

Please read through this document which will answer many of the frequently asked questions. If you still have questions, please do not hesitate to call Crystal on (09) 260 4042 or email Crystal@pec.ac.nz

Which Pacific languages does PEC offer?

PEC offer five Pacific languages:

- Kuki 'Airani - Cook Islands Māori
- Vagahau Niue - Niuean
- Vosa Vakaviti - Fijian
- Gagana Sāmoa - Sāmoan
- Lea-faka Tonga – Tongan

We are also working towards developing and offering the following courses from 2020:

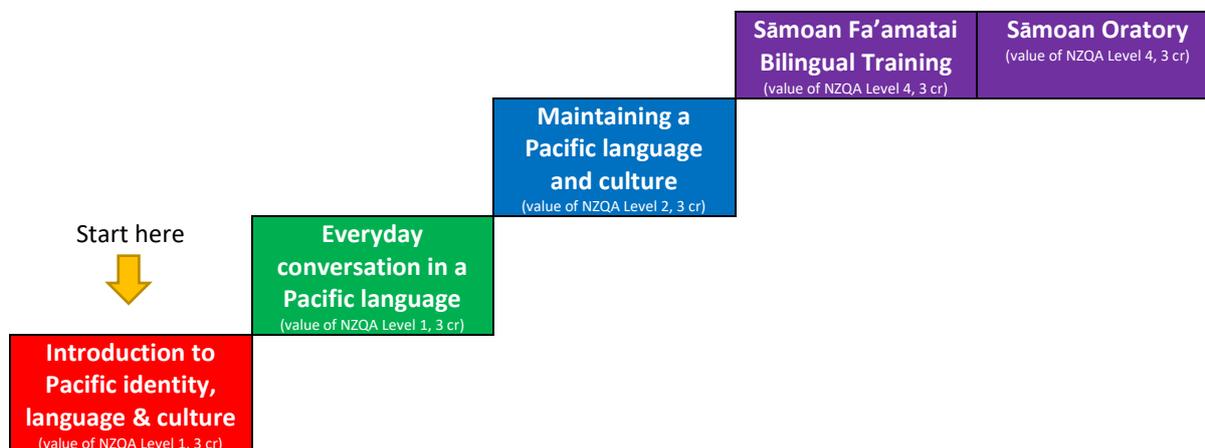
- Rotuman
- Tokelauan

What language are your courses taught in?

All our classes are taught in English for the first three levels of our courses (i) introduction, (ii) everyday and (iii) maintaining levels.

The (iv) Fa'amatai Sāmoan course is bilingual (taught in both English and Sāmoan) and the (v) Sāmoan Oratory course is taught only in Sāmoan (you must be a fluent speaker to enrol in this course).

What does the structure of the PEC Pasifika language courses look like?



What course levels do you offer?

There are 3 levels for all the courses, and then two additional levels for the Samoan courses:

NZQA Level 1: Introduction to Pacific identity, language and culture
NZQA Level 1: Everyday conversation in a Pacific language
NZQA Level 2: Maintaining a Pacific language and culture
NZQA Level 4: Sāmoan only – Sāmoan Fa'amatai bilingual training
NZQA Level 4: Sāmoan only – Sāmoan oratory

What time are the courses scheduled?

ALL the PEC Community Pasifika language courses run from 6pm – 8pm. There is ONE new course running for Sāmoan Oratory, on Tuesday's 10am – 12noon here at PEC in Otara.

How long does it take to complete a PEC Pasifika language course?

All the Pasifika language courses run for 10 weeks – they are all short courses. You need to attend ONE DAY per week, for TEN WEEKS to complete your course.

What days are the courses scheduled?

We run our Pasifika language courses and our ESOL/Pasifika computing courses during the week, Monday – Friday. The courses on offer are different each day, and different at each site.

Where are the courses scheduled?

We have 3 sites where we offer courses (but not all the sites have the same courses on offer). You need to look at each Term's schedule (see our website [Term Timetable](#) to see what's on offer at each site.

Our 3 sites are:

SOUTH AUCKLAND PEC Head office	Manukau Institute of Technology North Campus Best entry is Gate 13, Alexander Cres, Otara (based in the Pasifika Development Office)
WEST AUCKLAND Kelston Girls School	1 Archibald Rd, Kelston
CENTRAL AUCKLAND Auckland Girls Grammar School	Howe Street, Freemans Bay, Auckland City

Are the PEC courses free?

Yes, for **eligible** students. PEC receives government funding from the Tertiary Education Commission to support our Pacific language courses which are formally recognised by the NZQA as training schemes. But there is criteria set by the Government:

- 1) You need to be a NZ Citizen or have Residency – you need to provide eligibility documents to prove this – such as your Passport or Birth Certificate
- 2) You need to be 16yrs of age and above.

What 'type' of language courses are these?

PEC's language courses are all approved by the NZ Qualifications Authority, under the category of 'training schemes'. Each course has been rated by NZQA as belonging to a set level, and all the courses are the equivalent value of 3 credits.

However, because they are NZQA training schemes, the results at the end of your course do not get added to your NZQA Record of Learning. This is different from NZQA unit or achievement standards.

What type of qualification can I get after my course?

Our courses are part of training schemes and only reflect a credit value; but these credits are not recognised in NZQA records of learning – as they are neither unit standards nor achievement standards.

Because these courses are a training scheme, you are not eligible for a 'qualification'. But you will receive a 'completion certificate' if you attend at least 80% of your course. If you attend less than

80% you are not eligible to receive the certificate. The certificate only confirms that you have attended the course, not whether or not you've passed the course. As these are community based learning courses, there is no pass or fail.

Can the PEC courses and credits be used as credits for other NZQA programmes? Can these PEC courses lead to a qualification in the language?

No. Although the learning can't be directly cross-credited, our PEC courses are intended to help people feel more confident in a formal learning environment. The PEC courses do not lead to a qualification in the language, but instead are meant to encourage adult learners to learn the languages of Pacific communities in Aotearoa.

What are the requirements to successfully complete a language course at PEC?

A learner must attend at least 80% of the course and complete the course material which involves in-class assessments structured around listening, reading, writing and speaking, including a presentation at the end of the course. Even though the course material is delivered through 'assessments', these are not counted as part of completing the language course, but students are encouraged to participate in order to track their own progress and learning of their selected language.

What resources do I get for my learning?

At the start of each course, we distribute a PEC course outline that includes information about our organisation, term planner and progress checks. Tutors will also distribute resources each week. However, you may wish to purchase additional resources which you can find on our website's bookstore. Alternatively, you can contact Crystal@pec.ac.nz for more information.

Can I bring my children to class with me?

Our PEC Pasifika language courses are funded for Pacific peoples over the age of 16 years only. We therefore ask that students do not bring children to class as class discussions are targeted for adult learners, and young children can sometimes be a distraction in the classroom.

What kind of employment opportunities can I get from PEC course?

These language courses are not designed to secure employment. They are short 10 week courses, and don't provide sufficient language instruction that may be needed in a workplace (eg such as translation work, or working front line with Pasifika peoples). However, these courses are designed to allow you to effectively engage in your culture, and therefore increase your self-knowledge and identity as a Pasifika person living here in Aotearoa.

People who achieve in our PEC courses may choose a career that involves engaging with or want to engage with Pacific Peoples. Everyone's journey to learning a language is very personal, and some people may excel very quickly and others will need to repeat the course to help them gain the necessary confidence towards fluency.

The Samoan fa'amatai classes are designed to provide confidence for matai title holders to participate in cultural practices, as part of family, church and/or community traditional cultural expectations.

Can PEC provide Pacific cultural competency for the workplace training?

Frequently Asked Questions

about the PEC Community Pasifika Language Courses

Yes. PEC has designed a range of interactive Pacific cultural competency courses for New Zealand workplaces called KOLOA. We piloted our first Koloa course back in 2015. Our new range of training now includes one-day, two-day and eight week training courses. Email Crystal@pec.ac.nz to discuss the cultural competency learning needs of your organisation or workplace.

Does PEC offer any other courses?

Yes. PEC also has funding for the following two courses, which are FREE to eligible students who may wish to enrol:

- Everyday English for Pasifika
- Pasifika instruction for your Personal computer

Please contact Crystal@pec.ac.nz for more info if you're interested in one of these courses.