



## Fees-free info sheet: Zero or low fee courses, programmes and training schemes

This document explains how zero or low fee courses, programmes and training schemes, established prior to 2018, work within fees-free policy settings.

### From 1 January 2018 the first year of tertiary education or training became fees-free for eligible first time learners

For a learner to be eligible for fees-free tertiary education they must meet certain eligibility criteria (set out in the Appendix).

#### Learners must also be undertaking an eligible course, programme or training scheme

Eligible courses, programmes and training schemes are those that:

- › start in 2018
- › are approved for funding by the Tertiary Education Commission
- › are recognised by New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) or Universities New Zealand
- › are part of a qualification or training scheme at New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) level 3 or above, and
- › for industry training programmes, are at least 120 credits (which includes all New Zealand Apprenticeships).

### Some study at NZQF level 3 and above was already fees free prior to the introduction of the fees-free policy in 2018

Certain funds are completely subsidised by the Government making them fees free for learners. These include the Māori and Pasifika Trades Training (MPTT) Fund and Youth Guarantee (YG) Fund.



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For these funds, funding conditions stipulate that tertiary education organisations not charge any tuition fees or compulsory course costs to a learner.

Tertiary study can also be made fees free by tertiary education organisations choosing to subsidise the learner contribution to a course or programme.

### **Courses, programmes or training schemes at NZQF level 3 or above may be eligible for fees-free support**

This is regardless of whether or not they were fees free prior to 2018.

This means that, in 2018, any learner who:

- › meets the fees-free eligibility criteria
- › has an eligibility status of 'yes', and
- › undertakes<sup>1</sup> eligible NZQF level 3 or above study

will have consumed fees-free support.

### **In 2018, there is a dollar cap on fees-free support**

All eligible learners undertaking provider-based study are entitled to up to \$12,000 (including GST) worth of fees-free support.

Eligible trainees that commence their industry training programme in the 2018 calendar year are eligible for their fees to be paid for the first 24 months of the training programme.

Learners who don't use a full one equivalent full-time student (EFTS) in 2018 can carry forward their remaining fees-free entitlement into 2019 (or future years).

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<sup>1</sup> In industry training, learners must have achieved credits to have 'consumed' fees-free support.

# Appendix: Eligibility criteria for fees-free tertiary education

## Provider-based eligibility criteria

Provider-based fees-free tertiary education is available in 2018 for learners who:

<b>enrol in eligible courses and qualifications</b>
Eligible courses are those that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› commence in 2018, <b>and</b></li><li>› are approved for funding by the TEC, <b>and</b></li><li>› are recognised by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority or Universities New Zealand, <b>and</b></li><li>› are part of a qualification or training scheme at New Zealand Qualifications Framework level 3 or above.</li></ul>
<b>and meet citizenship or residency criteria</b>
Learners must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› a New Zealand citizen, <b>or</b></li><li>› ordinarily resident in New Zealand <b>and either</b>:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– have been living in New Zealand for at least three years while holding a residence class visa, <b>or</b></li><li>– be a refugee or protected person, <b>or</b></li></ul></li><li>› be sponsored into New Zealand by someone in their family who, at the time of sponsorship, was a refugee or protected person.</li></ul>
<b>and are not concurrently enrolled in a school at the start date of the course or programme (except for those enrolled in school as a returning adult student (see below))</b>
<b>and either</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› have been enrolled in a school at any time during 2017 or 2018 (all 2017 and 2018 school leavers who meet the criteria above will be eligible for fees-free tertiary education regardless of any prior tertiary study undertaken), except that a returning adult student must meet the criteria below to be eligible for fees-free tertiary education,</li></ul> <b>or</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› not undertaken more than half a year of equivalent full-time tertiary education (0.5 EFTS or 60 credits<sup>2</sup>) at level 3 or above on the NZQF, including tertiary education at an equivalent level undertaken in any other country, but excluding any tertiary education undertaken while enrolled in a school, except for returning adult students (see below).</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup> This includes tertiary education undertaken through the industry training fund in terms of credits achieved at level 3 or above on the NZQF.

## Industry training eligibility criteria

Fees-free industry training is available in 2018 for learners who:

<b>enrol in an eligible programme</b>
Eligible courses are those that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› commences from 1 January 2018, <b>and</b></li><li>› is at New Zealand Qualifications Framework level 3 or above, <b>and</b></li><li>› is approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, <b>and</b></li><li>› comprises at least 120 credits (which includes all New Zealand Apprenticeships)</li></ul>
<b>and are not concurrently enrolled in a school at the start date of the programme (except for those enrolled in school as a returning adult student (see below))</b>
<b>and either</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› have been enrolled in a school at any time during 2017 or 2018 (all 2017 and 2018 school leavers who meet the criteria above will be eligible for fees-free tertiary education regardless of any prior tertiary study undertaken), except that a returning adult student must meet the criteria below to be eligible for fees-free tertiary education,</li></ul> <p><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› not undertaken more than half a year of equivalent full-time tertiary education (0.5 EFTS or 60 credits<sup>3</sup>) at level 3 or above on the NZQF, including tertiary education at an equivalent level undertaken in any other country, but excluding any tertiary education undertaken while enrolled in a school, except for returning adult students (see below).</li></ul>

**“Returning adult student” means a person over the age of 19 years who has enrolled at a school after at least one year since they left school**

- › Returning adult students do not automatically qualify for fees-free tertiary education as school leavers, **and**
- › returning adult students can be concurrently enrolled in school and tertiary study and be eligible for fees-free tertiary education, **and**
- › tertiary study undertaken while enrolled as a returning adult student must be taken into account as prior tertiary study.

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<sup>3</sup> This includes tertiary education undertaken through the industry training fund in terms of credits achieved at level 3 or above on the NZQF.