



## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers – SAC levels 1 and 2 competitive process 2016

You will find our responses to your questions asked through the 2016 SAC competitive email address below. Responses have been grouped according to topic; you can click on the topic title to take you to that section. We will update this document regularly.

Previously updated questions are shaded grey.

**Last updated 27 May 2016**

### Application process

### Eligibility

### Prisoner Education

Application process		
Date	Question	Answer
15 April 2016	Why are there no regional briefings this year?	We have decided not to hold regional briefings this year to ensure all applicants have access to the same information and receive the same messages.
28 April 2016	What types of provision are considered a priority for SAC level 1 and 2 funding?	We are looking for provision at levels 1 and 2 that provides people with core foundation-capability. This will enable them to progress to higher level study and to skilled employment. Please refer to Request for Funding Application (RFA) page 7, Objectives for Foundation Education, and page 18, Provision Type.
28 April 2016	Can the TEC contact me to discuss SAC level 1 and 2 funding options?	To ensure all applicants have access to the same information, all questions will be answered through FAQs.
09 May 2016	Will organisations be able to put in a bid	No. Applications must propose qualifications for

	for the second (2018) year of the process that is different from the first year (2017)?	<p>delivery in both 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>During 2017 and 2018 we will consider approving changes to approved qualifications where a TEO is seeking to transition from a national qualification to its replacement New Zealand qualification.</p>
09 May 2016	What are the opportunities to change a TEO's mix of provision between levels 1 and 2; and level 3 and above?	We will only approve funding for SAC Level 1 and 2 provision through this competitive process. Indicative allocations for other funds will be approved through other investment processes. For example SAC funding at level 3 and above will be allocated through the usual Investment Plan process.
11 May 2016	Can I propose a different price per EFTS for qualification for prisoner education? This was possible in the 2014 competitive round.	No. Applicants must propose one price for delivery in each qualification regardless of delivery location (including prisoner education).
11 May 2016	What should a TEO do if they are in the process of developing a New Zealand Certificate?	<p>A TEO that is in the process of developing a New Zealand certificate programme can apply for the national certificate they currently deliver and then seek approval from the TEC to transition to the replacement New Zealand qualification at a later date.</p> <p>Alternatively a TEO can apply to deliver the New Zealand certificate, but the TEO must have appropriate NZQA approvals in place by 31 October 2016.</p> <p>Also see RFA section 2.4 and section 3: NZQA accreditation and approval.</p>
12 May 2016	When will the high-level assessment framework be available?	This document will be available on our website shortly.
13 May 2016	The TEC does not allow collusion (see section 9.2 of RFA). Is the TEC trying to discourage collaboration between TEOs? How can a TEO collaborate without colluding?	<p>The TEC encourages collaborative arrangements between TEOs where these have benefits for learners and the tertiary education network. However, some restrictions do apply in relation to collusion.</p> <p>Depending on the nature of the collaboration / joint venture it may be appropriate to share information on price, volume of EFTS, qualifications delivered, etc.</p> <p>The TEC expects TEOs to stipulate as where applications are made as joint ventures, particularly if information was shared across the TEOs involved. We may also choose to request more information about joint ventures.</p>
13 May 2016	When will the TEC publish information on the relationship between the Plan decision making criteria and the assessment of SAC levels 1 and 2 competitive applications?	This information is now available on the TEC website.
13 May 2016	How should applicants calculate the student to tutor ratios as requested in	We recommend a common sense approach to describing tutor/staffing levels and that you provide a

	Part A of the application?	brief rationale for this ratio. For example - we have three full time tutors delivering two qualifications to 40 learners. As one of these qualifications is a 'hands-on' building qualification that requires more intensive student supervision; we employ two tutors to deliver this qualification.
13 May 2016	When considering TEO performance information, will the TEC combine Youth Guarantee and SAC levels 1 and 2 performance data?	No. We will consider TEO performance information using the fund hierarchy set out in section 6.2 in the RFA. This information is also provided on our website.
13 May 2016	When considering Youth Guarantee performance information, will the TEC only consider Youth Guarantee provision at levels 1 and 2?	We will consider Youth Guarantee performance information across qualifications at levels 1 - 3.
17 May 2016	We are applying to deliver a New Zealand qualification. Will the TEC consider historical data in the national qualification we delivered that the proposed New Zealand qualification replaced?	When considering applications for New Zealand qualifications without a performance history, we will automatically consider past performance in national qualifications that the New Zealand qualifications have replaced.  If you think past performance in a qualification should be considered because it is the same qualification as that you are proposing to deliver, please record this information in Part B of your application form in the column titled "Qualification with relevant delivery history".  See section 6.2 and Appendix 2 of the RFA.
17 May 2016	Do we need to include roll-over EFTS from 2016 in Part B of the application form?	Your organisation should apply for all qualifications you intend to deliver in 2017. Also see a previous FAQ on cross-year enrolments.
17 May 2016	Can we propose different learner volumes for 2017 and 2018 delivery where we expect enrolments in a new qualification to grow by 2018?	No, you must apply to deliver the same learner volume in both 2017 and 2018.
19 May 2016	Do I need to apply for SAC-funded level 1 and 2 MPTT qualifications in my application?	Do not include SAC level 1 and 2 qualifications that you receive MPTT funding for in your application. MPTT provision will be determined through other investment processes.
20 May 2016	What learners does your NEETs data cover?	The TEC uses Statistics New Zealand information about New Zealand youth (aged 15–24 years) who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET). NEET data is derived from the Household Labour Force Survey. For more information about the calculation of the NEET population see the Statistics New Zealand website.  <a href="http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/employment_and_unemployment/new-labour-market-data.aspx">http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/employment_and_unemployment/new-labour-market-data.aspx</a>
20 May 2016	When TEC considers TEC performance information, what time periods will you use?	In the first instance the TEC will use 2015 data, where this is not available we will use 2014 data. For more information please see our website.  <a href="http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Fund-finder/SAC-">http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Fund-finder/SAC-</a>

		<a href="#">levels-1-and-2-competitive/Competitive-process/</a> See the subheading 'Performance Information' available in workspaces.
20 May 2016	Can a TEO apply for a qualification if they do not yet have NZQA approval to deliver it?	Yes, however TEOs must have appropriate NZQA approvals in place by 31 October 2016. See section 3 of the RFA subheading 'NZQA accreditation and approval'.
20 May 2016	If a TEO is applying as a joint venture, which of the parties should submit an application?	Joint venture arrangements are contemplated under the RFA provided the communications between the competitors comply with paragraph 9.2 of the RFA.  In terms of making an application, the competitors may make separate applications (cross referencing the other party in each application). If the joint venture operates through a subsidiary company, the subsidiary can apply in its own right.  All applicants must meet the TEO eligibility criteria for SAC levels 1 and 2 funding as set out in the RFA.
20 May 2016	How do the funding requirements for subcontracting apply to a joint venture application?	Subcontracting of delivery is not permitted under any circumstances. Joint venture arrangements are contemplated under the RFA provided the communications between the competitors comply with paragraph 9.2 of the RFA.  When making an application, the competitors may prepare an application jointly (cross referencing the other party in each other's application).
20 May 2016	Is the TEC purchasing qualifications at the level of region, Territorial Local Authority (TLA) or delivery site?	The TEC will approve successful qualifications at the level of detail captured in Part B of the Application form. Part B captures information about the region, TLA and delivery site (if known at the time the application is submitted).
20 May 2016	To what extent will the TEC consider past performance information at the qualification level verses the TEO level?	The TEC will consider a mix of qualification level and TEO level performance information. The detailed assessment framework used to assess applications will be made available to applicants once the outcome of the competitive process has been notified.

## Eligibility

Date	Question	Answer
28 April 2016	Is my organisation eligible to apply for SAC level 1 and 2 funding?	To be eligible to apply for SAC level 1 and 2 competitive funding TEOs must meet <b>all</b> of the eligibility criteria set out on page 12 of the RFA.
28 April 2016	Are learners in employment eligible for SAC level 1 and 2 funding?	Being employed doesn't prevent a learner from accessing SAC levels 1 and 2 funding, as long as they meet the learner eligibility criteria. The 2016 learner eligibility criteria are available on our <a href="#">website</a> .  We expect that the learner eligibility criteria for 2017 will be similar to the eligibility criteria for 2016.

		Other funding conditions may also apply - see page 12 of the RFA.
2 May 2016	Can I apply for a programme of learning that includes two qualifications at level 2 that are a minimum of 40 credits each?	Each qualification must be eligible for funding in its own right. It is a condition of SAC levels 1 and 2 funding that TEOs do not enroll more than 10% of learners that already have a qualification at level 2 or above (excluding te reo and ESOL qualifications). We do not recommend seeking funding for programme structures that would lead to your organisation breaching this cap. Please refer to page 10 and 12 of the RFA.
09 May 2016	What should a TEO do if received competitive SAC in 2015/2016 and it is not successful for 2017/2018, but anticipates having cross-year enrolments (that is learners who began during 2016 but are scheduled to complete in 2017)?	Funding for competitively allocated SAC levels 1 and 2 provision ends on 31 December 2016.  The TEC may consider grand-parenting arrangements so individual learners can complete qualifications, for example arranging for learners to transfer to an alternative provider.
09 May 2016	What criteria will be used to measure a TEO's performance for ongoing funding?	All applications will be assessed against the quality dimensions set out in the Assessment Framework for the SAC levels 1 and 2 Competitive Process for 2017 and 2018 funding.  The quality dimensions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience targeting foundation learners</li> <li>• Experience supporting and retaining foundation learners</li> <li>• Capability in delivering foundation learning</li> <li>• Literacy and numeracy capability</li> <li>• Achieving successful learner outcomes</li> </ul> For more information about the assessment process including the information TEC will consider, please refer to section 6 of the Request for Funding Applications (RFA) document.
09 May 2016	What does a tertiary education institution (TEI) do if a qualification is not eligible for funding through the competitive process because it is fewer than 40 credits?	We will only purchase qualifications through SAC level 1 and 2 competitive that are full qualifications of 40 credits or more that are on the New Zealand Qualification Framework.  See page 9 of the RFA for more detailed information about eligible qualifications.  The 2016 SAC level 1 and 2 competitive process is able to allocate up to 100% of the fund for 2017 and 2018.  If any SAC levels 1 and 2 funding is not allocated through the competitive process, the TEC will allocate this funding through the usual investment plan process.  Qualifications of fewer than 40 credits, offered by TEIs,

		may be eligible for funding through non-competitive SAC level 1 and 2.
11 May 2016	What age learners are eligible to attract SAC levels 1 and 2 competitive funding?	<p>Learner eligibility will be confirmed later in 2016 when the Minister issues a funding mechanism for the SAC levels 1 and 2 competitive allocation. We anticipate this will be similar to 2016 eligibility.</p> <p>For 2016, learners must be 16 years of age, or if they are under 16 years of age meet certain criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•the student must be capable of completing the academic requirements of the programme</li> <li>•the student must have a school exemption certificate from the Ministry of Education.</li> </ul> <p>See the TEC website for more detailed information about learner eligibility:  <a href="http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Fund-finder/SAC-levels-1-and-2-competitive/Eligibility/">http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Fund-finder/SAC-levels-1-and-2-competitive/Eligibility/</a></p>

## Prisoner Education

Date	Question	Answer
20 May 2016	Can a TEO proposing prisoner education use the prison site NZQA accreditation or do they need to be accredited in their own right to deliver at the prison site?	The TEO will need to have its own NZQA approvals / accreditation to deliver at the prison site.
20 May 2016	Does TEC want to contract a single provider to deliver all TEC funded prisoner education at a prison site? Or will you contract with multiple providers at the same site	The TEC will consider multiple providers delivering prisoner education at the same prison site.



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