



Entering NCEA and NZ Scholarship

A guide for students,
caregivers and whānau 2025



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority



Tēnā koutou katoa

The **National Certificate of Educational Achievement** (NCEA) is the main national qualification for secondary school students in New Zealand.

It is made up of internally and externally assessed standards listed on the [Directory of Assessment and Skills Standards](#). Assessment for externally assessed standards include exams, common assessment activities and submitted portfolios of work.

NCEA is recognised by employers and used for selection by universities both in New Zealand and overseas. **New Zealand Scholarship** is an award that recognises top secondary school students. Students who achieve NZ Scholarship receive a monetary award. Students who receive multiple NZ Scholarships may also be recognised through NZQA's Top Scholar Award ceremony.

How do I become a candidate for NCEA or NZ Scholarship?

When your school or kura first sends your entries to NZQA in late Term 1, you automatically become a candidate for NCEA. If you are interested in entering for NZ Scholarship, your school or kura can help you enrol in this as well.

Results of every standard you achieve will be recorded on your New Zealand Record of Achievement.

If you are doing any other study, for example at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu or another provider, you will need to tell your school or kura.

For more information, please visit www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/

NCEA Levels and Certificates

NCEA Level	Requirements
Level 1	60 credits are required at any level (Level 1, 2 or 3) plus 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits and 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits. For information about which standards apply, see <u>www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/subjects/litnum/</u>
Level 2	60 credits at Level 2 or above The Level 1 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau requirements must also be met.
Level 3	60 credits at Level 3 or above The Level 1 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau requirements must also be met.

If you have questions about Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau, talk to your school or kura.

You only need to meet the Literacy or Te Reo Matatini and Numeracy or Te Pāngarau requirements once. You do not need to meet them again for other levels of NCEA.

National Secondary Examination Timetable

The National Secondary Examination Timetable 2025 is available on the NZQA website www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/exam-timetable-and-key-assessment-dates/exam-timetable/. Check with your teacher if you have any End of Year timetable clashes. They will work with NZQA to manage these.

Special Assessment Conditions

If you have sensory, physical, medical, or learning difficulties, you may be able to get help to access assessments during the year. This help is called Special Assessment Conditions. Your school or kura needs to apply to NZQA on your behalf to access this help and will explain what this means for you. There is no cost to you for this.

For more information, please visit www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/ncea-for-teachers-and-schools/special-assessment-conditions/

How do I gain entrance to a New Zealand university?

University Entrance (UE) is the minimum requirement for getting into a New Zealand university. Many universities and other tertiary providers have extra entry requirements for specific programmes. You'll need to talk to them to find out the exact requirements for what you want to study.

To gain UE you will need:

- NCEA Level 3
- 14 credits at Level 3 in each of three UE approved subjects
- Literacy – 10 credits at Level 2 or above, made up of:
 - 5 credits in reading standards
 - 5 credits in writing standards
- Numeracy – 10 credits at Level 1 or above, made up of:
 - co-requisite Level 1 Numeracy unit standard (US 32406) or Te Pāngarau (US 32412); or
 - achievement in certain standards

Go to www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-secondary-quals/university-entrance/ or ask your teachers for more information.

Fees for International Students

Entry for assessment for NCEA and NZ Scholarship is free of charge for Domestic students.

International Fee-Paying students engaging in any assessments must pay:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ○ <i>NCEA entry</i> | <i>\$383.30 per candidate</i> |
| ○ <i>Each NZ Scholarship subject</i> | <i>\$102.20 per subject</i> |

You pay international student fees to your school or kura. They will be able to tell you when and how much to pay. Your school or kura will pay fees to NZQA by 31 October 2025.

MyNZQA learner account

The MyNZQA learner portal shows all your secondary school results, awards, qualifications, and endorsements.

In the MyNZQA learner portal you can also:

- view your entries, results and scanned external assessment booklets and digital exam responses
- upload digital submissions for marking
- apply for reviews or reconsiderations
- request a Record of Achievement and NCEA certificates.

Information on how to create a MyNZQA learner account is available at Create or activate account on the NZQA website. You also use these login details to access digital external assessments.

Results released to universities

In January 2026, NZQA will send all Level 2, Level 3, and University Entrance results that have been authorised for release to all New Zealand universities to help process pre-enrolments. If you do not want your results to be released, you **must** tell your school or kura.

Studying overseas

If you're planning to study overseas, contact the institution(s) where you intend to study as early as possible. Make sure you understand their enrolment requirements, procedures, and deadlines. Australian universities can access your results directly from NZQA systems, unless you have specifically requested that your results are not made available.

Completing a digital external assessment

NZQA offers digital external assessments in selected NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship subjects. Please refer to the National Secondary Examination Timetable for the full list of subjects being offered digitally. This is available on the NZQA website. Your school or kura will let you know which external assessments they are offering digitally and help you prepare. Note that several NZ Scholarship subjects will be added to the list of subjects being offered digitally. NZQA will tell schools which NZ Scholarship subjects will be offered digitally as soon as possible.

Along with the revision you would do for external assessments, you need to get familiar with the digital assessment platform. Activities to familiarise yourself with the digital assessment platform and prepare your device can be found on our website: www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/external-assessment/about-digital-external-assessment/

**Find out more at www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/
or talk with your school or kura.**