



REGISTERED NATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Title:	National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3 ¹				
Version:	1	Qualification type:	National qualification	TQF level:	3
Credits:	68	TQF Registration code:	QR-03-NQ-028-01-1005-26-01		
Approval date:	10 September 2026		Next review:	10 September 2031	
Qualification developer:		1. Tonga National University School of Science and Technology Bay- 'o-Manumataongo Ma'ufanga Nuku'alofa 2. Pacific Australia Skills Government of Australia Tonga Nuku'alofa, Tonga			
Purpose:	The <i>National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3</i> is aimed at those: - Seeking to enter or progress within the brick and block laying and construction industry - School leavers - New entrants to the construction workforce - Wishing to change careers - Apprentices				

¹ This Tonga national qualification, *National Certificate in Blocklaying and Bricklaying Level 3* is considered equivalent to the Australian *CPC20120 Certificate II in Construction*, *CP33020 Certificate III in Bricklaying and Blocklaying*, *CP 31020 Certificate III in Solid plastering* and *New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (L3)*.

[QR-03-NQ-028-01-1005-26-01](#)

National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3

Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board 2026

- Existing construction workers wishing to formalise and enhance their skills
- Individuals seeking to upskill for employment in the bricklaying and blocklaying trade

The National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3 is designed for individuals seeking to enter or progress within the brick and block laying and construction industry. It is suitable for school leavers, new entrants to the construction workforce, those wishing to change careers, apprentices, existing construction workers wishing to formalise and enhance their skills, and individuals seeking to upskill or reskill for employment in the bricklaying and blocklaying trade.

The qualification addresses the identified shortage of skilled bricklayers and blocklayers in Tonga by providing nationally recognised, competency-based training aligned with current industry needs. Graduates will develop basic skills in bricklaying and blocklaying. It prepares learners to interpret plans and documentation, undertake measurements and setting out, construct quality brick and block structures, and work effectively within construction teams across residential, commercial, and infrastructure projects. It equips learners with multi-tasks trade skills, technical knowledge, and safe work practices required to perform brick and block laying work and safely operating plastering tools and preparing surfaces to ensure effective plaster adhesion and quality application to industry standards.

For individuals, the qualification enhances employability, career progression, and lifelong learning opportunities. For employers and the construction industry, it contributes to a more competent workforce capable of delivering quality construction outcomes while meeting workplace health and safety and regulatory requirements.

For the wider community, the qualification supports improved construction quality, resilient infrastructure, disaster recovery, housing development, and sustainable economic growth by developing skilled local tradespeople.

The qualification is directly aligned with the bricklaying and blocklaying occupation within Tonga's construction sector and provides the foundational trade competencies required across residential, commercial, institutional, and infrastructure projects.

	It supports employment across a broad range of construction activities and is relevant to bricklayers, blocklayers, trades assistants, apprentices, and other construction personnel undertaking brick and block laying related-work. The qualification also provides a progression pathway to higher-level construction qualifications and supervisory roles within the building and construction industry, making it highly relevant to both the brick and block laying sub-sector and the wider construction sector. It also supports the Government of Tonga's Strategic Development Framework 2035 by strengthening technical and vocational education and training (TVET), improving workforce capability, increasing employment opportunities, supporting resilient infrastructure development, and contributing to sustainable economic growth through the development of a skilled local construction workforce.
Rationale	This qualification is essential for developing skilled and work-ready bricklayers and blocklayers within Tonga's construction and infrastructure sector. Industry consultation and skills need survey identified ongoing shortages of trained bricklayers and blocklayers with practical competencies in basic bricklaying and blocklaying activities, workplace safety, and technical trade skills including safely operating plastering tools and preparing surfaces to ensure effective plaster adhesion and quality application. The qualification provides a structured competency-based pathway that supports workforce development, strengthens employability outcomes, and aligns with national industry standards requirements. It also establishes a progression pathway into higher-level trade qualifications, including the National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 4. The <i>National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3</i> is designed for individuals seeking to enter or progress within the brick and block laying and construction industry. It is suitable for school leavers, new entrants to the construction workforce, those wishing to change careers, apprentices, existing construction workers wishing to formalise and enhance their skills, and individuals seeking to upskill or reskill for employment in the

	bricklaying and blocklaying trade. The interested candidates must meet the entry requirement of the programme.														
Outcomes Statement	Graduates of the National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3 will work under limited supervision with some autonomy to be able to: • Work safely to prevent workplace accidents and injuries • Identify risk and apply control measures • Use resources efficiently and work productively • Prepare brick and blocklaying materials and tasks before starting work • Communicate clearly with supervisors and team members on site • Take measurements and calculate quantities accurately for brick and blocklaying work tasks • Calculate material costs and basic project value. • Read working drawings to understand and follow design specifications • Level surfaces and structures to ensure alignment to level, plumb, straight and even • Safely remove existing structures or materials before new work • Safely using equipment and methods when working at heights • Select and prepare bricks, blocks, and mortar for use • Operate bricklaying tools safely • Install paving materials for walkways or surfaces • Build brick and block walls with insulation and moisture control • Mix, place, and finish concrete for basic structures • Install reinforcement bars to strengthen brick and block structures • Safely operates plastering tools safely and effectively • Ensure surfaces are ready for proper plaster adhesion														
Qualification Components	This qualification consists of the following units of competency: <table><tr><th colspan="4">Compulsory</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Unit Code</th><th>Unit Title</th><th>Credit value</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>NS133-03</td><td>Apply Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements, policies and procedures</td><td>4</td></tr></table>			Compulsory					Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit value	1	NS133-03	Apply Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements, policies and procedures	4
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	Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit value												
1	NS133-03	Apply Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements, policies and procedures	4												

	2	NS134-02	Work effectively and sustainably in the workplace	3
	3	NS135-02	Plan and organise brick and block laying work	2
	4	NS136-02	Conduct workplace communication	2
	5	NS137-03	Read and interpret plans and specifications for brick and block work	4
	6	NS138--02	Carry out measurements and calculations for brick and block work	4
	7	NS139-02	Undertake basic estimating and costing for brick and block work	4
	8	NS140-03	Handle and prepare bricklaying and blocklaying materials	6
	9	NS141-03	Use bricklaying and blocklaying tools and equipment	6
	10	NS142-03	Apply basic levelling procedures	4
	11	NS143-03	Work safely at heights	4
	12	NS144-03	Carry out basic demolition	4
	13	NS145-03	Carry out concreting to simple forms	4
	14	NS146-03	Place and fix reinforcement materials for brick and block work	4
	15	NS147-04	Lay paving bricks	4
	16	NS148-04	Carry out cavity brick and block construction	6
	Electives			
		Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit value
	17	NS149-03	Use plastering tools and equipment	3
	18	NS150-03	Prepare surfaces for plastering	3
	Total Credits			68

Note:

1. The learners must complete 16 compulsory units above (#1 - #16) with total of 65 credits.
2. The learners will choose to complete either #17 or #18 above (only ONE) as elective unit to complete this *National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3 qualification* with 3 credits only.

	3. The learners will successfully complete this <i>National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3 qualification</i> with total of 68 credits. 4. The above units of competency can be delivered as short courses or micro-credentials consisting of two or more units with total credits ranging from 10 – 39 depending on the training needs of an interested training provider. 5. Approval for short course or micro-credential delivery be sought form TNQAB prior to delivery.
Entry Requirements²	The minimum entry requirements to this national certificate include the following: 1. Be at least 17 years old (at the current year this qualification is delivered) 2. Successful completion of: i) Form 5 (year 11) plus two (2) years of work experience in bricklaying and blocklaying or related field OR ii) Form 6 (year 12) plus one (1) year of work experience in bricklaying and blocklaying or related field OR iii) Certificate in Carpentry Level 4 (TNU certificate currently reviewed) or equivalent OR iv) Certificate 2 relevant to construction field OR v) Bricklayers/Blocklayers with minimum of three years (equivalent to 36 months) work experience in bricklaying and blocklaying seeking formal recognition of their experience through RPL
Learning Assumed to be in Place	Learners are expected to have: • basic numeracy required for measurements. • basic literacy required for reading plans and safety signage. • the ability to follow verbal instructions in English.

² Program promotion and enrolments must encourage inclusive practices relating to gender equality, disability inclusion, and non-discrimination in training and at workplace.

International Comparability	This Tonga national qualification is closely aligned to the: i) Australian CPC20120 Certificate II in Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package ii) Australian CP33020 Certificate III in Bricklaying and Blocklaying (trade-level brick and blocklaying units) iii) Australian CP31020 Certificate III in Solid plastering (trade-level plastering units) iv) New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (L3) The Tongan Units of Competency have been independently developed for the Tongan construction context, reflecting local construction materials, building methods, the Tonga National Building Code, industry practices, and applicable Tongan occupational health and safety standards. It has been developed to meet Tonga's workforce and industry requirements.
Recognition of Prior Learning	This qualification may be achieved in whole or in part through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) which considers skills and knowledge gained in different settings including the community, workplace and educational institutions, and in accordance with relevant national and institutional policies and processes. Learners can achieve competence in ways most suited to their individual needs (educational, or work) and aspirations. Learners are not required to do the listed units below if they had passed these units in the named qualifications below: i) <i>National Certificate in Wall and Floor Tiling Level 3</i> (QR-03-NQ-028-03-1005-26-01) - NS133-03, NS134-02, NS136-02, NS142-03, NS143-03 and NS145-03 ii) <i>National Certificate in Wall and Floor Tiling Level 4</i> (QR-04-NQ-028-04-1005-26-01) – NS144-03, NS149-03 and NS150-03 OR in any other TNQAB recognized training prior to enrolling. Any individual without prior formal qualification but has prior technical experience (3 years+) on bricklaying and blocklaying work may apply/request RPL for this level of training program. The learner wishing to apply/request RPL needs to apply in writing to the training providers. Assessment for RPL must be undertaken by a qualified assessor. Evidence of skills and knowledge acquired must be shown before recognition can be given.

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	Evidence collected shall be portfolio and workplace observation. RPL acknowledges existing skills and knowledge gained from previous learning, both formally (e.g. courses or study previously undertaken) and informally (workplace learning and experiences). Sufficient evidence should be gathered and analysis completed by the RPL assessor to confirm all unit requirements are met to justify the assessment outcome.
Credit transfer	The Tonga Qualifications Framework (TQF) as well as most other Frameworks allow for credit recognition and transfer from other regional or national qualifications through a process of mutual recognition. Credit transfer is a process whereby credits already achieved for one qualification are recognized towards a new qualification. Thus, if a learner has obtained the relevant competency (within the past five years) in: 1. A qualification which has been identified as equivalent to NCBBL3, they will receive credit for unit standards which have been successfully completed. Evidence of achievement will be required by relevant authorities before credit transfer is approved; 2. A TNQAB approved qualification that contains any of the component units of this national qualification; 3. A TNQAB approved short course that is made up of any of the component units of this national qualification, he or she will cross credit recognition. Evidence of achievement will be required by relevant authorities before credit transfer is approved. 4. A regional approved Micro-qualification or approved short course that is made up of any of the component units of this national qualification, he or she will cross credit recognition. Evidence of achievement will be required by relevant authorities before credit transfer is approved.
Learning Pathways	<u>Pathways in</u> i. School leavers, semi-skilled construction workers seeking formal qualification. ii. Skilled workers with minimum of three years' work experience in bricklaying and blocklaying seeking formal recognition of their experience shall apply for RPL.

	iii. Completion of relevant short courses/ micro-credential iv. Candidates who meet the entry requirement <u>Pathways out:</u> i. Graduates will go straight into employment as Assistant Bricklayer, Assistant Blocklayer or Trade Assistant. ii. National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 4
Support for Qualification	1. Tonga National University, School of Science and Technology, Tonga 2. Ministry of Education and Training, Tonga 3. Ministry of Infrastructure, Building Division, Tonga 4. Pacific Australia Skills, Government of Australia, Tonga
Accreditation Requirements	Important accreditation requirements include: - Teaching staff must have: - At least a level 4 qualification in an area relevant to Bricklaying and Blocklaying plus (3) years of relevant industry experience; - A relevant registered qualification Level 4 as a trainer and assessor in TVET; - If the teaching staff/a person does not comply with the requirements in subsection 1 (a and b) shall be assessed by an assessor recognised by the Tonga National Qualifications and Accreditation Board of the person's prior learning. - A teaching staff/a person who has been assessed under subsection (2) shall be granted recognition of prior learning where the assessor is satisfied that he has the skills and knowledge one level higher than the course of study. - Physical resources including: - Workshop - Training room - Tools - Equipment and plant - Materials - Documents: - Compilation of printed resources relevant to the component units

	6. Specialised resources for each unit of competency including: • Tonga Environment Act • Tonga National Building Code 7. Unit descriptors or general course outline ready for distribution to students with details of: a) Learning outcomes, qualification components, credit values, entry requirements, learning assumed to be in place, required training resources etc. b) Assessment details including assessment tasks and due dates, marking guidelines, moderation information, and other requirements about the completion of each unit c) Recommended textbooks/readings for students, and d) Names and contact details of teaching staff
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