



The National School of Aesthetics
Student Handbook 2026
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Our Programmes

We offer three major programmes at the certificate and diploma levels at levels 4 and 5 on the New Zealand Qualifications Frameworks. If you successfully complete one programme through us, you may be eligible to progress to another programme.

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Definition of Terms

We use a wide range of standard terms in this document. Their definitions are:

Programme	A selection of course or courses leading to a formal qualification. Also known informally as a course.
Concurrent studies programme	Where two or more programmes are combined into one cohesive programme approved for funding and single enrolment
Course	A group of components with similar subjects can be grouped together to form a course. One or several courses can be combined to create a programme.
Component	The “meat” of a course. Several components make up a course.
Qualification	The item given to students once they successfully complete the programmes’s requirements, noting they are now qualified to perform treatments professionally.
Credit	A measure of a course or programme. 1 credit usually equals 10 notional hours of study; therefore, a 1-year, full-time programme should be approximately 120 credits or 1,200 notional hours.
Level	On the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework, the level determines the difficulty of the unit standard, programme or qualification. Local course approvals can have levels as well that indicate the difficulty of the tasks involved. <i>Our courses are local course approvals and have no unit standards in them.</i>
EFTS	Equivalent Full Time Status. A government term to determine the equivalency of a student’s enrolment to a full time student. EFTS is determined by the number of credits taken divided by 120 credits.
Pre-requisite	A course or subject a student is required to have successfully completed prior to starting the course or programme in question.
Co-requisite	A course a student is required to be completing at the same time as the course or programme in question.
ITEC	International Therapy Examination Council. ITEC is an international governing body, based out of England, that examines students all over the world in the areas of beauty therapy, nail technology, spa therapies, and other areas. They have been running since 1947. We are an ITEC registered college and have been since we opened in 1985.

NZQA	New Zealand Qualifications Authority. NZQA is the government agency responsible for the registration of private training establishments (PTEs), maintenance of the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF), registration and maintenance of the New Zealand qualifications like the New Zealand Certificate in Nail Technology, approval of programmes and micro-credentials, accreditation of PTEs to offer approved programmes, and the Domestic and International Codes (Pastoral Care of Domestic Students and Pastoral Care of International Students), among many other things.
StudyLink	StudyLink are the branch of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) responsible for processing and paying student loans and student allowances.
TEC	Tertiary Education Commission. TEC is the government agency responsible for subsidy funding, including Delivery at Levels 3 – 7 on the New Zealand Qualifications and Credentials Framework (DQ3-7) and Fees Free.
Work and Income New Zealand	Work and Income are a branch of the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) responsible for processing and paying benefits and social payments. They are the agency responsible for the Training Incentive Allowance.

Programmes at The National School of Aesthetics

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has approved, and accredited us to teach, our programmes leading to the following New Zealand qualifications:

Programmes	PC Code	NZQA No	Version	Credits	Level	International Students
New Zealand Certificate in Nail Technology	NZ3443	123833	2	120	4	No
New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy	NZ3444	123802	2	120	4	Yes
New Zealand Diploma in Beauty Therapy	NZ3445	125264	2	120	5	Yes

Although we are approved to offer these programmes, it does not mean we offer them all separately.

See [Appendix 1: Course Descriptions](#) for:

- Courses in each programme
- The outcome statement for each course in each programme
- The credits and level of each course in each programme
- [The cross-over between courses in each programme](#)

Special Entry Requirements for Specific Programmes

The following programmes have additional entry requirements:

New Zealand Diploma in Beauty Therapy Pre-Requisite Qualifications

You must hold:

- New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy; or
- An NZQA-approved beauty qualification or equivalent beauty qualification at level 4 or higher, including, but not limited to, full body anatomy and physiology, Swedish body massage and knowledge of associated contraindications, equivalent or similar to the content within our New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy (Level 4) [NZ3444] programme.

See our Web site for further information. Some programmes may not be offered every year.