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| Access to Microsoft Academic Licensing |

Microsoft offers academic licensing specifically for educational institutions. This provides educational institutions with affordable and flexible licensing options to support their unique needs.

## Eligibility criteria

Institutions are required to meet eligibility criteria as outlined in the [Microsoft Qualified Education User Definition (New Zealand only)](https://www.microsoft.com/licensing/docs/documents/download/AcademicQualEdUserDef%28Asia%29NZ%28ENG%29%28Feb2023%29%28CR%29.docx).

The Tertiary Education Commission has worked with Microsoft to streamline the process for academic eligibility validation.

While private training establishments (PTEs) still need to undertake the validation process, a large majority have already been “whitelisted” by Microsoft (as at August 2024). This whitelisting reduces the administration of institutions needing to prove their academic status.

A small number of registered PTEs have not qualified, primarily because education is not their core business.

PTEs that want to verify their academic licensing eligibility can follow the process at [Verify academic eligibility for Microsoft 365 Education subscriptions](https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/commerce/subscriptions/verify-academic-eligibility?view=o365-worldwide).

## What can I do with this eligibility?

You will now be able to purchase academic licenses for your organisation, either directly from Microsoft or from an IT partner.

## What are the advantages of academic licensing?

When compared to commercial or business pricing plans it offers significant discounts and can provide a simple and safe experience in a single solution built for education.

It offers access to a set of Microsoft security products that organisations can use to strengthen their security.

## What licensing models are available?

There are several academic licensing models available, depending on your licensing and product requirements and how you want to acquire Microsoft licenses and cloud services.

The academic licensing models most relevant for PTEs include:

1. The **Microsoft Open Value Subscription for Education Solutions** is a commitment-based agreement for academic organisations with 5 to 999 full-time employees or students that want to license one or more desktop platform products or platform cloud services organisation-wide.

Software assurance is included.

Student use benefits are available. For details on entitlement, see [Student Use Benefits and Academic Programs](https://www.microsoft.com/licensing/terms/product/StudentUseBenefitsandAcademicPrograms/all).

***The procurement model is via an IT partner.***

1. The **Microsoft Customer Agreement** is a transactional licensing agreement for academic institutions with one or more users/devices seeking to acquire cloud services through self-service purchases or fully outsource management of their cloud services through an IT partner.

IT partners offer an easy way to access the licensing services you need and can provide other wrap-around services. They do add a margin, so shop around for the best value for money.

Student use benefits are available. For details on entitlement, see [Student Use Benefits and Academic Programs](https://www.microsoft.com/licensing/terms/product/StudentUseBenefitsandAcademicPrograms/all).

On-premises software without software assurance is also available.

***The procurement model is via an IT partner or with Microsoft directly.***

1. The **Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement** is a transactional licensing agreement for academic organisations with one or more users/devices that want to subscribe directly via the web.

On-premises software and software assurance are not available through the Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement.

Student use benefits are not available via this option.

Purchasing online will require you to have access to an M365 admin centre – at least a trial subscription – and to manage your licensing as part of your operations.

***The procurement model is with Microsoft directly.***

For a summary of the options, see [Licensing options for industries](https://www.microsoft.com/en-nz/licensing/licensing-programs/licensing-for-industries?rtc=2&activetab=licensing-for-industries-pivot:primaryr3).

For more comprehensive information about the licensing agreement, see [Licensing agreements comparison for academic organizations](https://download.microsoft.com/download/3/9/0/39090891-52ff-46ec-aa21-57bbe61981aa/Volume_Licensing_Comparison_Academic_and_Partner.pdf).

## What plans are available?

There is a three-tier education plan available:

1. M365 A1, a simple one-time-per-device learning solution
2. M365 A3 has A1 features plus desktop apps, security and analytics
3. M365 A5 has A3 features plus advanced security and management tools.

For a comparison of the options, see [Microsoft 365 Education Comparison Chart](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/msdownloads/Microsoft_365_Education_Comparison_Chart_EN.pdf).

For more detail, see [Transform learning with Microsoft 365 Education](https://www.microsoft.com/en-nz/education/products/microsoft-365).

Which plan to select will depend on your security needs. Each plan has increased security features. Work with your IT partner or a specialist on this area to help your organisation make an informed decision.

## How do I procure the licenses?

For **Microsoft Open Value Subscription for Education Solution** and **Microsoft Customer Agreement**, please contact your existing IT partner.

If you do not have an existing relationship, you can find an IT partner at [Connect with partners](https://appsource.microsoft.com/en-nz/marketplace/partner-dir).

For the **Microsoft Online Subscription Agreement** you will need to access the [M365 Admin Centre](https://admin.microsoft.com/AdminPortal/home#/homepage).

If you do not have an M365 admin centre you will need to procure an M365 education trial subscription. Follow the process at [Office 365 Education](https://www.microsoft.com/education/products/office).

## Should I use an IT partner or work directly with Microsoft?

This will depend on the complexity and size of your organisation.

IT partners provide a level of advice and support as part of their service.

They also charge a wrap-around service fee, which varies from provider to provider. You should undertake the necessary due diligence prior to engaging with an IT partner.

## Not-for-profit and academic licenses

Non-profits that meet the academic eligibility rules can purchase academic licenses for students and faculty. However, the academic licenses will need to be procured and managed through a separate tenant.

You will need to work with your IT partner to understand the full extent of the rules and what you are able to do.