

Southern Regions Study Options

2025/2026



Ara

Institute of Canterbury

Ara rau, taumata rau



ara.ac.nz

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Disclaimer The information contained in this Prospectus is correct at the time of production (January 2025). 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. As part of the NZQA targeted review of all Level 1-6 New Zealand qualifications, there may still be changes to some programmes starting in 2025. 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.


Foundation

Give yourself the best start for further study or your next step in life.

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways

 Level 3 and Level 4

 Timaru, online

 Full-time: 19 weeks
Part-time: available

 February, July



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

This programme will improve your academic skills before you move onto higher-level study. It's available in a range of pathways to ensure you meet specific entry requirements for your chosen degree or diploma, and it'll give you the academic skills and confidence you need to take that next step in your learning journey.

Level 3 specific pathway options*:

- Health and Science – animal management, veterinary nursing, enrolled nursing, exercise

Level 4 specific pathway options**:

- Pre-Health – nursing, midwifery, medical imaging, musculoskeletal health, human nutrition, sport and exercise science and health promotion

*on campus, Feb only

**on campus/online, Feb and July



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Business

Equip yourself with the skills needed to thrive in business.

The business world can lead you in many directions - from administration support roles to management and specialties like accounting, human resources, sales and marketing, change management and business transformation. We have business programmes from foundation studies right through to graduate diplomas to equip you with the skills you need to succeed in whatever enterprise you find yourself involved with.


When you study business with us, you'll learn from tutors and highly regarded local companies who have extensive knowledge and experience to share. You may also have opportunities to gain real-world experience to further enhance your capabilities.





Scan to learn more about our Business courses

New Zealand Diploma in Business

 Level 5

 Online

 Full-time: one year
Part-time: up to five years

 February, July


Equip yourself to work in a wide range of business-related roles in any sector.


This highly flexible programme is available in six specialisations: accounting; administration and technology; human resource management; leadership and management; marketing and sales; project management. It can be studied either part-time or full-time and can pathway into a Bachelor of Applied Management (requiring just two years additional full-time study).


You'll develop skills and knowledge through a variety of general and specialised business topics. These include organisational structures and identities, business analysis and evaluation, innovation, HR, marketing, accounting and management. Throughout, you'll gain the ability to problem solve, think critically, communicate effectively and work independently in a range of operational roles.



New Zealand Diploma in Primary Industry Business Management

 Level 5

 Online*

 Part-time: up to four years

 February, April, July, October

Gain valuable skills to apply to the agricultural business you work in.

This programme is designed so that everything you learn can be applied to the business you work in, as you learn. You'll gain skills and knowledge that will increase your confidence to make sound business decisions, ensure your team is productive and engaged, and improve your bottom line.

The diploma covers management and planning in four key areas: finance, business, staffing and sustainability. You'll learn about: employment obligations and responsibilities; human resource issues and strategies for good workplace relationships; budgets and cash flow forecasts; GST and PAYE; evaluating opportunities for future performance. You'll also learn about concepts of asset management, transfer and succession; analysing environmental management practices and addressing shortcomings; ensuring long-term viability and sustainability.

*Real time classes via Zoom

Digital Technologies

Learn how to create, manage and use technology to shape our everyday lives.

Demand for people with digital technology skills and expertise is strong around the globe: it's one of the top five highest paying industries and it offers near limitless opportunities for innovation. In addition to paying well, many employers provide highly desirable employee conditions and benefits.

We'll help you establish and grow your skills in digital technologies towards a strong future in this exciting field. Our programmes and courses have been developed in conjunction with industry to ensure they're up to date and relevant. They also cross credit easily into each other, providing options and pathways to gain qualifications.





Scan to learn more about our Digital Technologies courses




New Zealand Certificate in Information Technology Essentials

 Level 4

 Online

 Full-time: six months
Part-time: available

 February, July

Prepare for a career in IT by gaining a broad range of computing skills.

This programme covers a wide range of computing topics at an introductory level. These include hardware, operating systems, networking and security, user experience, website design and development, information systems, and software design and development.

You'll also gain knowledge of professional, ethical and legal principles and practices, and develop your communication skills.

This course is free to eligible applicants via He Toki Māori Trades Training/Pacific Trades Training.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Art & Design

Channel your creative thinking into a rewarding career.

Design skills are essential for New Zealand's economic and cultural future. Our highly practical art and design programmes will give you the skills and knowledge needed to build a career in the creative industries.

You'll engage in hands-on learning led by expert tutors in small classes. Your studies will equip you to pursue a career in a swiftly evolving environment and reshape thinking of what's possible in the creative work context. Our graduates are at the forefront of these shifts – leading the drive to solve real-world problems through the creative and critical thinking skills they develop with us.



Scan to learn more about our Art & Design courses

New Zealand Certificate in Creativity



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: six months
Part-time: up to three years



February

Gain foundational hands-on experience for employment or further studies in the creative industries.

Designed as an introduction to creative thinking, this programme will prepare you for further tertiary study and give you transferable skills necessary across many industries.

You'll be given opportunities to develop strategies in problem solving, idea generation and visual and oral communication. You'll also be introduced to a variety of creative media and tools to explore solutions to real-world problems.



New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: six months
Part-time: up to three years



February, July

Prepare for employment or further study in the creative industries by gaining foundational digital experience.

This programme is designed to give you experience in producing creative and effective outcomes using current digital technology. You'll learn how to apply creative theory to practical, real-world projects, and have the opportunity to explore your own interests through research and practical application in design and creative contexts.

New Zealand Diploma in Arts and Design



Level 5



Timaru



Full-time: one year



February

Enhance your skills to establish yourself as a creative professional.

With this diploma you'll develop core skills in problem solving and idea generation in a range of methods and materials. You'll also become familiar with using digital technology for creative work. This diploma is the ideal pathway to the Bachelor of Design where you can further refine your skill for a career.

Human Services/Social Services

Help individuals, families and communities through challenging times.

Human services is a field which offers rewarding careers for individuals who can support the emotional needs of others.

At Ara you'll be taught by a dedicated team of qualified professionals with extensive experience across a broad range of social work environments. Our qualifications are highly respected in the sector and include opportunities to gain real-world experience working with people who need specialised attention.



Scan to learn more about our Human Services and Social Services courses

New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: one year
Part-time: up to four years



February, July

Learn how to support individuals, families and communities through difficult times.

This flexible programme (with classes held at school-friendly times) is available in three specialisations. The Mental Health and Addiction Support option will give you the skills required to support individuals to recover and build resilience, while the Social Services option will equip you in the areas of family violence support and prevention, social justice advocacy, community development and refugee support. The Community Facilitation option will give you the skills needed to assist individuals, families and community groups in the areas of disability support, diversional therapy, employment, housing and budget support. Each specialisation includes a 200-hour work placement with an organisation suited to your area of interest.



Principles of Family Violence Intervention Micro-credential



Level 7



Online*



Part-time: 12 weeks



March, August

Enhance your professional capabilities with knowledge and skills in an important area of social practice.

If you're working in health, social work or related fields, this micro-credential provides an excellent opportunity for professional development.

Areas covered include: the nature and prevalence of family violence including mediating factors; the context of family violence (historical influences and current issues); responses and intervention strategies; quality and effectiveness of intervention practice; applying theory to practice settings; social sustainability; and assessment of vulnerability. A whānau-centric approach is also central, and explores connecting Māori aspirations to whānau safety, supporting and empowering whānau, and kaupapa-centric response strategies.

The knowledge and skills you'll gain will enable you to undertake a reliable and fair-minded assessment of service-related safety needs in family violence case scenarios.

**Most of your study will be online, but you'll also attend two, full-day, on-site wānanga.*

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Supervision



Level 8



Online*



Part-time: up to two years



February

Gain the expertise needed to supervise others effectively in professional contexts.

Professional supervision is critical in managing and ensuring continuous improvement in service delivery and employee effectiveness and satisfaction. Recognition of the value of this expertise is growing across an increasing range of disciplines.

Created for professionals working in health, social services, education, justice, corrections, chaplaincy and related sectors, this programme uses a blended delivery method. It's delivered in two, 30-credit courses designed to be studied sequentially. In the first course (Foundations of Supervision) you'll examine the theoretical underpinnings and models for the application of skills in supervisory practice. In the second course (Developing Supervision Practice) you'll apply the theoretical knowledge and supervision skills to your own supervisory practice.

**Most of your study will be online but you'll also attend three, two-day on-site wānanga (in Christchurch) in Semester 1, and two wānanga in Semester 2.*



Midwifery

Play a key role in supporting families before, during and after the birth of a child.

Midwives provide an essential and very meaningful service to families as they welcome a new child into the world. It's a role that carries significant responsibility, but it comes with many rewards too.

At Ara you'll learn from expert midwifery tutors who are passionate about sharing their skills, knowledge and experience of the profession with you so you can confidently embark on your own career as a midwife.



Scan to learn more about our Midwifery course



Bachelor of Midwifery



Level 7



Christchurch with satellites in Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast and Mid/South Canterbury



Full-time: four years
Part-time: available



January

Learn how to confidently nurture pregnant women through one of life's most meaningful events.

Midwives work with women to provide care during pregnancy, childbirth and up to the first six weeks of a baby's life.

Recognised by the Midwifery Council of New Zealand, this degree uses blended delivery techniques to enable you to study and work from various South Island locations. All sites are supported by a midwifery lecturer who'll provide individual support, organise face-to-face tutorials, facilitate your online studies and coordinate local practice experience for you in your own region.

The degree is made up of theory and practice undertaken each year and includes compulsory block weeks in Christchurch. Topics covered include midwifery practice skills, nutrition, lactation and bioscience foundations. You'll learn about Māori health, integrated midwifery practice and rural midwifery practice to allow you to adapt to the wide range of needs and circumstances encountered in midwifery. You'll also follow at least 25 women throughout their midwifery care and facilitate 40 births in a variety of maternity settings.

By the time you graduate, you'll possess a good understanding of how to assess the social, psychological, physical, emotional, spiritual and cultural needs of each woman and her family, enabling you to support them through the childbirth experience.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Nursing

Become a nurse and take advantage of the enormous scope that this rewarding profession offers.

Nurses can be found in every part of our hugely diverse health sector – from GP clinics, schools, prisons and mental health facilities to all the many and varied specialist wards in our hospitals and even in humanitarian aid zones overseas. If you're empathetic by nature and want to make a difference to the lives of others, nursing is a great career choice that delivers plenty of job satisfaction.

Our nursing programmes range from diplomas and degrees to specialist postgraduate short courses for professional development. Highly regarded by employers, these programmes will equip you with the skills and experience you need to start, develop or advance your career in nursing.



Scan to learn more about our Nursing courses

New Zealand Diploma in Enrolled Nursing



Level 5



Timaru and online*



Full-time: 18 months



March

Help meet the growing demand for nurses in New Zealand.

If you wish to apply for registration as an Enrolled Nurse with the Nursing Council of New Zealand, this programme which can be studied from almost anywhere in the South Island will equip you with the theory and clinical practice experience required.

It comprises a combination of theory, practice in simulated environments and clinical placements in different health care settings and locations. You'll practise your skills in different nursing contexts such as rehabilitation, acute care and mental health while studying the fundamentals of nursing and the human body.

**Some courses have compulsory onsite components of 1-4 days.*



Bachelor of Nursing



Level 7



Timaru



Full-time: three years



March, August

Learn from experts in specialist facilities and help meet the demand for Registered Nurses.

This highly regarded programme combines theory with clinical experience and meets the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) Competencies for the Registered Nurse Scope of Practice. Successful completion will enable you to apply for registration as a Registered Nurse with the NCNZ.


During your studies you'll gain an understanding of the many opportunities available for a career in nursing and be challenged to go beyond traditional health and illness care and focus on creating a supportive environment for health and wellbeing.

You'll have many opportunities to explore the diverse environments and relevant cultural understandings that nurses work within during clinical placements in hospitals, rest homes and health clinics, private practices and community care agencies.

Graduate Certificate in Nursing

 Level 7

 Online

 Part-time: up to six years

 Various

Develop your nursing career by expanding your knowledge and skills.

This programme for Registered Nurses* offers a range of 5-10 credit courses at Level 7 and is designed to be studied part-time. You can choose to do one or two courses, or work towards the whole 60-credit qualification.

There are 30 course options to choose from. Some include: Professional Writing for Nurses, Adult Health Assessment and Rapid Assessment, Emergency Nursing, Medical and Surgical, Theatre and Recovery Nursing, Infant and Child Health, Pharmacology, Cancer Nursing, Managing Heart Failure, Assessment of Pain, Wound Care, Diabetes, ECG Analysis, Māori Health/Te Tiriti, Understanding Mental Health, Substance Misuse, and Nursing Management of Dementia, Delirium and Depression.


Courses are delivered through online media and/or two face-to-face sessions. Delivery of face-to-face content is mostly at our Manawa campus, near Christchurch Hospital. Registered Nurses can commence studying for this qualification immediately after graduating.


**Similar professional development opportunities at Level 5 are available for Enrolled Nurses. Contact us directly to find out more.*




Postgraduate Certificate in Health Practice

 Level 8

 Online*

 Part-time: up to three years

 January, July

Advance within your area of professional practice.

If you have a degree in nursing or another health-related area and you'd like to extend your knowledge and skills for advanced practice in the health sector, this programme will equip you with the confidence and skills to plan and co-ordinate multiple, complex patient care demands in your chosen specialisation.


It offers a selection of courses designed to meet the needs of health practitioners, health sector managers and other professionals whose practice has a focus on health.


**Some courses have a compulsory onsite component of 1-4 days.*

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice

 Level 8

 Online*

 Part-time: up to four years

 January, July

Take the next step towards specialist health roles.

This is an interdisciplinary programme for qualified health professionals and health service managers. It will suit you if you have a degree in nursing or another health-related area and you'd like to extend your knowledge and skills for advanced practice in the health sector.

You'll gain advanced practice knowledge and critical analysis skills, and you'll spend time in independent study, critical reflection and field work in your place of study or place of work. To achieve the diploma, you need to complete four of the available courses within four years.


**Some courses have a compulsory onsite component of 1-4 days.*


Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (Registered Nurse Prescribing)

 Level 8

 Online* and work integrated training

 Part-time: over two years

 January, July

Gain the skills required to prescribe medications.

This postgraduate diploma is for experienced registered nurses (RNs) wishing to apply to the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) for authorisation to prescribe in primary health and speciality teams as a designated nurse prescriber.

This qualification will equip you with advanced practice knowledge and critical analysis skills. During the programme you'll spend time in independent study, critical reflection and fieldwork in your place of study or place of work.

You'll need to study four compulsory courses, one of which is a practicum course. Entry to the practicum course requires a passing grade of at least a B in all of the other three compulsory courses, alongside other requirements.


Please refer to the NCNZ website regarding the features of the work environment and support necessary to become an RN prescriber.


**Some courses have a compulsory onsite component of 1-4 days.*

Master of Health Practice

 Level 9

 Online*

 Part-time: available up to five years maximum

 January, July

Extend your expertise in health practice and expand your career opportunities.

If you have a degree in nursing or another health-related area and you'd like to extend your knowledge and skills for advanced practice in the health sector, this programme will build on your specialist knowledge, enabling you to progress in your career.


You'll demonstrate mastery of your area of specialist practice or knowledge and demonstrate capacity for leadership.


**Some courses require attendance at on-site workshops in Christchurch.*

Master of Health Science

 Level 9

 Online*

 Part-time: available up to six years maximum

 January, July

Broaden your expertise in health practice to increase your career opportunities.

The Master of Health Science is tailored for health managers and health practitioners, specifically registered nurses and other health professionals working for Te Whatu Ora and PHOs.


You'll expand your knowledge within an inter-disciplinary learning environment and develop skills in critical analysis, constructive synthesis, and advanced practice and research within your chosen discipline area. You can choose between a scholarly project pathway, or a thesis pathway.


**Some courses require attendance at on-site workshops in Christchurch.*

Master of Nursing

 Level 9

 Online

 Full-time: two years
Part-time: available up to six years maximum

 January, July

Enhance your capacity to improve patient outcomes and health services by becoming a nurse practitioner.

The Master of Nursing is an applied, clinically focused programme. It's been specifically designed to prepare you for advanced practice in the nurse practitioner scope and is approved by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.

You'll study advanced practice in pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics and health assessment and diagnostic reasoning. Additional courses include evidence for health practice and influences on complex health care. There are also two practicums.

Once completed, you'll be able to demonstrate mastery of your specialised area of practice and be able to provide leadership and practice collaboratively.

Hospitality, Business and Services Industries

Dual Enrolment

Youth Guarantee

Learn with us while you're still at school.

If you're in Years 11 to 13 at secondary school, Dual Enrolment courses are a way to experience tertiary study while still at school. You spend a day or two at Ara and the rest of the week at school. It's a great opportunity to earn NCEA credits and get a head start in a subject you want to study when you leave school.



Scan to learn more about our Dual Enrolment courses

Discover your path with a free course.

If you're aged between 16 and 24 and not in school, employment or any other training, a Youth Guarantee course is the smart way to get ahead. Free and available in a wide range of subjects, these courses set you up with great foundation skills for employment or further study, and enable you to make confident decisions about your future.



Scan to learn more about our Youth Guarantee courses

Dual Enrolment

Level 1 - 3

Timaru, Oamaru*

Part-time: one year

February

Youth Guarantee

Level 2 - 3

Timaru

Full-time: six months

February, July

We offer the following Dual Enrolment courses:

Food and Hospitality

- Cookery and Restaurant Service Skills Level 3 (1-day)
- Hospitality, Cookery & Beverage Level 2 (2-day)
*Oamaru only

Hair and Beauty

- Introduction to Beauty Therapy Level 2 (1-day)
- Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy Level 3 (1-day)

We currently offer the following Youth Guarantee course (please note limited places are available for this funding):

- New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support) Level 3



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Cookery

Transform your love of food into a career as a professional chef.

Ara is renowned for the quality of its cookery graduates and has a proud record of success at national and international competitions.

In our commercial training kitchens, our highly experienced cookery tutors will equip you with all the essential skills you'll need as a chef – from culinary expertise and presentation techniques to knowledge of related areas like menu planning, ingredient sourcing, inventory and health and safety. You'll graduate prepared for an exciting career which can take you around the world, from local cafes and function venues to international resorts and Michelin star restaurants.



Scan to learn more about our Cookery courses

New Zealand Certificate in Cookery



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: one year



February

Gain the skills and confidence required to work in fast-paced commercial kitchen environments.

During this course you'll gain the skills required to create a wide range of complex dishes including meats, poultry, cold larder and desserts.

You'll learn about preparation and presentation techniques, food safety, health and safety, operating policies of commercial kitchens and communication practices between colleagues, managers and customers.



RECOGNITION
OF QUALITY
CULINARY EDUCATION
WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF CHEFS SOCIETIES

Hospitality

Pursue your passion for serving perfection.

The huge and ever-expanding hospitality and tourism sector relies on people with a passion for delivering exceptional service and experiences.

Our courses in these areas are very practical and designed to equip you with the hands-on skills employers need. You'll learn from highly experienced tutors – including many who continue to work in the industry – and graduate with excellent employment prospects.



Scan to learn more about our Hospitality and Tourism courses

New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Workplace Option)



Level 3



Timaru



Part-time: 17 weeks



July

Learn essential hospitality, food and beverage service skills in your current front-of-house role.

If you're already employed in a hospitality role, this highly practical programme will enable you to upskill on the job.

Under the supervision of a senior colleague and using a learning programme created by Ara, you'll acquire the skills to produce a range of bar and espresso beverages to a high standard and provide informal table service. You'll also gain an understanding of operating procedures in cafes, bars and restaurants and learn how to communicate effectively in these environments.



Beauty Therapy

Learn how to help people look and feel their best.

Ara's beauty therapy, skincare and make up courses will equip you with all the skills and knowledge you need to embark on a career in the beauty industry. You'll learn from expert tutors and gain lots of practical experience at our in-house salon which is open to the public.

When you graduate, you can take advantage of the range of career opportunities available in the industry. You could specialise in a particular treatment like electrolysis or facials, becoming a makeup artist for film and TV, work in salons and spas around the world (even on cruise ships) or start your own business.



Scan to learn more about our Beauty Therapy courses

New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: one year



February

Acquire the skills and knowledge needed to work as a beauty therapist in New Zealand or overseas.

Through a combination of theory and practice, this programme will equip you to walk into a job, consult with clients and perform beauty therapy services in a professional manner. Aspects covered include professional practice, business awareness, anatomy and physiology, facial treatments, makeup, nail and waxing services, spray tanning and relaxation massage.

You'll learn from experienced tutors and a wide range of industry speakers including spa managers, appearance medicine specialists and cosmetic representatives. These professionals will give you an insight into products, techniques, technologies, and specific qualities that employers look for. You'll also work with real clients in our industry-standard salons.

Hairdressing

Gain the skills for a fulfilling career in the hairdressing industry.

If you're a people person, creative and good with your hands, hairdressing and barbering could be your perfect career. Every day you'll apply your skills to the task of enhancing the confidence and self-image of your clients, and as techniques and products evolve, you'll always be learning.

At Ara, you'll learn from industry professionals who'll teach you both theory and practical skills in our modern training salons. You'll also gain valuable real-world experience by operating salon days on campus with real paying clients.



Scan to learn more about our Hairdressing and Barbering courses

New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support)



Level 3



Timaru



Full-time: one year



February

Gain the foundation skills needed to start a career in hairdressing.

If you're seeking an introduction to hairdressing, this programme will give you a solid foundation to build on with further study.

You'll learn about salon culture, operations and terminology so you can communicate effectively with clients, peers and supervisors, perform reception duties, and master hairdressing theory and practical skills.

Other areas covered include: conducting thorough client consultations; applying hair treatments; removing hair colour; understanding home hair care products; shaping and styling hair using different techniques and tools; maintaining cutting equipment; performing colouring and de-colouring services; handling chemical treatments; and adhering to personal hygiene, presentation, health, safety and environmental standards within a salon.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Education

Encourage and facilitate life-long learning as a professional educator.

Effective educators have an aptitude for outstanding communication and a passion for working with learners to achieve their goals. Our tutors who educate educators all have recent experience of both teaching and teacher training. No matter what kind of learner you're interested in helping, our hands-on approach combined with our extensive industry connections will ensure that your study leads to fulfilling employment.



Scan to learn more about our Education courses



New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care



Level 3



Timaru



Full-time: six months



February

New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: six months



July

Take the first step towards a rewarding career working with children.

The New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care will prepare you to participate in the care and education of infants, toddlers and young children in entry-level carer roles, and for higher level study leading to a teaching qualification.

The programme covers: early childhood learning and development progression; bicultural framework for childhood learning in Aotearoa New Zealand; planning learning experiences for young children; health, safety and wellbeing in the early childhood environment; ethical responsibilities and professional practice; basic Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori specific to the early childhood environment. It also includes a work placement practicum in an early childhood setting where you can apply what you're learning.

Build on your knowledge and skills for the early childhood education sector.


This programme will prepare you to provide practice-based education and care in early childhood settings and/or to pathway into higher-level study leading to a teaching qualification.


The programme covers: designing learning experiences aligned to socio-cultural theories of learning and development; developing a personal philosophy of professional practice; developing inclusive teaching practices that promote diversity and the place of Māori as tangata whenua; using effective communication strategies to establish healthy relationships in early childhood environments. It also includes a work placement practicum in an early childhood setting where you can apply what you're learning in an authentic work environment.

New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

 Level 5

 Timaru

 Full-time: one year

 February

Extend your skills to become a knowledgeable and confident early childhood educator.

This programme will equip you to provide high quality, practice-based education and care in early childhood settings, and/or to pathway into higher level study leading to a teaching qualification.

The programme covers: the early childhood education curriculum (Te Whāriki) and the role of play in child learning and development; effective written and oral communication; and the use of te reo Māori. It also explores bicultural infant and toddler care and education strategies to create high quality, safe and inclusive learning environments.


You'll develop, reflect, and receive feedback on skills in observation, assessment and planning for teaching young children. The programme includes a 180-hour supported placement experience, enabling you to support children's social and emotional competence.



Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching and Learning

 Level 7

 Online

 Part-time: one year

 Various

Enhance your tertiary teaching practice and broaden your career opportunities.

Designed for practicing tertiary educators, this programme will enable you to create learning environments that enhance learning and empower learners.

You'll gain group facilitation skills, questioning strategies and learn how to use evidence-based principles and practices to design, facilitate, assess and evaluate learning. You'll also develop skills for using an inquiry process for continual improvement in your teaching practice, develop collegiality in your work environment and explore learning theories and models to inform your teaching practice and philosophy. The emphasis is on achieving the best possible synergies between the dual roles of educator and industry professional.



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

English

Improve your English for work, study and everyday life.

Ara is internationally recognised as one of the best English language training centres in New Zealand, with students from more than 30 countries choosing to study with us to improve their English speaking, listening, reading and writing.

In addition to the high-quality tuition from our friendly, professional tutors, you'll have the opportunity to develop your skills on a daily basis by mixing with other English-speaking students on campus.



Scan to learn more about our English Language courses

New Zealand Certificate in English Language



Levels 1 to 5



Timaru, Ashburton



Full-time: six months (per level)
Part time: one year (per level)



February, July

Improve your language skills for employment, study and everyday situations.

This qualification has Foundation, General, Applied and Academic options at various levels. All options will give you language skills and knowledge for living and working in New Zealand so you can communicate with some independence and fluency in English language contexts.



English Language Training



Level 4



Timaru



Full-time: four weeks minimum
Part-time: four weeks minimum*



Weekly

Enhance your fluency, accuracy and vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading and writing.

This is an intensive English language programme. You'll learn core skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, and develop specific conversation skills such as turn taking, active listening, responding, communication strategies and negotiation. The learning environment is active, hands-on and collaborative with pair and group activities, role playing, presentations and discussions.

*Depending on visa status

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)



Level 5



Blended/online



Part-time: 11 weeks
Blended/online: 15 weeks



July, November

Learn how to teach English anywhere in the world.

With this internationally recognised Cambridge ESOL qualification, you can teach English as an additional language to people anywhere in the world and your skills will be in high demand.

You'll gain an understanding of the key principles and practices of effective English language teaching. For your assessed teaching practice, you'll teach two different classes with students from a wide variety of language backgrounds.

Māori Language and Culture

Add to your everyday skillset by enhancing your cultural capability.

Our Māori language and culture courses are designed to give you a distinct advantage in today's competitive employment market, and to enhance your ability to communicate within everyday family and community environments.

Our expert tutors are passionate about sharing their knowledge, skills and industry connections. In a stimulating and supportive whānau environment they'll work with you to discover your strengths and help you succeed.





Scan to learn more about our Māori Language and Culture courses



Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 2) - Beginners

 Level 2

 Timaru, Ashburton

 Part-time: one year

 February

Start your journey of discovery into te reo.


If you have a personal or professional interest in te reo Māori and you'd like to contribute positively to the development of the Māori language this is the start you need.


You'll develop the language skills to communicate, with little support, in familiar everyday contexts and in some Māori environments. You'll learn and practice aspects of hui whakatau (gatherings), mihimihī (acknowledgments and introductions), and discuss traditional narratives. Marae-based experiences will provide authentic, meaningful engagement with local Māori communities.

Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki, Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 3) - Elementary

 Level 3*

 Timaru

 Full-time: 19 weeks
Part-time: one year

 February

Gain beginner te reo skills for everyday life and work.

This programme is ideal for increasing your understanding of te reo for your career and personal development.

Designed for fast progress, you'll learn in weekly class sessions and maintain your progress at times that suit you with online resources. You'll also have authentic and supported learning opportunities with live-in wānanga (language workshops) held at our fully equipped whare. These immersive experiences will normalise language use and equip you to use the language you learn to enrich everyday life, add value to your workplace, bring te reo into your home, or enhance your career opportunities.

**Levels 4 to 6 are also available. See Ara Prospectus for details.*

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Sustainability and Outdoor Education

Nurture, sustain and lead the way with a rewarding, future-focused career.

Appreciation for our natural environment—and the desire to explore and protect it—has never been greater. As a professional in this sector, you can lead and guide adventure seekers, foster conservation efforts and work towards a more sustainable future for the environment and society.

Our highly practical outdoor education and sustainability programmes will prepare you for meaningful work in a variety of areas from instruction to conservation. You'll connect and immerse yourself in the environment and culture and be empowered to decide your career direction. You'll also be encouraged and challenged in areas such as critical thinking, problem solving, people management and creativity. As a result, you'll enhance your adaptability and equip yourself to lead and help others in a rapidly changing world.




Scan to learn more about our Sustainability and Outdoor Education courses




Graduate Diploma in Sustainability and Outdoor Education

 Level 7

 Online

 Full-time: 18 months
Part-time: up to four years

 February, July

Advance your professional development in sustainability and outdoor education.

This programme combines theory and practice for advanced professional development and is ideal for established teachers, outdoor educators and instructors or as a retraining opportunity for graduates of other degrees.


You'll learn about journey-based environmental science, contemporary issues in sustainability and outdoor education, resource management and how to implement sustainable practice.

The broad base of your studies will be complemented by elective practical and theory courses to develop your personal interests and strengths.

Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Practice

 Level 8

 Online

 Full-time: six months
Part-time: up to 18 months

 February

Gain foundational knowledge and specialist skills in sustainable practice.

If you have an interest in sustainable practice and you'd like to develop higher-level understanding and specialist skills from your undergraduate degree, this is an ideal step into postgraduate study.

The programme will equip you with core foundational knowledge about the theories, driving forces and worldviews (including Te Ao Māori) related to sustainable practice. As part of your studies, you'll apply your knowledge to specific contexts that will show how interdisciplinary frameworks and research can help address complex sustainability problems.

Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice



Level 8



Online



Full-time: one year
Part-time: up to three years



February, July

Acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be a change-maker in sustainability.

This unique programme is designed for individuals seeking an in-depth professional development opportunity to become an agent for change in sustainable practice.

It will enable you to explore sustainable practice through a focus on relationships between policy and practice, research and multi-disciplinary project work. You'll also develop and apply advanced understandings of the theories, driving forces and worldviews (including Te Ao Māori) that relate to sustainable practice within the context of your discipline-specific knowledge.

Upon completion you'll be able to advocate for, and contribute to, more sustainable practices in a range of contexts.

Master of Sustainable Practice



Level 9



Online



Full-time: 18 months
Part-time: up to four years



February, July

Become a leader in sustainable practice.

The Master of Sustainable Practice is designed for individuals seeking to lead innovative problem solving in sustainable practice. It culminates with a 60-credit applied research dissertation.

Across the range of core, project and applied research components, you'll gain advanced interdisciplinary skills and knowledge that will enable you to: critically evaluate and apply concepts of sustainable practice; work independently and collaboratively; become a change-maker contributing to sustainable practice. You'll also develop and apply advanced understandings of the theories, driving forces and worldviews (including Te Ao Māori) related to sustainable practice within the context of your discipline-specific knowledge.

The programme facilitates collaboration and innovation and applies an interdisciplinary framework to address complex sustainability problems. Upon completion you'll be able to: advocate for, and lead change towards, more sustainable practices; apply high level research skills to plan and conduct independent inquiry projects related to sustainability in professional contexts; and be an independent learner who can utilise and undertake research to formulate solutions to sustainability issues.



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.



Level



Location



Duration



Starts

Trades Dual Enrolment

Learn with us while you're still at school.


If you're in Years 11 to 13 at secondary school, Dual Enrolment courses are a way to experience tertiary study while still at school. You spend a day or two at Ara and the rest of the week at school. It's a great opportunity to earn NCEA credits and get a head start in a subject you want to study when you leave school.




Scan to learn more about our
Dual Enrolment courses

Dual Enrolment

 Level 1 – 3

 Timaru

 Part-time: one year

 February

We offer the following Dual Enrolment courses in:

- Introduction to Agricultural Engineering Level 2 (1-day)
- Introduction to Automotive Level 2 (1-day)
- Introduction to Construction Trades Level 2 (1-day)

Foundation Trades

Discover your path with a free course.

If you're aged between 16 and 24 and not in school, employment or any other training, a Youth Guarantee course is the smart way to get ahead. Free and available in a wide range of subjects, these courses set you up with great foundation skills for employment or further study, and enable you to make confident decisions about your future.




Scan to learn more about our
Foundation Trades course

Trades Primer

 Level 2

 Timaru

 Full-time: 19 weeks

 July

This free course is a great way to experience a variety of trades so you can make an informed decision about your next step.

It covers machining, fabrication, welding, automotive, autobody, carpentry, joinery, painting and decorating, electrical, plumbing, gas fitting and drain laying. You'll learn about each of these trades and participate in hands-on activities. You'll also gain foundation skills – including literacy, numeracy and communication – that will support you into further study or the workplace.

By completing this programme you'll gain Ara credits which you can use towards further tertiary study in New Zealand.

Automotive Trades

Get skills for a career in one of the largest industries in the world.

If cars, trucks and vehicles are your thing and you have your sights set on a career in the automotive industry, we can prepare you for that goal with a range of hands-on automotive study options. Your chosen programme will give you a comprehensive understanding of how vehicles work and equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to fix them and fine tune them when they don't.



Scan to learn more about our Automotive Trades courses



New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Engineering



Level 3



Timaru



Full-time: one year
Part-time 18 months



January, February

Get your career in automotive engineering off to the best start.

This automotive qualification is designed to give you all the fundamental knowledge required to work in the industry. This is achieved through a combination of the theoretical knowledge and practical hands-on tasks similar to the daily tasks undertaken in the workplace.

This course is free to eligible applicants via He Toki Māori Trades Training / Pacific Trades Training. Limited places are available for this funding.



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Carpentry

Channel your love for making things into a rewarding career.

Carpenters build our buildings. Joiners make the doors, stairs, cabinetry and furniture that fills them. If you have an eye for detail, a love of working with timber and other materials and you enjoy using tools and machinery, you're already on the path to a career that offers plenty of variety and opportunities.

At Ara you can learn the basics of carpentry and joinery, then progress on to more complex projects as your skill levels increase.



Scan to learn more about our Carpentry courses

New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Carpentry)



Level 3



Timaru



Full-time: one year



February

Learn in-demand carpentry skills and gain experience on real construction projects.

Highly practical and hands-on, this study option will equip you with a wide range of fundamental carpentry skills, in preparation for an apprenticeship.

You'll learn about materials and tools, machines and timber, techniques, measuring and calculations. You'll also learn about safety procedures and workplace etiquette, plus the construction of single and two storey residential buildings and light commercial buildings.

This course is free to eligible applicants via He Toki Māori Trades Training / Pacific Trades Training. Limited places are available for this funding.



New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Apprenticeship)



Level 4



Timaru



Part-time: four years



All year

Grow your carpentry and organisational skills, on the job.

This programme is designed for individuals already working in the industry and is typically achieved in a workplace environment while completing an apprenticeship. You'll gain the practical skills and knowledge required to construct, repair and install building structures to the level required of a commercially competent carpenter.



Electrical Trades

Light the way to a rewarding career by gaining in-demand electrical skills.

From the source of power generation through to the multiple end uses of the network, electricity powers our lives in all manner of ways.

If electricity sparks your interest, there are numerous pathways you can take towards a successful and varied career in the electrical industry. At Ara you'll learn from expert tutors with years of experience and be ready to contribute your skills to creating, distributing and maintaining this essential part of everyday life.




Scan to learn more about our Electrical Trades courses

New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Engineering (Theory) Level 3

 Level 3

 Timaru

 Full-time: one year

 February

Gain the knowledge and skills required to start an apprenticeship in the electrical industry.

If you don't yet have an electrical apprenticeship agreement, this programme will prepare you for one by equipping you with pre-entry foundation knowledge of electrical engineering.

You'll learn about the electrical industry with an introduction to safe electrical installation practices, testing, commissioning and servicing of electrical installations and equipment.

You'll also learn about fault diagnosis and testing techniques of electrical systems and equipment, and about the installation and maintenance of electrical machines in special electrical situations.

This course is free to eligible applicants via He Toki Māori Trades Training / Pacific Trades Training. Limited places are available for this funding.



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

Engineering Trades

Forge a career making machinery, tools and structural components.

New Zealand engineers are renowned for being resourceful, highly capable and creative in the manufacturing of engineered products.

From making small precision engineered tooling through to massive steel structures, there's a huge range of career options open to you when you choose an engineering trades pathway. At Ara you'll learn the skills and knowledge required to use a range of hand tools, machinery and equipment in a modern engineering workshop environment.





Scan to learn more about our Engineering Trades courses

New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering

 Level 3

 Timaru

 Full-time: one year

 February

Get hands-on skills to start your career in mechanical engineering.

Highly practical, this programme covers welding, fabrication, machining, fitting and maintenance, along with embedded safety, drawing, trade theory, calculations and communication skills. It also includes a series of trade-relevant engineering projects.


This course is free to eligible applicants via He Toki Māori Trades Training / Pacific Trades Training. Limited places are available for this funding.



New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Apprenticeship)

 Level 4

 Timaru

 Part-time: four years

 All year

Gain the technical and problem-solving skills needed for various mechanical engineering environments.


Designed for individuals who are working in the industry, this programme is typically achieved in a workplace environment while completing an apprenticeship. It's available in the following strands: Fitting and Machining; General Engineering; Machining; Maintenance Engineering; Toolmaking.

You'll learn how to interpret drawings and specifications, and how to select and use the appropriate materials, tools, equipment and processes for the mechanical engineering task being undertaken. You'll also learn how to work safely and meet workplace health and safety requirements.

New Zealand Certificate in Engineering Fabrication (Apprenticeship)

 Level 4

 Timaru

 Part-time: four years

 All year

Increase your skills in engineering fabrication.

This programme is designed for individuals who are working in the industry and is typically achieved in a workplace environment while completing an apprenticeship. It's available in the following strands: Heavy Fabrication; Light Fabrication; Steel Construction.

In addition to learning specific skills in your chosen area, you'll learn how to interpret drawings and specifications, and how to select and use the appropriate fabrication materials, tools and equipment to create industry-standard projects. You'll also learn how to apply knowledge of welding at an industry standard in a commercial environment. Health and safety and workplace safety culture are also covered.

Painting and Decorating

Make a career out of adding the finishing touches to exterior and interior spaces.

Our painting and decorating courses will equip you with the knowledge, practical skills and attention to detail needed to gain a firm foothold in the industry. You'll learn theory and techniques from our expert tutors and get plenty of opportunity to practice your new skills with hands-on tasks and projects.



Scan to learn more about our
Painting and Decorating courses



New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Painting and Decorating)



Level 3



Timaru



Full-time: six months



February

Gain essential skills to start your career in painting and decorating.

Highly practical and hands-on, this study option will equip you with fundamental skills in painting and decorating, in preparation for an apprenticeship. You'll learn about surface preparation; application techniques for brushing, rolling spraying and wallpapering; the correct use of materials; industrial safety; and simple measuring and quality techniques.



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.



Level



Location



Duration



Starts

Apply now

ara.ac.nz

info@ara.ac.nz

0800 24 24 76

City campus

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

Ashburton campus

37 Alford Forest Road, Ashburton
Mon–Fri, 8.30am–4.30pm

Manawa campus

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

Oamaru campus

44 Humber Street, Oamaru
Mon–Fri, 8am–4.30pm

Woolston campus

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

Ara Connect

City campus, Madras Street, Christchurch
Timaru Campus, 32 Arthur Street, Timaru
Woolston Campus, Ensors Road, Christchurch

Timaru campus

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

