

How to Build a Qualification

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NCEA Level 1

NCEA is New Zealand's main national qualification for secondary school students. NCEA is made up of national qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), based on credits from all unit and achievement standards.

- To earn NCEA Level 1 you must achieve 80 credits.
- Of these, eight credits must be in literacy standards and eight credits in numeracy standards.

NCEA Level 1 is usually studied in the third year of secondary school.

Certificates – Levels 1 to 4

A certificate usually requires one year of full-time study, but you can also do this part time over a number of years. All tertiary training providers offer certificate level courses.

National certificates – Levels 1 to 4

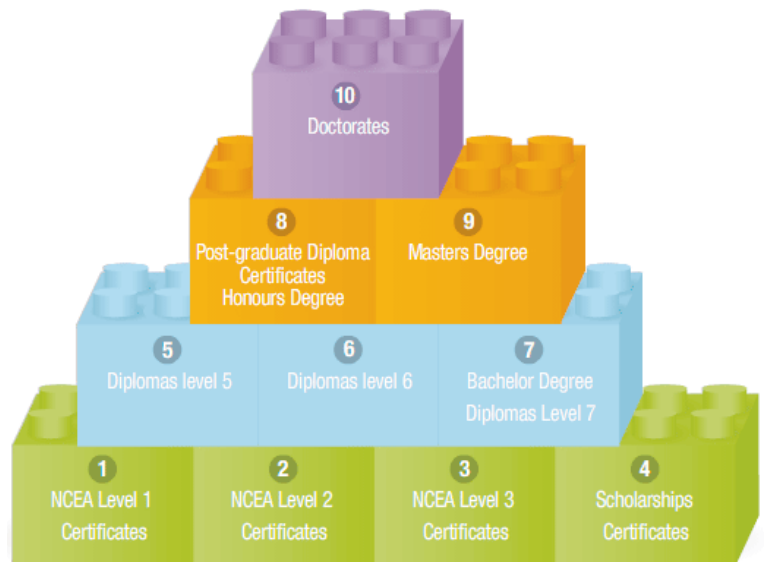
A national certificate is a qualification usually registered between Levels 1 and 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

A national certificate will cover the same course material, no matter where in New Zealand you study.

National certificates tell employers you have proven skills in a particular area of work. It's how they know, for example, that a carpenter is a qualified carpenter, or a chef is a qualified chef.

You can study for a National Certificate while on the job through industry training or apprenticeships or while in the defence forces.

Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Private training providers and Wananga also offer National Certificate courses.



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NCEA Level 2

To earn NCEA Level 2 you must achieve:

- 60 credits at Level 2 or above; plus
- 20 credits at any level, even if gained for another national qualification.

There are no literacy or numeracy requirements for this qualification. NCEA Level 2 is usually studied in the fourth year of secondary school.

You can also study Level 2 Certificates and National Certificates. See section 1 for more information.

3 NCEA Level 3

To earn NCEA Level 3 you must achieve:

- 60 credits at Level 3 or above; plus
- 20 credits at Level 2 or above, even if gained for another national qualification.

NCEA Level 3 is usually studied in the final year of secondary school.

You can also study Level 3 Certificates and National Certificates. See section 1 for more information.

4 Scholarships and Certificates

Scholarship is a series of examinations (including portfolios). It is designed to challenge and financially reward very able students going on to do tertiary study.

Scholarship is studied in the final year of secondary school.

You can also study Level 4 Certificates and National Certificates. See section 1 for more information

5 Diplomas – Levels 5 to 7

6 A diploma normally requires two years of full-time study, although it can sometimes be studied part time. It can follow on from a certificate, or can be a stand-alone qualification.

7 Diplomas are offered by most tertiary training providers.

National diplomas – Levels 5 to 7

A national diploma is a qualification usually registered between Levels 5 and 7 on the NQF. A national diploma will cover the same course material, no matter where in New Zealand you study. National Diplomas usually takes one or two years full-time study to complete.

National diplomas are taught through industry training, apprenticeships or in the defence forces. You can also study for a National Diplomas at Polytechs, private training organisations and Colleges of education.

Bachelors degrees – Level 7

A Bachelors degree is an undergraduate degree, which normally requires at least three years of full-time study. You can often study part time over a number of years as well.

Bachelors degrees are taught at Universities, Polytechs, Wananga, Colleges of Education and private training providers.

8 Bachelors degrees with Honours – Level 8

A Bachelors degree with Honours requires either a one-year programme following a three-year Bachelors degree, or a longer four-year Bachelors degree, which requires a particular level of achievement.

Bachelors degrees with Honours are awarded at Universities, Polytechs and Colleges of Education.

Postgraduate diplomas and certificates – Level 8

A postgraduate qualification is open to graduates (those who have a Bachelors degree), and is usually one year long. For example, a secondary school teacher may complete a Postgraduate Diploma of Teaching, after completing a degree in their teaching subject.

Postgraduate diplomas and certificates are taught at Universities, Polytechs, Wananga, Colleges of Education and Private training providers.

Bachelors degrees with Honours – Level 8

A Bachelors degree with Honours requires either a one-year programme following a three-year Bachelors degree, or a longer four-year Bachelors degree, which requires a particular level of achievement.

Bachelors degrees with Honours are awarded at Universities, Polytechs and Colleges of Education.

9 Masters degrees – Level 9

A Masters degree is an advanced degree taken by someone who already holds a Bachelors degree or, in some cases, has extensive experience in the relevant field. It usually involves writing a piece based on focused research, called a thesis. Most Masters degrees take two years of full-time study to complete, or four years part-time.

Masters degrees can be studied at Universities, Wananga, Polytechs, Private training providers and Colleges of Education.

10 Doctorates – Level 10

A Doctorate is also called a PhD, and is the highest university degree. It usually involves extensive research resulting in a thesis. The person is awarded the title of Doctor. Most PhDs take three years of full-time study to complete.

Doctorates can be studied at Universities, Polytechs and Wananga.