a subject area, which can be used when searching for qualifications in an area of interest.

Information about the NZSCED classification system is available from the Education Counts website provided by the New Zealand Ministry of Education:

www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data-services/collecting-information/code_sets/new_zealand_standard_classification_of_education_nzsced

Status

All qualifications listed on the NZQF must display and maintain clear information on the status using the following definitions:

- **Current:** Qualifications that are current are those listed on the NZQF and can be offered by tertiary education organisations
- **Expiring:** Qualifications that are expiring are those either being replaced with a new qualification or the decision has been made for them to be closed. This will normally be as a result of a review. The qualification may continue to be available to existing

students while they complete the programme of study or training path, but no new learners are able to enrol. A time limit will apply to the expiry period

- Discontinued: Qualifications designated as discontinued will no longer be available or awarded.