

What is "NCEA" and what is "equivalent"

-and-

Learning Records to Submit with Applications



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Are you in the approximately 99.95% of humans that do not know what NCEA Level 2 means?

Almost no one knows unless they have lived in New Zealand; even a lot of New Zealanders do not.

Basics: Our programme entry requirements include an NCEA requirement (e.g., "NCEA Level 2") and requirements in specific areas (e.g., "15 credits of Level 1 Chemistry") or equivalent knowledge and skills. NCEA is the National Certificate of Educational Achievement which is a series of qualifications many New Zealanders earn in high school (and some New Zealanders earn in alternative ways). The levels and credits are explained below.

Equivalence: If you do not have NCEA (e.g., you did not go to high school fairly recently in New Zealand) we will look at whether you have the equivalent knowledge and skills. We care about the knowledge and skills, not how you acquired them. Did you learn something in a school outside of New Zealand? Did you learn something in a school in New Zealand before the NCEA system was introduced? Did you learn it on a job? Did you learn it from reading? Did you learn it from watching videos online? We are fine with any of that as long as you learned it.

Credits: A typical full-time student taking seven subjects for a full academic year would, if they were successful, earn **approximately** 20 credits in each subject. Therefore, if you took the required level of chemistry for a year, and we require 15 credits, you would probably meet the requirement. Again, if you learned a similar amount another way, that is fine.

Levels: The definitions of levels are confusing. We will need to do some serious looking at whether your knowledge and skills are equivalent. Level 2 is typical of the next to the last year available in high school in many systems. Level 1 is typical of the year before the Level 2 year. This assumes the course of study is intended for people who will likely study beyond high school. A few examples:

In New Zealand, if you go all the way through high school ("Year 13") you can earn the NCEA Level 3. If you are a successful student who gets through "Year 12", you can earn the NCEA Level 2. If you are a successful student who gets through "Year 11", you can earn the NCEA Level 1.

In New Zealand prior to NCEA, if you went all the way through high school ("7th Form") you probably have the equivalent of Level 3. If you were a successful student who got through "6th Form", you probably have the equivalent of Level 2. If you were a successful student who got through "5th Form", you probably have the equivalent of Level 1.

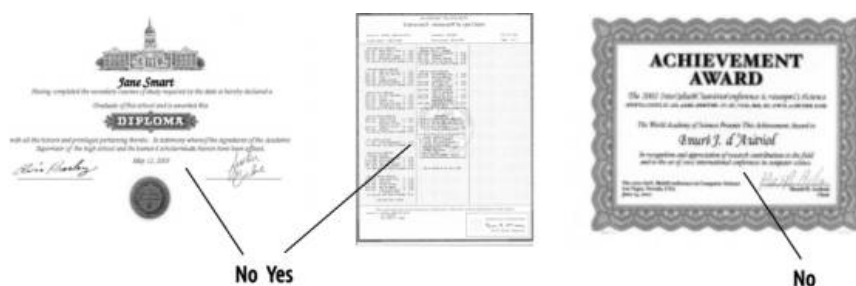
In the United States of America, if you go all the way through high school ("12th Grade") you probably have the equivalent of Level 3. If you are a successful student who gets through "11th Grade", you probably have the equivalent of Level 2. If you are a successful student who gets through "10th Grade", you probably have the equivalent of Level 1.

In China, if you go all the way through high school ("Senior Year 3") you probably have the equivalent of Level 3. If you are a successful student who gets through "Senior Year 2", you probably have the equivalent of Level 2. If you are a successful student who gets through "Senior Year 1", you probably have the equivalent of Level 1.

What to send (and what not to send) us: It is hard to say specifically because it is so dependent on how you learned what you learned, and what kind of documentation (if any) you have. What we explain here assumes you learned and have documentation of that learning from a formal educational system. If that is not the case (e.g., if you learned on a job) it is best to discuss how to give us the needed information prior to applying.

Assuming that the learning was in a formal educational system, we generally want you to submit transcripts that give final results for subjects. We typically want transcripts from the last three years of formal education you had. If you have later education which is not science related, (you studied science in high school and then earned a music degree) we would like to see transcripts from the last three years that included science and the last three years that did not. If you are sending us more than 10 pages with the application, you are probably sending us too much. If you leave out something we need, we will ask for it.

Typically, we do not need over-all graduation certificates or special award certificates. We need the page(s) that indicate each subject and the over-all results for the subject. Although your papers will not look exactly like any of these, these pictures might help clarify what we do and do not need.



We do not need records of NZQA unit or achievement standards because we can access that information from NZQA.

Uploading Documents: We will send you specific instructions about how to upload required documents after receiving your application.

Honesty: Anyone accepted to our programmes will need to supply us original or authenticated copies of documents that were given to us in digital form. If, prior to our acceptance decision we discover that any information furnished was misleading, we will not accept you into our programmes. If, after our acceptance decision we discover that any information furnished was misleading, we will end your participation. That end of participation will be reported to Immigrations, and will usually result in no refund of fees.