

NCEA AND OFFSHORE DELIVERY

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Changes in the Education and Training Act 2020 have been made to allow schools to temporarily deliver education offshore to students who were enrolled prior to 3 July 2020. Schools will need to seek MOE approval to offer education offshore, and approval from NZQA if they intend to offer their students NCEA. See more <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/legislation/education-and-training-act-2020/education-and-training-act-2020-prohibiting-the-provision-of-ncea-offshore/>

Q & A

When will schools receive the information about the process and the application form?

NCEA was never designed to be delivered overseas. As a consequence rules to maintain quality assurance and reduce risk were needed to be put in place which now require Ministerial sign off. The process is in the final stages and will require the Minister's approval, but it is hoped it will be available in the next week.

How long will it take NZQA and MOE to assess and approve applications?

There will be two steps in the approval process for state and state integrated schools who must get MOE approval first prior to seeking NZQA approval. Private schools, who can already offer offshore education, do not need MOE approval.

NZQA's usual turn around is two weeks. Although there is no indication of what the demand will be NZQA intends to resource this to manage applications.

The MOE plans to gather the applications to process in batches with an expectation of a 20 day turn around. However this depends on the Minister's availability. Potentially approval could be received by the end of the month.

What about entering students for NCEA?

Externals: if there is any possibility that a student will complete an external they should be entered by the 9 September. This should be the case even if approval has not yet been granted.

Internals: results can be reported through to 28 February 2021. So internal results will still be accepted after the 12 December deadline.

Will any consideration be given to an extension for the payment of NCEA fees?

The NZQA deadline for schools to pay international students NCEA fees is 31 October. Fees can be paid up until 28 February. There is currently a \$50 late fee but NZQA will investigate waiving the late fee.

If a school pays for students but does not get approval will there be a refund?

NZQA will clarify refund conditions. One suggestion is that schools could hold the fees until approval is granted. However students may then be liable for a late fee.

Will schools be able to assess externals?

There will be a way for schools to do this, but information is not yet available. It is expected to be a straightforward process.

Why is this provision limited to currently enrolled international students and will expire 31 December 2022?

Approval will only apply to international students enrolled in a school prior to 3 July 2020. A student with a signed enrolment contract will be deemed to be enrolled.

When a school is given approval it will be time limited. This provision has only been put in place as a response to the current COVID-19 situation and is of limited scope because of MOE and NZQA concerns about risks to the integrity of NCEA.

What about students currently in NZ who plan to leave before the end of the year to return home to sit university entrance exams?

Schools will still need to get approval if they intend to continue to provide education and or assessments to these students after they have left NZ. The students should not be taken off the roll. These students may also be able to apply for a derived grade consideration.

What standards will be acceptable?

NZQA provides a remote assessment matrix and guidance information for each subject which can be found on the NCEA Subject Resources page on the NZQA website. Standards have been colour-coded – green, blue, and red according to their suitability for remote assessment. There are enough standards for students to make up a course.

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/subjects/>

Can ESOL, predeparture, group or other non NCEA programmes be offered offshore without approval?

At present MOE require all offshore programmes offered to enrolled students must be approved.

SIEBA will clarify what is contained in the Act especially with regards to provision of education outside of NCEA and continue to investigate the opportunity for schools to provide learning to students offshore.

Other updates**International Student Transition Funding**

Schools have received notice of the payment they will receive. The final calculation for this is less than what was originally suggested. This may indicate the scale was much greater than anticipated so the \$20million budgeted had to stretch further. Any questions can be directed to Belinda Himiona at the MOE Belinda.Himiona@education.govt.nz

Determining responsibility for students in the summer holiday period

SIEBA has released a guidance document to assist schools in determining their responsibility for students in a range of scenarios during the summer holiday period.

Future Focus Plan

Guy Pascoe, currently International Director at Scots College has been appointed as Future Focus Projects Director and will be starting in this role later in the month.

Feedback from the FFP consultation process, including results from the survey, is now available on the Hub. There will be further opportunities for schools to provide feedback as the projects progress.

SIEBA Hui

Regretfully the Hui has been further postponed until May 2022.

Webinars

The next Webinar is scheduled for Tuesday 13 October at 11am. Webinars will then continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month. Extra ones will be scheduled if required.