

## **Frequently asked questions: University Entrance changes**

### **1. Why has the number of students gaining University Entrance declined?**

Because new rules governing University Entrance have taken effect.

### **2. What are the new rules?**

Students must now achieve NCEA Level 3, achieve a higher literacy requirement, and achieve at least 14 credits from each of three approved subjects.

### **3. Why were the University Entrance qualifications changed?**

Because the old standard was not adequately preparing students for university study. For example, data shows that the success rate for students who began their university studies without NCEA Level 3 was significantly lower than the pass rate for students with NCEA Level 3.

### **4. Were the changes signalled in advance?**

Yes. NZQA started consulting with schools, universities, other agencies and the public about the changes in 2010. The new standard was announced in 2011 (<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/quals-review-guidelines-update-2/>) and phased in between 2012 and 2014. It was regularly communicated by NZQA in newsletters to schools.

### **5. Does the drop in the proportion of students gaining University Entrance indicate schools are failing?**

No. A shift in those attaining a qualification is to be expected if the standard is raised.

### **6. What can students do if they have missed out on UE?**

Students have a number of options. Many local schools offer further assessment opportunities, particularly for those who have only missed out by a small number of credits. Universities and other tertiary providers also offer bridging courses, to help young people gain UE. Students and families can contact their local secondary schools, or their intended tertiary provider, to discuss these options. Students can also call NZQA on 0800 697 296 to discuss their results.

Young people also have a range of other tertiary education options outside the University system, through Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics, Wānanga, Private Training Establishments, and Industry Training Organisations.