



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

Qualifications Frameworks

Reflections on New Zealand experiences

Strasbourg October 2007

Presentation Structure

- ▲ Introduce New Zealand 'qualifications framework'
- ▲ Illustrate how it is used
- ▲ Identify key issues which emerged in its development

For New Zealand:

- ▲ Equivalent to the European Qualifications Framework

Is the

- ▲ Structure of the **Register of Quality Assured Qualifications**

Structure and Levels

10	Doctorates
9	Masters degrees
8	Postgraduate Diplomas and Certificates Bachelors Degrees with Honours
7	Bachelors Degrees Graduate Diplomas and Certificates
6	Diplomas
5	
4	Certificates
3	
2	
1	

Qualifications Frameworks

Each qualification type has

- a) A level in terms of complexity of learning outcomes
- b) A size in terms of credits (120 credits = 1 equivalent full time year)

Bachelor Degree

a minimum of 360 credits

from levels 4 to 7

of which a minimum of 72 credits should
be at level 7

a maximum of 20 credits should be at
level 4

Levels

Each level is described in terms of learning outcomes which reflect

- a) Process - skills
- b) Learning demand – knowledge
- c) Responsibility – attitude

Level Descriptors

Level 7	Process	Learning Demand	Responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Require a command of highly specialised technical or scholastic and basic research skills across a major discipline; ➤ Involve the full range of procedures in a major discipline ➤ Are applied in complex variables and specialised contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Knowledge of a major discipline with areas of specialisation in depth ➤ Analysis, transformation and evaluation of abstract data and concepts ➤ Creation of appropriate responses to resolve given or contextual abstract problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In planning, resourcing and managing processes ➤ Within broad parameters and functions ➤ With complete accountability for determining, achieving and evaluating personal and/or group outcomes

Qualifications Frameworks

Used in three ways:

Register of Quality Assured Qualifications

Whole qualifications at Framework levels

Recognition of International Qualifications

Described by framework level equivalence

National Qualifications Framework:

component units are registered,

National Qualifications are made up of units

Register aims to

- ▲ Show relationship between qualifications
- ▲ Facilitate candidates' ability to choose programmes and to transfer credit
- ▲ Clearly identify all quality assured qualifications
- ▲ Assist in the international recognition of New Zealand qualifications

Information on the Register

- ▲ Title of the qualification
- ▲ Level at which it is registered
- ▲ Outcome statement attached to the qualification
- ▲ Credit requirements
- ▲ Subject classification
- ▲ Qualification developer and provider details

Example of Register entry

Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences

Number	00412
Subject/Classification	Medical Studies
Organisation	University of Otago
Qualification type	Bachelor Degree
Level	7
Credit	360
Entry Requirements	New Zealand University entrance qualification or equivalent
Outcome statement	A solid grounding in the principles underlying important areas of modern biological and medical research
Qualification developer	University of Otago
Quality assurance body	Committee on University Academic Programmes
Content	Biomedical Sciences, Biotechnology, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Drugs and Human Health, Genetics, Human Biology, Human Nutrition, Human Reproduction, Infection and Immunity, Immunology, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology



Te Āhurutanga
The New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications



[Home](#) > Search for a qualification

Kia ora. Welcome to KiwiQuals, a new website giving you information about qualifications in New Zealand.

All qualifications shown here are on the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications, Te Āhurutanga. To be included on the Register, a qualification must be quality assured. All qualifications on KiwiQuals have been approved by a recognised body and are delivered by an accredited education or training organisation.

KiwiQuals enables you to find and compare qualifications that are 40 credits or above. If you are interested in jobs and careers, see the KiwiCareers website.

You can search by title/keyword, organisation name, subject area, level or credit. Do a quick search or a more detailed one to refine your results.

For general information, see the links at top and bottom of the page.

Qualifications on KiwiQuals are gradually being updated and this will be completed by August 2006.

Qualification definition consultation 2006

Changes are proposed to the qualifications definitions on the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications. See [consultation document on NZQA website](#).

This site is best viewed with your screen resolution set at 1024 x 768.



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA



Search for a qualification

[OR] Search for [organisation](#)

Include in qualification search:

Title

Subject/Classification

Outcome statement

Content

Title/Keyword(s)

Qualification type

Subject/Classification

Organisation type

Organisation name

Level

Credit



[Home](#) > [Search for a qualification](#) > Qualification search results

Qualification search results

14 qualifications match your search criteria

Check and select 'Add to shortlist' for any qualification that you would like to add to your shortlist.

- Master of Arts (Level 9) - University of Otago
- Master of Arts (Level 9) - University of Waikato
- Master of Arts (Level 9) - University of Auckland
- Master of Arts (Level 9) - University of Canterbury
- Master of Arts (Level 9) - Waikato Institute of Technology
- Master of Music (Level 9) - University of Otago
- Master of Music (Level 9) - University of Auckland
- Master of Music (Level 9) - University of Canterbury
- Master of Music (Level 9) - Massey University
- Master of Music (Level 9) - University of Waikato

[<< 1 2 [Next](#) >>]

[Add to shortlist](#)

[View shortlist](#)



[Printer friendly version](#)

Refine search

Search for

Fields Searched

Title/Keyword(s)

Qualification type

Subject/Classification

Organisation type

Organisation name

Level

Credit

Qualification

Title, Subject/Classification, Outcome statement, Content

Music

Masters Degree

All

All

All

All

[Refine search](#)

[New search](#)

System and Institution Steering

Funding authorities analyse the Register to see the balance and range of qualifications being offered and their match to the social and labour market interests

Institutions can analyse the Register to identify areas for growth and competitor providers

Qualification Recognition

NZQA as the New Zealand NARIC use

the level descriptors and qualification outcomes to position an international qualification

Then they use the Register

to identify comparable New Zealand programmes against which to recommend equivalence

Qualification Recognition

NARICs in other parts of the world can access the Register through the kiwiquals website to

find specific qualifications

find providers

find quality assurance providers

Lessons learnt along the way

Failure of the National Qualifications Framework

Initially the Framework was to include all qualifications

In 1993 Vice-Chancellors Committee withdrew the university sector from the NQF

The Register of Quality Assured Qualifications performs the functions of a National Qualifications Framework

Lessons learnt (2)

Qualifications Authority adopted a position of qualifications being built up from component parts, expressed in terms of learning outcomes and competence standards

Universities argued that a qualification has a character which reflects the nature of its delivery and also its heritage, and involved assessment using expert's subjective judgment

Lessons learnt (3)

The NQF became associated only with vocational qualifications

The longer this continued, the less the universities were willing to engage with it

The development of the Register enabled both parties to reach common ownership

Lessons learnt (4)

Originally the Framework had 8 levels, with all post graduate qualifications at level 8

When the Register was developed, the need for finer discrimination among postgraduate qualifications was recognised

The actual number of levels matters little so long as its use is consistent

Lessons learnt (5)

NZQA had developed a subject classification system which worked well at lower levels, but not for specialist qualifications

The Register uses NZSCED

Lessons learnt (6)

The Register requires information on the learning outcomes of all registered qualifications

There is still great variability in the ability of the academics involved to frame their programmes in learning outcomes

The shift from describing what I teach to describing what you learn is a major one

Lessons learnt (7)

- ▲ Key to resolving issues for the Register has been the focus on its users and what best meets their needs

Lessons learnt (8)

- ▲ Recent reviews of level descriptors and qualifications descriptions have drawn on the developments in Europe, with the EHEA qualifications framework and the EQF

Thank you

www.kiwiquals.govt.nz

