

Kōrero

Mātauranga

Me kōrero tātou

Have your say about restricting the awarding of NCEA offshore

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is New Zealand's main national qualification for senior secondary school students.

Background

The Education Act 1989 prevents State and State integrated schools from awarding NCEA offshore. An exception to this is correspondence schools (New Zealand currently has only one established correspondence school, Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu | the Correspondence School).

Currently, there are no legislative barriers to private schools and tertiary education providers (TEPs) assessing standards which could lead to the award of NCEA to students living offshore. Those private schools or TEPs that wish to assess standards leading to the award of NCEA to students based offshore must have consent to assess from NZQA.

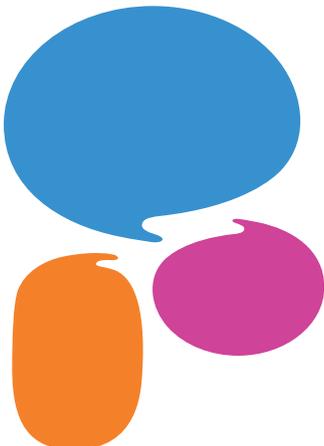
New Zealand also has agreements with the Cook Islands and Niue which enable secondary schools in those countries to award NCEA.

Current situation

There are risks with awarding NCEA offshore:

- » NCEA has been developed for a New Zealand context, and is not readily transferable to other educational systems and contexts;
- » NCEA is based on standards-based assessment with an increasing proportion of internal assessment. This means high levels of quality assurance and moderation are needed;
- » When NCEA is offered offshore, the school or provider's connection with the broader educational system could become more tenuous, creating risks to the quality and consistency of teaching and assessment; and
- » The delivery of NCEA offshore could create a risk to New Zealand's educational reputation and perceptions of the quality and robustness of the NCEA qualification, both in New Zealand and offshore.

In response to these concerns, the government is proposing to prohibit the awarding of NCEA offshore.



Further information

If you have any questions about making a submission, or would like more information, please email legislation.consultation@education.govt.nz



Submissions
close on
14 June 2019

Proposal for change

It is proposed that the awarding of NCEA offshore would be prohibited through an amendment to the Education Act 1989. This would mean that State and State integrated schools, private schools and tertiary education providers would not be able to offer NCEA offshore.

Three exceptions would be provided for. First, the awarding of NCEA by correspondence schools to domestic students based offshore will continue. Second, the ability for the Government to make arrangements with other countries, such as the Cook Islands and Niue, for their secondary schools to award NCEA will continue. Third, TEPs that provide unit standards offshore that lead to qualifications other than NCEA, and which can also contribute to NCEA, will be able to continue this provision where it is not aimed at NCEA.

It is proposed that appropriate sanctions be created, such as offences punishable by fines. We are seeking your views on what the sanctions should be and if they include offences, what the maximum fines should be.

We are not aware of any private schools or TEPs currently offering NCEA to students based offshore however, if this is already happening, transition arrangements would be put in place for any students based offshore and currently studying towards an NCEA qualification through private schools or TEPs.

How to have your say

We are seeking your views on the proposed change, before the government makes a decision on including it in a bill.

You can email your submissions to legislation.consultation@education.govt.nz or write to:

Education Consultation
Ministry of Education
PO Box 1666
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Personal information and confidentiality

Submissions and documents associated with the consultation process meet the definition of official information, and are therefore subject to the Official Information Act 1982.



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the future of education.

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