

ACADEMIC RECORDS

Employers should check a graduates' academic record for details of the individual components that contribute towards the qualification achieved. The format of these records and the components will vary from institution to institution.

EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

Employers are selecting polytechnic and institute of technology graduates to help with their computing and IT requirements. Each company has quite different needs but because of the comprehensive grounding provided in the computing and IT qualifications, the graduates are able to cope with their employers' diverse requirements.

"The Centre for Learning Technologies is a significant participant in on-line and e-enhanced learning within New Zealand. We have employed a number of polytechnic graduates in recent years and I have been very impressed by the students' practical attitudes and their technical abilities. Clearly, they have been well educated in the core skills needed to operate successfully in the digital environment."

*John Clayton
Manager: Centre for Learning Technologies*

"Digital Stream Ltd has had an excellent relationship with Wintec and their IT students through involvement with their final year project. We have employed four students full time over the last five years. They have gone on to become excellent employees and an important part of our team. The final year project is also an excellent way for us to see exactly what strengths the students have and to see them develop the right skills for employment with us once they have finished tertiary study. We see Wintec as a valuable partner of our company in gaining high quality graduates for employment with Digital Stream Ltd."

*Russell Brown
Digital Stream Ltd*

"With the convergence of web and e-learning technologies, I am looking for staff who can offer a range of contemporary ICT skills and competencies, and who are versatile enough to assume a variety of roles. The CPIT graduates employed in my unit continue to exceed my expectations with regard to commitment and performance. They are clearly operating from a sound theoretical base, applying that theory both creatively and practically to the multitude of contexts that fall within the responsibilities of the unit."

*Dr Nicki Page
Manager: eLearning & Web Support Unit
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR

employers

NEEDING PEOPLE WITH COMPUTING SKILLS



FOSTERING COMPUTING EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND



INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains information for employers about computing and information technology qualifications offered by New Zealand institutes of technology and polytechnics (ITPs).

These qualifications have been developed and continuously updated since 1987 by the National Advisory Committee on Computing Qualifications (NACCQ). They are taught at a variety of government tertiary institutions throughout New Zealand. The qualifications are recognised and approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

Each institute has a local advisory committee to assist in maintaining links with the information and communications technology (ICT) industry and to ensure that programme content remains relevant to the regional computing and IT work environment.

These applied and practical qualifications are designed with a vocational focus to ensure that graduating students are work-ready.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COMPUTING QUALIFICATIONS

NACCQ is an Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics of New Zealand (ITP NZ) subject forum whose role is to foster computing education in New Zealand and to act as a national advisory body for ICT qualifications. It is made up of industry and provider representatives from throughout the country.

NACCQ first developed computing qualifications in 1987. It has continued to develop and maintain ICT programmes for ITPs.

These qualifications are approved by NZQA and are published both in hard copy and electronically on the web at www.naccq.ac.nz. They are recognised and valued by employers throughout New Zealand. NACCQ ensures the modules contained in each of its qualifications undergo a national moderation process that is designed to ensure standards of assessment are maintained. A review of the content of each module is performed at least every two years to ensure programmes remain current. NACCQ organises and runs a very successful annual ICT conference for academic staff and industry members from throughout New Zealand in July of each year.

For more information about the organisation, or if you would like to become involved, please access the web site (www.naccq.ac.nz), contact the Executive Officer, NACCQ, PO Box 11-050, Hillcrest, Hamilton or email Viviennew@naccq.ac.nz

THE QUALIFICATIONS

Many institutes of technology and polytechnics deliver introductory content in National Certificates in Computing at levels 2 and 3. These programmes consist of NZQA unit standards and usually run for up to one semester. Typically, they lead to further study.

CERTIFICATE IN COMPUTING (CIC)

This level 3 certificate provides computer novices with sufficient skills and readiness for employment using computers. The programme is usually run full time over one semester. It can lead on to further tertiary study programmes such as Diploma in Information and Communications Technology Level 5.

NEW ZEALAND PERSONAL COMPUTER DRIVER'S LICENCE (PCDL)

This qualification equips students with the core skills to manage their personal use of a computer. The content is a specified subset of modules taken from the Diploma in Information and Communications Technology Level 5. The programme is run over a variety of timeframes and can be used to either provide core computing skills or can lead to further study.

DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY LEVEL 5 (DipICTL5)

This diploma gives students a solid background in the practical computer skills associated with software, hardware, programming, business, data and personal communication. Usually DipICTL5 is a full time programme lasting two semesters. It can lead on to further study such as Diploma in Information and Communications Technology Level 6.

DIPLOMA IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY LEVEL 6 (DipICTL6)

This diploma builds upon the base developed during the DipICTL5 and further extends practical computing skills in a variety of areas selected by individual providers in consultation with their industry advisory committee. Content may include networking, programming, web development, databases, systems analysis and design, personal communication etc. Many graduates can enter the workplace with this qualification, particularly if they have other employment skills.

NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN BUSINESS COMPUTING (NDBC)

This diploma is the final year of what is usually a three year programme beginning with DipICTL5. It consolidates all the learning done so far into high level, near degree equivalent qualification. Apart from a 420 hour personal project, providers can choose to specialise in areas of expertise such as data communication, personnel management, software development, database construction, web development, system analysis and design etc. This programme leads to careers in information systems at a variety of levels or a graduate can choose to continue their study at third year degree level.

INDUSTRY FOCUSED COMPUTING DEGREES

A variety of undergraduate and post graduate degrees and graduate diplomas in computing, information technology and information systems are available at institutes of technology and polytechnics in New Zealand. Usually, the qualifications are applied, practical qualifications.

PATHWAYS TO A CAREER IN COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

