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Tēnā koe Kelly

Thank you for your request, received on 9 September 2019, about accelerated learning for graduate research qualifications.

The Official Information Act (OIA) requires government agencies to release information unless there are good reasons to withhold it. Under the Act, there is no obligation for agencies to form an opinion or create information in order to respond to a request.

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) provides funding to tertiary education organisations, if they meet the relevant funding conditions. Most graduate level research qualifications will be funded through the TEC's Student Achievement Component fund. The 2019 Student Achievement Component funding conditions can be found on the TEC's website at: [www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/student-achievement-component-provision-at-level-3-and-above-on-the-nzqf-fund/conditions-2019/#AccordionItem5340](http://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/funding/fund-finder/student-achievement-component-provision-at-level-3-and-above-on-the-nzqf-fund/conditions-2019/#AccordionItem5340).

Based on the information you have provided it would not be possible to assess whether the circumstances you have outlined meet the TEC's funding conditions. Therefore it would not be appropriate for me to comment.

Under the Education Act 1989, universities are granted academic freedom and institutional autonomy to support their teaching and research activities. This means that each university is responsible for deciding the entry requirements and whether or not they will allow a student to complete the course in an accelerated timeframe within the funding conditions set by the government.

Universities may take a range of factors into consideration when deciding whether to allow a student to undertake a course of study which are unrelated to TEC funding conditions. Therefore, if you would like to undertake an accelerated course of study, I would recommend that you discuss your options with the university concerned.

Yours sincerely

Tony Scott  
Manager Operational Strategy Policy and Insights  
Tertiary Education Commission

