

Qualification Title: New Zealand Diploma in Embalming (Level 5)

Qualification number: 1943

Date of review: 7 October 2015

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: Consistency is confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of:

- Being able to carry out an embalming operation, independently and without supervision, with the knowledge and skills to deal with a range of complications.
- Having the knowledge and skills to be able to run any mortuary on a day to day basis.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Final decision on sufficiency of TEOs evidence, will be updated as other TEOs show sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Wellington Institute of Technology (Weltec)	Sufficient

Introduction

This level 5, 120 credit stand-alone qualification aims to credential individuals who are currently employed in the funeral services industry as embalmers. It is the only qualification in this field available.

This qualification was developed by the Funeral Service Training Trust of New Zealand (FSTT), an industry training organisation that maintains strong links with the sole programme provider Weltec.

Evidence

How well does the evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

The TEO provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the above evaluation question were (p10 NZQA consistency guidelines):

Final consistency review report

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by TEO
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the TEO can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification

Assessment and moderation

The programme has a capstone assessment that requires graduates to conduct an embalming in a mortuary assessed by a FSTT appointed panel. Communication components of the graduate profile are assessed in the students' place of work in the form of an observed simulated clinical examination. Graduate outcomes related to communicating with the bereaved and casket preparation are assessed using two scenario-based assessments. Log books, signed by workplace supervisors, formatively attest to the gathering of skills outlined in the graduate profile. This process was strengthened in response to industry feedback in 2014. Weltec tutors and external industry-based assessors are used for the capstone event and in class presentations and external moderation, utilising ITO and industry representatives occurs systematically.

Industry engagement

The programme has strong links with industry and employers including:

- An active advisory committee, that includes funeral industry representatives, meets four times a year
- Trained workplace supervisors that observe students practice in the workplace
- Tutor industry visits. All students are visited by the tutor in their place of work to check progress and meet with employers
- Tutors are members of professional bodies and maintain their practicing certificates.

Graduate destination data

Weltec has graduate destination data that indicates that graduates remain employed in the industry.

The evidence of strong industry engagement, for example through the use of industry supervisors, external assessors and moderators and the observed capstone exam supports the judgement that there is sufficient evidence that graduates are matching the graduate profile and the appropriate threshold. The programme provider recognises that processes for gathering feedback from employers could be strengthened to better assure itself that graduate outcomes are met.

However, given the strong industry and employer links and support provided by the Funeral Service Training Trust and the use of a capstone assessment to draw different components of the profile together, the evidence does demonstrate that programme graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

Special Focus N/A

Examples of good practice N/A

Final consistency review report

Issues and concerns N/A

Recommendations to Qualification Developer N/A