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New Zealand Defence Force
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Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2024-5061

18 July 2024

Mr Williamson
fyi-request-27298-f5922c28@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Williamson

I refer to your email of 19 June 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information concerning the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) minimum academic entry requirements. Specifically, you have requested:

I am writing to ascertain the specific minimum educational requirements to support the candidate application(s) as an officer in the New Zealand Navy Reserves, for the position of Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) Officer.

The reason for my request is that the Defence Careers (2024) website states " You must have a minimum NCEA Level 3, and/or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard or five years of relevant operational management experience (at sea or ashore). Or A Relevant Degree and three years of practical industry experience...".

This education criteria implies that NCEA Level 3, and/or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard is sufficient for candidates to support their application for consideration for this role.

If this is the case, are there any restrictions or parameters for the requirement of NCEA Level 3, and/or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard, and if so what are these? Also, are there any restrictions or parameters of when candidates need to have obtained NCEA Level 3, and/or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard in contrast to when they apply?

The minimum academic entry requirements for a Maritime Trade Operations (MTO) Officer is NCEA Level 3, and/or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard. Or five years of relevant operational management experience (at sea or ashore). Or a relevant degree and three years of practical industry experience.

There are no restrictions or parameters associated with these educational requirements or when candidates have obtained these qualifications in contrast to when they have applied.

Furthermore, has there been instances where candidates have been successful in securing employment, for this position in the Navy reserves, whereby candidate(s) satisfied the Defence Careers (2024) education criteria of " a minimum NCEA Level 3, and/or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard" and no other education criteria? And if so, what is the typical annual success rate of candidates annually?

Since 2016, there have been no successful applicants for the MTO Officer position with only NCEA Level 3 or a recognised qualification of equivalent standard. Note, this does not mean that people in that category did not progress past the initial application phase based on their educational qualifications.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website.

Yours sincerely

AJ WOODS

Air Commodore

Chief of Staff HQNZDF