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S2009/035  
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**TO: Principal  
Principal's Nominee  
Supervisors of Overseas Students  
Guidance Counsellors  
HODs**

### **Further advice regarding NCEA Level 2-Matthayom 6 Equivalency and University Entrance requirements for Thailand**

Schools that are enrolling Thai international students should be aware that Thai students need a Matthayom 6 equivalence certificate to be eligible to apply for university in Thailand. Furthermore, there are additional criteria for students applying for university in Thailand (see below).

#### **Matthayom 6 equivalence will be gained if a student achieves:**

**Option 1:** 60 credits at level 2 or above in a minimum of five subjects<sup>1</sup>. These credits are to include a minimum requirement of 4 credits in English (literacy) at level 2 or above and 4 credits in Mathematics (numeracy) at level 2 or above.

OR

**Option 2:** NCEA Level 2 certificate (at least 80 credits, of which 60 must be Level 2 or higher and the remaining 20 must be Level 1 or higher).

Option 1 does not require a student to achieve NCEA Level 2. Option 2 does not require literacy and numeracy credits.

NZQA recently met with the Bureau of Educational Testing (BET) at the Thai Ministry of Education and both Thammasat and Chulalongkorn universities. This was to discuss NCEA Level 2-Matthayom 6 equivalency and university entrance for Thailand. Clarification of the equivalence arrangement has been made through changes to the wording of the second option. It is also apparent that not all Level 2 credits are acceptable for Matthayom 6 equivalence.

#### **Additional Requirements for University Entrance**

Universities indicated they would be giving preference to applicants with NCEA Level 2, evidence of literacy and numeracy, and that students had studied 5 subjects. They need to:

- achieve NCEA Level 2

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<sup>1</sup> To gain Matthayom 6, Thai students must have studied 5 subjects

- study 5 distinct subjects (similar to a course of study a New Zealand student aiming for university would take at Level 2)
- achieve a minimum of 12 Level 2 credits per subject (preferably more, and the more Merits and Excellences achieved the better).

These expectations should be taken into consideration when finalising the course of study for Thai students.

### **Subject choice**

Schools are encouraged to check that students have investigated the pre-requisite subjects for their intended university study. For example, English, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, plus one other subject are required for entry to a Bachelor of Engineering. Students wishing to apply for university should study a similar course of study to a New Zealand student aiming for university.

### **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**

BET does not accept ESOL as a subject in option 1. However, ESOL credits will be accepted as part of the 80 credits required to gain NCEA Level 2 in option 2 and can be studied at either Level 1 or 2 or a combination of both. ESOL can be counted as one of the 5 subjects required by universities if a student achieves a minimum of 12 Level 2 credits.

### **Provision of results to students in 2009**

For the current cohort of students studying in 2009, the existing provision of results remains in place. Students returning to Thailand must provide the following information to BET by mid-January to gain interim Matthayom 6 equivalency:

- a form letter (see attached) from the school stating the subjects (courses of study) studied and listing the standards contained in that subject at Level 2 and above. This must be given to students at the end of the school year.
- their Result Notice (available mid-January each year from NZQA).

### **2010 and beyond**

From 2011 (using results from 2010), NZQA will provide a form letter for students to present to BET. This will mean schools no longer need to provide written confirmation of the 5 subjects studied as this will be detailed in the letter from NZQA.

### **Assisting International Students to plan their learning**

NZQA is aware that some of the subjects studied in New Zealand by international students are not appropriate for entry into academic tertiary courses. Schools need to ensure appropriate guidance is provided to all international students and their parents regarding their course selection, to ensure subjects studied in New Zealand are appropriate for entry into academic tertiary courses overseas, or appropriate for the student's future study or career path.

There is guidance for education providers on the Ministry of Education website in relation to responsibilities under the Code of Practice at:

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/InternationalEducation/ForProvidersOfInternationalEducation/CodeofPracticeforInternationalStudents/InformationforCodeSignatories/EnrolmentExamples.aspx>

Please refer to the guidelines for [International Students](#) to help advise international students on how to plan their study when they arrive at your school and what they need.

### **Enquiries**

Please refer any enquiries relating to this circular to:

International Unit New Zealand Qualifications Authority Telephone: 04 463 3000 Fax: 04 802 3426 Email: internationalunit@nzqa.govt.nz
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