

Ara Institute of Canterbury

Language
& Education

Te Ara
Reo me te
Mātauranga



**GET
SET**



ara.ac.nz

STUDY GUIDE 2027

Early Childhood Education	4
English	6
Te Reo Māori	8
Outdoor Education	10
Sustainable Practice	12
Teaching	14

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.

Ara Timaru campus
163 km to the south



ARA
CITY
CAMPUS

ARA
WOOLSTON
CAMPUS

ARA
MANAWA
CAMPUS

New Brighton Beach

Te Kaha Stadium

Hagley Park

Port Hills

Avon River

WHY CHOOSE ARA?

1.

Smaller classes make a big difference

2.

You'll learn from people who've done the job themselves

3.

Industry experience is part of the learning experience

4.

Our facilities reflect modern workplaces

5.

Academic, learning & wellbeing support are always available

6.

Flexible pathways give you options

7.

Our qualifications are recognised around the world

8.

You'll graduate skilled, confident and prepared for what's next

What 'Ara' means

Ara is the Māori word for path or journey. It represents the learning process, the many pathways to success, and the routes and rivers that criss-cross the Canterbury Plains from the mountains to the sea.

The phrase *'Ara rau, taumata rau'* translates to *'many pathways, many opportunities'*.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO SUCCEED.

Feel supported, every step

Support available includes:

- Learning and study support
- Disability and accessibility services
- Health and wellbeing services
- Counselling and advocacy
- Māori and Pacific student support
- International student support
- Career and study guidance

Learn, connect and belong

Campus life includes:

- Libraries and study spaces
- Sport and recreation facilities
- Student clubs and interest groups
- Student events and activities
- On-campus cafés
- Student accommodation

Access funding for your studies

Funding options include:

- Scholarships
- Student loans and allowances
- Financial hardship assistance
- Youth Guarantee funding
- Māori and Pacific training initiatives
- Support through StudyLink and Work and Income



Scan to view maps of each campus on our website.



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



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APPLY NOW

ara.ac.nz

City campus

130 Madras Street, Christchurch
Mon-Fri, 8am - 4.30pm

Manawa campus

276 Antigua Street, Christchurch
Mon-Fri, 8.30am - 4.30pm

Woolston campus

Ensors Road, Christchurch
Mon-Fri, 8am - 4.30pm

Timaru campus

32 Arthur Street, Timaru
Mon-Fri, 8am - 4.30pm

Connect with us:

Free call (New Zealand): 0800 24 24 76

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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.