

Ara Institute of Canterbury

PROSPECTUS 2027

GET
SET



Ara

ara.ac.nz

SUCCESS. YOUR WAY.



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KIA ORA

Choosing what comes next can feel exciting, daunting and full of pressure — but it's also full of possibility.

We believe education should open doors, build confidence and lead somewhere meaningful. That's why our learning is grounded in the real world: practical, hands-on and shaped by industry, so you graduate ready to step into work, further study or whatever future you're aiming for.

More than a qualification, study is about finding people who support you, discovering what you're capable of and building a life that feels right for you. With flexible study options, supportive tutors and a welcoming community, we give you the space to learn in a way that suits you and a place to achieve success, your way.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is correct at the time of production (October 2026). Ara reserves the right to cancel or postpone any of the programmes, and shall not be liable for any claim other than the proportion of programme fees that the cancelled portion bears. Some programmes may be dependent upon formal approval from NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority), TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) funding allocation, and the number of enrolments. Fees, programmes, entry and selection criteria, and dates, are subject to change. Please check the relevant programme pages at ara.ac.nz for up-to-date information and full entry requirements before applying to enrol. Information regarding English language requirements is available on each programme page at ara.ac.nz.

**SUCCESS
ISN'T JUST
WHERE YOU
END UP.**

**IT'S HOW
YOU GET
THERE.**

**SUCCESS.
YOUR WAY.**

Find out more at
ara.ac.nz



STARTER & PATHWAY COURSES

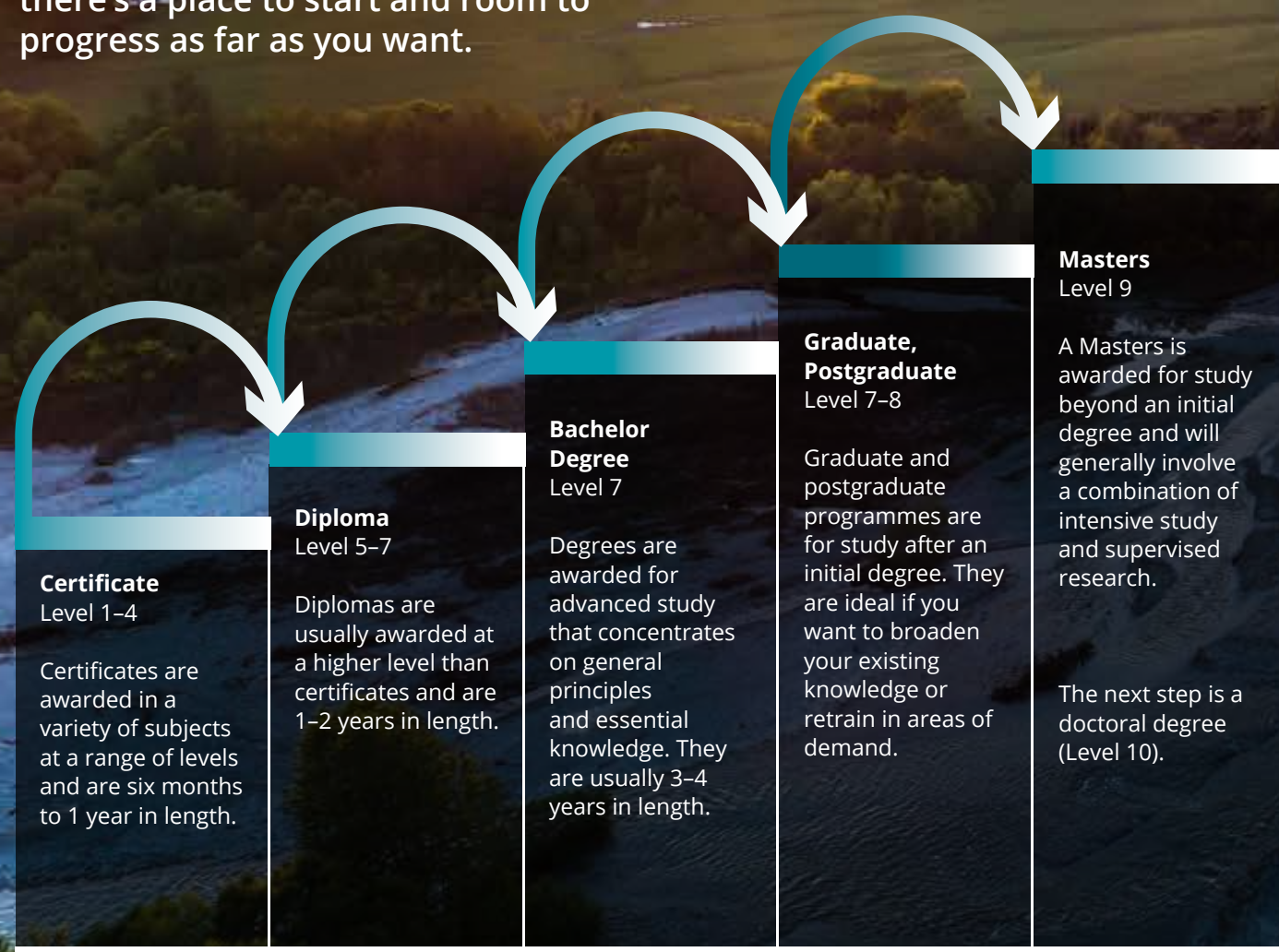
Explore pathways to new opportunities.

- Levels of study
- Study and Employment Pathways
- Starter certificates
- Short courses
- Supported Learning
- Dual Enrolment



LEVELS OF STUDY

With study options from Levels 1 to 9, there's a place to start and room to progress as far as you want.



ARA RAU, TAUMATA RAU

MANY PATHWAYS, MANY OPPORTUNITIES

STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Get ready for higher-level study in your chosen subject area.

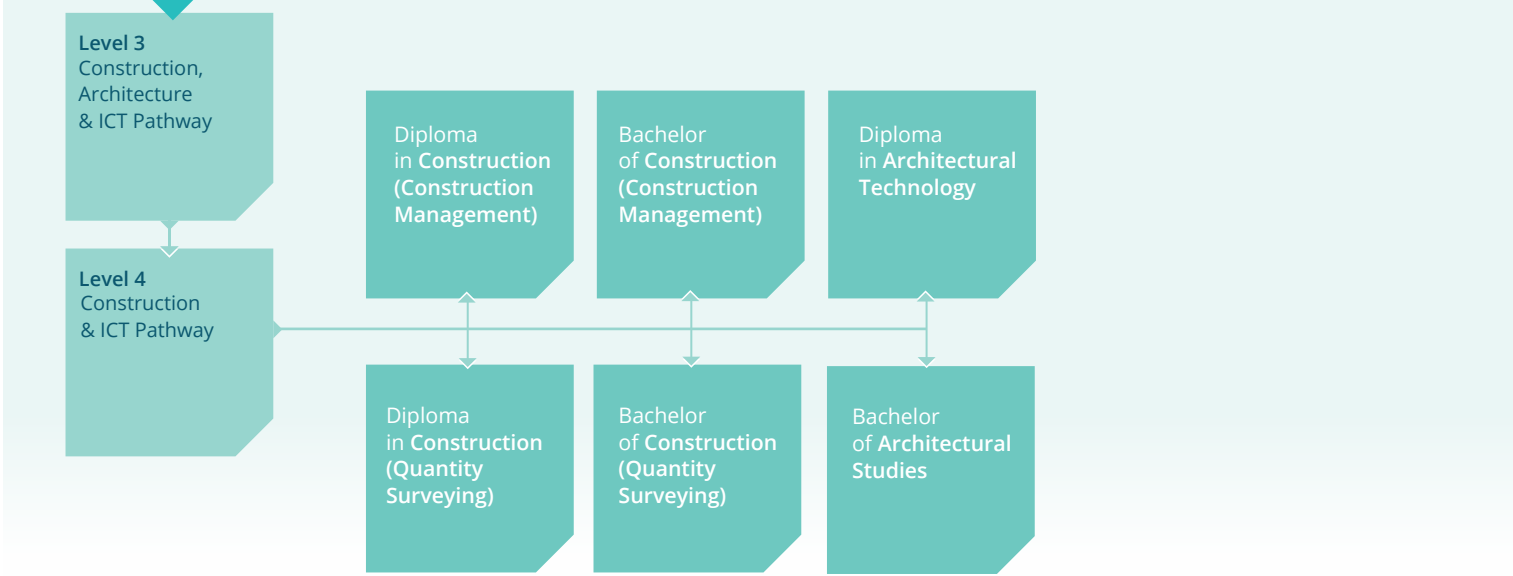
If academic requirements are a barrier, or you need to build your study skills before higher-level study, the New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways can help you gain the confidence to take the next step in your learning journey.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways

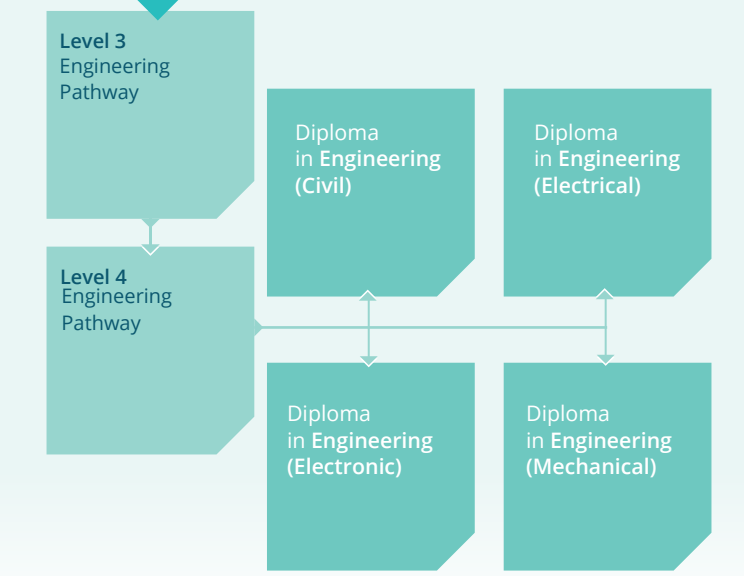
	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways	3	Christchurch, online*	Full-time 6 months	February, July
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways	4	Christchurch, Timaru^ and online	Full-time 6 months	February, July

*Online study is only available for the Level 3 Health and Science and Level 4 Pre Health pathways.
^The only Level 4 pathway available in Timaru is Pre-Health.

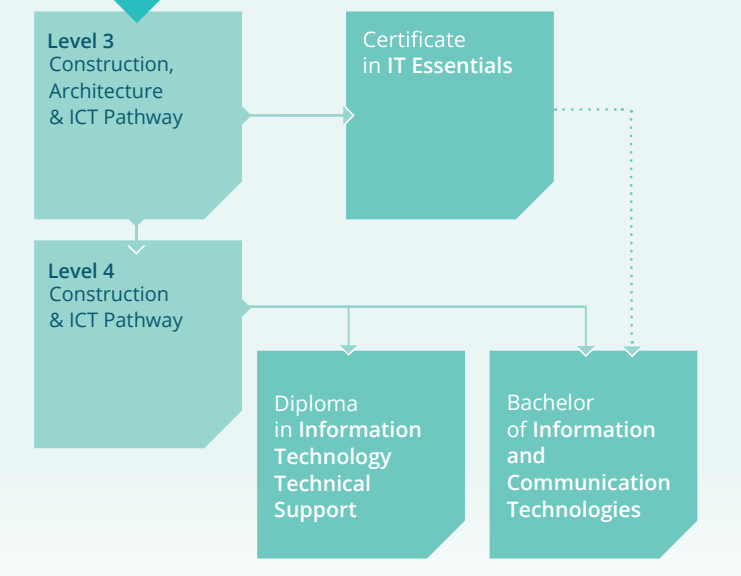
CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY



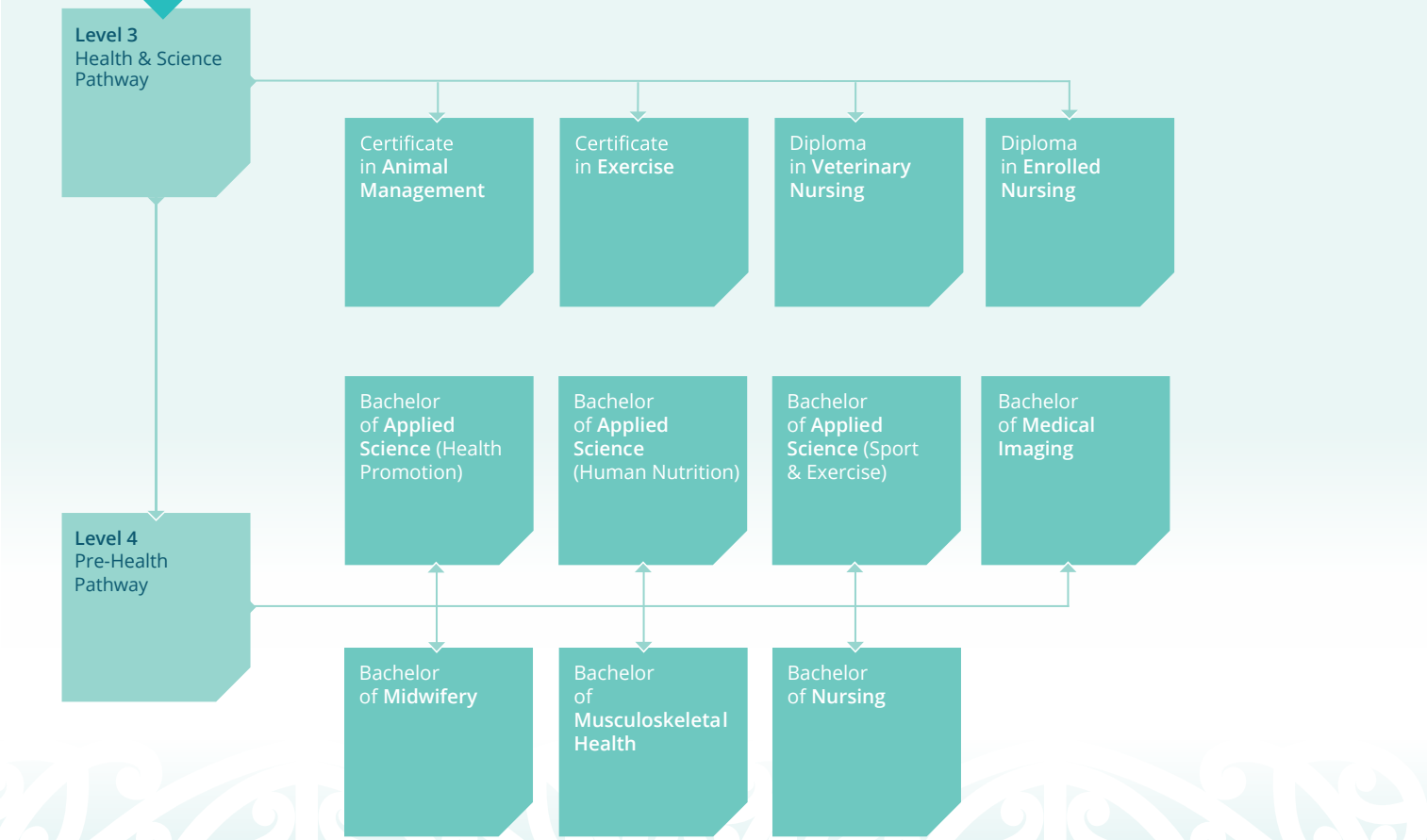
ENGINEERING PATHWAY



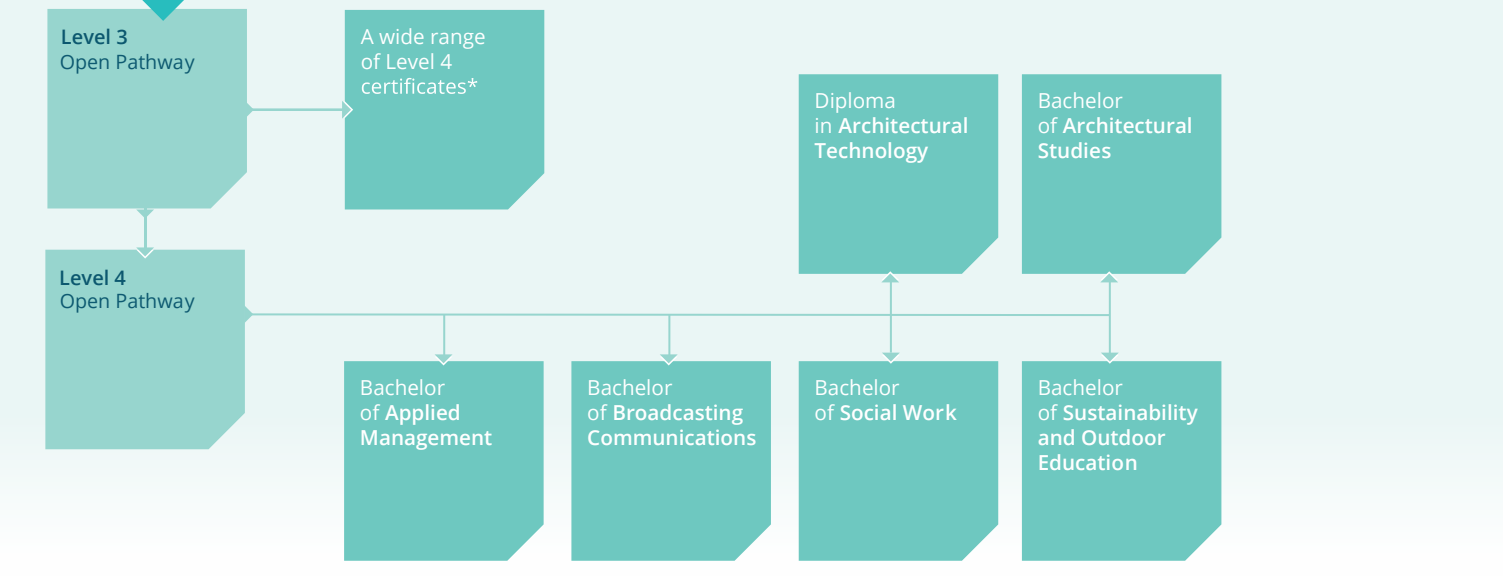
COMPUTING AND IT PATHWAY



HEALTH AND SCIENCE PATHWAY



OPEN PATHWAY



*Any Level 4 certificate requiring 10 x Level 1 literacy credits and 10 x Level 1 numeracy credits.



Scan for more information on this subject

STARTER CERTIFICATES

Gain subject-specific skills you can build on.

A starter certificate is a great place to begin if you're new to a subject and you want to get a strong base of essential skills before moving on to the next level.

Qualification	Level	Location	Duration	Intakes	Leads to
New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Skills	2	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	Any Level 3 certificate
Business					
New Zealand Certificate in Business Administration and Technology	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Business Administration and Technology (Level 4)
New Zealand Certificate in Business Administration and Technology	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	July	New Zealand Diploma in Business
Computing & Information Technology					
New Zealand Certificate in Information Technology Essentials	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July	New Zealand Diploma in Information Technology Technical Support
Food & Hospitality					
New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Barista and Restaurant Service)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Advanced Restaurant Service)
New Zealand Certificate in Baking	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced Patisserie)
New Zealand Certificate in Cookery	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, July [^]	New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced Cookery or Advanced Patisserie)
New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Advanced Restaurant Service)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	July	New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management
Health, Science & Support					
New Zealand Certificate in Animal Management (Companion Animal)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing
New Zealand Certificate in Exercise	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July	Bachelor of Applied Science (Sport and Exercise)
New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year Part-time available	February, July [^]	Bachelor of Social Work
Language & Education					
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February	New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July	New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care
New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multi-skilled)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February, July	Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education
Media, Design & Style					
New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, July [^]	New Zealand Diploma in Beauty Therapy
New Zealand Certificate in Skin Care and Cosmetics	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy

Qualification	Level	Location	Duration	Intakes	Leads to
New Zealand Certificate in Salon Skills (Introductory)*	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support)
New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support)*	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Level 4)
New Zealand Certificate in Creativity	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	Bachelor of Design (Fashion, Visual Art or Visual Communication)
New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	Bachelor of Design (Game Animation, Visual Art or Visual Communication)
New Zealand Certificate in Fashion	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	Bachelor of Design (Fashion or Visual Art)
New Zealand Certificate in Music	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	Bachelor of Music
New Zealand Certificate in Performing Arts	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	Bachelor of Music Theatre
New Zealand Certificate in DJ and Music Production	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Diploma in Audio Engineering and Production
Trades					
Trades Primer*	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February [^] , July	Any Level 3 certificate
New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Engineering	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	January, February, August [^]	Certificate in Light Automotive Engineering (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Collision Repair	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Collision Repair or New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Refinishing (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Carpentry)	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February [^] , March ^{^^} , May [^] , August [^]	New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Joinery)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 9 months	February, May	New Zealand Certificate in Joinery (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Painting and Decorating)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Painting & Decorating (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Pre-Trade	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, August [^]	New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Trade (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, August [^]	New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Apprenticeship) or New Zealand Certificate in Fabrication (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing or New Zealand Certificate in Gasfitting (Apprenticeship)

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

[^]This intake available in Christchurch only.

^{^^} This intake available in Timaru only.



SHORT COURSES

Add to your personal or professional toolkit.

Our part-time short courses and workshops range from hobby courses through to micro-credentials required for professional accreditation.

Here's a sample of the short courses we offer:

- Analytical Chemistry
- Barista Essentials
- Electrical Inspector Registration
- Electrical Service Technician Registration
- Hobby Furniture Making
- Quality Assurance
- Reading and Writing for Adult Learners
- Samoan Language
- Te Reo Māori
- Training for the Licence Controller Qualification (LCQ)
- Weekend Panel Beating
- Welding



OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Enhance your sense of self-worth, learn new skills and develop your potential at the Next Step Centre for Women



SUPPORTED LEARNING

Prepare for study, employment and independent living.

Build your confidence and independence with supported learning designed to help you take the next step. You'll develop everyday skills for life, work and your role in your community and whānau, while exploring your pathway into further study or employment. With a mix of practical courses, you can ease into tertiary study, grow your communication and self-management skills, and gain experience that prepares you for the workplace. You can also build on your progress over time, adding more focused, work-ready skills as you move closer to employment.

Supported Learning study options at Ara

STUDY OPTION	LEVEL	DURATION	LOCATION	INTAKES
Preparation for Study for Supported Learners	n/a	Part-time 10 weeks per term*	Christchurch	Please enquire
New Zealand Certificate in Skills for Living for Supported Learners	1	Full-time 1 year	Christchurch	February
New Zealand Certificate for Skills for Learning and Working for Supported Learners**	1	Full-time 1 year	Christchurch	February
Hospitality Supported Learning***	1	Part-time 5 hours per week	Christchurch	Please enquire

**This study option comprises four courses*

***Cross credits available. Contact foundationskills@ara.ac.nz*

****Dual Enrolment programme*



Scan for more information on this subject



DUAL ENROLMENT

Learn with us, while you're still at school.

If you're in Years 11 to 13, you can try tertiary study early through a Dual Enrolment course. You'll spend a day or two at Ara each week, with the rest of your week in your usual classes at school. You'll gain NCEA credits and a head start in a subject you want to take further. All Dual Enrolment courses start in February and run throughout the year.



Scan for more information on this subject

Dual Enrolment study options at Ara

COURSE	LEVEL	DAYS PER WEEK	LOCATION
Bakery	3	2	Christchurch
Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing	3	1	Timaru
Carpentry	3	2	Christchurch
Cookery	3	2	Christchurch
Cookery and Restaurant Service Skills	3	1	Christchurch, Timaru
Hospitality, Cookery & Beverage	2	2	Christchurch, Timaru
Hospitality Supported Learning	1	1	Christchurch
Introduction to Agricultural Engineering	2	1	Timaru
Introduction to Automotive	2	1	Christchurch, Timaru
Introduction to Automotive and Autobody	2	2	Christchurch
Introduction to Barbering	2	1	Christchurch
Introduction to Beauty Therapy	2	1	Christchurch, Timaru
Introduction to Construction Trades	2	1	Christchurch, Timaru
Introduction to Construction Trades	2	2	Christchurch
Introduction to Electrical Engineering Trades	2	2	Christchurch
Introduction to Engineering Trades	2	1	Christchurch
Introduction to Plumbing	2	2	Christchurch
Salon Skills	2	2	Christchurch
Sustainability & Outdoor Education	3	1	Christchurch

EXPERIENCE ARA 2027

Get a feel for tertiary-level study, explore a subject you're interested in or just try something new.

Experience Ara gives you the chance to do all of that and more, with taster days, short courses, holiday programmes, information sessions and lots of other cool stuff for students in Years 9-13.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO:



CREATE AN AWESOME LIFE FOR YOU AND YOUR WHĀNAU

Our free Māori and Pacific Trades Training courses are designed to lead to apprenticeships and job opportunities. You'll grow your understanding of your culture while gaining in-demand skills for employment, and you'll receive wrap-around support to ensure you succeed.

SCAN FOR MORE INFO:



or call us on 0800 24 24 76

FOLLOW ARA ON OUR SOCIALS



TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE NEWS

ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING

Architecture

- Architecture
- Interior Design

Construction

- Construction Management
- Quantity Surveying

Engineering

- Civil Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

This area brings together the people and skills behind the places, structures and systems communities rely on. Architecture and interior design shape how spaces look, feel and function, while construction management and quantity surveying help turn plans into delivered projects. Engineering adds the technical thinking needed to design, improve and maintain infrastructure, services and built assets. In Canterbury and across New Zealand, these fields connect to housing, transport, energy, water, commercial development and resilient design. Study in this area can lead to practical, future-focused work that helps shape how people live, work and move through the world.





ARCHITECTURE

Architecture shapes the buildings and places people live, work and gather in. Architects and architectural designers create spaces that respond to human needs, environmental conditions, cultural context and community aspirations. In Aotearoa New Zealand, this means considering sustainability, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and te ao Māori perspectives alongside site, budget,

materials, structure and building rules. Professionals in this field develop concepts, test design options, create drawings and digital models, and coordinate with engineers, planners and other specialists to help bring safe, functional and meaningful places to life.

Would this suit me?

Architecture may suit you if you enjoy creative problem solving and like thinking in both images and practical steps. You might be drawn to how places feel, function and connect to people and culture. It helps to be open to feedback, organised with deadlines, and keen to build skills over time.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Architectural assistant
- Junior architectural technician
- Architecture studio intern
- Building consent support officer

Intermediate

- Architectural designer
- Architectural technician
- BIM coordinator
- Draftsperson
- Documentation technician
- Building consent officer

Advanced

- Registered architect
- Design lead
- BIM manager
- Urban designer
- Sustainability consultant
- Architectural historian
- Building industry consultant
- Design manager
- Project manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Architectural design principles and processes
- Design thinking and concept development
- Architectural communication and visual storytelling
- Digital modelling, Building Information Modelling (BIM)
- Construction systems, materials and detailing
- Building science, comfort, light and acoustics
- Sustainable design, carbon and lifecycle thinking
- Professional practice, ethics and legal basics

HOW will I learn?

- Studio-based projects with real design briefs
- Regular critiques with tutors and peers
- Workshops for drawing, modelling and making
- Digital lab work using industry software
- Site visits, guest talks and Design Jam
- Work experience in an architectural office

Industry connections

You'll learn with strong industry input through Ara's formal connections with Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects and Architectural Designers of New Zealand, including joint professional development events. Practising architects and other

specialists contribute through guest talks, studio critiques and applied projects. Site visits and the annual Design Jam build real-world perspective, supported by work experience in an architectural office.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Architectural Technology	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Architectural Studies	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 5 years	February	

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



INTERIOR DESIGN

Interior design is about creating interior spaces that look good, work well and support the people who use them. Interior designers interpret a client brief, develop concepts, plan layouts and select materials, finishes, furniture and lighting. They balance creativity with practical requirements like budgets, timelines, accessibility and sustainability, and in Aotearoa

New Zealand, they work within building regulations and a bicultural context. Interior designers communicate ideas through drawings, digital presentations and specifications, then coordinate with clients, suppliers and other specialists to bring a space to life.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who are interested in design, colour and detail, and like turning ideas into practical solutions. You might enjoy creative problem solving, working to a brief and refining your work after feedback. It helps to be organised, people focused and keen to learn how to design, conceptualise and implement design solutions.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Colour consultant
- Design assistant
- Junior interior designer
- Interior design CAD technician
- Design project coordinator
- Showroom or product consultant

Intermediate

- Interior designer (commercial)
- Interior designer (residential)
- Interior design product specifier
- Spatial designer

Advanced

- Design business owner
- Design practice manager
- Public space designer
- Exhibition designer
- Design researcher

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Design principles and processes
- Space planning, layout and ergonomics
- Colour theory
- Materials, finishes and specifications
- Construction technology and building methods
- Digital drawing and computer-aided design (CAD)
- Sustainable design thinking
- Professional practice
- Local industry structure, suppliers and trades

HOW will I learn?

- Studio-based, project-based design work
- Classroom learning and face-to-face tutorials
- Computer labs and draughting or drawing sessions
- Collaborative critiques and presentations
- Field trips and site visits
- Work-integrated learning in workplace settings

Industry connections

Our Interior Design Advisory Committee and industry-experienced tutors ensure learning aligns with current practice, supported by guest lectures and field trips. You'll build industry awareness through project work

that reflects real design expectations, with opportunities for critique and feedback from people working in the sector. You'll also develop a portfolio that is presented to industry at the end of the programme.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Diploma in Interior Design (Residential)	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February	



Scan for more information on this subject



CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Construction management is about planning and leading building projects from start to finish. Construction managers coordinate people, materials and subcontractors to keep work moving safely, to plan and on budget. They organise schedules, manage site activities, monitor quality and solve problems as they come up.

The role also involves contracts, procurement, documentation and making sure work meets relevant laws and building requirements. Construction managers spend their time both on site and in the office, working with clients, designers, suppliers and project teams to deliver finished buildings.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who like organising and taking responsibility, and who enjoy seeing a plan become something real. It helps to be a clear communicator, a steady decision-maker and someone who can juggle details while keeping the bigger picture in mind. If you like practical problem solving and working with a mix of people, this could be a great fit.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Construction cadet
- Site administrator
- Project coordinator
- Assistant site manager
- Junior contract administrator

Intermediate

- Site manager
- Construction manager
- Project manager
- Contract administrator
- Construction planner

Advanced

- Senior construction manager
- Project director
- Contracts manager
- Operations manager
- Development manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Construction industry roles and documentation
- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Construction planning and methodology
- Site management procedures and safety systems
- Programming, sequencing and resource allocation
- Procurement, tendering and contractor selection
- Contract administration and financial processes
- Materials, building systems and sustainability

HOW will I learn?

- Tutorials and workshops with tutor support
- Face-to-face sessions with guided activities
- Blended learning using Moodle and online tools
- Case studies using real project documentation
- Field trips and building site visits
- Work-integrated learning and industry projects

Industry connections

You'll learn with input from industry through advisory relationships and feedback from professional groups. Industry projects and work-integrated learning help you apply skills in real workplace settings, supported by a

workplace supervisor and Ara staff. Guest speakers, site visits and project-based learning keep your knowledge current and focused on what employers expect on site and in project offices.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Construction (Construction Management)^	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 6 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Construction (Construction Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 8 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Construction Management	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February, July	

^Credits from the diploma can be transferred to the degree, with only another 120 credits (1 year full-time study) required to graduate with a Bachelor of Construction.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Construction pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



QUANTITY SURVEYING

Quantity surveying is the cost, contract and commercial management side of construction. Quantity surveyors help clients and contractors plan budgets, price work and keep spending on track, from concept through to completion. They measure and estimate materials and labour, prepare tender documents, support procurement and manage contract variations and

progress payments. Many also advise on risk, value for money and whole-of-life costs. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NZIQS) is the professional body for the field.

Would this suit me?

Quantity surveying could suit you if you like numbers, enjoy practical problem-solving and take pride in getting details right. You need to be methodical, analytical and calm under pressure. It also helps if you're comfortable dealing with a range of different people and you can communicate clearly.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Assistant quantity surveyor
- Junior estimator
- Trainee contracts administrator
- Procurement assistant
- Project support coordinator

Intermediate

- Quantity surveyor
- Estimator
- Contracts administrator
- Cost planner
- Procurement advisor
- Commercial coordinator

Advanced

- Senior quantity surveyor
- Commercial manager
- Construction cost manager
- Procurement manager
- Claims and disputes specialist
- Company director

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Construction technology and building systems
- Measurement and quantity take-offs
- Estimating and cost planning
- Procurement and tender documentation
- Contract administration and payment processes
- Construction law and commercial practice
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) basics
- Sustainability and whole-of-life thinking

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on workshops and supported class learning
- Real drawings, specifications and case material
- Industry software practice and applied exercises
- Project-based tasks that mirror workplace work
- Site visits, forums and guest presentations
- 80-hours work-integrated learning

Industry connections

You'll learn with input from industry through guest speakers, site visits and industry networking events. You'll also have access to New Zealand Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NZIQS) professional development sessions hosted on campus, alongside support from

Building Industry Aotearoa. A Construction Industry Advisory Committee helps keep learning relevant, and work-integrated learning supports work-readiness through real workplace experience.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Construction (Quantity Surveying)^	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 6 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Construction (Quantity Surveying)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 8 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February, July	

^Credits from the diploma can be transferred to the degree, with only another 120 credits (1 year full-time study) required to graduate with a Bachelor of Construction.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Construction pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



CIVIL ENGINEERING

Civil engineering focuses on the infrastructure that communities rely on every day. Civil engineers plan, design and oversee infrastructure such as roads, bridges, buildings, earthworks and water and wastewater networks. They assess sites and materials, model designs, manage construction, check quality

and safety, and maintain assets over their life. The work balances cost, performance and sustainability, aiming to meet community needs while reducing environmental impact. Civil engineers can work in consultancy, on site and for local authorities.

Would this suit me?

Civil engineering could suit you if you like figuring out how things are built and how they stand up over time. You need to enjoy maths, visual thinking and solving practical puzzles. It helps to be organised, patient and steady under pressure, with a team-focused mindset and clear communication.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Civil engineering technician
- CAD technician
- Junior site engineer
- Engineering draughtsperson
- Survey assistant

Intermediate

- Civil design engineer
- Structural engineer
- Water and wastewater engineer
- Roading and transportation engineer
- Project engineer

Advanced

- Project manager
- Senior civil engineer
- Principal engineer
- Infrastructure asset manager
- Sustainability lead

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Engineering maths and applied science
- Civil materials and construction methods
- Structural analysis and detailing
- Water and wastewater systems
- Roading and transport
- Site investigation and surveying
- Computer-aided design and modelling
- Sustainable infrastructure decision-making

HOW will I learn?

- Tutor-led classes with worked examples
- Practical labs and engineering workshop tasks
- Design projects using industry software
- Site visits to active infrastructure works
- Final-year applied project work

Industry connections

During your studies you'll connect with industry through partnerships, site visits, and guest speakers from the civil engineering sector. Real-world projects help you apply learning to challenges seen in infrastructure, construction, and engineering consultancies, as well as water and wastewater and roading organisations.

Access to industry-standard spaces like workshops, labs and technology facilities supports practical, work-ready skills. Our engineering qualifications are fully accredited by Engineering New Zealand (EngNZ) and meet international standard requirements.

Study options

Our engineering qualifications are fully accredited by Engineering New Zealand (EngNZ). They're also internationally recognised; under the Dublin Accord for the diploma and the Sydney Accord for the degree.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Civil)^	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	Graduates qualify for membership of Engineering New Zealand.
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Civil)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	

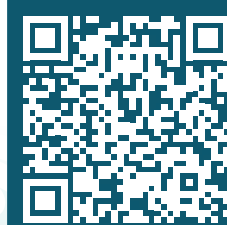
^Upon successful completion of the diploma, you can transfer up to 180 credits towards a Bachelor of Engineering Technology, helping you to progress faster through the degree.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Engineering pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

Electrical and electronics engineers design, build and maintain the electrical systems that power modern life, from the national grid and industrial plants to commercial buildings and smart devices. They work across high voltage generation and distribution and low voltage electronics, communications and control.

Day to day, they model circuits and systems, build prototypes, test performance, diagnose faults and improve reliability and safety. Many roles also focus on energy efficiency and end of life impacts to reduce environmental footprint.

Would this suit me?

If you like solving real problems and understanding how things work, this area could suit you. You'll do well if you enjoy maths and logical thinking, notice detail and can explain ideas clearly. It helps to be patient, organised and motivated to make systems safer, smarter and more sustainable.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Engineering technician
- Electronics technician
- Test technician
- Maintenance technician
- Electrical CAD technician

Intermediate

- Electrical design engineer
- Electrical systems engineer
- Electronics engineer
- Building services engineer
- Project engineer
- Maintenance/plant engineer

Advanced

- Power systems engineer
- Robotics and automation engineer
- Project manager
- Technical lead engineer
- Engineering manager
- Energy systems specialist

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Engineering mathematics and core principles
- Circuit analysis and system design
- Electrical power and high voltage fundamentals
- Electronics and embedded systems
- Computer aided design and 3D modelling
- Prototyping, testing and fault finding
- Programmable and logic-designed control systems
- Sustainable engineering and lifecycle thinking

HOW will I learn?

- Tutor-led classes and problem-solving sessions
- Hands-on laboratory work and measurement
- Soldering and electronics lab practice
- Engineering workshop build-and-test activities
- Applied projects, including final-year projects
- Site visits and guest speaker sessions

Industry connections

Our electrical engineering programmes are shaped by partnerships with local infrastructure organisations, manufacturers and engineering consultancies. You'll hear from guest speakers, join site visits and tackle projects that reflect current industry practice.

Connections include Orion, Transpower and Connectics, with collaboration opportunities such as robotics research with Tait Communications. These relationships help you build relevant skills, professional networks and confidence for the workplace.

Study options

Our engineering qualifications are fully accredited by Engineering New Zealand (EngNZ). They're also internationally recognised; under the Dublin Accord for the diploma and the Sydney Accord for the degree.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Electrical)^	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	Graduates qualify for membership of Engineering New Zealand.
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Electronics)^	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical)^	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	

^Upon successful completion of the diploma, you can transfer up to 180 credits towards a Bachelor of Engineering Technology, helping you to progress faster through the degree.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Engineering pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Mechanical engineering is about turning ideas into working machines, products and systems. Mechanical engineers design, analyse, build, test and maintain everything from building services and infrastructure plant to robots, refrigeration and aerospace components. They use maths, physics and materials knowledge to solve practical problems, improve

performance and keep people safe. The work often involves modelling and computer-aided design (CAD), prototyping, quality testing and planning for maintenance. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the profession is supported by Engineering New Zealand and aligned to international standards.

Would this suit me?

If you like working out how things work and enjoy solving practical problems, this area could be a good fit. It suits people who are creative, methodical and good at thinking things through. Confidence with maths helps, along with strong time management and the ability to explain ideas clearly.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Engineering technician
- CAD technician
- Mechanical engineering intern
- Production technician
- Maintenance technician
- Quality technician

Intermediate

- Mechanical design engineer
- Manufacturing engineer
- Project engineer
- Building services engineer
- Test and quality engineer
- Maintenance engineer

Advanced

- Project manager
- Robotics and automation engineer
- Thermal and energy engineer
- Plant engineering manager
- Engineering consultant
- Engineering manager
- Product manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Core mechanical engineering principles and calculations
- Problem-solving methods and design thinking
- Computer-aided design (CAD) and modelling
- Materials selection and manufacturing processes
- Prototyping, testing and design validation
- Maintenance planning and reliability basics
- Sustainable engineering and environmental impact
- Project planning and quality standards
- Advanced fluid mechanics, product design and air handling systems

HOW will I learn?

- Tutor-led classes with hands-on problem solving
- Practical labs and engineering workshop sessions
- Technology Hub prototyping with 3D printers
- Team projects and real design briefs
- Site visits to local engineering workplaces
- Guest speakers and industry-led insights

Industry connections

Ara's mechanical engineering area keeps close links with local engineering and manufacturing across Christchurch and wider Canterbury. Students benefit from industry guest speakers, site visits and projects that reflect real workplace constraints such as

budgets, materials and sustainability. Where opportunities arise, applied collaboration can include research-focused projects, such as robotics work with Tait Communications.

Study options

Our engineering qualifications are fully accredited by Engineering New Zealand (EngNZ). They're also internationally recognised; under the Dublin Accord for the diploma and the Sydney Accord for the degree.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	Graduates qualify for membership of Engineering New Zealand.
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Mechanical) [^]	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Mechanical) [^]	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	

[^]Upon successful completion of the diploma, you can transfer up to 180 credits towards a Bachelor of Engineering Technology, helping you to progress faster through the degree.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Engineering pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject

BUSINESS

- Accounting
- Applied Management
- Business Administration
- Business Transformation & Strategy
- Event Management
- Hotel & Tourism Management
- Human Resource Management
- Marketing & Sales
- Operations & Product Management
- Project Management
- Supply Chain Logistics Management

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

Canterbury has a huge range of employers, from start-ups and family businesses through to exporters, retailers, manufacturers and large service providers. Studying a business subject can lead to work that helps organisations grow, run well, compete nationally and build resilience when conditions shift. Business studies will give you skills in planning, budgeting, working with people and solving problems, which employers value. It's a practical choice if you want options, because these skills travel across industries.





ACCOUNTING

Accounting is the work of recording, analysing and explaining financial information so organisations can make sound decisions. Accountants prepare and review financial statements, track costs and budgets, advise on tax and cash flow, and help manage risk and compliance. They also interpret data to spot trends, test whether plans are working and support ethical, sustainable business practices.

Accountants work in public practice, businesses, government and not-for-profits. In Aotearoa New Zealand, many roles align with professional standards set by Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and CPA Australia.

Would this suit me?

This area may suit you if you like working with numbers and patterns, and enjoy solving real-world problems. Being methodical, accurate and dependable is important, along with the patience to check details. You'll also need to be a good communicator who can explain information clearly, work well with others and keep up with change.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Accounts assistant
- Accounts payable officer
- Accounts receivable officer
- Payroll administrator
- Junior auditor
- Tax assistant

Intermediate

- Financial accountant
- Management accountant
- Auditor
- Tax consultant
- Finance analyst
- Business analyst

Advanced

- Financial controller
- Audit manager
- Tax manager
- Finance manager
- Chief financial officer
- Business consultant

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Financial and management accounting principles
- Taxation in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Budgeting for planning and control
- Commercial law and business entities
- Accounting information systems and software
- Data analytics for business decisions
- Auditing and assurance fundamentals
- Applied research and professional project work

HOW will I learn?

- Interactive lectures and small-group tutorials
- Face-to-face delivery supported by online resources
- Case studies and scenario-based activities
- Projects using real business data
- Work-integrated learning, internship or simulation

Industry connections

You'll build work-readiness through work-integrated learning, including an internship or industry placement in a business workplace or a simulated setting. Applied projects and case studies reflect real accounting tasks

and current professional standards, while guest speakers and input from industry advisors help keep learning relevant and connected to what employers expect.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Business (Accounting)	5	Christchurch, online	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Accounting	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Applied Management	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	Intake depends on specialisation

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.



Scan for more information on this subject



APPLIED MANAGEMENT

Applied management is about leading people and improving how an organisation performs. Managers plan work, allocate resources, monitor results and make decisions that balance time, cost, quality and risk. This can mean keeping day-to-day operations running smoothly while also shaping longer-term strategy, often in changing conditions.

Good managers communicate clearly, work ethically and consider sustainability. In Aotearoa New Zealand, management can also involve working respectfully across cultures and understanding the relevance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in business practice. Management roles are found across business, public services and community organisations.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you enjoy planning, problem solving and supporting others to do good work. It helps if you like setting goals, juggling priorities and taking a steady approach when things get busy. It's a good fit if you want to turn ideas into action.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Team leader
- Assistant manager
- Operations coordinator
- Project coordinator
- Customer service supervisor

Intermediate

- Operations manager
- Office manager
- Project manager
- People and culture advisor
- Service delivery manager

Advanced

- General manager
- Programme manager
- Strategic planning manager
- Operations director
- Management consultant
- Business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Business environments and organisations
- Change, innovation and improvement
- Core business functions and operations
- Leadership, influence and teamwork
- Ethics, sustainability and social responsibility
- Working in Aotearoa New Zealand contexts
- Research methods and evidence-based decisions
- Digital tools for modern business practice

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face, online or blended study
- Collaborative activities and group work
- Discussion, peer feedback and reflection
- Applied projects based on real scenarios
- Workplace-based project with a host organisation
- Guidance from workplace and academic supervisors

Industry connections

Our applied management teaching stays grounded in real workplace expectations through industry-informed projects, current practice examples and input from people working in the field. Guest speakers and applied

briefs help you understand how organisations make decisions, manage change and lead teams. These connections strengthen your professional confidence, networks and work-readiness.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
Bachelor of Applied Management	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Applied Management	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	Intake depends on specialisation
Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Management	8	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time up to 2 years	February, April, July, October	
Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Management	8	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February, April, July, October	
Master of Applied Management	9	Christchurch	Full-time 18 months-2 years Part-time up to 6 years	February, April, July, October	

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Business administration keeps organisations running day to day. People in these roles organise information, coordinate systems and support teams so their work flows smoothly. Typical tasks include preparing documents, managing records, scheduling, supporting meetings, handling enquiries and using digital tools to track work and finances.

Business administrators also keep customer service standards consistent and support ethical, culturally aware practice in the workplace. Administration skills are useful in almost any industry as well as in community organisations and small businesses.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who like being organised, working with others and keeping things on track. It helps to be good at multitasking, managing details and moving between different tasks during the day. If you enjoy practical work, clear communication and supporting a team, business administration could be a good fit.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Administration assistant
- Receptionist
- Customer service assistant
- Data entry clerk
- Office support assistant

Intermediate

- Office administrator
- Team administrator
- Accounts support clerk
- Payroll administrator
- Project administrator

Advanced

- Office manager
- Practice manager
- Operations coordinator
- Business support manager
- Administration team leader
- Executive assistant

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Business applications and everyday digital tools
- Business documents and specialist formatting
- Data processing and accurate information handling
- Financial calculations and basic reporting
- Administrative systems and process improvement
- Customer service and stakeholder communication

HOW will I learn?

- Case studies and scenario-based activities
- Practical tasks in a simulated office
- Projects and portfolio-based assessment
- Workplace-connected projects and guest speakers

Industry connections

Business at Ara is closely connected to industry, to ensure that what you learn reflects current workplace expectations. Course activities are grounded in real business practices, from administration and customer service to digital tools, communication, records management and office coordination.

You'll work with industry-standard systems and software, and undertake real-world scenarios that build practical skills. Guest speakers and work-integrated learning opportunities are included where possible, helping you make clear links between study and employment.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Business (Administration and Technology)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 17 weeks Part-time up to 4 years	February, July	
New Zealand Certificate in Business (Administration and Technology)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 17 weeks Part-time up to 4 years	July	
New Zealand Diploma in Business (Administration and Technology)	5	Christchurch, online	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	



Scan for more information on this subject



BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION & STRATEGY

Business transformation and strategy focuses on helping organisations improve how they work and adapt when things change. Professionals in this space look at what is happening inside and outside a business, then shape practical plans to lift performance, manage risk and stay competitive.

They lead change projects, support leaders and teams through transitions, and help turn strategy into action. They analyse data, map processes, review customer or staff experiences, and work with stakeholders to embed new ways of working in fast-moving environments.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like seeing the big picture and working out how to make things better. You may enjoy problem solving, working with different people and explaining ideas clearly. It helps to be organised, adaptable and comfortable balancing planning with action when priorities shift.

Career Pathways

- | Entry Level | Intermediate | Advanced |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change support coordinator• Project coordinator• Business support officer• Junior business analyst• Process improvement assistant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change analyst• Project manager• Strategy analyst• Organisational development advisor• Continuous improvement specialist | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transformation manager• Digital transformation lead• Organisational development lead• Strategic planning manager• Head of strategy |

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Change management frameworks
- Strategic management frameworks
- Organisational behaviour and workplace dynamics
- Project management approaches and tools
- Leadership principles and influence skills
- Evidence-based decision making
- Applied research and inquiry methods
- Ethical, sustainable and culturally responsive practice

HOW will I learn?

- Active learning and facilitated discussions
- Case studies and simulated business scenarios
- Group-based tasks and applied projects
- Work placement and workplace reflection
- Industry project with academic and industry supervision

Industry connections

You'll build industry insight through work-integrated learning, including a work placement and an industry-focused project. You'll work with a host organisation on real business challenges, supported by industry supervision and an academic supervisor. Industry input helps keep learning current and practical, strengthening your confidence, professional communication and readiness for change and strategy roles.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Applied Management (Business Transformation and Strategy)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Business (Business Transformation and Strategy)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February	

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject.



EVENT MANAGEMENT

Event management is the planning and delivery of experiences that bring people together, from conferences and fundraisers to festivals, concerts and community events. Event professionals shape the purpose and run-sheet, then coordinate venues, suppliers, budgets, marketing and on-the-day operations.

They manage stakeholders, assess and reduce risk, and adjust quickly when plans change. Many work across business, arts, tourism and community organisations, balancing creativity with strong organisation and clear communication.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you're a good organiser and enjoy bringing people together. You need to be able to work to deadlines, keep track of details and stay calm under pressure. It also helps to be friendly, reliable and comfortable working with a mix of people, from clients to volunteers and suppliers.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Event assistant
- Events administrator
- Venue support staff
- Registration coordinator
- Promotions assistant
- Sponsorship assistant

Intermediate

- Event coordinator
- Event planner
- Sponsorship coordinator
- Marketing and events coordinator
- Venue coordinator
- Community events organiser

Advanced

- Event manager
- Festival manager
- Conference producer
- Venue manager
- Events marketing manager
- Strategic events consultant

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Event logistics
- Event planning and management
- Site design and layout
- Onsite event activities
- Stakeholder engagement and communication
- Marketing and sponsorship fundamentals
- Risk mitigation and safety planning
- Contemporary issues in events
- Event project design and delivery
- Event evaluation and reporting

HOW will I learn?

- Interactive workshops and seminars
- Case studies and industry examples
- Team-based planning and delivery projects
- Work placement in an organisation
- Industry project with a host organisation
- Orientation day with major Christchurch events venue

Industry connections

You'll learn alongside people working in the events sector through guest input, real-world briefs and work-integrated learning. Placements and industry projects let you apply what you've learned in a host organisation,

supported by an Ara academic supervisor and industry placement coordination. This helps you build networks, strengthen professional practice and graduate ready for event roles.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July
Bachelor of Applied Management (Event Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July
Graduate Diploma in Business (Event Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject.



HOTEL & TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Hotel and tourism management is about leading teams and running experiences that meet or exceed guest and visitor expectations. Professionals manage day-to-day operations in hotels, resorts and tourism businesses, while keeping service standards, budgets and staffing on track. The work can include rooms and facilities oversight, customer experience, event and

function coordination, sales and marketing support, and responding to issues quickly and professionally. In Aotearoa New Zealand, it involves sharing local stories and showing genuine manaakitanga (care for others) across everything from adventure tourism to arts, food and wine, and cultural events.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like working with people and want a career that blends service with leadership. It helps to be organised, practical and good at juggling priorities. If you enjoy planning, solving problems on the go and bringing a calm, positive approach to busy days, you'll fit right in.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Guest services agent
- Reservations coordinator
- Tourism customer service representative
- Events assistant
- Visitor information adviser

Intermediate

- Duty manager
- Front office supervisor
- Reservations manager
- Tour operations supervisor
- Conference and events coordinator

Advanced

- Hotel operations manager
- Hotel general manager
- Tourism operations manager
- Destination manager
- Tourism policy advisor

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Hotel and tourism operations
- Rooms division and front office management
- Facilities and service systems management
- Customer engagement and experience design
- Tourism principles, transport and visitor flows
- Tourism policy, planning and destination thinking
- Strategic management and decision-making
- Contemporary issues across the sector
- Simulated management exercises using HOTS (Hotel Operations Tactics and Strategy)

HOW will I learn?

- Interactive classes and applied workshops
- Case studies and industry scenarios
- Team-based projects and presentations
- Workplace-based projects in real organisations
- Work placement with workplace and academic supervision
- Blended learning using online tools and resources

Industry connections

You'll build industry insight through workplace-based learning and applied projects in real organisations. Work placements are supported by workplace supervisors and Ara staff, helping you connect study

to day-to-day practice. Industry input also helps keep learning current and focused on what employers value, including professional communication, teamwork and work-ready capability.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July
New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February, July
Bachelor of Applied Management (Hotel and Tourism Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July
Graduate Diploma in Business (Hotel and Tourism Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Human resource management involves helping organisations get the best from their people. HR professionals recruit and onboard employees and contractors, build capability through training, support managers with performance conversations and help shape fair pay and conditions. They manage workplace policies, resolve issues early and guide healthy employment relationships.

Modern HR is increasingly strategic, using data, technology and good judgement to improve employee experience, wellbeing and organisational performance. In Aotearoa New Zealand, cultural awareness including Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles supports respectful practice.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who like working with others and want to help create fair, healthy workplaces. It's also a good fit for practical problem solvers who can stay balanced when issues arise, and who like variety, teamwork and seeing people succeed. You need to be able to listen well, communicate clearly and handle sensitive information with care.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- HR administrator
- HR coordinator
- Recruitment consultant
- Junior HR adviser
- HR assistant

Intermediate

- HR adviser
- Talent acquisition specialist
- Learning and development adviser
- Employee relations adviser
- HR analyst

Advanced

- HR business partner
- HR manager
- HR director
- Chief HR officer
- People analytics specialist
- Employee experience manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Effective recruitment and selection practices
- Onboarding and employee development plans
- Performance management conversations and coaching
- Pay, rewards and basic payroll
- Employee relations and conflict resolution
- Ethical decision making and confidentiality in HR
- People analytics, reporting and trends
- Wellbeing, inclusion and employee experience

HOW will I learn?

- Scenario-based workshops and role plays
- Case studies and HR simulations
- Group projects and applied problem solving
- Industry projects based on real issues
- Internships and work-integrated learning
- Reflective practice and self-awareness activities

Industry connections

At Ara you'll build work readiness through internships and work-integrated learning, guest speakers and industry-informed assessments based on current trends and issues. Applied projects and case scenarios ask you to solve real workplace people challenges,

including a research project based on an organisation's real problem. These connections help you practise professional judgement, communication and ethical decision making before you step into HR roles.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July
Bachelor of Applied Management (Human Resource Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July
Graduate Diploma in Business (Human Resource Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to four years	February

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject.



MARKETING & SALES

Marketing is at the forefront of business, from understanding consumers, strategic thinking and problem solving to producing the right product at the right time in the right place at the right price.

Sales roles focus on finding opportunities, building relationships, negotiating and closing deals, while feeding market insights back into the business. Ethical practice and smart use of data are important.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like a challenge, are curious and you want to work in a dynamic field. You might enjoy spotting what makes people choose one option over another, writing or presenting ideas and working with others to get things done. It helps if you're organised, comfortable with feedback and motivated by goals and results.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Marketing assistant
- Sales support coordinator
- Customer service representative
- Social media assistant
- Market research assistant
- Event marketing assistant

Intermediate

- Marketing coordinator
- Sales representative
- Account manager
- Digital marketing specialist
- Market analyst
- Business development coordinator

Advanced

- Marketing manager
- Sales manager
- Brand manager
- Business development manager
- Marketing strategist
- Key account manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Customer and market research insights
- Data analysis and reporting for decisions
- Marketing planning and campaign control
- Services marketing and customer retention
- Strategic marketing and business growth
- Contemporary marketing and sales practice
- Digital tools, channels and content
- Ethical, culturally responsive marketing
- Consumer behaviour
- E-commerce
- Ethics

HOW will I learn?

- Real-world case studies and scenarios
- Hands-on projects
- Collaborative workshops and group work
- Presentations and communication tasks
- Work-integrated learning through placement and projects

Industry connections

You'll learn current industry practice through industry input and applied projects. Work-integrated learning* includes a supported work placement and an industry project, so you can apply your skills to real organisations

and real deadlines. You'll also build networks, get feedback on your work and grow your confidence before you graduate.

*Dependent on programme/level

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch, online	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Applied Management (Marketing and Sales)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Business (Marketing and Sales)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February	

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject.



OPERATIONS & PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

Operations and product management is about how organisations design, make or deliver products and services so they meet customer needs, on time and to a high standard. Professionals in this space plan workflows, manage resources, track performance and improve how work gets done. They balance cost,

quality, speed and sustainability, working closely with teams like marketing, finance and suppliers. This field is particularly important in manufacturing and in services such as healthcare, education and hospitality. The goal is simple: create better outcomes for customers and the organisation.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like solving practical problems and improving how things work. You might enjoy working with data, spotting patterns and making clear recommendations. It helps to be organised, comfortable juggling priorities and keen to work with different people. If you care about quality, customer value and real-world results, you'll fit in well.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Warehouse assistant
- Supply chain assistant
- Logistics coordinator
- Quality assistant
- Junior product analyst

Intermediate

- Operations supervisor
- Process improvement specialist
- Quality coordinator
- Supply chain planner
- Product coordinator
- Logistics manager

Advanced

- Operations manager
- Product manager
- Senior quality engineer
- Continuous improvement lead
- Supply chain manager
- Operations consultant

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Product lifecycle management
- Process design and improvement
- Quality management and assurance
- Capacity and resource planning
- Performance measurement and reporting
- Supply chain and logistics fundamentals
- Sustainability and responsible operations
- Data and analytics for decision making

HOW will I learn?

- Problem-based projects using real scenarios
- Industry case studies and applied assessments
- Collaborative, team-based learning activities
- Work-integrated learning and applied projects
- Guest speakers and professional networking
- Using industry data, reports and research tools

Industry connections

Industry input and guest speakers help keep learning current and practical. You'll build industry understanding through work-integrated learning and applied projects that reflect real operational challenges. You'll also have opportunities to network and engage

with professionals, strengthening your confidence in workplace expectations and improving your readiness to step into operations, production or product-focused roles.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Applied Management (Operations and Product Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Business (Operations and Product Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to four years	July	

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project management is the discipline of organising people, time, resources and decisions to deliver a one-off outcome. Project managers turn a goal into a clear plan, coordinate work across different teams and keep everyone aligned as things change. They balance scope, budget, time, quality and risk, while building strong

relationships with stakeholders. The work is as much about communication and influence as it is about tools and schedules. Good project management focuses on value, learning and continuous improvement, not just finishing tasks.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who like bringing order to busy situations and helping teams get things done. It helps to be organised, inquisitive and calm under pressure. You'll need to be adept at problem solving, working with different people and adapting when plans change. A reflective, people-focused working style is a real strength.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Project administrator
- Project coordinator
- Project support officer
- PMO assistant
- Operations coordinator

Intermediate

- Project manager
- Implementation manager
- Change manager
- Delivery lead
- PMO analyst
- Business improvement manager

Advanced

- Programme manager
- Portfolio manager
- PMO lead
- Transformation manager
- Benefits realisation lead
- Enterprise delivery lead

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Project life cycles and priorities
- Scope statements and work breakdown structures
- Scheduling, milestones and performance monitoring
- Cost estimates and value delivery
- Risk planning and decisions under uncertainty
- Stakeholder engagement and communication strategies
- Team leadership and conflict resolution
- Reflection, lessons learned and improvement

HOW will I learn?

- Team-based projects with shared accountability
- Live delivery with real participants or audiences
- Workshops using planning software and digital tools including AI
- Collaborative online platforms for reporting and tracking
- Presentations, dashboards and professional documentation
- Work-integrated learning projects, including placements

Industry connections

Learning in this area stays close to workplace practice through work-integrated learning and industry projects, including placements and applied project briefs. Industry input helps keep learning aligned with current tools and expectations. Guest

speakers bring real examples of delivery, change and stakeholder management. Connections with the Project Management Institute of New Zealand (PMINZ) support professional awareness and networks.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July
Bachelor of Applied Management (Project Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to five years	February, July
Graduate Diploma in Business (Project Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to four years	February

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject.



SUPPLY CHAIN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT

Supply chain logistics management is about getting the right products to the right place, at the right time, in the best way possible, end-to-end. Professionals in this space plan, coordinate and monitor the flow of goods and information across suppliers, transport providers, warehouses, production sites and customers.

They manage purchasing and sourcing, stock levels and storage, and delivery schedules, using data to forecast demand and improve performance. The work balances cost, service and risk, with growing focus on sustainability and resilient supply chains.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like organising, planning and keeping things on track. You might enjoy solving practical problems, working with numbers and using information to make sound decisions. It helps to be a clear communicator who can work with different people, meet deadlines and adapt when priorities shift.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Procurement assistant
- Inventory assistant
- Dispatch coordinator
- Warehouse operations assistant

Intermediate

- Logistics coordinator
- Transport planner
- Warehouse supervisor
- Supply chain analyst
- Procurement officer

Advanced

- Supply chain manager
- Logistics manager
- Procurement manager
- Operations manager
- Supply chain consultant
- Risk and resilience manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Inventory management and stock control
- Demand planning and forecasting
- Procurement and sourcing fundamentals
- Logistics and transport coordination
- Warehouse operations and distribution
- Supply chain network design
- Sustainability in supply chains

HOW will I learn?

- Guest lectures from industry practitioners
- Problem-based activities using real scenarios
- Using digital tools and e-resources
- Teamwork, presentations and reporting
- Work-integrated learning and industry projects

Industry connections

You'll learn from people working in supply chain and logistics through guest lectures and industry input. Work-integrated learning projects let you tackle real operational challenges, from improving stock flow

to planning deliveries. Where available, industry placements and employer feedback help you test your skills in real settings and build confidence using tools and approaches common across the sector.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Business	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Applied Management (Supply Chain Logistics Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 10 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Business (Supply Chain Logistics Management)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	July	

Refer to the Applied Management section for further graduate and postgraduate business qualifications.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



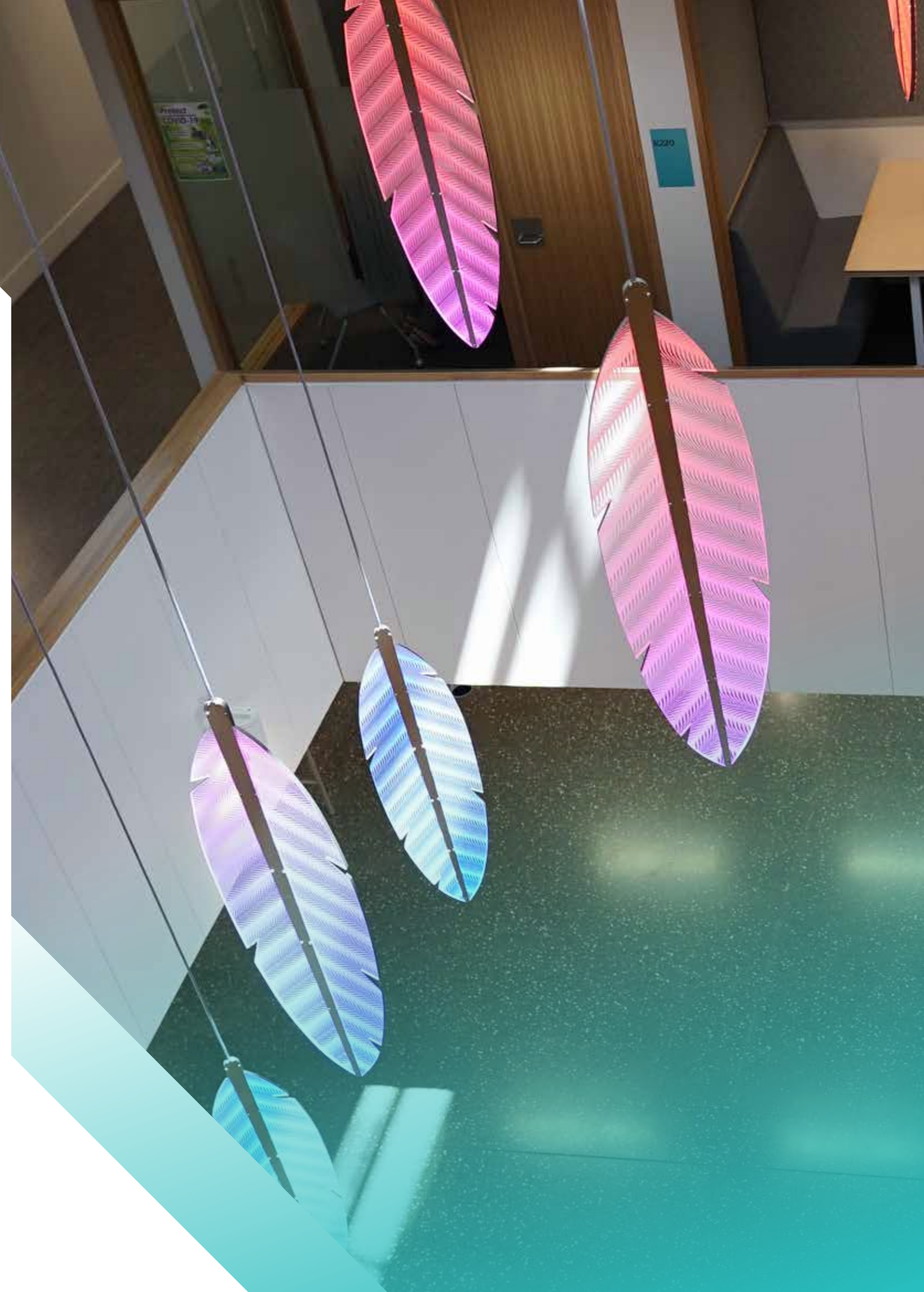
Scan for more information on this subject

COMPUTING & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Computing (General IT)
- Cybersecurity
- Data Engineering
- IT Technical Support
- Network Engineering
- Software Engineering

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

Technology is one of the most flexible career areas you can choose, with digital skills needed across health, construction, manufacturing, education, business and beyond. Study in this area can lead to well-paid roles where creativity, problem solving and teamwork are as important as technical knowledge. It can also give you valuable transferable skills, with opportunities to work locally, remotely or anywhere in the world as technology continues to shape how people live and work.





COMPUTING (GENERAL IT)

Computing and information technology (IT) is the field behind the phones, apps, games and online services people rely on, and the systems that keep organisations and infrastructure running. IT professionals design and build software, connect devices through networks, manage and protect data, and keep systems secure and reliable.

They troubleshoot faults, improve performance, and document decisions so teams can support systems over time. Because every sector uses technology, computing skills can lead to work in settings as varied as healthcare, education, finance, logistics and government.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like solving problems and working out how different parts fit together. It helps to be patient, methodical and willing to test ideas when the answer isn't obvious straight away. Strong communication is useful too, because IT work often involves supporting others and working as part of a team.

WHAT will I learn?*

- Core computing concepts and digital systems
- Technical support and troubleshooting approaches
- Networking and systems fundamentals
- Platforms, infrastructure and systems configuration
- Security-aware thinking and risk basics
- Data handling and database foundations
- Service management and customer-focused support
- Professional communication and clear documentation

*Varies depending on chosen course

HOW will I learn?*

- Hands-on labs in our TechLabs and specialist facilities
- Simulated enterprise environments and realistic scenarios
- Applied tasks, configurations and troubleshooting practice
- Team projects with documentation and presentations
- Networking labs aligned with Cisco Networking Academy

*Varies depending on chosen course

Industry connections

Ara's computing and IT programmes are shaped by industry expectations, with input from industry partners. You'll work on applied projects that reflect real systems, users and constraints, with opportunities

to present solutions and documentation. Learning is supported by guest speakers, off-site visits where appropriate and ongoing connection with professional bodies such as IT Professionals NZ.

Computing (General IT, entry level) study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (ICT pathway)*	3 / 4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July	Preparation for higher level study in IT
New Zealand Certificate in IT Essentials	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July	Broad introduction to IT

*If you don't meet the academic requirements for the IT Essentials certificate, you can gain them via the Level 3 option of this foundation course.

Computing (General IT, advanced) study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies (General)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 5 years	February, July	Covers all areas of IT with option to add a 6-month specialty
Graduate Diploma in Information and Communication Technologies	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time available	February, July	Open to anyone with any degree

If you don't meet the academic requirements for the degree, you can gain them via the Level 4 option of the ICT pathway listed above. Please note: completing the pathway course doesn't guarantee entry to the higher-level programme as other criteria may apply.



Scan for more information on this subject



CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting computer systems, networks and data from digital threats. It focuses on preventing unauthorised access, reducing risk and responding effectively when security incidents occur. People working in this field monitor systems, identify vulnerabilities and put safeguards in place to keep information safe.

Cybersecurity plays a critical role across business, government and community organisations, where trust, privacy and system reliability matter. As technology becomes more connected, cybersecurity professionals help ensure digital services remain secure, resilient and reliable.

Would this suit me?

Cybersecurity could suit you if you like solving puzzles and thinking a few steps ahead. It helps if you're patient, careful with details and comfortable troubleshooting when things don't work first time. You don't need to know everything already, but you do need curiosity about how systems, people and processes fit together.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- IT support assistant
- Service desk analyst
- Junior security support technician
- Security operations centre (SOC) assistant
- Compliance support coordinator

Intermediate

- Cybersecurity analyst
- SOC analyst
- Incident response analyst
- GRC analyst (governance, risk, compliance)
- Junior security engineer

Advanced

- Security architect
- Penetration tester
- Threat intelligence specialist
- Cybersecurity consultant
- Security operations manager

NB: Intermediate and advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Cyber threats, vulnerabilities and attack methods
- Security principles and security-aware thinking
- Network and system hardening basics
- Identity and access management fundamentals
- Monitoring, logging and incident response
- Risk, policy and governance essentials
- Secure configuration, testing and troubleshooting
- Professional documentation and communication practices

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on labs in controlled network environments
- Realistic scenarios and troubleshooting exercises
- Project work that mirrors workplace output
- Work-integrated learning project, possibly with placement
- Group activities, teamwork and presentations

Industry connections

Cybersecurity study at Ara is shaped by ongoing industry input to keep learning aligned with current practice. You'll benefit from guest speakers, applied projects and work-integrated learning opportunities that reflect real security challenges. Learning takes

place in industry-standard lab environments, helping you to build practical skills, professional judgement and confidence working with systems like those used in the workplace.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Cybersecurity	6	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July
Graduate Diploma in Information and Communication Technologies	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time available	February, July

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



DATA ENGINEERING

Data engineering is the work of designing and running the systems that collect, store and deliver data securely for analysis. Data engineers build reliable pipelines at scale that move data from apps, sensors and business systems into databases or cloud platforms. They clean, validate and transform data so it's consistent, secure

and ready for reporting, dashboards and machine learning. The role sits between software development and analytics, focusing on performance, automation and data quality so organisations can make confident, data-driven decisions.

Would this suit me?

Data engineering could suit you if you enjoy solving problems and spotting patterns. If you like building practical systems, working carefully with detail and asking 'why does this happen?', it could be for you. It helps to be curious, patient and comfortable testing, fixing and improving things with others. You don't need to be a maths whiz.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Junior data analyst
- Data technician
- Reporting analyst
- Data support assistant
- Junior business intelligence analyst

Intermediate

- Data engineer
- Business intelligence developer
- Analytics engineer
- Data warehouse developer
- Data platform engineer
- Data solutions consultant

Advanced

- Lead data engineer
- Principal data engineer
- Data architect
- Data engineering manager
- Head of data and analytics
- Data governance lead

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Data engineering fundamentals
- Database design and advanced databases
- Data pipelines and modern data infrastructure
- Cloud computing and distributed systems
- Working with large, complex databases
- Data transformation and analysis
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning basics
- Data governance, ethics and Māori data sovereignty
- AI and cybersecurity fundamentals

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on labs in our computing labs
- Guided practice with real datasets
- Cloud-based tools and data platforms
- Presentations, peer feedback and guest speakers
- Team projects reflecting workplace workflows
- Capstone project with a real organisation

Industry connections

Data Engineering at Ara is shaped by industry practice. You'll take part in applied projects, including a significant capstone project linked to a real organisation, with feedback and input from industry

panel members. Guest speakers and industry contacts help keep learning current and work-focused. You'll also build practical skills in industry-standard labs and tools that reflect modern data environments.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in IT Essentials	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July	
New Zealand Diploma in Information and Technology (Technical Support)^	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies (Data Engineering)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to five years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Information and Communication Technologies	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time available	February, July	

^This qualification can be cross-credited into the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject

IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

IT technical support keeps people and organisations working. Specialists in this area of IT set up, maintain and fix computers, devices, operating systems, applications and networks. They respond to user issues, diagnose faults, apply secure fixes and

document what was done so systems stay reliable and problems don't repeat. The work can also include basic networking services, security awareness and database fundamentals.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like solving practical problems and helping people. You'll do well if you're curious about how computers and networks work, patient when issues take time to track down and you can explain steps in plain language. Being reliable and detail-focused helps too.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- IT support technician
- Service desk analyst
- Desktop support technician
- Computer technician
- Application support analyst

Intermediate

- Systems support technician
- Network support technician
- Junior systems administrator
- Junior network administrator
- Field service technician

Advanced

- Systems administrator
- Network administrator
- Network engineer
- Infrastructure engineer
- IT operations analyst
- Technical support team lead

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Hardware and software installation and configuration
- Operating systems administration and troubleshooting
- Networking fundamentals and common services
- Security-aware troubleshooting and access control
- Database basics, backups and recovery
- IT service management and customer support skills
- Web and software design fundamentals
- Professional, legal and ethical practice

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on labs
- Network simulations and practical configurations
- Customer service simulations
- Realistic troubleshooting tasks and scenarios
- Projects with documentation and presentations
- Guided support that builds independence

Industry connections

You'll learn in industry-standard TechLabs and dedicated Cisco labs, using tools and network environments that mirror real workplace setups. Teaching is shaped by regular input from industry,

including contact with professional bodies. Guest speakers and industry-informed learning tasks help you practise troubleshooting, documentation and customer support the way employers expect.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Information and Technology (Technical Support)^	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July

^This qualification can be cross-credited into the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



NETWORK ENGINEERING

Network engineering is the backbone of modern connectivity, keeping organisations, systems and people connected. This field focuses on designing, building and maintaining secure, reliable networks that support communication between devices, servers and cloud services. It encompasses areas

such as network infrastructure, Wi-Fi management, performance monitoring, fault diagnosis and system upgrades. Security is a core consideration, with measures put in place to control access and reduce risk. These capabilities are essential to the operation of organisations across almost every industry.

Would this suit me?

Network engineering could suit you if you like practical problem-solving and enjoy working step by step when things break. You need to be curious about how systems connect, patient with troubleshooting and comfortable following processes. It also helps to communicate clearly, document what you do and work well in a team.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- IT support technician
- Service desk analyst
- Network support technician
- Systems support technician
- Junior network administrator

Intermediate

- Network administrator
- Network engineer
- Infrastructure engineer
- Systems administrator
- Network operations analyst
- Managed services technician

Advanced

- Senior network engineer
- Network architect
- Cloud network engineer
- Infrastructure lead
- Network operations manager
- Security-focused network engineer

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Network fundamentals and protocols
- Routing and switching concepts
- Wireless network design basics
- Infrastructure and systems fundamentals
- Security-aware networking practices
- Troubleshooting and fault diagnosis
- Documentation and professional communication
- Service and support practices
- AI and cybersecurity fundamentals

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on labs in controlled environments
- Network simulations and configuration activities
- Realistic troubleshooting scenarios
- Team-based tasks and projects
- Industry-linked, capstone-style projects
- Guest speakers and off-site visits

Industry connections

You'll learn in industry-standard TechLabs and dedicated Cisco labs, with training aligned to the Cisco Networking Academy. Learning activities reflect real workplace tasks: configuring, testing and troubleshooting in controlled network environments.

Guest speakers, site visits and input from industry and professional bodies such as IT Professionals NZ help keep learning current. A significant capstone project lets you apply your skills to a real organisation's needs.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in IT Essentials	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July	
New Zealand Diploma in Information and Technology (Technical Support)^	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies (Network Engineering and Infrastructure)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to five years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Information and Communication Technologies	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time available	February, July	

[^]This qualification can be cross-credited into the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

Software engineering focuses on designing, building and maintaining reliable software systems. Software engineers turn requirements into working applications by writing code, testing and debugging, improving performance and keeping security in mind. Work often involves collaborating in teams, using version control, documenting decisions and working through incomplete information or changing priorities.

Software engineering supports almost every industry, from health and finance to retail and logistics. Professionals in this field can contribute across the software lifecycle, including development, testing and application support.

Would this suit me?

Software engineering could suit you if you enjoy solving problems, spotting patterns and improving how things work. You'll also need to enjoy experimenting, learning from mistakes and building step by step. It helps to be curious, patient and willing to collaborate, because software is usually created and maintained in teams.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Graduate software engineer
- Junior software developer
- Junior web developer
- Software tester
- Quality assurance assistant
- Application support analyst

Intermediate

- Software developer
- Full stack developer
- Mobile app developer
- Test analyst
- Systems analyst
- DevOps engineer

Advanced

- Senior software engineer
- Technical lead
- Solutions architect
- Engineering manager
- Principal software engineer
- Site reliability engineer

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Programming fundamentals and software engineering practices
- Web and application development techniques
- User-centred design and usability basics
- Database design and data handling
- Testing, debugging and quality assurance
- Security-aware development and risk thinking
- Version control and collaborative workflows
- Professional communication and clear documentation
- AI and cybersecurity fundamentals

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on labs in TechLabs and studios
- Practical projects that build real solutions
- Team-based work, code reviews, presentations
- Simulated workplace scenarios and troubleshooting tasks
- Capstone project for a real organisation

Industry connections

Industry input shapes what and how you learn at Ara, helping ensure skills are relevant and practical. You'll hear from guest speakers across the IT sector and work on applied projects, including a significant capstone

project for a real organisation. Learning takes place in industry-standard labs that reflect real environments, building your confidence with tools, teamwork and professional practice.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in IT Essentials	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time available	February, July
New Zealand Diploma in Information and Technology (Technical Support)^	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July
Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies (Software Engineering)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to five years	February, July
Graduate Diploma in Information and Communication Technologies	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time available	February, July

^This qualification can be cross-credited into the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technologies.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject

HEALTH, SCIENCE & SUPPORT

Health

- Health Promotion
- Human Nutrition
- Sport & Exercise Science
- Osteopathy
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Imaging
- Midwifery
- Enrolled Nursing
- Registered Nursing

Science

- Laboratory Technology
- Companion Animal Management
- Veterinary Nursing

Support

- Support Work
- Social Work
- Professional Supervision

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

This area offers many different ways to improve quality of life, from nursing, nutrition and medical imaging to social work, massage, support work and animal care. The pathways are varied, but all contribute to stronger, healthier communities and better everyday wellbeing. Whether the goal is to care, support, analyse, guide or help people feel their best, study in this area can lead to meaningful work in Canterbury and beyond.





HEALTH PROMOTION

Health promotion focuses on improving health and wellbeing across communities and populations. Health promoters look at what shapes health such as housing, income, culture, education and the environment, then work to reduce inequities. They develop strategies like education, public campaigns, supportive environments, better access to services and policy advocacy.

The work is collaborative, bringing together government, iwi, community organisations and workplaces. In Aotearoa New Zealand, health promotion is grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and well-established public health principles.

Would this suit me?

Health promotion could be a good fit if you're interested in health and you want a non-clinical role. The work involves contributing to practical, long-term solutions that help individuals, whānau and communities live well. It requires collaboration, good communication and a solutions-focused approach – skills which are taught and developed throughout the programme.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Health promotion assistant
- Community wellbeing worker
- Peer educator
- Health coach
- Workplace wellbeing coordinator

Intermediate

- Health promoter
- Health promotion coordinator
- Community health advisor
- Programme facilitator
- Project officer
- Health, safety and wellbeing advisor

Advanced

- Health promotion manager
- Public health advisor
- Policy advisor
- Population health strategist
- Senior project manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Health promotion principles and key frameworks
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi in practice
- Social determinants of health and equity
- Behaviour change and healthy lifestyle approaches
- Advocacy, ethics and inclusive practice
- Planning, implementing and evaluating initiatives
- Research, evidence and critical thinking
- Sustainability and planetary health perspectives

HOW will I learn?

- Interactive workshops and active learning activities
- Case studies and real-world projects
- Guest speakers and industry kōrero
- Work-integrated learning placements (200 hours)
- Team-based learning and peer feedback
- Reflective portfolios and guided self-review

Industry connections

Industry input helps keep learning relevant, with advisory feedback, guest speakers and stakeholder events. You'll build networks through work-integrated learning placements in community and health settings, including opportunities with organisations such as

Te Whatu Ora, Pegasus Health and Māori and Pacific providers. Applied projects and supervision support you to practise professional communication and deliver initiatives that respond to real needs.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Applied Science (Health Promotion)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 6 years	February, July

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



HUMAN NUTRITION

Human nutrition is the science of how the body uses food to function, grow and stay healthy. It looks at how nutrients are digested, absorbed and used, and how eating patterns influence health across the lifespan. Because diet is a changeable driver of long-term health, nutrition professionals often support individuals and communities to make practical, evidence-based choices.

Work in this field can span wellness, sport and performance, community health, policy and product development.

Would this suit me?

Human nutrition could suit you if you enjoy science and want to understand how food affects health and wellbeing. Through your study, you'll develop the skills to apply nutrition knowledge in practical ways, including working with others and communicating ideas clearly while taking culture, context and real-life constraints into account.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Nutritionist
- Wellness support coordinator
- Community health promoter

Intermediate

- Health coach
- Nutrition consultant
- Corporate wellness consultant
- Sports nutritionist
- Health promoter (nutrition focus)
- Policy support adviser

Advanced

- Registered nutritionist
- Public health nutrition adviser
- Sustainable nutrition consultant
- Food product developer
- Precision nutrition specialist
- Tele-health nutritionist

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Human digestion, absorption and metabolism
- Nutrients and their role in health
- Dietary assessment and nutrition planning
- Evaluating nutrition evidence and research
- Nutrition psychology and behaviour change
- Phytonutrients and functional foods
- Public health nutrition and policy thinking
- Cultural, social and environmental influences

HOW will I learn?

- Interactive classes with activities and discussion
- Practical sessions focused on real-life challenges
- Projects designed for individuals and communities
- 100-hour industry placements in years 2 and 3
- A final practicum project with a host provider
- Guest speakers bringing workplace perspectives

Industry connections

Learning is strengthened through industry practicums in the second and third year of study, with a final-year placement project completed with a practicum provider. Guest speakers add current, real-world insight and help link theory to what happens in workplaces. Teaching

staff are registered nutritionists with extensive industry experience, and classroom learning is designed to be practical and closely connected to real-life nutrition challenges.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Nutrition)^	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 6 years	February, July

^This study area is a pathway to registration as a nutritionist.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



SPORT & EXERCISE

The area of sport and exercise focuses on how physical activity supports health, wellbeing and performance. Professionals in this field work with individuals, teams and communities to help people move more, move better and stay active across different stages of life. This can include coaching sport, performance analysis, designing exercise plans, supporting community

wellbeing, or helping athletes train safely and effectively. The work combines science, planning and people skills, using evidence to guide decisions while creating positive, motivating experiences through sport and exercise.

Would this suit me?

If you love sports and exercise and you're interested in helping people achieve better results in those areas, this could be the field for you. A genuine interest in supporting others is one of the biggest strengths you can bring. An analytical mindset helps too, along with strong people skills — listening, explaining ideas clearly, and adapting your approach to different individuals and settings.

Career Pathways

Entry Level*

- Personal trainer
- Fitness instructor
- Group exercise leader
- Gym floor instructor

Intermediate

- Sports coach
- Strength and conditioning coach
- Sport coordinator
- Community sport worker
- Exercise or health advisor

Advanced

- Sport performance analyst
- High-performance coach
- Strength and conditioning lead
- Sport development manager
- Programme manager

*Entry-level roles reflect outcomes of the Certificate in Exercise and may also suit degree graduates.

WHAT and HOW will I learn?

Certificate

- Practical fitness skills
- Basic anatomy and movement fundamentals
- Coaching basics and communication with diverse groups
- Designing simple, safe training sessions for general fitness
- Learning through practical classes, group activities and real-world tasks

Degree

- Deeper anatomy, physiology and applied sport science
- Exercise programming for health, performance and athletic development
- Coaching practice informed by diverse cultures and communities
- Sport performance analysis, data use and research skills
- Training methods for individuals, teams and athletes
- Event and programme coordination in sport
- Practical learning in gyms, sport spaces and applied science labs
- 100-hour industry placements in Year 2 and 3

Industry connections

Sport and exercise at Ara is shaped with industry input, so what you learn reflects current workforce needs. Teaching staff are active in the field and bring real experience into class. Degree students complete work

placements in their second and third year, gaining supervised hours in workplaces such as gyms, sports clubs, and community or health-focused programmes — building confidence, networks and work-ready skills.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Exercise	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Applied Science (Sport & Exercise)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 6 years	February, July	

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Health & Science pathway)	3	Christchurch and online^	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

^February only



Scan for more information on this subject



OSTEOPATHY

Osteopathy is a hands-on healthcare profession that helps improve how the body moves and functions. Osteopaths assess pain and movement issues such as back and neck pain, headaches and injuries, then use techniques like joint mobilisation, soft tissue work and gentle stretching to support recovery.

They take a whole-person view of health, considering lifestyle, environment and culture, and involve other registered health professionals when needed. Osteopaths are registered primary healthcare practitioners regulated under the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act.

Would this suit me?

Osteopathy could be a good fit if you're science minded, interested in how the body works and comfortable providing hands-on care. The work is quite technical, so it helps if you're good with detailed information and thinking things through in a logical way. You also need to be a good listener and communicator.

Career Pathways

Intermediate

- Registered osteopath
- Associate osteopath

Advanced

- Senior osteopath
- Self-employed osteopath
- Clinic director/Practice owner
- Specialist osteopath (e.g. sports, paediatrics, chronic pain)
- Osteopathy educator
- Researcher

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Human anatomy and biomechanics
- Physiology and pathology
- Physical assessment and clinical testing
- Clinical reasoning and decision making
- Osteopathic treatment techniques
- Patient management and care planning
- Communication and therapeutic relationships
- Professional, safe and ethical practice
- Complex patient management and referral pathways

HOW will I learn?

- Classroom learning and guided tutorials
- Hands-on practical classes on treatment plinths
- Pair and small-group skill practice
- Supervised clinic sessions (1:4 supervision) in on-campus teaching clinic
- Clinical observation (160 hours by end of year 2)
- Supervised patient care (870 hours in years 3–4)

Industry connections

We work closely with key organisations including Osteopaths New Zealand and the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand to ensure your learning reflects current professional standards. You'll also learn from practicing

osteopaths across Canterbury who supervise students in our on-site and community clinics, giving you real-world experience.

Study options

Please note: Becoming a registered osteopath requires completion of both the Bachelor of Musculoskeletal Health and the Postgraduate Diploma in Osteopathy.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Musculoskeletal Health	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February
Postgraduate Diploma in Osteopathy	8	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February

Starter options

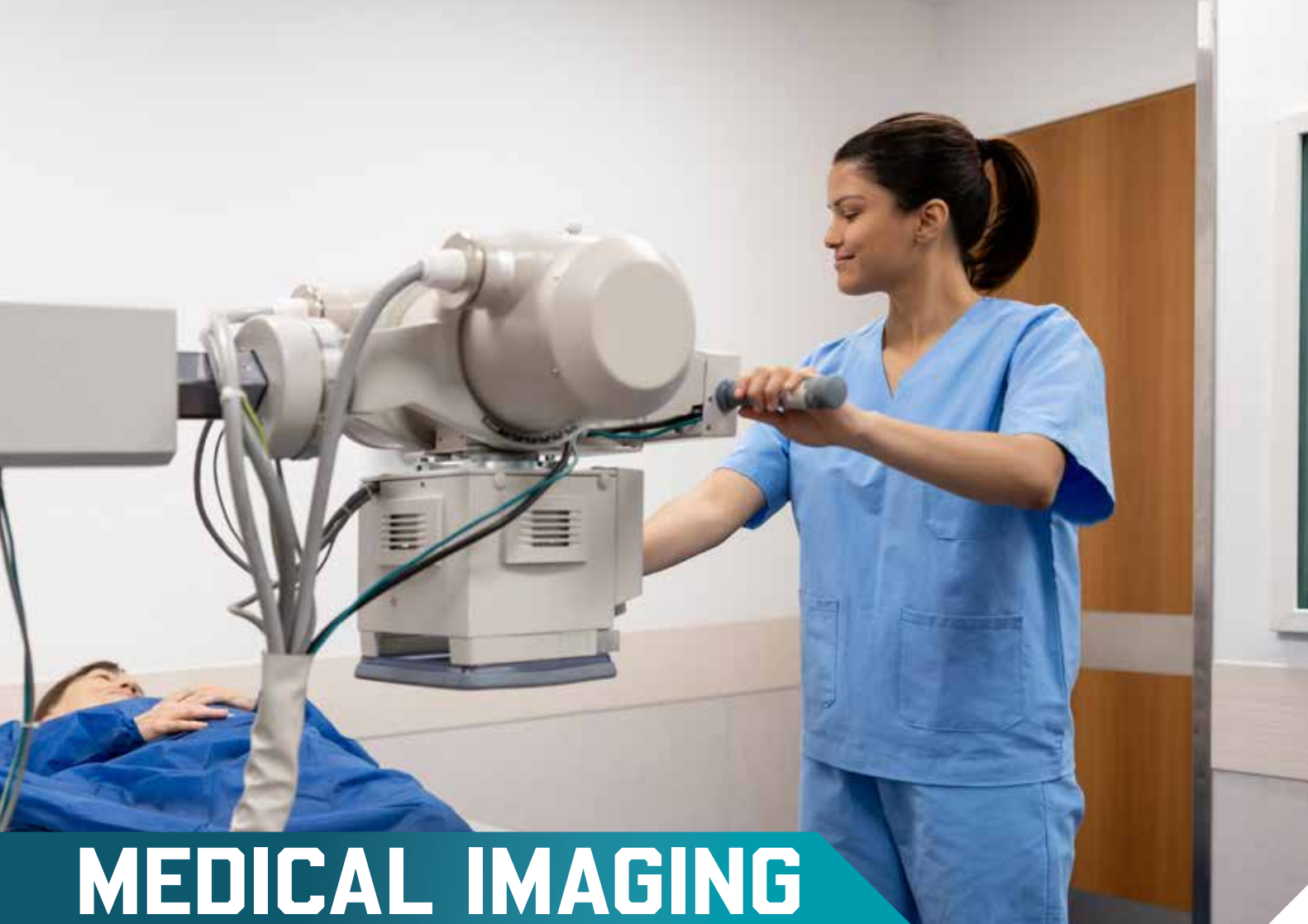
Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



MEDICAL IMAGING

Medical imaging is a health profession that creates diagnostic images to help doctors find and monitor injury and illness. Medical imaging technologists (also called radiographers) position patients, use imaging equipment and produce diagnostic images while keeping radiation exposure as low as reasonably achievable. They work closely with patients and whānau, radiologists and wider clinical teams,

explaining procedures and responding to different needs. In Aotearoa New Zealand, practitioners need to meet Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB) standards to register and practise.

Would this suit me?

This field could suit you if you're interested in how the body works and want a career that combines both health and technology. You'll do well if you're calm under pressure, enjoy practical problem solving and take care with detail. Empathy, resilience and clear communication are necessary when supporting people through examinations.

Career Pathways

Core role

- Radiographer (medical imaging technologist)

Specialisations

- CT
- Angiography
- Mammography
- MRI
- Molecular imaging (nuclear medicine)
- Sonography (ultrasound)

Advanced

- Senior medical imaging technologist
- Charge medical imaging technologist
- Clinical educator
- Modality specialist (CT, angiography)
- Quality and safety lead

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Human anatomy, physiology and pathology
- Radiographic positioning and technique
- Medical imaging science and physics
- Radiation protection and safe practice
- Communication, patient care and professionalism
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi and cultural responsiveness
- Research methods and evidence-based practice
- Specialist imaging modalities and protocols

HOW will I learn?

- Lectures and interactive tutorials
- Simulation practice in an x-ray suite
- 2400 hours of supervised clinical placement
- Online learning through Moodle and recordings
- Feedback from clinical tutors and supervisors

Industry connections

You'll build relationships with radiology departments across Aotearoa New Zealand through clinical placements, which may take you anywhere in the country. Placements are supervised by registered medical imaging technologists, with regular feedback

from clinical tutors and placement managers. Industry input through the Medical Imaging Advisory Committee helps keep learning aligned with current practice and technology, so you graduate ready for the pace and standards of modern imaging services.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Medical Imaging	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	January, July

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



MIDWIFERY

Midwifery supports wāhine and their whānau through pregnancy, labour, birth and the weeks following birth. Midwives provide health assessments, education and ongoing support, working in partnership with each woman so they can make informed choices about their care. They promote safe and positive birth experiences, recognise when additional care is needed and work collaboratively with other health professionals to

ensure the best outcomes. In Aotearoa New Zealand, midwifery is an autonomous profession with strong foundations in cultural safety and Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities. Midwives are regulated by the Midwifery Council of New Zealand.

Would this suit me?

Midwifery could suit you if you're motivated to support wāhine and their whānau through pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period. You'll need to be calm under pressure, empathetic and culturally respectful. Strong communication skills, resilience and sound judgement are essential, along with a willingness to reflect, continue learning and work flexibly.

Career Pathways

Following graduation

- Registered midwife (Core) in birth centre, primary unit or hospital
- Lead maternity carer (LMC) midwife with a caseload in the community

Further opportunities

- Clinical midwife specialist
- Midwifery educator
- Midwifery manager
- Professional advisor
- Midwifery researcher

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Midwifery partnership, information sharing, informed choice and consent
- Physiology of pregnancy, labour, birth and the postnatal period
- Maternal assessment and wellbeing support
- Newborn development, assessment and early care
- Breastfeeding, lactation and infant feeding support
- Complications, emergencies, consultation and referral
- Cultural safety, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Tūranga Kaupapa
- Evidence-informed practice, research and reflection

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face intensives/wānanga in Christchurch
- Weekly hui ākonga/tutorials and skills sessions
- Online modules, forums and virtual tutorials (2400 hours theory)
- Simulation-based education in purpose-built simulation space
- Supervised placements in the community, primary maternity units and hospitals (2400 hours clinical)
- Reflective portfolio and debrief sessions

Industry connections

Midwifery at Ara is shaped by close links with maternity service providers. You'll complete supervised practice placements with LMC midwives, as well as in primary units, hospitals and specialist maternity settings. Placements can include services such as Plunket,

gynaecology clinics and neonatal units. Industry feedback through Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand, New Zealand College of Midwives (NZCOM), local iwi and consumer representatives helps keep learning current.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Midwifery	7	See locations below	Full-time 4 years Part-time available	February
Locations: Christchurch with satellites in Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast, Mid/South Canterbury				

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



ENROLLED NURSING

Enrolled nursing is a people-focused career supporting individuals who are unwell or managing health conditions. Enrolled nurses play a key role in people’s recovery, wellbeing and ongoing support. They’re valued members of the healthcare team, delivering safe nursing practice in a range of settings.

They work alongside registered nurses and other health professionals, taking responsibility for their own practice within the enrolled nurse scope. In Aotearoa New Zealand, enrolled nurses have a strong foundation in cultural safety, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kawa whakaruruhau.

Would this suit me?

Enrolled nursing could suit you if you enjoy helping people and want a healthcare role. It’s a good fit if you’re calm, organised, and ready to learn in real clinical settings. You’ll do well if you communicate clearly, work well in a team and care about culturally safe practice.

Career Pathways

Following Graduation

- Enrolled nurse in settings such as:
- hospital or community
 - aged residential care
 - rehabilitation
 - mental health/addiction
 - primary or community health services

Advanced Opportunities

- Senior enrolled nurse
- Enrolled nurse team leader
- Clinical coordinator

NB: Advanced opportunities require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Human body systems and how health is maintained
- Nursing assessment, care planning and evaluation
- Evidence-informed practice and clinical reasoning
- Culturally safe practice and Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed care
- Professional, ethical and legal responsibilities
- Hauora, population health and health determinants
- Mental health and addiction support
- Safe medication management and accountability

HOW will I learn?

- Lectures and small tutorial groups
- Blended learning: online and face-to-face
- Simulation and skills practise in the Clinical Practice Suite
- Case studies, problem-based learning activities
- Supervised clinical placements (minimum 700 hours)
- Mentoring with enrolled nurse preceptors

Industry connections

Clinical placements connect you with health providers across Canterbury and the West Coast. You’ll gain experience in a range of settings such as community health, acute care, aged care, mental health, disability, and primary, secondary and tertiary services.

Throughout your placements you’ll be supported by nurse preceptors and clinical lecturers, helping you build confidence, capability and professional networks before you graduate. Nursing Advisory Committee input ensures our teaching is aligned with current practice and community needs.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Enrolled Nursing	5	Christchurch and regionally^	Full-time 18 months	March
Professional Development for Enrolled Nurses	5	Christchurch and online	Various	Various

^Satellites are located on the West Coast and in South Canterbury.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Health & Science pathway)	3	Christchurch and online*	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Online option starts in February only.



Scan for more information on this subject



REGISTERED NURSING

Registered nurses provide clinically and culturally safe care to support people through a wide range of health needs and life stages. They assess health needs, plan and deliver care, administer medicines, monitor progress and respond to changes. They work in partnership with patients and whānau, and alongside doctors and other health professionals. Nurses use clinical and scientific knowledge, culturally appropriate

communication and evidence to support people to manage their health needs and to improve outcomes for communities. Registered nursing in Aotearoa New Zealand is grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and recognises te ao Māori as essential to safe, effective care. Registered nurses must meet Nursing Council of New Zealand standards of competence and be registered to practise.

Would this suit me?

Registered nursing could suit you if you want purposeful work supporting people through illness and change. It helps to be calm under pressure, careful with details and comfortable following clear processes. Strong communication and teamwork are important, along with respect for different cultures and worldviews. A willingness to learn hands-on clinical skills and reflect on practise is important.

Career Pathways

Following Graduation

- Registered nurse in settings such as:
- Hospitals/acute care
 - Community/primary care
 - Aged care
 - Mental health
 - Cosmetic industry

Advanced Opportunities

- Clinical nurse specialist
- Charge nurse manager
- Nurse educator
- Nurse practitioner
- Nurse leader
- Nurse prescriber
- Research/policy advisor

Advanced opportunities may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Person- and whānau-centred nursing care and holistic health screening
- Clinical reasoning and safe decision-making
- Pathophysiology, pharmacology and medicines management
- Therapeutic communication and professional relationships
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Cultural safety
- Evidence-based practice, rangahau and research skills
- Leadership, teamwork and professional accountability

HOW will I learn?

- Lectures and small tutorial groups
- Blended learning: online and face-to-face
- Simulation and skills practise in the Clinical Practice Suite
- Case studies, problem-based learning activities
- Supervised clinical placements (minimum 1000 hours)
- Mentoring with registered nurse preceptors

Industry connections

Clinical learning is supported through partnerships with a range of health providers. Placements can include Māori health services, community settings, acute care, aged care and mental health.

You'll be supervised and supported by registered nurse preceptors and clinical teaching staff, helping you link theory to practice, build confidence and develop work-ready skills.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Nursing	7	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 3 years	Dates to be confirmed
Graduate Certificate in Nursing [^]	7	Christchurch and online	Part-time up to 6 years	Various

[^]After graduating, you can continue developing your skills or move into specialist areas with the Graduate Certificate in Nursing.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Pre-Health pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

Laboratory science supports healthcare, research and industry by testing and analysing samples to provide reliable information. People in this field follow set procedures to collect, label, handle and prepare specimens, carry out tests, analyse and record results and contribute to quality processes.

They work carefully with equipment and chemicals, follow health and safety rules and communicate clearly with colleagues. Laboratory technicians can work in a wide range of areas including environmental monitoring, human health, food testing, veterinary diagnostics and industrial product development.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you're detail-focused, methodical and interested in how science is applied in real-world settings. You might enjoy practical tasks, working with data and following steps accurately. It helps to be patient, reliable and comfortable collaborating with others while taking responsibility for your own work.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Laboratory assistant
- Sample reception assistant
- Quality assistant
- Production laboratory assistant
- Patient services assistant

Intermediate

- Laboratory technician
- Quality assurance technician
- Microbiology technician
- Environmental technician
- Research assistant
- Sample analyst
- Medical laboratory technician

Advanced

- Senior laboratory technician
- Laboratory supervisor
- Quality lead
- Technical specialist
- Laboratory manager
- Research coordinator
- Qualified medical laboratory technician

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Professional practice, teamwork and workplace communication
- Applied microbiology and chemistry
- Quality assurance standards and processes
- Laboratory safety and hazard management
- Accurate measurement and instrument use
- Handling, storage and tracking of samples
- Laboratory calculations, data analysis and interpretation
- Infection control principles and practice
- Ethical, legal and privacy requirements

HOW will I learn?

- Laboratory sessions and practical workshops
- Case studies and scenario-based activities
- Project and assessment portfolio work
- Work-integrated learning in real or simulated settings
- Online and face-to-face learning options
- Industry-informed learning

Industry connections

Our laboratory science programmes are driven by industry needs, so what you learn reflects workplace practice and expectations. At Level 5, you'll build practical skills through hands-on lab learning aligned to industry standards. At Level 7, you'll undertake

260 hours of work-integrated learning in a laboratory workplace, gaining real experience before you graduate. Across both levels, you'll develop confidence in safe practice, quality systems and the communication and teamwork skills employers seek.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Laboratory Technology*	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	

*Requires a Bachelor of Science or recent relevant experience.



Scan for more information on this subject



COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Companion animal management involves the day-to-day welfare and care of companion animals in settings such as kennels, catteries, shelters, day care centres and pet sitting services. The work focuses on domestic companion animals including cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, rodents and birds. It centres on duty of care, with a focus on fear-free, low-stress handling,

understanding behaviour, noticing health changes and maintaining clean, comfortable environments. It also involves following animal welfare legislation and local legislative requirements for the operation of animal welfare facilities.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who love being around animals and enjoy practical, hands-on work. It's a good fit if you're patient, reliable and pay attention to detail, especially when animals rely on consistent routines. Being able to work as part of a team, follow clear procedures and cope with the less glamorous parts of animal care is important.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Kennel or cattery assistant
- Doggy day care attendant
- Pet sitter / dog walker
- Animal technician

Intermediate

- Animal shelter attendant
- Kennel or cattery supervisor
- Animal welfare support officer
- Animal training assistant

Advanced

- Facility manager (kennel/cattery/day care)
- Shelter supervisor or team leader
- Animal welfare educator
- Pet care business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- How to support the wellbeing of companion animals
- Basic anatomy and how body systems function in companion animals
- Feeding and nutrition for different species and life stages
- Normal and undesirable behaviours
- Body language, fear-free, low-stress handling
- Health checks, basic first aid and recognising illness
- Creating safe, comfortable housing and enrichment
- Legal and ethical expectations in temporary companion animal facilities
- Hygiene, safety and biosecurity practices

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face theory classes with online learning support
- Hands-on simulated sessions
- Small-group practical work with a tutor
- Work placements (120 hours) across two companion animal facilities covering a range of animal species
- Guest speakers and off-site industry visits
- Scenario-based problem solving and enrichment projects

Industry connections

We work with local industry and community partners to support your learning through real-world experience. You'll complete at least 120 hours of practicum across a minimum of two companion animal care facilities, giving you supervised, hands-on practice in day-to-day animal

care. Learning is strengthened through guest speakers and off-site visits, and you'll also do applied tasks like feeding and care routines, welfare assessments and enrichment design to build confidence and work-ready skills.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Animal Management (Companion Animal)	4	Christchurch	Full-time one year	February

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Health & Science pathway)	3	Christchurch and online^	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.
^Online option starts in February only.



Scan for more information on this subject



VETERINARY NURSING

Veterinary nursing is a hands-on healthcare profession supporting veterinarians to treat and care for companion animals. Veterinary nurses assist with surgery, monitor anaesthesia, carry out diagnostic tests and imaging, and support patients through treatment and recovery.

The role also involves working closely with pet owners, explaining care plans, preventative health, nutrition and behaviour with empathy and professionalism. In Aotearoa New Zealand, veterinary nursing is a recognised allied veterinary profession with clear expectations around safe, high-quality care.

Would this suit me?

Veterinary nursing may suit you if you care deeply about animal wellbeing and enjoy practical, detail-focused work. You'll develop the skills to work calmly within a team of professionals in a busy clinical environment, assist with medical procedures, and support animals and their owners during stressful times. Strong teamwork and clear communication are essential.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Veterinary assistant
- Animal care assistant
- Kennel attendant
- Clinic receptionist

Intermediate

- Registered veterinary nurse
- Medical veterinary nurse
- Surgical veterinary nurse
- Anaesthesia nurse
- Emergency/critical care nurse
- Referral centre nurse

Advanced

- Head/charge veterinary nurse
- Clinical team leader
- Veterinary practice manager
- Veterinary nurse educator
- Veterinary industry representative
- Biosecurity or compliance officer

NB: Entry-level roles may be available while studying or before registration as a registered veterinary nurse. Advanced opportunities require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Companion animal patient handling and monitoring
- Surgical preparation and theatre support
- Anaesthesia monitoring and recovery care
- Diagnostic sampling, testing and radiography basics
- Medical patient care
- Medicines, treatments and fluid therapy
- Infection control and safe clinical practice
- Client communication, education and support
- Professional ethics, teamwork and record keeping

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face classes
- Weekly small-group simulation clinic practice
- Surgical and dental sessions at an offsite training clinic
- Blended online resources and training videos
- Guest speakers from veterinary and animal health sectors
- Work-integrated learning placements (750 hours)

Industry connections

Veterinary nursing at Ara is built around work-integrated learning. You'll complete at least 750 hours of practicum in veterinary clinics and other suitable animal facilities. On campus, you'll

practise with simulation models plus anaesthetic and dental equipment. Industry input from groups such as the New Zealand Veterinary Association keep learning current and ensures you graduate job ready.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years	February

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Health & Science pathway)	3	Christchurch and online^	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

^Online option starts in February only.



Scan for more information on this subject



SOCIAL WORK

Social work is a profession focused on advocating for and supporting individuals, whānau and communities to improve wellbeing, address social injustice and create positive change. In Aotearoa New Zealand, social workers practise across government, community and iwi organisations, responding to issues such as child wellbeing, family harm, health and disability,

mental health, addictions, justice and community development. The profession is grounded in social justice, human rights, respect for diversity and collective responsibility, with a strong emphasis on culturally responsive practice and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you're people focused and motivated to make a positive difference. Throughout your study, you'll develop strong communication skills and the ability to think critically and make ethical decisions. A willingness to reflect on your own perspectives and learn alongside others in a supportive community will help you succeed in this field.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Community support worker
- Social services assistant
- Youth worker
- Family support worker
- Outreach worker
- Residential support worker

Intermediate

- Social worker
- Case manager
- Child and family practitioner
- Community development worker
- Mental health practitioner
- Justice sector practitioner

Advanced

- Clinical social worker
- Practice supervisor
- Team leader
- Service manager
- Policy advisor
- Specialist ACC practitioner

NB: Entry level roles may be available while studying or before registration. Advanced roles require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Social justice, human rights and collective responsibility
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi-centred practice
- Social work theories and perspectives
- Relationship building and interpersonal communication skills
- Ethical decision making in complex situations
- Cultural responsiveness and reflective self-awareness
- Advocacy, equitable access and resource navigation
- Community development approaches and social change

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face classes
- Rōpū manaaki tutorials (support and feedback)
- Marae-based learning, including noho marae
- Work-integrated placements
- Community development project in Year 2
- Talanoa kōrero rōpū support (Māori, Pacific)

Industry connections

You'll build networks through work-integrated learning each year, including professional placements (120 days) and a community development project. Ara partners with local social service agencies to host students and provides training for practitioners who support and

supervise learners. Local social workers contribute as guest speakers, and an advisory committee helps shape key programme events. Placement partners include Oranga Tamariki, Te Whatu Ora, Ara Poutama Aotearoa, Emerge and the Salvation Army.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Te Ata Māhina – Bachelor of Social Work	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time up to 6 years	February

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



SUPPORT WORK

Support work involves working within the community sector to provide individuals and whānau with guidance and connection to wider social and community services, such as mental health, addiction and disability support. Support workers listen, build trust and help people identify goals, access services and strengthen everyday skills.

Work is grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and culturally responsive practice, with a strong emphasis on ethics, safety and respect for identity. Roles are often team-based, with some independent work under guidance.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you care about people and want a job with purpose. You might enjoy listening, problem-solving and helping others navigate services. It helps to be respectful of different cultures, calm in challenging situations, resilient and confident setting clear boundaries.

Career Pathways

Intermediate

- Support Worker
 - Community
 - Whānau
 - Refugee
 - Youth
 - Mental health
 - Addiction
 - Residential
- Caregiver
- Day programme facilitator
- Social justice advocate

Advanced

- Team leader
- Service coordinator
- Case manager
- Community development coordinator
- Programme manager
- Registered social worker

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Intra and interpersonal skills
- Te Tiriti-informed, culturally responsive practice
- Ethical practice, privacy and boundaries
- Person-centred, strengths-based support approaches
- A variety of practice models for wellbeing
- Legislation, policy and community services knowledge
- Risk awareness, de-escalation and safety
- Reflective practice, supervision and self-care

HOW will I learn?

- Facilitated classroom discussions and learning activities
- Role plays and simulated scenarios
- Case studies and problem-solving projects
- Portfolios and reflective learning tasks
- Online activities
- Supervised work placement (200 hours)

Industry connections

You'll build work-ready skills through 200 hours of supervised practicum in approved health and wellbeing organisations, in either mental health and addiction support or whānau, community and social services

settings. Kaiako visit you onsite to support your learning, encourage reflective practice and gather feedback. Programme content is shaped by sector consultation and real workplace expectations.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Mental Health and Addiction)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February, July [^]	
New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Whānau, Community and Social Services)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February, July [^]	

[^]Christchurch only

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION

Professional supervision is a dedicated space for critical reflection that supports safe, effective practice and helps improve outcomes for tangata whai ora (service users). It isn't line management or performance oversight. Professional supervisors work alongside practitioners to strengthen practice competence, support professional development and maintain holistic wellbeing.

Good supervision is built on ethical, culturally responsive relationships and clear boundaries. At Ara, interprofessional supervision — where supervisors and supervisees may come from different people-serving professions — is also recognised. Ara's approach is kaitiakitanga informed, weaving te ao Māori perspectives with established supervision practice.

Would this suit me?

Professional supervision suits experienced practitioners working in people-serving fields such as health, social services, education, justice and community settings. It's for people who value reflective, ethical practice and want to strengthen how supervision supports professional development and wellbeing. This includes work within teams, across organisations and in interprofessional settings.

Career Pathways

Graduates may move into professional supervision roles as part of their current work, become independent professional supervisors in private practice or take on senior practitioner and people leader positions where kaitiakitanga-informed professional supervision supports safe, culturally responsive practice. These skills are valued across health, education, social, legal and community settings, including multi- and interdisciplinary teams.

WHAT will I learn?

- Reflective supervision practice
- Kaitiakitanga-informed supervision approaches
- Culturally responsive supervision relationships
- Ethical and safe practice frameworks
- Critical reflection for practice development
- Relational skills and boundary setting
- Supporting supervisee wellbeing and resilience

HOW will I learn?

- Five intensive two-day wānanga blocks
- Live online sessions and guided kōrero
- Self-paced online learning activities
- Simulated supervision practice and peer feedback
- Work-integrated learning in professional contexts
- Guest speakers and community of practice

Industry connections

Learning is grounded in real practice across people-serving professions. The programme is shaped by an advisory group and guest speakers, helping keep learning current and relevant. Work-integrated learning is built into your own professional context, with

opportunities to apply tools in the workplace, practise through simulated scenarios and peer feedback, and develop skills within an interprofessional community of practice.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Supervision	8	Online*	Part-time up to 2 years	February

**Most of your study is online, but you'll also attend five, two-day on-site wānanga in Christchurch.*



Scan for more information on this subject

LANGUAGE & EDUCATION

- Early Childhood Education
- English
- Te Reo Māori
- Outdoor Education
- Sustainable Practice
- Teaching

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

This area is about helping people connect — with language, with culture, with learning and with the world they live in. It includes pathways in English, te reo Māori, outdoor education and sustainable practice, alongside opportunities to support learning in tertiary and community settings. Across New Zealand, demand for education-focused careers remains steady, showing the ongoing value of people who can share knowledge, build understanding and support change. In Canterbury, it offers a chance to build practical skills that contribute to communities, lifelong learning and a more sustainable future.





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Early childhood education supports the learning, development and wellbeing of infants, toddlers and young children. Early childhood kaiako create safe, inclusive environments where tamariki learn through play, routines and relationships. Kaiako observe the strengths and interests of tamariki, plan and

adapt learning experiences, and support social and emotional wellbeing, language, culture and identity. They work closely with whānau and communities, and follow Te Whāriki, Aotearoa New Zealand's early childhood curriculum.

Would this suit me?

Teaching could suit you if you're caring, a strong communicator, adaptable and creative, and you have a passion for supporting children to grow and develop. You'll do well if you enjoy working with others and can build positive relationships with tamariki and their whānau. You'll also need to be organised and practical, as no two days are the same.

Career Pathways

Entry Level (Level 3)

- Early childhood support worker
- Home-based educator
- Nanny
- Playgroup assistant
- Education support worker
- Caregiver

Intermediate (Levels 4 & 5)

- Early childhood kaiako (unregistered)
- Team leader
- Home-based coordinator
- Session leader (playgroup)
- Play specialist assistant (hospital-based)
- Pou reo
- Reliever

Advanced (further study)

- Registered early childhood kaiako
- Centre manager
- Educational leader
- Professional practice mentor
- Tertiary tutor

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Tamariki development, learning and play
- Te Whāriki curriculum in practice
- Observation, assessment and planning
- Communication and relationship building
- Health, safety and regulatory responsibilities
- Te Tiriti-based bicultural practice
- Ako – the reciprocal nature of teaching and learning
- Inclusion, diversity and cultural competence
- Professional identity, ethics and wellbeing
- Supporting social and emotional competence

HOW will I learn?

- Classroom and online learning, tutorials and wānanga
- Practical demonstrations and applied activities
- Supervised practicum placements (60–180 hours)
- Portfolio and project-based assessments
- Tutor support, feedback and reflection

Industry connections

You'll build work-readiness through supervised placements (organised by Ara) in approved early childhood education settings. We work with local early learning services to support quality placement experiences, with kaiako visiting during placement to

check in, encourage reflective practice and provide feedback. Programme development also draws on consultation with early learning services, and Māori and Pacific communities.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February	
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July	
New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care	5	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	



Scan for more information on this subject



ENGLISH

English language skills help people take part in everyday life, work and further study in Aotearoa New Zealand and other countries where English is the primary language. In English-speaking environments, English – like any language - is essential for building relationships and sharing information.

It also helps people manage day-to-day tasks like reading signs and instructions, filling out forms, using services and communicating clearly in person, over the phone and online. Good English skills make it easier to take part in conversations and community life, strengthening a sense of belonging.

Would this suit me?

Our study options in English suit people who want to communicate more clearly in English for life, work or study. It helps if you like learning through practice, feedback and small steps. You might enjoy sharing ideas, listening closely, reading a range of texts and building confidence with writing. Steady effort matters more than perfection.

WHAT will I learn?

- Everyday speaking for familiar situations
- Listening for main ideas and details
- Reading strategies for different text types
- Writing clear sentences and connected texts
- Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation
- Language for community and workplace contexts
- Academic communication and presentations
- Research, summarising and referencing skills

*May vary depending on course and level

HOW will I learn?

- Tutor-led learning with guided practice
- Pair and group speaking activities
- Reading, writing and listening tasks each week
- Real-world texts, audio and digital resources
- Topic-based learning linked to New Zealand contexts

Industry connections

English learning is grounded in real-life communication and work readiness. Activities and assessments focus on the kinds of speaking, listening, reading and writing used in everyday workplaces and community

settings. You'll work with authentic materials and practise communicating with the right tone and level of formality, building skills that transfer to employment, training and further study.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in English Language	1-5	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months (per level) Part-time 1 year (per level)	February, July, September*
English Language Training	1-5	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 4 weeks minimum Part-time 4 weeks minimum**	February, July, September*

*Academic Levels 4 and 5 only
** Depending on visa status



Scan for more information on this subject



TE REO MĀORI

Te reo Māori professionals help people communicate, connect and belong. They use the language in whānau, marae, community and workplace settings, supporting everyday conversations through to formal speeches and ceremonies. In schools, organisations and public services they may teach, translate, write, advise on tikanga and help create spaces where te reo is normal and respected.

Strong speakers can also contribute to language revitalisation by researching local kōrero, capturing stories and sharing knowledge across generations and communities. They work with others to plan hui, welcome visitors and strengthen relationships between people, place and culture.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who want to strengthen their reo and use it with more confidence at home, in the workplace, on the marae and in day-to-day life. It's a good fit if you're happy to learn by speaking, listening and repeating, and to build confidence by using te reo in everyday moments. Being respectful, reliable and comfortable learning alongside others helps.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Bilingual customer service representative
- Māori language support worker
- Administration assistant (Māori services)
- Events and pōwhiri support worker
- Teacher aide (te reo Māori)

Intermediate

- Māori liaison officer
- Community engagement coordinator
- Māori communications adviser
- Te reo Māori translator

Advanced

- Te reo Māori tutor
- Māori liaison officer
- Community engagement coordinator
- Māori communications adviser
- Te reo Māori translator

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Grammar and language patterns
- Vocabulary growth, including local dialect
- Pronunciation and clear spoken delivery
- Mihi, pepeha and formal language
- Kīanga, whakataukī and language style
- Translation and written composition
- Tikanga and roles in hui settings
- Research, analysis and presenting ideas

*Varies depending on course level

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face interactive classes
- Wānanga reo in immersive environments
- Kōrerorero and collaborative activities
- Guest speakers, waiata and pūrākau
- Online tasks and self-directed learning
- Field trips, marae visits and site visits

*Varies depending on course level

Industry connections

Learning is grounded in real reo contexts. Our kaiako stay connected with mana whenua and Ngāi Tahu hapū, as well as Maata Waka, Taurahere and kaumātua through community events. Wānanga reo, marae visits

and site trips help you practise kōrero, mihi and tikanga in authentic settings. Opportunities linked to events such as Manu Kōrero and secondary school kapa haka competitions keep learning current.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 2) Beginners	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Part-time 1 year	February	
Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki, Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 3) Elementary	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time 1 year	February	
Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 4) Advanced Elementary	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time 1 year	February*, July^	
Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 5) Intermediate	5	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time 1 year	February	
Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 6) Upper Intermediate	6	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time 1 year	February*, July^	

*Part-time

^Full-time



Scan for more information on this subject



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor education is a dynamic field that utilises outdoor environments as contexts for learning, personal development and environmental engagement. Professionals in this field understand that learning is shaped by the relationship between people, place and environment. They lead experiences such as bush walking, climbing and water-based activities to build confidence, leadership and collaborative skills.

Their work includes planning sessions, managing risk, teaching practical skills and guiding reflection so people learn from challenge. Outdoor education takes place in schools, outdoor centres, camps and community programmes, and often includes environmental and sustainability learning.

Would this suit me?

Outdoor education could suit you if you value active learning through experiences, have a strong interest in the outdoors and sustainability, and you enjoy working with people. The field requires adaptability, resilience and effective communication, alongside the capacity to take responsibility in dynamic and sometimes unpredictable environments. An interest in ongoing personal and professional development, as well as a commitment to environmentally and culturally responsive practice is also important.

Career Pathways

Intermediate

- Outdoor instructor
- Outdoor educator
- Outdoor programme coordinator
- Adventure tourism guide
- Environmental education facilitator
- Youth development facilitator

Advanced

- Senior outdoor educator
- Outdoor centre manager
- Programme manager
- Curriculum or learning designer
- Sustainability education advisor
- Secondary teacher
- Chief instructor
- Health and safety manager
- Operations manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Leadership, facilitation and group management in outdoor contexts
- Risk assessment and safety management frameworks
- Technical outdoor skills across land- and water-based pursuits
- Place-responsive practice and environmental education
- Key geographical concepts focusing on interactions between people, culture and place
- Te Ao Māori perspectives in outdoor and environmental contexts
- Hauora and wellbeing in outdoor settings
- Reflective practice and professional attributes

HOW will I learn?

- Small, interactive classes
- Practical field trips, camps and immersive outdoor experiences
- Skills development in authentic outdoor environments
- Guiding and teaching facilitation practice with structured feedback
- Work-integrated learning opportunities in community and industry settings
- Collaborative projects, programme planning and critical reflection

Industry connections

Outdoor education at Ara maintains strong connections with industry through partnerships with schools, outdoor education providers and community organisations. Work-integrated learning opportunities and applied projects are aligned with current sector practices and priorities. Learners benefit from

supervision and mentorship by experienced tutors as well as being actively engaged in professional networks. These connections support the development of industry-relevant skills, enhance professional confidence, and facilitate a smooth transition into employment.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multiskilled)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Bachelor of Sustainability & Outdoor Education	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years Part-time available	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Sustainability & Outdoor Education	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February, July	

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	3 & 4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE

Sustainable practice focuses on shaping ways of living and working that support long term environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the field is closely connected to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the responsibility to care for people and place, now and for future generations. It draws on systems thinking, te ao Māori, and a range

of sustainability frameworks to challenge unsustainable norms and design better alternatives. Sustainable practice supports practical action on issues such as climate change, resource use and equity, helping organisations and communities move toward more just and resilient futures.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you're values led and motivated to help make change happen. It's a strong fit if you want to challenge existing behaviours and find ways to shift to more sustainable practices in your workplace or industry, whether you work in construction, health, business, technology, education, creative fields or community organisations. The postgraduate certificate, diploma and master of sustainable practice are multidisciplinary courses with a multidisciplinary teaching team. Based within our Sustainability and Outdoor Education department, we welcome learners from any discipline. You'll develop the ability to ask meaningful questions, think about the bigger picture and work with people from different backgrounds.

Career Pathways

Because sustainability thinking can be applied anywhere, graduates work in a wide range of roles. Many stay in their current industries and use their new skills to influence change. Others move into sustainability-focused positions.

WHAT will I learn?

- Strong sustainability thinking
- Systems critique, analysis and questioning norms
- Planetary boundaries and ecological limits
- Climate change, carbon emissions and responses
- Circular economy and sustainable materials
- Social inclusion, equity and wellbeing
- Designing, influencing and leading practical change

HOW will I learn?

- Block courses and wānanga-style learning
- Applied projects in your own context
- Real-world case studies and practice examples
- Field trips and learning in communities
- Guest speakers and industry-informed sessions
- Flexible study with online participation options

Industry connections

You'll learn alongside people from different industries and work on applied projects with external partners, bringing current challenges into the classroom. Field trips and guest speakers help connect theory to real practice. Depending on the project, you may collaborate

with partners across construction, local council, community and environmental groups, schools, small businesses and mana whenua, building confidence to work across settings.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Practice	8	Christchurch, online	Full-time 6 months Part-time up to 18 months	February	
Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice	8	Christchurch, online	Full-time one year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Master of Sustainable Practice	9	Christchurch, online	Full-time 18 months Part-time up to 4 years	February, July	



Scan for more information on this subject



TEACHING

Teaching in adult, tertiary and vocational settings is about helping people build skills, confidence and knowledge that they can use straight away. Educators plan learning, explain ideas in clear ways and create activities that suit different learners and backgrounds. They check progress, give useful feedback and adjust their approach to keep learners moving forward.

Many also embed literacy and numeracy skills into everyday tasks so learners can succeed in study, training and work. Strong practice in Aotearoa New Zealand includes honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and using inclusive, culturally responsive approaches.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you enjoy helping others grow and succeed. You might like sharing what you know in a clear, practical way or supporting people to build confidence. Being patient, organised and a good communicator helps, along with an open mind and a genuine respect for different cultures and experiences.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Tutor
- Training facilitator
- Workplace trainer
- Learning support tutor
- Teaching assistant

Intermediate

- Vocational educator
- Tertiary tutor
- Adult literacy educator
- Workplace learning coordinator
- Learning adviser

Advanced

- Curriculum designer
- Learning designer
- Educational developer
- Academic lead
- Programme coordinator
- Education manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Learner-centred teaching practice
- Lesson planning and learning activities
- Teaching approaches for diverse learners
- Learning technologies for teaching and learning
- Assessment design and constructive alignment
- Feedback, moderation and quality assurance
- Reflective practice and professional identity
- Embedding adult literacy and numeracy

HOW will I learn?

- Work-based teaching sessions in a real setting
- Workshops, discussion and guided activities
- Online learning activities and forums
- Practice-based tasks linked to your context
- Feedback from tutors and peers

Industry connections

Our teaching and learning programmes are strongly practice-based, so you can apply what you learn in an adult or tertiary teaching setting. Assessments are built around real teaching, planning and reflection, helping you build evidence of your skills as you go.

Quality is strengthened through external moderation and benchmarking with other providers, including Otago Polytechnic, Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT), Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) and Wintec.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education (Vocational/ Workplace)	5	Christchurch	Part-time 15 weeks	January
New Zealand Certificate in Adult and Tertiary Teaching	5	Christchurch	Part-time 15 weeks	January
Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)	5	Christchurch, blended/online	Full-time 4 weeks Part-time 11 weeks Blended/online 15 weeks	June, July, November*
Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching and Learning	7	Christchurch, online	Part-time 1 year	Various

*June intake is full-time, November intake is part-time, July intake is blended/online



Scan for more information on this subject

MEDIA & DESIGN

Media

- Audio Engineering & Production
- Music
- Music Theatre
- Journalism
- Radio, Audio & Entertainment
- Screen Production

Design

- Fashion
- Visual Art
- Visual Communication
- Game Animation
- Creative Practice

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

From broadcast journalism and screen production to fashion, music theatre and visual art, this area offers a wide range of creative and practical pathways. The study options are varied, but all connect to work that shapes how people communicate, present ideas, engage audiences and express themselves. Whether the goal is to inform, perform, design or create, study in this area can help turn creative skill into work with energy, purpose and impact.





AUDIO ENGINEERING & PRODUCTION

Audio engineering and production is the practice of capturing, shaping, mixing and presenting sound for music, live performance, film, broadcast and digital media. Djing and electronic music production focus on selecting, performing, creating and manipulating music

through turntables, controllers, computers, synthesis, sampling and digital audio workstations. Together, these fields combine technical skill, musical judgment and creative decision-making, using technology as an instrument for creative expression.

Would this suit me?

This pathway could suit you if your passion is sound, music technology, live performance, recording, mixing, Djing or electronic music creation. You may already produce music, DJ, record bands, run sound at events, or simply know that sound is where your heart belongs. MAINZ at Ara can give you a structured, creative and technically grounded environment to develop your skills and artistic voice.

Career Pathways

Studio & Production

- Audio and studio engineering (tracking, mixing, mastering)
- Record production and music production
- Sound for film, TV and commercials
- Radio and spoken word (podcasts, audiobooks)

Live & Performance

- Djing and electronic music performance
- Live sound production and streaming

Sound Design & Technology

- Sound design for games, multimedia and sonic arts
- Audio and MIDI software/hardware design
- Acoustic design and audiology

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- The principles and techniques of recording, producing, mixing, mastering and performing music using industry equipment and software
- Core skills in sound, acoustics, microphones, digital audio workstations (DAWs), synthesis, sampling and live sound
- Practical approaches to working in studio, live, DJ, electronic and digital audio environments.
- Sound design, mastering, immersive audio and advanced production techniques
- A broad range of audio and music production skills, techniques and workflows leading to advanced creative practice

HOW will I learn?

- Learning by doing in studios, live sound setups, DJ spaces and computer labs
- Hands-on experience with real equipment, software and industry workflows
- Skills building through workshops, demos, creative projects and guided production time
- Feedback from tutors and peers
- Learning from active industry professionals with real-world experience
- Developing technical skills, conceptual knowledge, critical thinking, reflective and creative practice

Industry connections

MAINZ at Ara stays closely connected to industry through guest speakers, field trips, stakeholder input into curriculum and assessment, and links with PA hire companies, venues, film audio, radio and creative

practitioners. Employers have recruited MAINZ graduates into technical roles, including live sound, AV, studio, broadcast and education-sector technician pathways.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in DJ and Music Production	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	
New Zealand Diploma in Audio Engineering and Production (Level 5)	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	
New Zealand Diploma in Audio Engineering and Production (Level 6)	6	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	

See the Music section for related degree study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



MUSIC

Music is a working craft that turns ideas and emotion into live and recorded experiences. Performers, songwriters and producers create material, rehearse, record and deliver shows that connect with audiences. They collaborate in bands and studios, shape arrangements, use sound technology and respond to feedback in real time.

Many build portfolio careers, combining gigs with teaching, composing or arranging, artist support and event work. Along the way they develop creativity, teamwork, discipline and small-business skills that are valued across the creative industries.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if music is already part of your life and you're ready to take it seriously. You might already play, sing, write songs or produce tracks, and want to lift your craft to a professional standard. You'll do well if you can take feedback on board, collaborate well and commit to practising steadily.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Performing musician
- Session musician
- Studio assistant
- Live sound assistant
- Private music tutor

Intermediate

- Music producer
- Composer or arranger
- Songwriter
- Bandleader
- Music director
- Artist manager

Advanced

- Touring musician
- Senior music producer
- Music supervisor
- Secondary school music teacher
- Arts manager
- Creative director

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Instrumental or vocal technique and practice
- Ensemble playing and live performance skills
- Songwriting, composition and arranging
- Music theory and musicianship
- Ear training and listening skills
- Recording, editing and mixing fundamentals
- Music technology, studio and acoustics basics
- Music business and self-management

HOW will I learn?

- One-on-one lessons and coaching
- Small group classes and workshops
- Band rehearsals and ensemble sessions
- Studio recording and production sessions
- Collaborative projects with other musicians
- Live performances in real venues

Industry connections

You'll learn in a music environment that mirrors the real world. Our tutors are working musicians and producers who bring current practice into the studio and rehearsal room. You'll perform at external venues, take part in

school visits and engage with the wider jazz community through competitions. Our industry-standard spaces and equipment will help you build confidence and professionalism for live and recorded work.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Music	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	
Bachelor of Music*	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February	

*See Audio Engineering and Production section for courses that can pathway into the Bachelor of Music.
See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



MUSIC THEATRE

Music theatre is a professional performing arts industry that combines singing, acting, dance and storytelling to create live theatrical productions. Performers are required to integrate these disciplines seamlessly, often transitioning between spoken dialogue, vocal performance and choreography within the same scene. Training and work in the industry involve developing technical excellence, artistic versatility and professional rehearsal practices.

Industry professionals regularly participate in auditions, workshops, rehearsals, recordings and live performances, collaborating with directors, choreographers, musical directors, designers, stage managers and fellow performers. Employment is typically contract-based and may include commercial productions, regional and touring shows, festivals, cruise ships, educational theatre and other project-driven performance opportunities.

Would this suit me?

If you like storytelling and performing, and you're keen to develop skills across acting, singing and movement rather than focusing on just one, music theatre could be a good fit for you. Being resilient and adaptable really helps. You need to be able to handle auditions, lots of rehearsal, feedback, teamwork and irregular work patterns, as roles are often short-term and schedules can vary.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Ensemble performer
- Chorus performer
- Fringe or festival performer
- Production crew
- Assistant stage manager

Intermediate

- Music theatre performer
- Actor (theatre or screen)
- Cruise ship entertainer
- Cabaret artist
- Voiceover artist
- Events coordinator

Advanced

- Director
- Musical director
- Producer
- Playwright
- Stage manager
- Performing arts teacher

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Singing and vocal technique
- Dance, movement and physical skills
- Acting, spoken voice and storytelling
- Musicianship and keyboard fundamentals
- Ensemble performance and collaboration
- Theatre and music theatre history
- Professional practice for sustainable careers
- Research-informed creative practice

HOW will I learn?

- Face-to-face studio-based training
- Rehearsals, productions and performance seasons
- Forums, chorus work and open showings
- Guided practice, feedback and coaching
- E-portfolio reflection and self-directed projects
- Work-integrated learning, including simulated settings

Industry connections

You'll learn in specialist performance and studio facilities and work with tutors and visiting creative professionals. Industry-connected learning is built into performances and production processes, with most work-integrated learning occurring in simulated,

real-world settings. If you study the degree, in your final year, you can include industry placement and external projects within your capstone, including work under the auspices of partner theatre companies such as The Court Theatre.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Performing Arts	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	
Bachelor of Music Theatre	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February	

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



JOURNALISM

Journalism is about telling people’s stories, holding power to account and being the public’s eyes and ears. Journalists track down leads, interview people, and produce interesting and informative stories for audiences across TV, radio, podcasts and digital and

social platforms. No two days are the same in this exciting and fast-paced industry. You could find yourself reporting, producing, editing audio or video, creating social media content, and much more.

Would this suit me?

If you’re curious about the world, love hearing people’s stories and enjoy asking questions, journalism could be for you. You’ll succeed in journalism if you’re a good listener, can write clearly and stay calm under pressure. You’ll be organised and reliable, and care about getting things right.

Career Pathways

Presentation

- Newsreader
- Podcaster
- Presenter
- Sports commentator

Reporting

- Digital journalist
- International correspondent
- Multimedia reporter
- Radio journalist
- Show producer
- Video journalist

Communications

- Content creator
- Communications advisor
- Public relations
- Social media coordinator

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Audio and video editing
- Court reporting
- Interviewing and fact checking
- Multimedia news gathering
- Newsroom and studio workflows
- Podcasting
- Radio and screen presentation
- Social media and digital news
- Storytelling and scripting

HOW will I learn?

- Collaborative multi-platform projects
- Hands-on learning using industry standard equipment and software
- Producing and presenting live news content for commercial radio, screen and online platforms
- Small classes, whānau-style learning atmosphere
- Supported, paid industry placements of up to 24 weeks
- Work with and learn from industry professionals

Industry connections

At Ara’s New Zealand Broadcasting School, you’ll learn from tutors who are current media professionals and maintain strong connections to the industry. Alongside staff are a wide variety of guest tutors who work for some of New Zealand’s biggest media companies, giving you the opportunity to make connections while

you study. You’ll work in industry-standard news environments and studios, broadcasting and publishing live on radio, television and online. Degree students complete a supported, paid placement of up to 24 weeks with industry-approved providers.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Broadcasting Communications (Journalism)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



RADIO, AUDIO & ENTERTAINMENT

This field is about creating content that connects with audiences across radio, digital and social platforms. Radio professionals present shows, curate music and lead conversations that inform and entertain - often live to air. Every day is different in this dynamic industry.

You could find yourself producing content, engaging audiences online, analysing data to shape programming, or developing campaigns that bring brands and audiences together.

Would this suit me?

If you love music, are interested in marketing and branding, and enjoy storytelling and working with people, a career in radio could be for you. You'll thrive in this field if you're a confident communicator, a good listener and you can stay calm under pressure. You need to be adaptable and quick-thinking, able to work collaboratively in a fast-paced environment and communicate with a wide range of people.

Career Pathways

Presentation

- Audio storyteller/podcaster
- Event host
- Newsreader
- Radio announcer
- Sports commentator
- Voice actor

Content Production

- Audio engineer
- Audio programme designer/creator
- Content creator
- Creative writer
- Digital producer
- Documentary maker
- Show producer

Business

- Brand engagement specialist
- Data analyst (media/advertising)
- Digital and social media manager
- Event coordinator/manager
- Multimedia sales and account manager
- Promotions and marketing coordinator

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Audience research and insights
- Audio editing and mixing
- Client engagement and pitching
- Marketing and brand engagement
- Media business and sales
- Performance and presentation
- Promotions and event management
- Social media strategy and content creation
- Scripting and content development
- Video production fundamentals

HOW will I learn?

- Small classes, whānau-style learning atmosphere
- Collaborative multi-platform projects
- Developing and launching a multi-platform FM radio station
- Hands-on learning using industry standard equipment and software
- Supported, paid industry placements of up to 24-weeks
- Work with and learn from industry professionals

Industry connections

At Ara's New Zealand Broadcasting School, you'll learn from tutors who are current media professionals with strong industry connections. You'll also work with guest tutors from across the industry, giving you opportunities to build your own networks while you study. You'll train in industry-standard studios, creating

live and recorded content, and collaborate on projects that reflect real-world expectations. You'll also complete a supported, paid industry placement, building practical experience across both the creative and commercial sides of the radio industry.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Broadcasting Communications (Radio, Audio & Entertainment)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



SCREEN PRODUCTION

Screen production is the craft of creating video content for film, television, streaming and online platforms. It takes an idea and turns it into a finished story, from early planning and shooting through to editing and delivery. People in this field work in crews across roles like producing, directing, camera, lighting, sound and post-production. The work is creative and

technical, with clear workflows, tight deadlines and frequent problem solving. Strong communication and teamwork are essential, especially when plans change on set.

Would this suit me?

If you're excited by what you watch on screens of all sizes, then a career in the screen industry could be for you. It's a great choice if you like working with technology, solving problems, collaborating with others and being part of a creative team, whether in the studio, on-location or in the edit suite.

Career Pathways

Pre-Production

- Art director
- Producer
- Production manager
- Screenwriter
- Technical engineer

Production

- Camera operator
- Director
- Floor manager
- Sound recordist
- Vision mixer

Post-Production

- Colourist
- Digital content creator
- Post-production supervisor
- Sound designer
- Video editor

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Camera, lighting and sound
- Documentary and news making
- Editing and post production
- Music videos
- Short films
- Studio & outside broadcast production
- Studio production workflows
- Visual storytelling

HOW will I learn?

- Small classes, whānau-style learning atmosphere
- Collaborative multi-platform projects
- Hands-on learning using industry-standard facilities, equipment and software including a fully-featured studio and modern field camera kits
- Supported, paid industry placements of up to 24 weeks
- Work with and learn from industry professionals

Industry connections

You'll learn in programmes shaped with input from media professionals, with guest tutors and opportunities to shadow people in the workplace. Staff maintain active industry relationships and bring current

practice into the studio. Industry partners support mentoring, project supervision, work experience and paid placements, helping you understand real workflows and build confidence before you graduate.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
Bachelor of Broadcasting Communications (Screen Production)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Open pathway)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.



Scan for more information on this subject



FASHION

Fashion design is about turning ideas into clothing and accessories people can wear and use. It blends creativity with function, so your work needs to look good and work well in real life. Fashion professionals research trends, culture and materials, then develop concepts into patterns, samples and finished pieces.

They may work on design, pattern making, garment construction, textiles, production planning or how collections are presented and sold. Sustainability and ethical choices are also part of modern fashion, shaping materials, processes and impact.

Would this suit me?

This could be a good fit if you're drawn to creative ideas and the way clothing can tell a story. You'll do well if you like experimenting, noticing details and turning inspiration into something real. If you're interested in sewing or garment construction, that's a bonus, but not essential.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Fashion studio assistant
- Garment technician
- Styling assistant
- Machinist
- Pattern maker
- Merchandising assistant
- Fashion marketing/PR assistant

Intermediate

- Fashion designer
- Production coordinator
- Visual merchandiser
- Textile developer
- Design assistant
- Fashion PR/marketing manager
- e-commerce manager

Advanced

- Creative director
- Head of design
- Product manager
- Sustainability lead
- Brand manager
- Fashion designer/business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Design thinking and creative process
- Research, concept development and storytelling
- Garment construction and craftsmanship
- Pattern making and fit development
- Textiles and materials
- Sustainable and ethical design approaches
- Digital tools for studio workflows
- Professional practice and industry readiness
- Cultural, ethical and industry-aware design practices

HOW will I learn?

- Practical and workroom learning
- Studio projects
- Practice-based research
- Lectures and seminars supporting design practice
- Iteration, critique and feedback
- Work-integrated learning and major projects

Industry connections

Ara is closely connected to the fashion industry through work-integrated learning. This includes guest speakers and project collaborations to help you develop work that reflects current practice. You'll also connect with

Fashion & Textiles New Zealand to support responsible, future-focused thinking. Ara has strong industry connections with Zambesi, Vicky Taylor (Taylor Boutique), Karen Walker and Swanndri.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Fashion	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
Bachelor of Design (Fashion)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February	

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



VISUAL ART

Visual art is about developing a distinctive creative practice that explores ideas, perspectives and contemporary issues through making, experimentation and critical inquiry. Visual artists create artworks, installations and designed objects for galleries, public spaces, community projects and commercial clients.

They investigate how visual art can communicate, challenge and connect with audiences across gallery, community, cultural and digital contexts. Through studio projects, research, collaboration and reflection, they develop original creative responses using a range of materials, processes and emerging technologies.

Would this suit me?

If you're naturally drawn to making things, trying ideas and seeing what happens, you'll likely love applied visual arts. It suits imaginative people who enjoy working with materials, images and form. You need to be open to sharing work-in-progress, learning through trial and error and refining your ideas until they feel resolved.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Gallery assistant
- Studio assistant
- Exhibition assistant
- Art technician
- Community arts coordinator

Intermediate

- Independent creative practitioner
- Ceramicist
- Jewellery designer
- Sculptor
- Printmaker
- Mixed media artist
- Art educator

Advanced

- Self-employed artist
- Curator
- Arts manager
- Senior art educator
- Public art project lead
- Creative director
- Arts manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Creative thinking tools and idea generation
- Design principles and visual language
- Digital techniques for original creative work
- Drawing, observation and visual analysis
- Studio practice across 2D and 3D media
- Practice-based research and ethical practice
- Cultural, ethical and industry-aware design practice
- Professional practice, portfolios and exhibition work

HOW will I learn?

- Studio projects and workshops
- Lectures and seminars supporting design practice
- Real briefs and industry-informed challenges
- Iteration, critique and feedback
- Work-integrated learning and major projects

Industry connections

At Ara, you'll connect with the creative sector through briefs that reflect real-world problems, industry critique and opportunities to show work publicly. Our industry network supports activities such as professional discipline competitions, the Christchurch Art Show, BEST Awards and ECC Dowse awards. You may also take part in pitches and presentations with Christchurch

City Council, building confidence, networks and a strong portfolio. We have strong connections with the local visual arts community through The Centre of Contemporary Art Toi Moroki (CoCA), a leading art gallery in Ōtautahi Christchurch, and The Physics Room, a contemporary art space.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Creativity	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
Bachelor of Design (Applied Visual Art)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February	

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Visual communication is the practice of solving communication problems with images, words and layout. Designers in this space create brands, campaigns, publications, packaging, websites and social content that help organisations connect with audiences. They research users, shape messages,

develop concepts and turn ideas into clear, consistent visuals across digital and print. Day to day, they might design a logo system, build a campaign look and feel, create information graphics or refine typography for readability. Many work in design studios, agencies, in-house teams or freelance.

Would this suit me?

If clear and engaging design catches your attention, and you enjoy problem solving and critical thinking, this area could suit you. It helps if you have an eye for detail, and you enjoy experimenting and collaborating. Being a team player is important too, as good visual communication relies on contributions from different specialists, like copywriters, social media planners, photographers, videographers and media buyers, all working towards one clear message.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Junior designer
- Design studio assistant
- Production artist
- Content creator
- Marketing assistant

Intermediate

- Graphic designer
- Web designer
- Motion graphics designer

Advanced

- Art director
- Creative director
- Brand strategist
- Design manager
- User experience UX designer

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Creative thinking and idea generation
- Visual language and design principles
- Image and text communication
- Typography and layout systems
- Information design and interpretation
- Branding, persuasion and campaign design
- Professional practice, design philosophy and ethics
- Research, contextual studies and project development
- Cultural, ethical and industry-aware design practice

HOW will I learn?

- Studio projects and workshops
- Lectures and seminars supporting design practice
- Real briefs and industry-informed challenges
- Iteration, critique and feedback
- Work-integrated learning and major projects

Industry connections

Through studio projects and professional practice, you'll work on briefs that reflect real design problems and may include external clients. Industry input shows up through guest experts, critiques and opportunities to enter competitions and showcases such as the

BEST Awards and PITCH. Some final projects may be undertaken in a workplace setting, helping you build a portfolio aligned with current industry expectations. Ara has a range of industry relationships including with Strategy, Plato, McCarthy Studio and Zoo Creative.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Creativity	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
Bachelor of Design (Visual Communication Design)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February	

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



GAME ANIMATION

Game animation brings together art, game theory, storytelling, and digital technology to create engaging screen-based experiences. People in this field create the characters, environments, and movement that define the look and feel of games and animated media. They translate linear narratives and interactive ideas into cohesive visual designs that support rich storytelling and enhance player experiences.

Their work can include concept development, sequential art, 2D and 3D assets, and animation across video games, film, and television. They often work collaboratively with other creative and technical specialists, using contemporary digital tools within production pipelines to bring ideas to life on screen.

Would this suit me?

If you're passionate about animation or games, as well as drawing or creating digitally, and you love the thought of turning ideas into immersive worlds, characters and stories, this area could be a great fit. You'll need to be imaginative, curious, willing to take on creative challenges, and committed to continually refining your work, as well as being able to work both independently and as part of a team.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Junior animator
- Game art assistant
- Asset creator
- Storyboard artist
- Production assistant

Intermediate

- Game animator
- 3D modeller
- Concept artist
- Game developer
- Interactive media designer
- Texture artist

Advanced

- Lead animator
- Senior game artist
- Animation director
- Creative director
- Studio lead
- Art director

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Visual storytelling and narrative design
- Sequential art and image making
- 2D and 3D creation
- Game design and animation industry production workflows
- Research-led creative practice
- Portfolio development and professional presentation approaches
- Cultural, ethical and industry-aware design practice

HOW will I learn?

- Studio-based projects
- Lectures and tutorials
- Collaborative briefs and peer critique
- Digital tools and online resources
- Client-based and industry-informed projects
- Work-integrated learning in year three

Industry connections

Industry links are built through studio projects, external briefs and work-integrated learning. As projects become more advanced, you may work with external clients, respond to real-world briefs and receive feedback from industry representatives. These connections help

you to test your skills in practical settings, understand professional expectations and graduate with a strong portfolio and work-ready experience. Ara has a range of industry connections in this space, including with Cerebral Fix and Fnife Games.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
Bachelor of Design (Game Animation)	7	Christchurch	Full-time 3 years	February	

See the Creative Practice section for related postgraduate study options.



Scan for more information on this subject



CREATIVE PRACTICE

Postgraduate study in creative practice is a trans-disciplinary area of study that supports individual conceptual thinking and domain-based knowledge. It also deepens the relationship between theory and practice. Relevant creative domains of practice include visual art, design, music theatre, film, animation, photography, fashion and broadcast media.

Postgraduate study in this space builds on existing expertise to strengthen conceptual capabilities and enhance creative abilities. Creative practitioners may work independently or collaboratively, shaping projects, performances, exhibitions, publications and other outcomes that contribute to cultural life, professional practice and public conversation.

Would this suit me?

This area may suit you if you already have a creative undergraduate degree and you want to refresh your thinking or take your practice further. Both recent graduates and established creative practitioners can benefit from further self-directed study within an academic structure of support. You'll need initiative, discipline and the ability to work independently, while also being open to critique, reflection and new ways of thinking about your work and its context.

Career Pathways

Study in this area can help you take your practice further by deepening your thinking, sharpening your creative direction and giving you the framework to develop substantial self-directed work. Building on your existing skills, it can support you to refine your ideas, strengthen your research capability and position your work more confidently within professional, cultural and academic contexts. It can also open pathways into more independent creative practice, advanced professional opportunities and further postgraduate study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Contemporary theory and discourse
- Practice-based research methodologies
- Research proposal development
- Contextual and cultural analysis
- Critical reflection and exegesis
- Self-directed project development
- Critique and presentation practice
- Domain-based knowledge development

HOW will I learn?

- Seminars and discussion-led learning
- One-to-one supervision
- Critiques and milestone presentations
- Self-directed studio or project work
- Blended face-to-face and online learning

Industry connections

Established creatives will already have industry connections, which will be enhanced through new portfolio outcomes and stronger conceptual skills. If you've recently completed undergraduate study, you'll build confidence and capability through the critique and

supervision processes of authentic creative projects with established practitioners. Ara's creative practice programmes strengthen critical feedback, sharpen professional judgement and support work-readiness across a range of creative fields.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Practice	8	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year (2 semesters)	February	
Master of Creative Practice	9	Christchurch	Full-time 18 months (3 semesters)	February	



Scan for more information on this subject

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- Youth Guarantee
- Māori & Pacific Trades Training

Personal Services

- Salon Skills
- Hairdressing
- Beauty Therapy & Cosmetics
- Barbering
- Massage Therapy

Hospitality Services

- Cookery
- Bakery
- Hospitality

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

There's real skill behind helping someone look good, feel good or simply have a great experience. Careers in this area combine creativity and practical expertise with attention to detail and a genuine focus on people. They can take you into rewarding, people-focused roles where you can build a reputation for what you do and create opportunities of your own.



YOUTH GUARANTEE

If you're 16-24 years old and not at school or working, a Youth Guarantee programme is the smart way to get ahead. These free programmes set you up with great foundation skills for employment or further study, and enable you to make confident decisions about your future.

As a Youth Guarantee student you'll get:

- an orientation programme which includes how to access financial assistance
- transport support
- extra pastoral care
- specific cultural and learning support that's easy to access
- career planning and advice
- regular activities with other Youth Guarantee students
- access to counselling services
- guidance as you transition into work or further tertiary study

Please note: places are limited on these courses and funding may be exhausted throughout the year. If you already have a Level 1 or 2 qualification, we may refer you to a Level 3 study option. We encourage you to apply early to secure your place.

MĀORI AND PACIFIC TRADES TRAINING

If you're Māori or Pacific and aged between 16 and 40, Māori and Pacific Trades Training can help you gain valuable skills for employment and set you on a pathway to a rewarding career in the trades. These programmes are free and combine practical training, cultural support and personalised guidance to help you succeed in study, employment and beyond.

As a Māori and Pacific Trades Training student you'll get:

- support from dedicated tutors, student advisors and mentors
- a learning environment that values whānau, community and cultural strengths
- opportunities to strengthen your cultural identity in a supportive learning environment
- connections with industry, employers and apprenticeship opportunities
- help to build confidence, workplace skills and career readiness
- guidance into a study pathway that matches your goals and aspirations
- ongoing support as you move into employment, an apprenticeship or further study

Please note: places are limited and programme availability may vary throughout the year. We encourage you to apply early to secure your place and discuss the training options that best suit your goals.



Scan for more information on this subject



SALON SKILLS

If you're interested in hairdressing or beauty therapy and want to explore where your future could take you, our Salon Skills course is an excellent way to build practical salon experience, develop industry-ready skills and discover which pathway suits you best.

If you qualify for Youth Guarantee, this course is free, depending on funding availability (please see conditions opposite).

Would this suit me?

A career in hair or beauty could suit you if you enjoy working with people, have an eye for presentation and take pride in helping others look and feel their best. It helps to be professional, reliable and willing to learn. Salon work is hands-on, fast-paced and focused on creating positive client experiences.

WHAT will I learn?

- Introduction to hairdressing and beauty therapy environments
- Professional salon presentation and industry standards
- Client care and customer service skills
- Salon health, safety and hygiene practices
- Communication and teamwork skills
- Salon support and preparation tasks
- Job search and career planning skills
- Personal budgeting and workplace readiness
- Confidence, self-management and goal setting

Throughout the programme you'll have access to dedicated training salons for both hairdressing and beauty therapy, giving you the opportunity to experience authentic salon environments while developing practical skills.

After completing the programme, you'll be better prepared for: further training in hairdressing, beauty therapy or barbering; salon support roles; clinic assistant positions; or other entry-level opportunities within the beauty services industry.

Salon Skills	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks	February, July*

*Subject to availability



Scan for more information on this subject



HAIRDRESSING

Hairdressing is a hands-on trade that combines technique, creativity and people skills to help clients look and feel their best. Hairdressers consult with clients, analyse hair and scalp needs, recommend products and services then deliver treatments, styling, cutting and colouring. The work is fast paced and physical, with strong focus on hygiene, safety and

professional presentation. It can offer flexible hours, steady demand and opportunities to specialise, freelance, travel or run a business. Many stylists start in salons and progress as they build speed, confidence and a loyal client base.

Would this suit me?

Hairdressing could suit you if you enjoy working with people and like learning by doing. A good stylist is curious about trends, listens well and stays calm when things get busy. You'll need patience, resilience and pride in your work, plus steady hands and willingness to practise and take feedback.

Career Pathways

Level 3 graduates

- Salon assistant
- Junior hairstylist
- Apprentice hairstylist
- Shampoo and styling assistant

Level 4 graduates

- Hairstylist
- Colour technician
- Freelance stylist
- Barber

Advanced

- Senior stylist
- Salon manager
- Salon owner
- Educator
- Product representative

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

Level 3

- Client consultation and communication
- Hair and scalp analysis
- Shampooing and hair treatments
- Basic cutting techniques
- Colour application basics
- Blow-drying and finishing
- Setting, moulding and long hair-up styling
- Health, safety and hygiene

Level 4

- Advanced cutting, styling and colour techniques
- Colour removal, smoothing, and chemical reformation services
- Basic cutting and combination cutting techniques
- Fashion trends and creative styling approaches
- Professional social media setup (utilising social media to promote services)
- Client portfolio development

HOW will I learn?

- Tutor demonstrations and guided practice
- Practice on mannequins and models
- Supervised salon-style sessions with clients
- Industry-led demonstration days
- Work experience in a salon
- End-of-year showcase of your work

Industry connections

At Ara, you'll learn in an environment shaped by current salon practice, with support from industry salons, product companies and guest speakers. Industry-led demonstrations and work experience will help you build confidence with clients and understand workplace expectations. Through Ara's membership of Hair &

Barber New Zealand, you'll also gain access to industry resources, free entry to national competitions and opportunities to learn from industry leaders. An end-of-year showcase lets you present your work to industry professionals.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support)*	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February
New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Professional Stylist)	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Salon Skills (Introductory)*	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.



Scan for more information on this subject



BEAUTY THERAPY & COSMETICS

Beauty therapy and cosmetics is a client-focused personal services field that combines skin care, body treatments, hair removal and make-up. Beauty therapists consult with clients, assess needs, plan services, carry out treatments safely, and recommend products and aftercare. Work is usually hands-on in salons, spas and beauty clinics, with some roles based

in retail counters or working freelance for events. Days often include appointments, maintaining treatment rooms and equipment, completing client records, and supporting sales and customer service while keeping strong hygiene standards.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you enjoy working with people and want a role that blends care, detail and creativity. You'll be comfortable listening, explaining options and building trust. It helps if you're interested in skin care, make-up and wellbeing, and you're organised, steady and happy to work in a busy, client-facing environment.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Salon assistant
- Beauty clinic receptionist
- Cosmetics retail assistant
- Junior make-up assistant

Intermediate

- Beauty therapist
- Skin care therapist
- Spa therapist
- Make-up artist

Advanced

- Senior beauty therapist
- Electrologist
- Salon manager
- Product company representative
- Account manager
- Salon owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Professional standards, hygiene, health and safety
- Client consultations and tailored treatment planning
- Advanced electrical facial treatments and devices
- Advanced body therapies and massage techniques
- Advanced hair removal, including electrolysis
- Anatomy, physiology and treatment-related science
- Skin and body conditions, advice and referral
- Business operations, sales and client care

HOW will I learn?

- Tutor-led classes, tutorials and demonstrations
- Hands-on practice in training salons
- Supervised services in our on-campus clinic
- Work-integrated learning in clinic or industry
- Portfolios, projects and practical assessments
- Blended learning using online resources

Industry connections

Your learning is shaped by industry expectations and feedback, with guest speakers, seminars and specialist demonstrations. You'll develop work-ready skills in realistic training salons, then apply them in our

on-campus clinic for real clients. Work-integrated learning is built into the programme, and in some cases you may complete it in an industry setting to strengthen your confidence and professional practice.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Certificate in Skincare and Cosmetics	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, July^	
New Zealand Diploma in Beauty Therapy	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	

^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



BARBERING

Barbering is the craft of cutting, styling and grooming hair, often with a focus on shorter styles, fades and beard work. Barbers combine technical skill with a strong service mindset, starting with a client consultation then delivering a precise finish that suits the person’s face shape, hair type and lifestyle.

Day to day work includes scissor and clipper cutting, traditional wet shaving, beard trimming and shaping, plus maintaining clean, safe tools and workspaces. Many barbers build their brand through social media and repeat clients.

Would this suit me?

Barbering could suit you if you’re hands-on, people focused and keen on style and grooming trends. You’ll do well if you’re reliable and comfortable chatting with different people. Attention to detail and good time management help, along with resilience when it gets busy, a positive attitude and willingness to learn.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Junior barber
- Barbershop assistant
- Trainee barber
- Grooming assistant

Intermediate

- Barber
- Senior barber
- Barber stylist
- Mobile barber

Advanced

- Barbershop manager
- Barbershop owner
- Barber educator
- Platform artist

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Scissor cutting techniques
- Classic cuts and modern styles
- Clipper work and fading
- Traditional wet shaving techniques
- Beard trimming, shaping and design
- Client consultation and customer service skills
- Cultural and historic influences on barbering
- Professional standards including barbershop health and safety practices
- Business systems for working in a barbershop
- Professional communication and behaviour

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on practice in a professional barbershop
- Real client appointments to build confidence
- Tutor feedback and skills coaching
- Combination of theory and practical activities and assessments
- Work experience in industry
- Industry guest speakers and insights
- Community outreach pop-up barbershop

Industry connections

Through work experience placements, you’ll gain an understanding of real barbershop routines and workplace expectations. Guest speakers and industry professionals will share current trends, techniques and career insights, while Ara’s membership of Hair & Barber New Zealand provides access to resources, free

entry to national competitions and opportunities to learn from industry leaders. You’ll also be encouraged to enter Barber Crusade competitions, helping you build confidence, grow your professional network and showcase your skills.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Commercial Barbering	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February



Scan for more information on this subject



MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage therapy is a hands-on wellbeing and rehabilitation field where practitioners work with soft tissues to help people relax, manage discomfort and move more comfortably. Professionals meet with clients to understand their needs, plan sessions, provide treatment and offer simple self-care guidance. They keep clear notes, communicate professionally and refer clients to other health professionals when needed.

Work settings can include massage and multidisciplinary clinics, spas, community services, sports environments and mobile or home-based practice. Many massage therapists become self-employed with an established clientele.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like helping people feel better and you're comfortable with hands-on learning. You'll do well if you're patient, respectful and good at listening. It helps to be organised, calm and able to focus. If health and wellbeing interests you, this can be a rewarding path.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Wellness and relaxation massage therapist
- Spa massage therapist
- Mobile massage therapist
- Massage therapy clinic assistant
- Sports massage assistant

Intermediate

- Remedial massage therapist
- Clinic-based massage therapist
- Sports massage therapist
- Self-employed massage therapist
- Multidisciplinary clinic team member

Advanced

- Senior remedial massage therapist
- Clinical supervisor
- Massage educator
- Clinic manager
- Practice owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Professional, ethical and legal practice
- Client communication and therapeutic relationships
- Anatomy, physiology and human movement basics
- Wellness and relaxation massage techniques
- Client assessment and session planning
- Remedial protocols and clinical reasoning
- Sports performance and rehabilitation support
- Research-informed practice and reflective learning

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on practice in massage labs
- Supervised clinical practice (minimum 50–100 hours)
- Case studies and scenario-based learning
- Tutorials, workshops and peer feedback
- Guest speakers from industry
- Blended learning with online support

Industry connections

You'll learn in a practice environment that reflects real massage work, including supervised clinical practice in non-classroom settings. Teaching is grounded in current standards and scope set by Massage New Zealand and

includes work-integrated learning, case studies and input from industry professionals. These connections help you build confidence with clients, documentation and professional expectations.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
New Zealand Diploma in Wellness and Relaxation Massage	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	
New Zealand Diploma in Remedial Massage	6	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	



Scan for more information on this subject



COOKERY

Cookery is the professional craft of preparing food for people in hospitality settings such as restaurants, cafés, hotels, catering and events. Chefs plan menus, prep ingredients, cook and finish dishes, and present food to a consistent standard under time pressure. They work as part of a team, follow kitchen systems and

keep service running smoothly. The job also involves managing food safety, hygiene, allergens, waste and costs. With experience, cooks step into leadership, supervising others and helping shape what a kitchen produces.

Would this suit me?

Cookery could suit you if you like hands-on work and take pride in getting the details right. It helps if you stay calm under pressure, work well in a team and can handle feedback. A good sense of organisation, reliability and stamina matter too. If you enjoy food, flavours and learning new techniques, this is a great career choice.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Kitchen hand
- Prep cook
- Commis chef
- Café cook
- Catering assistant
- Larder assistant

Intermediate

- Chef de partie
- Line cook
- Sous chef
- Pastry chef
- Catering supervisor
- Section leader

Advanced

- Head chef
- Executive chef
- Kitchen manager
- Senior sous chef
- Pastry chef (senior)
- Food production manager

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Knife skills and core preparation methods
- Hot kitchen and cold larder techniques
- Sauces, stocks, soups and cookery basics
- Pastry and dessert production methods
- Food safety, hygiene and allergen awareness
- Kitchen workflow, timing and organisation
- Menu planning, costing and budgeting
- Dish development, presentation and sustainability

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on sessions in commercial kitchens
- Blended study with online learning materials
- Real services for paying customers
- Work-integrated learning in industry settings
- Event-style practical projects and service runs
- Portfolio work and reflective skill building

Industry connections

Our cookery programmes are shaped by industry input and supported by long-term relationships with hospitality employers across Canterbury. You'll build experience through work-integrated learning and live service environments, with opportunities to learn from

industry visits, demonstrations and workshops. Industry assessors are involved in capstone-style events, helping ensure your skills and standards match what commercial kitchens expect.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Cookery	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, July [^]
New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced) Cookery Strand	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February, July

[^]Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



BAKERY

Baking is the craft and production of breads, pastries, cakes and biscuits for sale to the public and to food businesses. Bakers measure, mix, ferment, shape and bake products to consistent standards, using both hand skills and commercial equipment. They follow food safety, hygiene and workplace safety

requirements, manage ingredients and storage, and work to tight production timelines. In many workplaces, bakers also check weights and labelling, monitor quality, package products and help develop new lines, including options for different dietary needs.

Would this suit me?

Bakery could suit you if you like practical, hands-on work and take pride in making food people enjoy. You'll do well if you're detail-focused, happy working to a routine and deadlines, and comfortable starting early in the day. Patience, resilience and a steady approach help, along with good teamwork and clear communication.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Bakery assistant
- Trainee baker
- Bakery café assistant
- Production assistant
- Apprentice baker

Intermediate

- Baker
- Pastry baker
- Cake decorator
- Artisan baker
- Bakery team leader

Advanced

- Head baker
- Bakery supervisor
- Production manager
- Quality coordinator
- Bakery owner-operator

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Baking industry safety and food hygiene
- Recipe reading, weighing and measuring
- Mixing, shaping and baking methods
- Breads, pastries, cakes and biscuits
- Ingredient knowledge and basic bakery science
- Quality checks, packaging and shelf life
- Equipment operation and simple maintenance
- Teamwork, communication and numeracy skills

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on baking of breads, pastries, cakes, biscuits and slices within a specialised commercial baking kitchen
- Tutor demonstrations and guided practice
- Simulated production runs and task sheets
- Projects, portfolios and reflective work
- Work-integrated learning in workplaces

Industry connections

Our bakery programmes are shaped with input from industry stakeholders and advisory groups, including the Baking Industry Association of New Zealand. You'll learn in commercial bakery kitchens and a training

outlet that sells products made on campus. Work-integrated learning helps you apply skills in real bakery settings and build evidence for your portfolio.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Baking	4	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February
New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced) Patisserie Strand	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February



Scan for more information on this subject



HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is a people-focused profession centred on creating welcoming, high-quality experiences. It includes food and beverage service, cafés, restaurants, hotels, events and catering. At its core, hospitality is about service — how guests are treated is as important as what’s served. The work combines practical skills with teamwork, timing and attention to detail.

Hospitality professionals help venues run smoothly, respond to guest needs and maintain standards under pressure. Sustainability is increasingly important, with a strong focus on reducing waste, using resources responsibly and operating ethically.

Would this suit me?

Hospitality could suit you if you like working with people and doing practical, hands-on work. It’s a good match if you enjoy fast-paced environments, teamwork and attention to detail. If you’re reliable, open to feedback and keen to build confidence through practice, you’ll fit in well.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Barista
- Café team member
- Front of house team member
- Food runner
- Functions assistant
- Catering assistant

Intermediate

- Shift supervisor
- Duty supervisor
- Senior barista
- Restaurant supervisor
- Events coordinator
- Food and beverage specialist

Advanced

- Venue manager
- Food and beverage manager
- Events manager
- Operations manager
- Hospitality business owner
- Hospitality consultant

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Guest service and a people-first mindset
- Food and beverage service standards
- Beverage preparation and barista skills
- Front of house operations and workflow
- Team communication under pressure
- Professional behaviour and safe procedures
- Attention to detail and quality control
- Sustainability, waste reduction and resource use

HOW will I learn?

- Live service in training restaurants
- Practice in café style settings
- Catering and pop-up events
- Industry practicum and work experience
- Guest speakers and industry insights
- Competitions, feedback and continuous improvement

Industry connections

You’ll learn in real world environments and through industry-informed teaching. Ara includes industry practicum and work experience, plus guest speakers, competitions and applied projects that reflect current

workplace expectations. You’ll also gain experience through live services and events in Ara’s hospitality venues, building confidence with real guests, timelines and standards.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	
Licence Controller Qualification (LCQ)	4	Christchurch	1.5 days	Various	
New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July	
New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service	4	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	July	
New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management	5	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February, July	
Graduate Diploma in Hotel & Tourism Management	7	Christchurch	Full-time 1 year	February	



Scan for more information on this subject

TRADES

- Youth Guarantee
- Māori & Pacific Trades Training
- Trades Primer
- Carpentry
- Joinery
- Painting & Decorating
- Electrical Trades
- Plumbing, Gasfitting & Drainlaying
- Automotive Trades
- Engineering Trades

WHY CHOOSE THIS AREA?

Trades are essential to keeping homes, workplaces, vehicles and infrastructure running well. This area offers hands-on routes into carpentry, joinery, painting and decorating, electrical work, plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying, automotive and engineering trades. Each trade has its own focus, but all rely on practical skill, problem solving, accuracy and pride in quality work. In Canterbury and across New Zealand, tradespeople are needed to build, maintain, repair and improve the things people use every day.



YOUTH GUARANTEE

If you're 16-24 years old and not at school or working, a Youth Guarantee programme is the smart way to get ahead. These free programmes set you up with great foundation skills for employment or further study, and enable you to make confident decisions about your future.

As a Youth Guarantee student you'll get:

- an orientation programme which includes how to access financial assistance
- transport support
- extra pastoral care
- specific cultural and learning support that's easy to access
- career planning and advice
- regular activities with other Youth Guarantee students
- access to counselling services
- guidance as you transition into work or further tertiary study

Please note: places are limited on these courses and funding may be exhausted throughout the year. If you already have a Level 1 or 2 qualification, we may refer you to a Level 3 study option. We encourage you to apply early to secure your place.

MĀORI AND PACIFIC TRADES TRAINING

If you're Māori or Pacific and aged between 16 and 40, Māori and Pacific Trades Training can help you gain valuable skills for employment and set you on a pathway to a rewarding career in the trades. These programmes are free and combine practical training, cultural support and personalised guidance to help you succeed in study, employment and beyond.

As a Māori and Pacific Trades Training student you'll get:

- support from dedicated tutors, student advisors and mentors
- a learning environment that values whānau, community and cultural strengths
- opportunities to strengthen your cultural identity in a supportive learning environment
- connections with industry, employers and apprenticeship opportunities
- help to build confidence, workplace skills and career readiness
- guidance into a study pathway that matches your goals and aspirations
- ongoing support as you move into employment, an apprenticeship or further study

Please note: places are limited and programme availability may vary throughout the year. We encourage you to apply early to secure your place and discuss the training options that best suit your goals.



Scan for more information on this subject



TRADES PRIMER

If you're interested in a trades career but not sure which trade to choose, our Trades Primer course is an excellent way to sample different trades, discover your strengths and find your future direction.

Trades Primer is a Youth Guarantee course and free to eligible applicants, depending on funding availability (please see conditions opposite).

Would this suit me?

A career in trades could suit you if you enjoy practical work, using tools and seeing a clear result from your effort. It helps to be reliable, safety-conscious and willing to keep learning. Depending on your chosen trade, you may work indoors or outdoors, independently or as part of a team.

WHICH trades will I sample?

- **Construction trades** - carpentry, joinery and painting
- **Automotive trades** - auto engineering and autobody
- **Engineering trades** - manufacturing and fabrication
- **Infrastructure trades** - plumbing, gasfitting, drainlaying and electrical

WHAT will I learn?

- Essential skills in a range of trades
- Literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- Practical problem-solving and critical thinking
- Time management, resilience and self-management
- Communication, teamwork and workplace interactions
- Career planning and future pathway exploration
- Goal setting, personal development and building confidence

After completing the programme, you'll be better prepared for: further training in a specific trade; an apprenticeship; entry-level trade assistant roles; labouring positions.

Trades Primer	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru*	Full-time 6 months	February^, July

*Only carpentry, auto engineering, electrical and mechanical trades are covered in Timaru.
^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



CARPENTRY

Carpentry is a key building trade focused on constructing, repairing and altering buildings, especially homes. Carpenters read drawings and specifications, measure and cut materials, assemble frames, install cladding, joinery and roofing, and complete interior linings, trim and hardware. Work is carried out on building sites and in workshops, using hand and power tools and coordinating with other trades. Safe

work practices, accuracy and meeting timeframes are essential. All work must meet the New Zealand Building Code, and many carpenters progress towards becoming a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP).

Would this suit me?

Carpentry suits people who like practical work and want to see results at the end of the day. You'll do well if you're reliable, safety-minded and proud of doing a tidy job. An eye for detail, basic maths skills and steady hands help, along with enjoying teamwork and working outdoors in all conditions.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Carpentry apprentice
- Construction labourer
- Hammer hand
- Pre-nail worker
- Building site assistant

Intermediate

- Qualified carpenter
- Residential builder
- Commercial carpenter
- Renovation carpenter
- Formwork carpenter
- Interior fit-out installer

Advanced

- Leading hand
- Foreman
- Site supervisor
- Project manager
- Licensed building practitioner (LBP)
- Business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Tools, materials and construction methods
- Drawings, specifications and calculations
- Site set-out and preparation
- Concrete and timber substructures and floors
- Wall framing, beams and roof structures
- Weathertight cladding, joinery and roofing
- Interior linings, insulation, trim and hardware
- Workplace safety and site requirements

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on workshops in trade facilities
- Practical projects in simulated building spaces
- Classroom sessions for theory and planning
- Online and blended learning support
- Workplace learning on real building sites
- Tutor visits, assessment and feedback in context

Industry connections

Whether you study on campus or through an apprenticeship, you'll learn with strong links to the construction industry. Our tutors are industry-qualified builders with extensive experience and strong connections to Registered Master Builders and other industry organisations. On campus, you'll build

a house from start to finish on site, giving you real-world experience across the full build process. As an apprentice, you'll earn while you learn – working for an employer, learning on the job and completing part-time study at Ara.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Carpentry)	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, May [^] , August [^]
New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Apprenticeship)*	4	On-the-job, South Island-wide	Part-time 4 years	All year

* Flexible study arrangements mean you can undertake your apprenticeship anywhere in the South Island and only need to attend an in-person class once a month in Christchurch. Ara staff will visit your workplace at regular intervals to assess your progress.

[^]Christchurch only

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February [^] , July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

[^]Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



JOINERY

Joinery is the work of designing, making, assembling and installing timber and composite products for homes and commercial spaces. Joiners produce items such as cabinetry, kitchens, doors and windows, stairs, benchtops and custom furniture. The job blends practical skill with precision, using measurements,

drawings and specifications to achieve a quality finish. Work may happen in a workshop, on-site during installation, or across both, often alongside other trades, suppliers and clients to meet timeframes and requirements.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who like making things and take pride in accuracy. You might enjoy hands-on work, using tools and machinery, and following plans to create a finished product. Patience, problem solving, steady focus, reliability and good teamwork help, along with a strong safety mindset and a willingness to keep building your skills.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Joinery labourer
- Workshop assistant
- Joinery apprentice
- Production assistant
- Machinery operator

Intermediate

- Qualified joiner
- Cabinetmaker
- Cabinetry installer
- Shopfitter
- Stair builder

Advanced

- Workshop supervisor
- Joinery project manager
- Production manager
- Technical representative
- CNC programmer
- Business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Timber, board and composite materials
- Hand tools and power tools
- Measurements, calculations and set-outs
- Reading drawings and job specifications
- Machinery set-up and basic maintenance
- Joinery manufacturing, assembly and installation
- Job planning, scheduling and costings
- Workplace health and safety practices

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on projects in workshop settings
- Demonstrations and supervised practice
- Industry-standard tools and machinery use
- Work-based projects and evidence portfolios
- Tutor support, site visits and check-ins
- Online resources to support theory learning

Industry connections

Whether you study on campus or through an apprenticeship, you'll learn with strong links to the construction industry. On campus, you'll learn from tutors who are Certified Builders and members of Registered Master Builders and other industry groups. You'll work on projects with real deadlines and clear quality expectations, so you're better prepared for

the pace and standards of the workplace. You'll also connect with industry groups such as the National Kitchen Bathroom Association and take part in visits to suppliers. As an apprentice, you'll earn while you learn - working for an employer, learning on the job and completing part-time study at Ara.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Joinery)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 30 weeks	February, May	
New Zealand Certificate in Joinery (Apprenticeship)*	4	On the job in Canterbury, Marlborough or the West Coast	Part-time 2.5 to 4 years, depending on your chosen specialisation	All year^	Available in: • Timber Stairs • Cabinetry • Craftsperson • Laminate Fabrication • Timber, Doors and Windows

**Complete your apprenticeship anywhere in Canterbury, the West Coast or Marlborough. Christchurch learners attend weekly classes, while learners outside Christchurch study by distance with tutor support and attend one annual one-week block course in Christchurch. Ara staff will visit your workplace at regular intervals to assess your progress.*
^One night class a week and one block course a year

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February^, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.
**Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.*
^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



PAINTING & DECORATING

Painting and decorating is the trade that gives buildings their final polish and long-term protection. Work spans new builds, renovations and maintenance across homes and commercial sites. Painters and decorators measure up, read plans and specifications, and choose products that suit the surface and conditions.

They then prepare surfaces and apply paints, finishes and wall coverings so spaces look good and stand up to daily wear. Painters and decorators are responsible for safe and tidy work practices and often coordinate with other trades on busy sites.

Would this suit me?

This area suits people who like practical work and want to see results. You may enjoy working with your hands, taking pride in neat finishes and following instructions. It helps to be reliable and patient, with an eye for colour, texture and detail. The work can be physically demanding, so good fitness is important.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Painting assistant
- Apprentice painter
- Site labourer
- Paint shop assistant
- Trainee wall coverer

Intermediate

- Painter and decorator
- Spray painter
- Wallpaper installer
- Colour consultant
- Team leader
- Paint company sales rep

Advanced

- Foreperson/supervisor
- Business owner
- Contracts manager
- Estimator
- Project manager
- Trade trainer

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Trade calculations and measurements
- Reading plans and specifications
- Tools, equipment and materials
- Surface preparation and repair
- Paint and coating application
- Spray application basics
- Teamwork and workplace communication
- Workplace health and safety

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on practical workshops
- Tutor demonstrations and guided practice
- Interior and exterior project work
- Online and self-directed study tasks

Industry connections

You'll build links with industry through real projects, work experience opportunities and input from people working in the trade. Guest speakers share what's happening on sites and what employers look for.

Where available, project briefs may come from community clients. Industry connections can include Resene and Dulux, helping you understand expectations and pathways into work.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Painting and Decorating)	3	Christchurch	Full-time 6 months	February, July

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February^, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



ELECTRICAL TRADES

Electrical trades professionals install, maintain and repair the systems that power homes, workplaces, industry and infrastructure. Their work ranges from wiring new builds to upgrading switchboards, connecting motors, setting up lighting and control circuits, and finding faults when things stop working.

Professionals in this field read plans, measure and mark out runs, select the right cables and fittings, and test their work to confirm it's safe. They often work on-site, sometimes in tight spaces, and need to stay focused and organised.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like practical work and enjoy how things operate and connect. You might be science minded, methodical, and keen to solve problems step by step. It helps to take safety seriously, follow rules, and take pride in doing a tidy job. Reliability and good communication are important too.

Career Pathways

Entry Level	Intermediate	Advanced
• Electrical apprentice • Electrical trade assistant • Electrical labourer • Electrical storeperson • Data cabling trainee	• Registered electrician • Fire alarm technician • Security systems technician • Data communications technician • Industrial electrician • Lines technician	• Electrical supervisor • Site foreman • Electrical project manager • Electrical inspector • Automation specialist • Electrical business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Electrical workplace safety, first aid and ethics
- Direct current (DC) circuit fundamentals
- Alternating current (AC), magnetism and isolation
- Tools, test instruments and safe work practices
- Cables, fittings, testing and fault finding
- Supply systems, earthing and bonding
- Electrical drawings, protection and switching circuits
- Installations, motors and transformers

HOW will I learn?

- Practical workshops and wiring simulations
- Hands-on use of tools and test equipment
- Lectures, tutorials and small-group learning
- Teamwork on applied projects and tasks
- Practical and written assessments and tests
- Closed-book capstone examination

Industry connections

You'll learn with input from industry guest speakers and visits to electrical workplaces, giving a clearer view of day-to-day work across different parts of the trade. Learning is shaped by industry expectations and aligned

with current safety, compliance and professional standards, ensuring that the skills you build transfer well into apprenticeships and entry-level roles.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Electrical (Pre-Trade)	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	Various
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Electrical)	6	Christchurch	Full-time 2 years Part-time up to 5 years	February

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February^, July
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways (Engineering pathway)	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	4	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time available	February, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



PLUMBING, GASFITTING & DRAINLAYING

Plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying is about protecting health, safety and property through well-built water, gas and drainage systems. Tradespeople install, service and repair pipework, fixtures and appliances, and build drainage that moves stormwater and wastewater where it needs to go. They read plans, take measurements, do basic calculations and choose materials suited to each job.

The work is practical and varied, often on active sites or in occupied buildings. Because mistakes can be serious, the job demands safe work practices and compliance with legal and ethical requirements.

Would this suit me?

If you like hands-on work, practical problem solving and using tools, this area could be a good fit. You'll need patience, a positive attitude and the ability to follow instructions carefully. Taking pride in doing a job well, communicating clearly and working well with others will also help you succeed.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Plumbing apprentice
- Gasfitting apprentice
- Drainlaying apprentice
- Trade assistant
- Maintenance assistant

Intermediate

- Plumber
- Gasfitter
- Drainlayer
- Maintenance plumber
- Service technician

Advanced

- Senior plumber
- Drainage supervisor
- Gas safety supervisor
- Site supervisor
- Business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Tools selection, use and maintenance
- Simple drawings and sheet metal patterns
- Trade calculations for common tasks
- Excavation, trenching and backfilling basics
- Water basics, pipework and sanitation fundamentals
- Essential safety skills and first aid
- Confined space entry and asbestos safety
- Regulatory, legal and ethical requirements

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on practical workshops and tutor demonstrations
- Tutorials and short lectures to build theory
- Simulation exercises and role plays for safe practice
- Projects and applied tasks in pairs or small groups
- Independent study

Industry connections

Industry helps shape what you learn, with regular input from local employers and business owners. You'll work on practical tasks that reflect everyday plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying jobs, often in pairs or small

teams. Work and education visits can add extra real-world context. You'll also be encouraged to organise your own work experience to build contacts and improve job prospects.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying	3	Christchurch	Full-time 19 weeks	January, June	

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February^, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



AUTOMOTIVE TRADES

Automotive trades cover the practical and technical work that keeps vehicles – everything from cars and motorbikes to trucks and heavy machinery – operating safely. Tradespeople inspect vehicles, identify faults, repair or replace components and check performance before the vehicle returns to the road. Work may involve mechanical systems like engines, braking and steering, as well as electrical and electronic systems

that are now a major part of the job. Collision repair is another pathway, involving removal and refitting of components and completing minor repairs before refinishing. The work is practical, methodical and guided by workplace procedures, safety standards and manufacturer instructions.

Would this suit me?

Automotive trades may suit you if you like tools, technology and seeing a job done properly. It's a good fit you're practical, methodical and you enjoy solving problems. You also need to be able to work within a team, follow safety rules and keep learning as vehicles and technology changes.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Automotive apprentice
- Workshop assistant
- Parts assistant
- Trainee service technician
- Collision repair remover and refitter
- Refinishing preparer

Intermediate

- Automotive technician
- Diagnostic technician
- Collision repair technician
- Automotive refinisher
- Service advisor
- Parts interpreter

Advanced

- Senior technician
- Workshop supervisor
- Service manager
- Structural repair technician
- Refinishing specialist
- Workshop owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

Automotive Engineering

- Workshop safety, policies and regulations
- Hand tools, power tools and equipment use
- Engine servicing fundamentals
- Electrical and electronic fault-finding basics
- Driveline, brakes and brake adjustments
- Steering, suspension, wheels and tyres
- Component removal, refitting and storage
- Minor repairs and surface preparation basics

Collision Repair

- Safe workshop practices and procedures
- Collision repair tools and equipment
- Minor vehicle damage assessment
- Repair procedures and materials
- Vehicle component removal and refitting
- Interior, exterior and critical components
- Workplace communication and teamwork
- Supervised collision repair work experience

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on tasks in workshop environments
- Tutor demonstrations and supervised practice
- Simulated workplace jobs and practical projects
- Online activities to support theory learning
- For collision repair, supervised work experience (50 hours)

Industry connections

You'll build job-ready skills through hands-on learning that reflects current workplace practice and manufacturer requirements. Industry bodies such as Motor Industry Training Organisation (MITO), Hanga-Aro-Rau and the Collision Repair Association

help inform the direction of training. For collision repair, you'll do 50 hours of supervised work experience with a partner business, supported by onsite visits and learning-focused feedback.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Engineering	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	January, February, August^
New Zealand Certificate in Collision Repair and Automotive Refinishing	3	Christchurch	Full-time 20 weeks	February, July

^Christchurch only

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February^, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.

^Christchurch only



Scan for more information on this subject



ENGINEERING TRADES

Engineering trades cover the practical work that keeps industry running, from making parts and structures to building, fitting and maintaining machines and equipment. Tradespeople make, install and repair items like structural steel beams, stairs and balustrades, ducting, tanks, pipework, custom trailers, machine guarding and plant equipment.

People in this field read drawings, measure and mark out accurately, choose suitable materials, then cut, shape, join and assemble components to meet job requirements. Work can range from light fabrication through to heavy engineering and structural steel, as well as machining and maintenance.

Would this suit me?

This area could suit you if you like hands-on work and making things accurately. It helps to enjoy practical problem solving, working to a plan and thinking step by step. You'll need a steady approach, good focus and the kind of mindset that checks measurements twice.

Career Pathways

Entry Level

- Trade assistant
- Industrial process worker
- Machine operator
- Junior welder
- Apprentice

Intermediate

- Welder
- Fabricator
- Mechanical fitter
- Machinist
- Maintenance technician
- Structural steelworker
- Toolmaker

Advanced

- Leading hand
- Workshop supervisor
- Quality inspector
- Maintenance planner
- Project supervisor
- Business owner

NB: Advanced roles may require experience and/or further study.

WHAT will I learn?

- Health and safety practices
- Engineering calculations and measurement
- Reading and creating basic drawings
- Materials, fasteners and handling methods
- Machining and workshop processes
- Fabrication principles and techniques
- Welding and thermal cutting fundamentals
- Quality checks and efficient work practices

*May vary depending on the specialisation you choose.

HOW will I learn?

- Hands-on workshop practice
- Tutor-led demonstrations and guidance
- Learning by doing real trade tasks
- Tutor feedback as you practise
- Projects you can show employers
- Online and classroom learning support

Industry connections

Learning takes place in industry-standard workshops, using tools and equipment you'll see on the job. Projects are shaped with industry input and designed around real trade tasks, to ensure the skills you learn are relevant to local employers. Guest speakers and visits to workplaces help you understand day-to-day realities

and build connections. Depending on your course, you may have work-based learning opportunities. If you choose an apprenticeship study option, you'll complete much of your learning on the job, supported by block courses at Ara and tutor visits.

Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	NOTES
New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering*	3	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, July^	
New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Apprenticeship)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Part-time 4 years	February, July	Available in: • General Engineering • Fitting and Machining • Maintenance Engineering • Machining • Toolmaking
New Zealand Certificate in Fabrication (Apprenticeship)	4	Christchurch, Timaru	Part-time 4 years	February, July	Available in: • Heavy Fabrication • Light Fabrication • Steel Construction

*If you complete the Level 3 New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (or similar) you can complete an apprenticeship within three years.
^Christchurch only

Starter options

Starter courses can help you meet the academic entry requirements for higher-level programmes.

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Christchurch, Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February^, July

Please note: Some higher-level programmes have additional entry/selection criteria. See our website for full details.
*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.
^Christchurch only



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Mon-Fri, 8am – 4.30pm

Timaru campus

32 Arthur Street, Timaru
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