

How do I start my exams with New Zealand Professional Florists Inc. (NZPF)

We are often asked the questions regarding exams and how it all works. Please read the following guidelines to help you plan.

Important things to know before you start the exam process

NZPF offers assessing and certificates for levels; Level 3, Level 4, Diploma, Accredited Assessor and Master Florist. These are to be completed sequentially.

NZPF exams are marked to an extremely high standard by qualified examiners who have undergone rigorous training, often over a period of several years and levels. NZPF qualifications are held in high regard overseas.

The certificates produced by New Zealand Professional Florists, with endorsement from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Purchase of units

There are number of units in level 3, 4 and Diploma that can be purchased, these have an expiry date of 5 years from the initial purchase date.

Level 3 Starter pack has a five year expiry date (except Unit 054 is two years). This pack is a great way to start you entry into NZPF exams.

In the pack you receive:

- 4 practical papers 044 – 047
- Assignment (written) paper 054 (this unit must be completed in two years)
- NZPF Handbook
- NZPF wiring notes
- NZPF colour wheel.

The starter pack allows students time to practice the practical questions they sit, read and gain an understanding of what is required from the marking schedule, answer and complete the assignment (written) paper (054) in their own time (within two years of purchase), study the handbook thoroughly to understand the terminology of the design techniques (which are required in the practical questions), thoroughly study the colour wheel and wiring notes.

Once a student becomes comfortable with these, they can purchase the level 3 units and plan when to sit them.

How do you learn?

It is best to be working in a flower shop/flower outlet,

with experienced designers who can help develop your understanding of the Principles and Elements of Design and how they relate to the practical aspect of your work. Their help will ensure you cover the marking criteria in the exams. Also working in a flower shop/flower outlet helps develop a better understanding of what maybe covered in the written paper.

If you do not work in a flower shop or the floral industry, you can sit your exams, but it can be difficult if you do not have good advice from experienced designers. You can attend workshops or have private training with mentors (pricing for this varies).

Workshops and Training Weekends are advertised in the *NZPF News & Inspiration* and New Zealand Professional Florists website:
www.nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz

Attending Pre-Assessment is vital to attain the best results for your exam. When you attend a Pre-Assessment, you work with Assessors who work alongside you critiquing what you have produced, providing beneficial guidelines of what to work on before your exam in 6 weeks' time.

When do I attend Pre-Assessments and my Exam?

When you feel you are ready. If you wish to have clarification, create a couple of examples from the questions in the exam and send the pictures to the secretary. These will then be passed onto the Assessment Co-ordinator too check, and once you hear back, you can plan when/where to attend the exam. Dates and regions are advertised in the *NZPF News & Inspiration* and on the New Zealand Professional Florists website:
www.nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz

Practice Certificate of Commercial Floristry is another certificate you can apply for once you have completed a certain amount of hours within the industry for both Level 3 and Level 4, these are called a Practicing Certificate of Commercial Floristry. This is issued from New Zealand Professional Florists when students submit signed confirmation of 1000 hours for Level 3 or 2000 hours for Level 4 from their employer confirming this has been completed. You must apply to the secretary for appropriate paper work.

Happy Planning!

Contact the secretary if you have other questions:
secretary@nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz