



Years 11-13 subjects for the National Curriculum

29 September 2025

Priority 1: Establishing a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning

Priority 2: Implementing consistent modes of monitoring student progress and achievement

A rich range of exciting secondary subjects have been announced for Years 11-13 (Phase | Tūāreke 5) to create a national curriculum for the future.

The National Curriculum for schooling in Aotearoa New Zealand includes both The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (TMoA). To provide teachers, kaiako and school leaders with a clear, knowledge-rich and internationally comparable curriculum, the Ministry of Education has been undertaking a refresh of the National Curriculum.

This work responds to years of feedback from teachers and kaiako that a clear curriculum should be the foundation of senior secondary teaching and learning. Curriculum subjects for Years 11-13 will provide students greater choice, clear pathways and opportunities for specialisation, setting them up for success in future study or their chosen profession. These subjects will support the important shift to an internationally comparable, knowledge-rich curriculum underpinned by the science of learning.

Many of these subjects are already available through NCEA. Some are new, while others have been renamed, reorganised or refocused to ensure they are knowledge-rich subjects and provide clear pathways. Some subjects will be developed by the Ministry, and some by industry. The first year of implementation for new subjects will be 2028 for Year 11, 2029 for Year 12 and 2030 for Year 13.

New subjects developed across the curriculum include:

- Electronics & Mechatronics
- Media, Journalism & Communication
- Music Technology
- Civics, Politics & Philosophy
- Te Mātai i te Ao Māori
- Pacific Studies
- New Pacific language areas
- Specialisations at Year 13 such as Further Mathematics, and Statistics & Data Science.

Te Mātai i te Ao Māori, an exciting new Māori Studies subject, will be available through NZC. It will provide learners in English-medium settings with the opportunity to study Māori cultural practices, protocols, knowledge, and philosophies.

A new Pacific Studies subject will allow students to explore histories and cultures of Pacific peoples. It will cover knowledge related to the impact of change, development, sustainability, and leadership in the region. This subject will be especially relevant for those students interested in the Pacific and its future, cultural studies, and community development and will offer deeper learning opportunities for students in realm nations and New Zealand.

Outdoor Education will be developed into an industry-led subject at Year 12 and 13 as well as continuing to be used as an assessment context for Physical Education.

There will also be an increased range of TMoA subjects available in te reo Māori, including Tātai Arorangi (Celestial Science), Te Ao Whakairo (Māori Carving) and Ao ā-nuku Ao ātea (Earth & Space Science).

For TMoA, 18 subjects will be developed at Year 11, 26 for Years 12 and 13 and two exclusively for Year 13. The focus is on expanding learning opportunities and resources for te reo Māori immersion through the pathway.

Comprehensive industry-led subjects are also being developed. These include areas such as Primary Industries, Health & Wellbeing Services, Outdoor Education, Automotive Engineering, Building & Construction, Infrastructure Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Tourism & Hospitality, with further options to be considered as we work with the industry skills boards.

Each subject's curriculum will clearly outline the essential learning for students, teachers and kaiako ensuring that teaching and learning are driven by the curriculum, rather than the qualification.

A programme of planning and resourcing of the curriculum and associated subjects is already underway to ensure that teachers and kaiako are supported to deliver great outcomes for New Zealand students. Schools and kura will continue to have flexibility in choosing contexts (local, national and international) through which they teach the content.

Criteria for curriculum subjects

Curriculum subjects must meet the following criteria:

- build on prior teaching and learning that is part of earlier phases of the National Curriculum
- provide for coherent knowledge-rich packages of teaching and learning
- support pathways in and beyond school or kura
- reflect current and future demand including new and emerging areas of knowledge
- support the provision of an internationally comparable curriculum and qualification system

Which subjects are included within the curriculum will not be fixed over time. As part of ongoing curriculum review processes, subjects may be adjusted or new subjects added. For example, we will be investigating the value of a standalone Generative AI subject at Year 13 for later development.

Years 11-13 Curriculum Subjects

For NZC, there will be 35 Ministry-led subjects developed at Year 11, 51 subjects at Years 12 and 13 and two additional subjects are available at Year 13 only.

For TMoA, there will be 18 Ministry-led subjects developed at Year 11, 26 subjects at Years 12 and 13 and two at Year 13 only.

Note:

* Represents a new subject

** These are subjects the Ministry will commission Industry Skills Boards (ISBs) to develop, working alongside industry, schools, and other stakeholders.

TMoA subjects with bracketed English titles indicate that the subject will have the same common purpose, core knowledge and be available in both te reo Māori and English for delivery in TMoA or NZC pathways.

The New Zealand Curriculum

Learning area	Year 11 subjects	Year 12 subjects	Year 13 subjects
English	English	English	English
		Media, Journalism & Communications	Media, Journalism & Communications
Mathematics & Statistics	Mathematics	Applied Mathematics*	Applied Mathematics*
			Statistics and Data Science*
		Mathematics	Mathematics
			Further Mathematics*
Science	Two science subjects - <i>names and scopes to be confirmed</i>	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Agricultural & Horticultural Science
		Biology	Biology
		Chemistry	Chemistry
		Earth & Space Science	Earth & Space Science
		Physics	Physics
		Primary Industry**	Primary Industry**
Health & Physical Education	Health Education	Health Education	Health Education
		Health & Wellbeing Services**	Health & Wellbeing Services**
	Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
		Outdoor Education**	Outdoor Education**
Technology	Materials & Processing Technology	Materials & Processing Technology*	Materials & Processing Technology*
		Electronics & Mechatronics*	Electronics & Mechatronics*
		Automotive Engineering**	Automotive Engineering**
		Building & Construction**	Building & Construction**
		Infrastructure Engineering**	Infrastructure Engineering**
		Mechanical Engineering**	Mechanical Engineering**
	Digital Technologies	Computer Science*	Computer Science*
		Digital Design	Digital Design
	Spatial & Product Design	Spatial & Product Design	Spatial & Product Design

Learning area	Year 11 subjects	Year 12 subjects	Year 13 subjects
The Arts	Dance	Dance	Dance
	Drama	Drama	Drama
	Music	Music	Music
		Music Technology*	Music Technology*
	Te Ao Haka	Te Ao Haka	Te Ao Haka
	Visual Arts	Visual Arts – Creative Arts	Visual Arts – Creative Arts
		Visual Arts – Design	Visual Arts – Design
		Visual Arts – Painting	Visual Arts – Painting
	Visual Arts – Photography & Moving Image	Visual Arts – Photography & Moving Image	
Social Sciences	Accounting	Accounting	Accounting
	Business & Economics	Business Studies	Business Studies
		Economics	Economics
		Tourism**	Tourism**
		Hospitality**	Hospitality**
	Geography	Geography	Geography
	History	History	History
		Classical Studies	Classical Studies
	Te Mātai i te Ao Māori (Māori Studies) – <i>working title*</i>	Te Mātai i te Ao Māori (Māori Studies) – <i>working title*</i>	Te Mātai i te Ao Māori (Māori Studies) – <i>working title*</i>
	Religious Studies	Religious Studies	Religious Studies
	Sociology*	Sociology*	Sociology*
		Civics, Politics & Philosophy*	Civics, Politics & Philosophy*
		Pacific Studies*	Pacific Studies*
	Psychology	Psychology	
Learning Languages	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori
	New Zealand Sign Language	New Zealand Sign Language	New Zealand Sign Language
	English as an Additional Language*	English as an Additional Language*	English as an Additional Language*
	Asian languages		
	Chinese (Mandarin)	Chinese (Mandarin)	Chinese (Mandarin)
	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
	Korean	Korean	Korean
	European languages		
	French	French	French
	German	German	German
	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
	Pacific languages		
	Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan)	Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan)	Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan)
	Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan)	Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan)	Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan)
	Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)	Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)	Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)
	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Island Māori)	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Island Māori)	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Island Māori)
	Vagahau Niue (Niuean)	Vagahau Niue (Niuean)	Vagahau Niue (Niuean)

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Te Marautanga o Aotearoa

Wāhanga Ako	Year 11 subjects	Year 12 subjects	Year 13 subjects
Te Reo Rangatira	Te Reo Rangatira	Te Reo Rangatira	Te Reo Rangatira
Pāngarau	Pāngarau	Pāngarau (Mathematics)	Pāngarau (Mathematics)
			Pāngarau Whānui (Further Mathematics)*
		Te Whakamahi Pāngarau (Applied Mathematics)*	Te Whakamahi Pāngarau (Applied Mathematics)*
			Tauanga me te Mātai Raraunga (Statistics and Data Science)*
Pūtaiao	Pūtaiao	Tātai Arorangi*	Tātai Arorangi*
		Ao ā-nuku Ao ātea (Earth & Space Science)	Ao ā-nuku Ao ātea (Earth & Space Science)
		Mātai Ahupūngao (Physics)	Mātai Ahupūngao (Physics)
		Mātai Ahuwhenua me to Ahumāra (Agricultural & Horticultural Science)	Mātai Ahuwhenua me to Ahumāra (Agricultural & Horticultural Science)
		Mātai Koiora (Biology)	Mātai Koiora (Biology)
		Mātai Matū (Chemistry)	Mātai Matū (Chemistry)
		Ahumahi Matua (Primary Industry)**	Ahumahi Matua (Primary Industry)**
Waiora	Kori Tinana	Kori Tinana (Physical Education)	Kori Tinana (Physical Education)
		Akoranga tū-ā-nuku (Outdoor Education)**	Akoranga tū-ā-nuku (Outdoor Education)**
	Waiora*	Waiora*	Waiora*
		Ratonga Waiora (Health & Wellbeing Services)**	Ratonga Waiora (Health & Wellbeing Services)**
Hangarau	Hangarau	Hangarau	Hangarau
		Pūhanga Waka (Automotive Engineering)**	Pūhanga Waka (Automotive Engineering)**
		Te Mahi Hanganga (Building & Construction)**	Te Mahi Hanganga (Building & Construction)**
		Te Pūtoi Hanganga (Infrastructure Engineering)**	Te Pūtoi Hanganga (Infrastructure Engineering)**
		Pūhanga Pūrere (Mechanical Engineering)**	Pūhanga Pūrere (Mechanical Engineering)**
	Hangarau Hoahoa (Spatial & Product Design)	Hangarau Hoahoa (Spatial & Product Design)	Hangarau Hoahoa (Spatial & Product Design)
	Hangarau Matihiko (Digital Technologies)	Mātai Matihiko (Computer Science)*	Mātai Matihiko (Computer Science)*
		Hua Matihiko (Digital Design)	Hua Matihiko (Digital Design)
Toi Ihiihi	Te Ao Haka	Te Ao Haka	Te Ao Haka
	Toi Ataata	Toi Ataata	Toi Ataata
		Te Ao Whakairo*	Te Ao Whakairo*
	Toi Puoro	Toi Puoro	Toi Puoro
	Toi Rēhia	Toi Rēhia	Toi Rēhia
Te Ao Māori	Te Ao Māori*	Te Ao Māori*	Te Ao Māori*
	Matawhenua (Geography)	Matawhenua (Geography)	Matawhenua (Geography)
	Te Mātai Pakihi me te Ōhanga (Business & Economics)	Te Mātai Ōhanga (Economics)	Te Mātai Ōhanga (Economics)

Wāhanga Ako	Year 11 subjects	Year 12 subjects	Year 13 subjects
Te Ao Māori		Te Mātai Pakihi (Business Studies)	Te Mātai Pakihi (Business Studies)
		Ahumahi Tāpoi (Tourism)**	Ahumahi Tāpoi (Tourism)**
		Ahumahi Manaaki (Hospitality)**	Ahumahi Manaaki (Hospitality)**
	Te Takanga o te Wā (History)	Te Takanga o te Wā (History)	Te Takanga o te Wā (History)
Te Reo Pākehā	Te Reo Pākehā*	Te Reo Pākehā*	Te Reo Pākehā*
Ngā Reo	Te Reo Rotarota o Aotearoa (New Zealand Sign Language)	Te Reo Rotarota o Aotearoa (New Zealand Sign Language)	Te Reo Rotarota o Aotearoa (New Zealand Sign Language)

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Timeline

Following the release of the Years 0-10 curriculum in Term 4, 2025, the draft Years 11-13 subject curricula will be released in Term 1, 2026 for feedback and familiarisation.

Implementation will be aligned with any changes to the qualifications, proposals for which are currently being consulted on. There will be no requirement to use the new curriculum content until 2028 (for Year 11 content), 2029 (for Year 12 content), and 2030 (for Year 13 content).

You can review the full National Curriculum timeline here:

[Curriculum timeline change responds to feedback from senior secondary teachers](#)

How you will be supported in using the curriculum

To support the updated curriculum for secondary schools and kura, an implementation package will be available over time to ensure that NZC and TMoA teachers and kaiako are supported every step of the way.

- Professional learning and development (PLD) for teachers and kaiako
- PLD for curriculum/marautanga leadership
- Curriculum Days
- Expanded Curriculum Advisory Service for secondary schools and kura
- Subject Association and Kahu Pūtoi funding available to support curriculum roll out
- A secondary Curriculum Roadshow in the new year to support leaders to prepare for curriculum change
- A new Virtual Learning Network (VLN) to offer online or pre-recorded classes for specialist subjects taught in te reo Māori across the Wharekura network
- Resources are currently being developed and procured by the Ministry to support curriculum implementation. These will begin to be released from Term 4 alongside the curriculum itself and will continue to grow over time to include planning exemplars, ready-to-use classroom resources, and teacher guidance across all curriculum areas and year

levels.

Next steps

We are in the early stages of content development for the Ministry-led subjects. Detailed subject descriptions will be available in mid-October and will be developed with input from subject associations and curriculum writing teams.

There will be opportunities for teachers and kaiako with appropriate expertise to work alongside the Ministry to develop draft curriculum and resources, as well as provide targeted feedback on content as it is developed. More information on this process will be available shortly. We will also continue to use our Review Groups. The draft subject curricula will be released in Term 1, 2026 for wider feedback.

As part of consultation on changes to the national qualification, we are seeking feedback on making English and Mathematics & Statistics, or Te Reo Rangatira and Pāngarau, mandatory at Year 11.

We will be making sure that our national qualification aligns to the new subjects, so that students and teachers can be confident it accurately assesses what students have learnt.

Schools and kura will still retain responsibility for deciding what subjects they offer their students (not all subjects will be available everywhere). They will continue to help support learners on their educational journey, making sure that they develop a coherent set of skills, knowledge, and experiences through a pathway to further (post-school) education including university and/or employment.