

TO:

- Principal**
- Principal's Nominee**
- Supervisor of German international students**
- Guidance Counsellors**
- Deans of Year 12/13 international or exchange students**
- HODs**

Advice for German students intending to study at German Universities

The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (*Kultusministerkonferenz, KMK*) of the German states (Länder) has recommended to German universities that they accept the New Zealand National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) results for entry to German universities, provided that the requirements listed on the German language website www.anabin.de are met. These are largely New Zealand's own minimum requirements for University Entrance, although in addition KMK requires that at least five distinct subjects have been studied.

General Requirements

German students wishing to apply for university in Germany after studying at school in New Zealand must:

- achieve New Zealand University Entrance, and
- study at least five University Entrance approved subjects in appropriate combinations, as detailed below.

While KMK does not require the attainment of either NCEA Level 2 or 3, NZQA recommends that students complete one of these qualifications as well as the requirements above.

Simply having the minimum requirements may not make students eligible for the competitive entry courses. Prospective students need to check the requirements for their preferred university courses before commencing their final year of study at school, to help inform their subject choice and the grades required.

The *Abitur* is the school leaving qualification in Germany for students intending to study at universities. Unlike NCEA, the *Abitur* certificate provides an average score, the *Abiturdurchschnittsnote*, allowing universities to rank students for the competitive allocation of university places. The higher the grades students achieve in the standards they undertake in each Level 3 subject, the better the result they will get in the *Abitur* conversion. Students should be aiming for as many Merit and Excellence grades as possible.

In addition, German universities (as distinct from KMK) might expect students with foreign qualifications to have followed a programme of study similar to that undertaken by students studying for *Abitur*. The main feature of the German requirements is that a student has studied a *broad range* of subjects. This normally needs to include languages, mathematics, science and some history.

Subject Choice

Care needs to be taken in advising German students on their subject choices because many common subject combinations for New Zealand students may not be acceptable to German universities. There are strict rules about subject choice for students studying for *Abitur*. Students sit the final *Abitur* exams in four or five subjects. KMK requires that students studying in New Zealand take at least five subjects and advises that English or Te Reo Māori are suitable substitutes for German, which is compulsory in Germany.

Minimum subject requirements, as established by KMK:

- English (or Te Reo Māori)
- Mathematics
- at least three other approved subjects from those listed in the appendix.

The recommended subjects for those wishing to most closely follow the *Abitur* requirements are:

- English (or Te Reo Maori)
- Mathematics
- any social science subject (preferably history)
- any natural science subject
- any language, literature and arts subject (preferably a second language)

Table 1 (attached) shows details of approved New Zealand university entrance subjects and the corresponding approved *Abitur* subjects. The table indicates which subjects are classified as social sciences, natural sciences and as language, literature and arts. Should a student want to study sport or a second social science, it is recommended s/he does so in addition; that is, as a sixth subject. Practical Art is counted as only one subject in Germany, even if students study several Visual Arts contexts in New Zealand. Similarly, Mathematics with Calculus and Statistics and Modelling are considered to be one subject.

NZQA recommends that schools advise students wishing to apply to a German university to choose from the list of jointly approved subjects. Table 2 (attached) shows details of New Zealand university entrance approved subjects that are not approved Abitur subjects. KMK has advised that: “if any other subjects are offered by foreign applicants with foreign certificates, these subjects must be individually scrutinised to check if they could be accepted in the individual case”. Please see the attached table for full details.

Information on German education – years of study required

Germany is a federal parliamentary republic of 16 states (Länder). The 16 individual states have responsibility for the German education system and the federal government only has a minor role. This is important to know because each state has a different school system and it is difficult to give generic advice. There are varying curricula across states for almost every subject, and the required years of formal education are between 12 and 13 years.

While most states will recognise German students’ NCEA and University Entrance, even if obtained – as will normally be the case – after only 11.5 years, it is strongly recommended that schools encourage students to check the requirements of their “home” state and/or the state they plan to eventually move to for their university studies, before coming to New Zealand.

Enquiries

Please refer any enquiries relating to this circular to your School Relationship Manager.

School Relationship Manager Secondary Assessment and Liaison Telephone: 04 463 3000 Fax: 04 463 3113 Email: firstname.lastname@nzqa.govt.nz
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Circulars are available from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website:
www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars

Table 1: List of subjects common to both New Zealand and Germany approved for University Entrance

New Zealand Approved Subject	Corresponding Abitur Approved Subject	Translation	Notes
Chinese	Chinesisch	Chinese	Languages, Literature and Arts
Design (Visual Art) Painting (Visual Art) Photography (Visual Art) Printmaking (Visual Art) Sculpture (Visual Art)	(Bildende) Kunst	Fine Arts	Languages, Literature and Arts Practical art subjects are only counted as one Abitur subject
Drama	Darstellendes Spiel	Drama	Languages, Literature and Arts
English*	Englisch	English	Languages, Literature and Arts
French	Französisch	French	Languages, Literature and Arts
German	Deutsch	German	Languages, Literature and Arts
Japanese	Japanisch	Japanese	Languages, Literature and Arts
Latin	Latein	Latin	Languages, Literature and Arts
Music Studies	Musik	Music	Languages, Literature and Arts
Spanish	Spanisch	Spanish	Languages, Literature and Arts
Agriculture & Horticulture	Agrartechnik mit Biologie	Agriculture with Biology	Natural Science
Biology	Biologie	Biology	Natural Science
Chemistry	Chemie	Chemistry	Natural Science
Computing	Informatik	Computing	Natural Science
Health Education	Gesundheit	Health and Physical Well-being	Natural Science
Mathematics with Calculus Statistics and Modelling	Mathematik	Mathematics	Natural Science Mathematics only counts as one subject for Abitur
Physics	Physik	Physics	Natural Science
Technology	Technik	Technology	Natural Science
Economics	Wirtschaft	Economics	Social Science
Geography	Geographie	Geography	Social Science
History	Geschichte	History	Social Science
Social Studies	Sozialkunde/Politik	Social Studies /Politics	Social Science
Physical Education	Sport	Physical Education	Can be counted in any of the three areas but should be taken as a sixth subject

*German is compulsory in Germany and students studying in New Zealand must take English or Maori instead.

Table 2: List of subjects University Entrance Approved subjects that are not approved Abitur subjects			
Other New Zealand Approved Subjects	Other Abitur Approved Subjects	Translation	Notes
Languages Cook Islands Māori Indonesian Korean Samoan Te Reo Rangatira or Te Reo Māori	Languages Dänisch Griechisch Italienisch Niederlänisch Polnisch Russisch Tschechisch Türkisch	Danish Greek Italian Dutch Polish Russian Czech Turkish	It is likely that any language studied would be acceptable as the pursuit of language study is a set of skills not dependent on the actual language. KMK states – “If any other subjects are offered by foreign applicants with foreign certificates these subjects must be individually scrutinised to check if they could be accepted in the individual case”.
Other subjects Accounting Classical Studies Dance Graphics History of Art Media Studies Science	Other Abitur subjects Berufliche Informatik (Natural Science) Ernährung (Natural Science) Erziehungswissenschaft Ethik Evangelische Religionslehre Katholische Religionslehre Philosophie Psychologie Recht Soziologie	Vocational computing (Natural Science) Food and Nutrition (Natural Science) Education Science Ethics Protestant religious studies Catholic religious studies Philosophy Psychology Legal Studies Sociology	While New Zealand has standards in some of the “Other Abitur Approved Subjects” like Legal Studies and Psychology, it is strongly recommended that students study subjects from the jointly approved list.