

# Māori in bachelors degrees

## Introduction

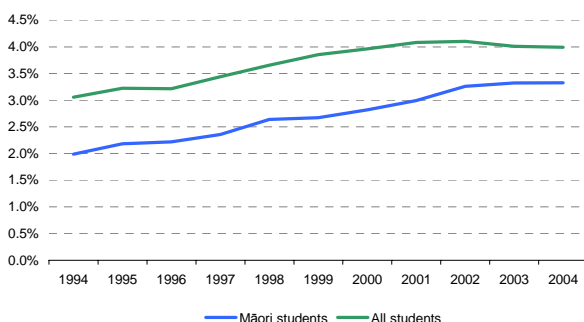
This fact sheet is part of a series that look at Māori student participation, retention and completion by level of study, using full-year data from 2004.

Qualifications at level 7 of the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications can be either a bachelors degree or a graduate certificate or diploma. Bachelors degrees are theoretically-based qualifications that require three years or more of full-time study to complete. Graduate certificates and diplomas are designed as vehicles for graduates to pursue further study at an advanced undergraduate level.

## Participation

The numbers of Māori students enrolled in bachelors-level study have grown at a slower rate than any other qualification level. In the six years since 1999, the percentage of Māori aged 15 years and over participating in bachelors-level study rose from 2.7 percent in 1999 to 3.3 percent in 2004. This compares with 4.0 percent for bachelors-level students of all ethnic groups in 2004<sup>1</sup>.

### Age standardised participation rates in bachelors-level study for Māori and all students, 1994-2004

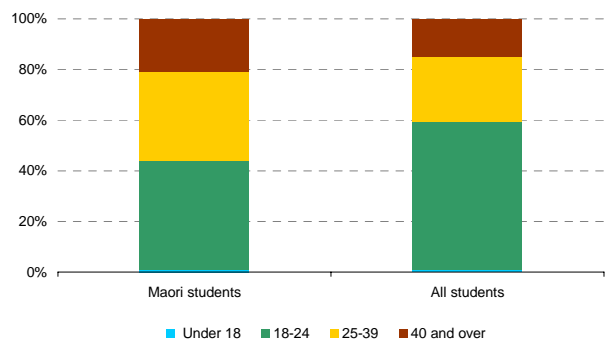


Over 63 percent of Māori bachelors-level students were studying at a university in 2004. Māori students are more likely to be doing bachelors-level study at a wānanga than other ethnic groups, with 8.1 percent of

Māori bachelors-level students studying at wānanga, compared with 1.1 percent for all students.

While women participate in bachelors-level study at a greater rate than men across all ethnic groups, the gender difference is greater for Māori students, with Māori women outnumbering Māori men by more than two to one. Since 1999 the numbers of Māori women participating in bachelors-level study has grown at more than twice the rate of Māori men.

### Distribution of bachelors-level students by age group for Māori and all students 2004



Māori students at bachelors level are more likely to be aged 25 years and over than other ethnic groups. In 2004, 56 percent of Māori students were aged 25 years and over, compared with 41 percent for all students.

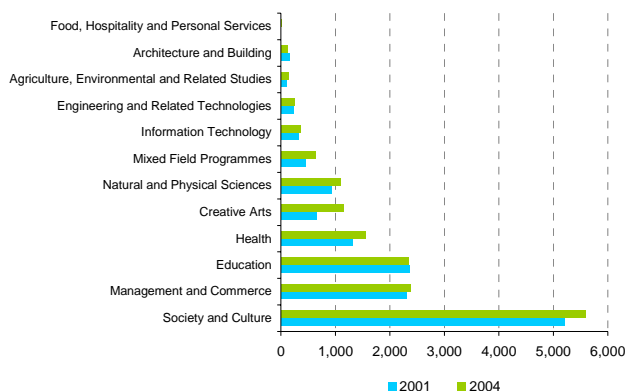
In 2004 the most popular field of study for Māori bachelors-level students was society and culture (37 percent of students). Study in the broad field of society and culture includes, for example, law, economics, philosophy, sociology, history, language studies, human welfare support and services, and sport and recreation. Other popular fields of study were management and commerce (16 percent of students) and education (15 percent).

The fields of study with the largest growth in Māori students from 2001 to 2004 have been creative arts, mixed field programmes, and agriculture, environmental and related studies.

<sup>1</sup> Rates of participation referred to here have been standardised for the different age profiles of the populations. The rates represent the proportion of each population aged 15 years and over that would be participating in tertiary education if all populations had the same age structure.

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## Māori students in bachelors-level study by field of study 2001 and 2004



Two in five Māori students at bachelors level were employed prior to study and a further 16 percent were unemployed or not in the workforce. Almost a quarter came from school and 18 percent from other tertiary study.

Almost one third of Māori students (32 percent) had a highest school qualification of NCEA level 3 or equivalent and 29 percent had NCEA level 2 or equivalent. Around 17 percent of Māori students had no school qualifications, a higher proportion than any other ethnic group in bachelors-level study.

## Attrition, completion and progression

A total of 2,285 Māori students completed 2,375 bachelors-level qualifications in 2004. This represented a 6.2 percent increase over the previous year in the number of students who completed qualifications.

An estimated 32 percent of Māori students who started a bachelors-level qualification in 2000 had completed after five years. Around 57 percent of those who started in 2000 had left without completing five years later and 11 percent were still studying. The first-year attrition rate of students who started study in 2003 was 32 percent.

Māori students are less likely than European students to complete their degrees. Once adjusted for other factors, six-year completion rates for European students were 1.3 times that of Māori students.

Of those Māori students completing a bachelors-level qualification in 2003, 14 percent went on to study at

a higher level in 2004, and 29 percent went on to study at the same level or at a lower level, while 57 percent did not continue their studies. At bachelors level, as with sub-degree and postgraduate levels, Māori had the highest rates of progression to any level, but the lowest rates of progression to higher levels.

Across sub-sectors, Māori bachelors-level students in colleges of education had the highest rates of retention and completion (which is also true for other ethnic groups). Māori at wānanga had the second highest rates of the TEIs. Māori students are more likely to progress to postgraduate study from a university than any other sub-sector

## Attrition, completion and progression rates for Māori students in bachelors-level study by sub-sector, gender and age group

	First-year attrition rate (2003-04)	Five-year completion rate (2000-04)	Higher progression rate (2003-04)
All Māori bachelors level students	32%	32%	14%
Universities	33%	29%	19%
ITPs	36%	26%	10%
Wānanga	36%	36%	13%
Colleges of Education	24%	57%	4%
TEIs	32%	32%	15%
OPEPs			
PTEs	47%	61%	2%
Female	31%	34%	14%
Male	34%	28%	15%
Under 18	37%	34%	
18-24	22%	38%	13%
25-39	37%	27%	14%
40 and over	41%	27%	19%

Māori women and younger students are more likely to complete a qualification, which is also the case for all ethnic groups. However Māori men and older students are more likely to progress to postgraduate study.

Tertiary Sector Performance Analysis & Reporting,  
Tertiary Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Group – Mātauranga Tuatoru, Akoranga Mārautanga,  
Ministry of Education – Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga.

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