Youth Guarantee fees free[[1]](#footnote-1)

**What is Youth Guarantee fees free?**

Youth Guarantee is a fund administered by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to PTEs, ITPs and wānanga for delivery of qualifications fees free at levels 1 to 3 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). This includes NCEA aligned with one or more of the Vocational Pathways.

The TEC uses an equivalent full-time student (EFTS) funding model for YG. One EFTS is equivalent to 120 credits, 1200 learning hours and typically delivered over 34-40 weeks. The TEC categorises YG provision in terms of trades ($14,300 per EFTS) and non-trades ($10,800 per EFTS) and pays these rates at the qualification level. Both rates include $500 for pastoral care and $800 for travel.

**What do you need to know?**

*Learner Eligibility:*

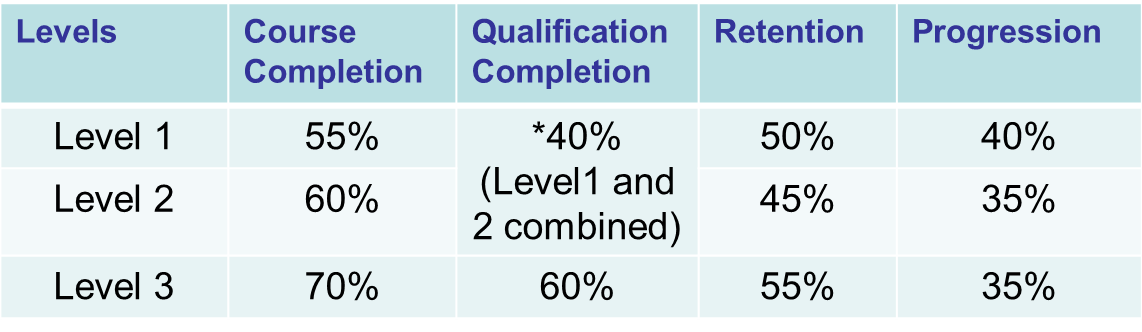
A learner must be aged between 16 to 19 at the time the qualification(s) commences (or 15 with an early leaving exemption) and:

* be a [domestic student](http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Learner-enrolment-/Learner-status/Domestic-students/);
* be studying at least 50% of a full time, full year enrolment (defined as 0.5EFTS or 60 credits);
* not enrolled in a secondary school (unless they are part of the YG secondary tertiary partnership pilot programme);
* enrolled on a qualification at levels 1, 2 or 3, including NCEA;
* consume no more than 2 EFTS (240 credits) worth of learning; and
* *may* be able access a student allowance and if 18 years or older *may* be able to access parts of the student loan: course-related and living costs[[2]](#footnote-2).

*Expectations of TEOs*:

* must not subcontract delivery;
* assess learners using the Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Tool;
* not charge any tuition fees;
* not enrol one learner in more than 1 EFTS per calendar year;
* should not enrol more than 20% (increased from 10% for 2015 only) of learners in a level 1 or 2 qualification who already hold a qualification at that level;
* have pastoral care arrangements in place that meet the needs of the learner cohort: and
* meet the performance expectations in the table below.

*Performance framework for Youth Guarantee*:



The TEC uses educational performance indicators (EPIs) – course and qualification completions, progression and retention[[3]](#footnote-3) – to monitor the performance of YG and to inform future funding decisions. These targets represent the minimum performance expectations each TEO is expected to achieve.

The 40% qualification completion target is set at a level that recognises likely learner capability and that some learners may not achieve the qualification their first time. TEOs can re-enrol a significant proportion of learners in further study to enable them to achieve their qualification.

**Frequently asked questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer** |
| Are YG learners required to be enrolled in 120 credits? | No. While funding is based on 1 EFTS/120 credits, learners are notrequired to be enrolled in that amount of learning. The minimum requirement is 0.5EFTS/60 credits. |
| Are learners supposed to achieve 120 credits to ensure a TEO maintains funding? | No. A TEO is paid for the total amount of learning each learner is enrolled on per calendar year as calculated on an EFTS basis.  For instance if a learner is enrolled on a 60 credit and then a 40 credit qualification in one academic year, that learner would consume 0.833 EFTS worth of funding (100/120 credits).  Performance is used to inform future funding but is not used for end of year recoveries. |
| Are TEOs expected to achieve 85% qualification completion target for YG? | No. The qualification completion rate expected for each YG funded TEO is 40% for levels 1 and 2. This takes into account the fact that some YG learners may take longer to complete their qualification. |
| What is the difference between programmes and qualifications and what does the TEC fund? | The TEC funds qualifications for YG. The programme is the content that leads to the award of a qualification. This is what NZQA quality assures. |

1. Please note that this information is relevant as at 2 February 2015. To ensure you have the most up-to-date information please see the TEC’s website - <http://www.tec.govt.nz/Funding/Fund-finder/Youth-Guarantee/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It is always best to contact StudyLink to check learner eligibility requirements. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See the TEC’s website for the [definitions and methodology](http://www.tec.govt.nz/Tertiary-Sector/Performance-information/Educational-performance/) on how each EPI is calculated. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)