

TIMARU CAMPUS

STUDY OPTIONS 2027

GET
SET



Ara

ara.ac.nz

SUCCESS. YOUR WAY.



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Disclaimer The information contained in this document is correct at the time of production (July 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.



KIA ORA

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

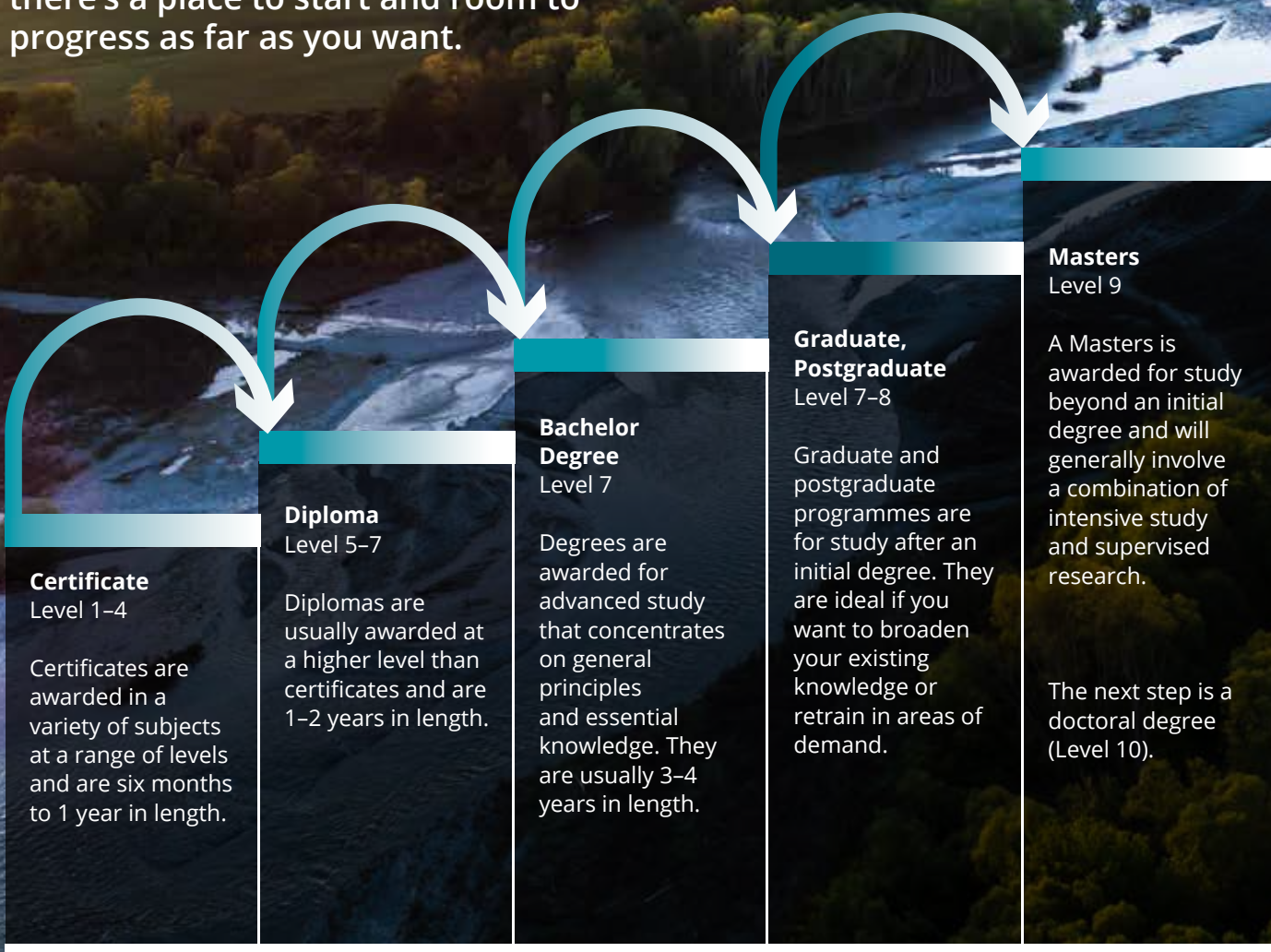
We believe education should open doors, build confidence and lead somewhere meaningful. That's why our learning is grounded in the real world: practical, hands-on and shaped by industry, so you graduate ready to step into work, further study or whatever future you're aiming for.

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.



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.



STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

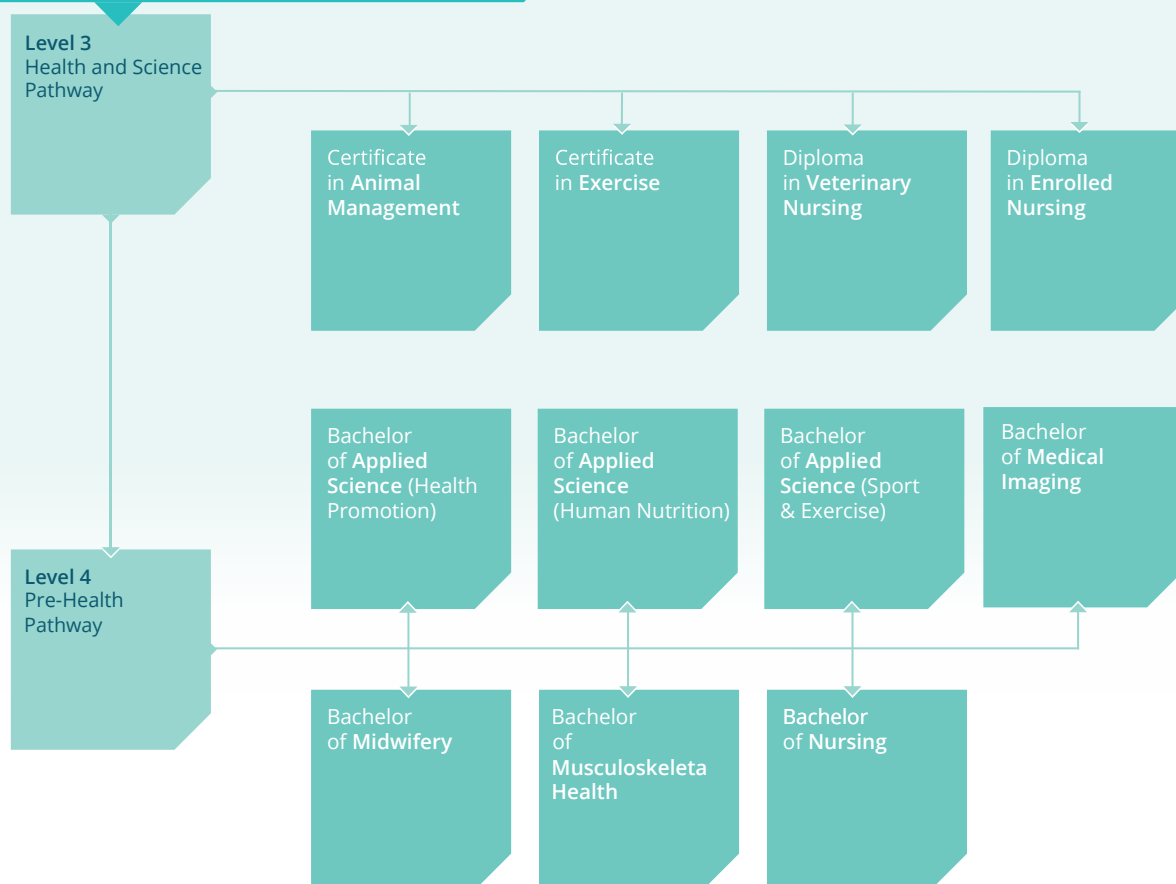
Get ready for higher-level study in your chosen subject area.

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.

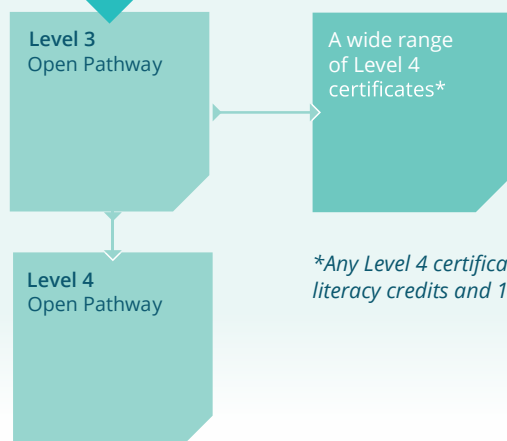
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways

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

HEALTH AND SCIENCE PATHWAY



OPEN PATHWAY



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



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:

- Barista Essentials
- Physiological Childbirth
- Quality Assurance
- Samona Language
- Te Reo Māori
- Training for the Licence Controller Qualification (LQC)
- Welding



EX- PERI- ENCE 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
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or call us on
0800 24 24 76

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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.

NAME	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES	LEADS TO
Preparation for Study for Supported Learners	1	Timaru	Full-time 10 weeks per course [^]	February, May, July, October	Selected Level 2 certificates
FOOD & HOSPITALITY					
New Zealand Certificate in Cookery	4	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced Cookery or Advanced Patisserie)
HEALTH & SUPPORT					
New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing	4	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	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	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July	New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care
STYLE					
New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy	4	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Diploma in Beauty Therapy
New Zealand Certificate in Salon Skills (Introductory)*	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February, July	New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support)
New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support)*	3	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Certificate in Hairdressing (Level 4)
TRADES					
Trades Primer*	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July	Any Level 3 certificate
New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Engineering	3	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	January, February	Certificate in Light Automotive Engineering (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills (Carpentry)	3	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	March	New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Pre-Trade	3	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Trade (Apprenticeship)
New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering	3	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Apprenticeship) or New Zealand Certificate in Fabrication (Apprenticeship)

[^]This study option comprises four courses.

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.



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.

Dual Enrolment study options at Ara

COURSE	LEVEL	DAYS PER WEEK	LOCATION
Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing	3	1	Timaru
Cookery and Restaurant Service Skills	3	1	Timaru
Hospitality, Cookery & Beverage	2	2	Timaru
Introduction to Agricultural Engineering	2	1	Timaru
Introduction to Automotive	2	1	Timaru
Introduction to Beauty Therapy	2	1	Timaru
Introduction to Construction Trades	2	1	Timaru



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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	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February

Please note: New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Workplace option) may also be available in 2027 - please enquire.



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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

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 Tūrangā 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

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

**If you don't meet the academic requirements for the degree, you can gain them via this starter course. Please note: completing the starter course doesn't guarantee entry to the higher-level qualification as other criteria may apply.*



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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	Regionally [^]	Full-time 18 months	March
Professional Development for Enrolled Nurses	5	Online	Various	Various

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

Starter options

Don't meet entry requirements? This foundation course will help you meet the academic entry requirements for the Diploma in Enrolled Nursing. Completing a foundation course doesn't guarantee entry as additional entry criteria and selection processes apply. The Diploma in Enrolled Nursing is competitive and places are limited.

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



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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	Timaru	Full-time 3 years	Dates to be confirmed
Graduate Certificate in Nursing [^]	7	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

Don't meet entry requirements? This foundation course will help you meet the academic entry requirements for a range of health degrees including the Bachelor of Nursing. Completing a foundation course doesn't guarantee entry into a specific health degree as additional entry criteria and selection processes apply. The Bachelor of Nursing is competitive and places are limited.

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



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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	Timaru	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February	
New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Whānau, Community and Social Services)	4	Timaru	Full-time 1 year Part-time up to 4 years	February	



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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.*



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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	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	February	
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care	4	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July	
New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care	5	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	



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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

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

*May vary depending on course and level

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	Timaru	Full-time 6 months (per level) Part-time 1 year (per level)	February, July, September*
English Language Training	1-5	Timaru	Full-time 4 weeks minimum Part-time 4 weeks minimum**	February, July, September*

*Academic Levels 4 and 5 only

** Depending on visa status



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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

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	Timaru	Part-time 1 year	February	
Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki, Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 3) Elementary	3	Timaru	Full-time 19 weeks Part-time 1 year	February	



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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	Online*	Full-time 6 months Part-time up to 18 months	February	
Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice	8	Online*	Full-time one year Part-time up to 3 years	February, July	
Master of Sustainable Practice	9	Online*	Full-time 18 months Part-time up to 4 years	February, July	

*Plus a 3-4 day wānanga onsite in Christchurch at the start of each semester.



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BEAUTY THERAPY

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 Beauty Therapy	4	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February, July



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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

WHAT will I learn?

- 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

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	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February

**Youth Guarantee may be available - please enquire.*



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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	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February
New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Apprenticeship)*	4	On-the-job, South Island-wide	Part-time 4 years	All year

**Flexible online study arrangements mean you can undertake your apprenticeship anywhere in the South Island. Ara staff will visit your workplace at regular intervals to assess your progress.*

Starter options

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July

**Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.*



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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 Joinery (Apprenticeship)*	4	On-the-job, South Island-wide**	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 the South Island. 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.

**Canterbury, West Coast, Marlborough

^One night class a week and one block course a year

Starter options

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.



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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

- Electrical apprentice
- Electrical trade assistant
- Electrical labourer
- Electrical storeperson
- Data cabling trainee

Intermediate

- Registered electrician
- Fire alarm technician
- Security systems technician
- Data communications technician
- Industrial electrician
- Lines technician

Advanced

- 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.

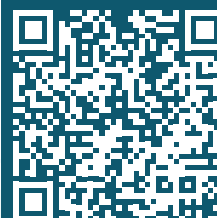
Study options

	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
New Zealand Certificate in Electrical (Pre-Trade)	3	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	Various

Starter options

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.



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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?

- 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

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	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	January, February

Starter options

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.



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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

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

*May vary depending on the specialisation you choose.

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	Timaru	Full-time 1 year	February	
New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Apprenticeship)	4	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	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.

Starter options

Trades Primer*	LEVEL	LOCATION	DURATION	INTAKES
	2	Timaru	Full-time 6 months	July

*Available free through Youth Guarantee. Conditions apply.



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