

Qualification Title: New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 5)

Qualification number: 2552

Date of review: 5 November 2018

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: *National consistency confirmed*

Threshold:

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

Graduates working in routine operational positions, or undertaking further study, who are able to:

- Select and apply scientific principles to carry out tasks.
- Collect, process, and evaluate scientific data in an operational or research context.
- Recognise common problems with processes and suggest solutions.
- Contribute to a team in a scientific workplace and have responsibility for outcomes.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Ara Institute of Canterbury	Sufficient
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Universal College of Learning (UCOL)	Sufficient
Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec)	Sufficient

Introduction

This 120-credit qualification provides individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge within a range of natural and physical sciences for employment and/or progression to higher level qualifications. The qualification was developed by Ara Institute of Canterbury and is due for review in 2019.

Four Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) presenting at this review had a combined total of five graduates in 2016, and 22 in 2017. All four programmes were delivered through full-time study in a provider setting.

TEOs agreed that progression to further study towards the New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 6) [Ref: 2553] is predominantly the expected pathway for graduates.

An observer from NZQA attended the review.

Evidence

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

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- 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 education organisation 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.

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

The evidence provided related to the robustness of the programme and its alignment with the graduate profile; graduate destination data; and feedback from graduates, next-level tutors and employers.

All four education providers gave evidence about the quality of the structure and delivery of their approved programme of study. The intended learning outcomes in the approved programmes are mapped to the graduate outcomes and assessed. There was evidence of internal and external pre- and post- moderation taking place within a planned approach from three providers. One TEO provided evidence of internal moderation only.

The destination data provided by the TEOs showed that 81 per cent of graduates progressed to related further study mostly to the New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science Level 6, in line with the qualification's strategic purpose statement. This is strong evidence to support that graduates are meeting the qualification outcomes.

All four TEOs provided survey data from programme stakeholders including graduates, next-level tutors, work placement supervisors, and employers.

Overall the combined evidence makes this a convincing case that graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

Examples of good practice

- Three TEOs are part of a group of providers that was formed to network, moderate, share best practice and promote consistency.

Issues and concerns

Some TEOs provided evidence that has limited relevance for a consistency review.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

It is recommended that at qualification review, Ara simplify the wording of the strategic purpose statement, and consider whether the wording of outcome 4 can be consistently interpreted.