



Final-year Fees Free key messages

for tertiary education organisations

Supporting your final-year Fees Free communications and engagements

Dated: 1 April 2025

You can use these key messages about final-year Fees Free in your communications and engagements with learners. The Tertiary Education Commission will update these messages when required.

Messages

| Topic | Messages |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Final-year Fees Free policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Fees Free is available for eligible learners who complete their first provider-based qualification or work-based programme.› Fees Free covers the final year of study or two years of work-based training, up to \$12,000.› Fees Free aims to motivate and reward learners for completing their qualification or programme, and reduce the overall cost of their study and learning.› Fees Free can only be used once.› For more information visit the Fees Free website, www.feesfree.govt.nz/final-year. |
| Eligibility for Fees Free | <ul style="list-style-type: none">› To get Fees Free for your final year of study and training you must:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• complete a qualification or a programme eligible for Fees Free, and• meet the residency criteria at the time you complete, and• meet the prior study and training criteria, and• not have already used Fees Free.› If you would like to check if you meet residency and prior study and training criteria before you complete your qualification or programme visit the Fees Free website, www.feesfree.govt.nz/final-year. |

| Topic | Messages |
|---------------------------------|---|
| What learners need to do | <p>At enrolment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › When you enrol for your study or training you will need to pay your fees. To help you cover this cost, you may wish to apply for a Student Loan. <p>On completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › When you complete your first eligible qualification or work-based programme, you can confirm your eligibility and claim your Fees Free entitlement. › You have one year to claim your entitlement. › You will be able to do this through myIR from early 2026. › If you have a Student Loan, your entitlement will go towards paying off your Student Loan. If you don't have a Student Loan, the entitlement will be paid to a bank account you nominate. |
| IRD numbers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Your tertiary education organisation may request your IRD number. This will make it easier for you to claim your Fees Free entitlement after you complete your first eligible qualification or work-based programme. › You do not need to provide your IRD number if you have already used your Fees Free entitlement or you know your qualification/programme is not eligible for Fees Free. |
| Shorter qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Keep in mind some shorter qualifications (like certificates) you complete before a degree or diploma may use your Fees Free entitlement. For more information talk to your tertiary education organisation. |