

Dual Enrolment

Study options and
application information
2026



ara.ac.nz

Kia ora and welcome

Are you still at school but ready to step into your future?

An Ara Dual Enrolment programme is a fantastic way to explore career options, gain real skills and earn NCEA credits, all while still enrolled at school.

Whether you're into cookery, health, hair and beauty, trades, business or something else, a Dual Enrolment programme lets you try out a career path while getting a feel for tertiary study. You'll attend Ara one or two days a week and spend the rest of the time doing your regular schoolwork with your friends.

How dual enrolment works

- On a Dual Enrolment programme, you're enrolled at school and Ara at the same time
- You study at Ara for 1-2 days a week (similar to school hours) and the rest of the week at school
- You have the same holidays as your school
- You gain NCEA credits and industry skills
- You have access to support services at your school and at Ara
- When you finish your Dual Enrolment programme, you'll be better prepared for further study, an apprenticeship or employment

Key benefits:

- You gain practical skills in a field you're actually interested in
- You get a taste of the real world beyond the classroom
- You build your confidence and gain independence
- You stay on track with school while getting ahead for the future
- You make friends and connections outside of your school bubble

Reasons why parents and guardians love Dual Enrolment:

- You continue to work towards your NCEA
- You gain practical experience in a safe, supported environment
- It helps you to make informed decisions about future study or work
- It gives you a strong pathway into tertiary education or employment





Important things to know

- Dual Enrolment is free (but depends on eligibility)
- Spaces are limited so it's important to apply early
- Some programmes have small additional costs (like materials, uniform)
- Programmes require a minimum number of people to run
- Some programmes have limited spaces due to workshop or classroom capacity

Who can apply

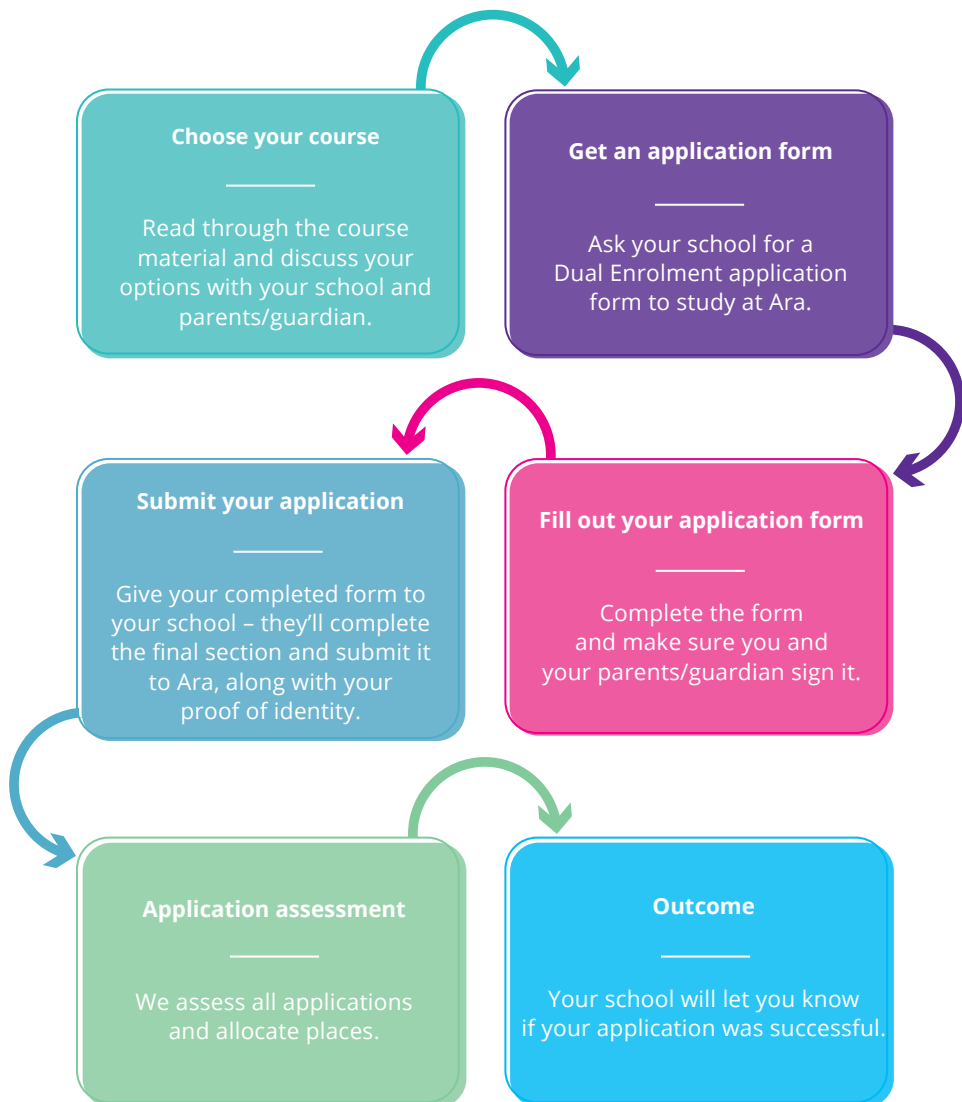
- You must be 15 years or older at the start of the calendar year
- You must be enrolled in Year 11, 12 or 13
- If you're an international student, you must have Domestic Student Status on your visa

If you meet these criteria, talk to your parents/guardian and your school careers advisor to choose the pathway that best fits your interests.

**Applications for 2026 open on Monday 25 August 2025
and close on Friday 12 September 2025.**

The application process

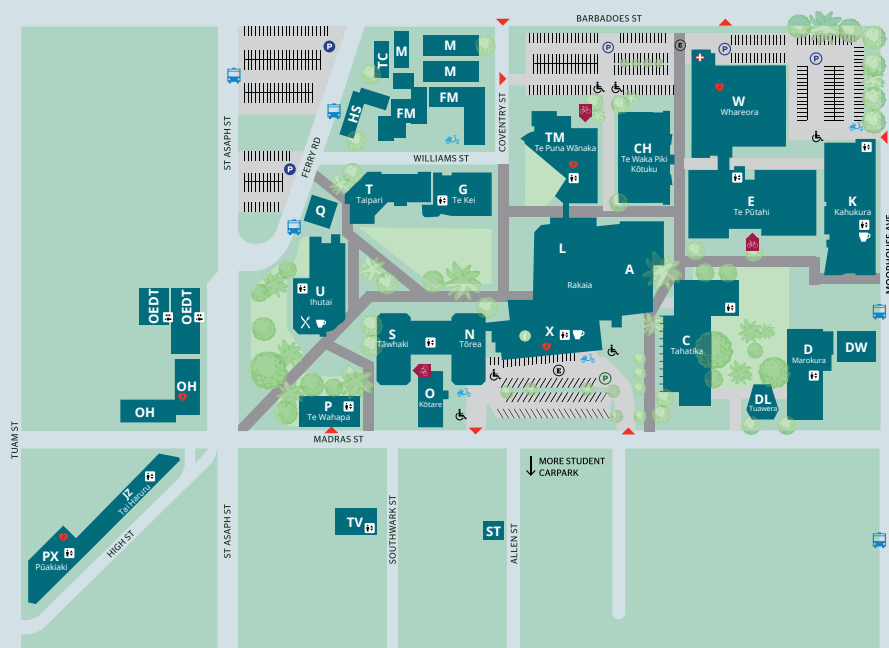
Start by talking to your school's careers advisor – they'll discuss your options, find a pathway that best suits your interests and guide you through the application process, step by step.



Campus information

City campus, Christchurch

City campus is our biggest campus. It's where the largest number of study options are taught and where you can access a comprehensive range of student services. City campus is located on the edge of Christchurch's central business district, close to public transport and many other amenities.



Woolston campus, Christchurch

The Woolston campus is dedicated to trades training. It has extensive facilities for construction, automotive and engineering-related trades, including industry-standard equipment and real-world learning spaces. It's located in eastern Christchurch and has good transport links and parking on site.

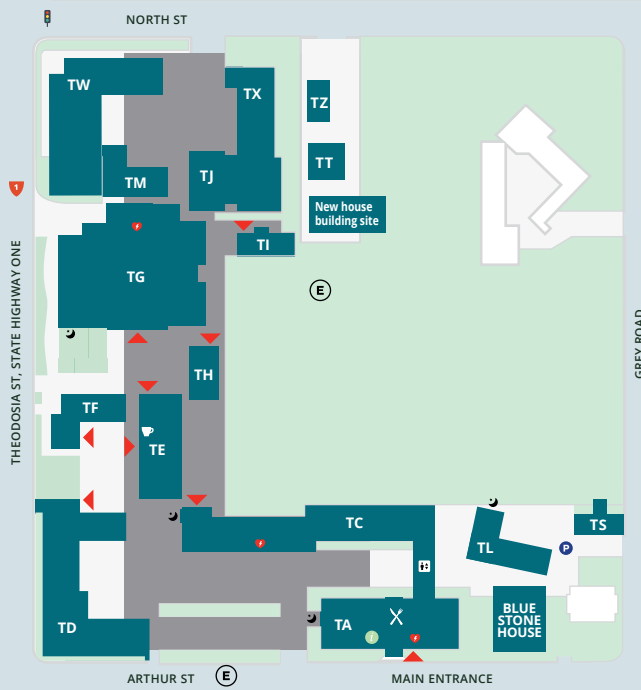


Timaru campus

Our Timaru campus is located just a short stroll from the city's central business district and features modern facilities and a range of services for students.

Programmes offered in Timaru include:

- Cookery and Restaurant Service Skills Level 3
- Hospitality, Cookery and Beverage Level 2
- Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing Level 3
- Introduction to Beauty Therapy Level 2
- Introduction to Agriculture Engineering Level 2
- Introduction to Construction Trades One Day Level 2
- Introduction to Automotive One Day



Study options



BUSINESS

Business Administration and Technology Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 3



Code: NZ2452



Christchurch



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

Learn how to handle everyday business tasks like working with money, managing data, customer service, working in a team and solving problems.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Diploma in Business
(Level 5) with a variety of strand options



THEN:

Bachelor of Applied Management
(Level 7)

CREATIVE

Digital Design Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP6N



Christchurch



Friday, 9am – 3pm

Get creative and explore the world of digital design. This hands-on programme helps you build real design skills using digital tools, while also working on your creativity and confidence. This is an achievement standard-based programme.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Digital Media and Design (Level 4)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in
Creativity (Level 4)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in
Fashion (Level 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Arts and Design

OR

Bachelor of Design (applied visual art,
visual communication design or fashion)



Scan to learn more about
Business Administration
& Technology Level 3
(Dual Enrolment)



Scan to learn more about
Digital Design Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)



Level



Code



Location



Starts

EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability and Outdoor Education Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 3



Code: G21079



Christchurch



Friday, 9am – 3pm

Explore sustainability and leadership through outdoor adventures like surfing, snorkelling and tramping. Build teamwork, critical thinking and collaboration skills through games, workshops and nature-based experiences. This course teaches NCEA Level 3 Achievement Standards, with enough Pūtaiao credits for it to count as a UE-approved subject.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Level 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Level 5)

OR

Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education (Level 7)



Scan to learn more about Sustainability & Outdoor Education Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)

FOOD AND HOSPITALITY

Certificate in Baking (Dual Enrolment)



Level 3



Code: NZ1841



Christchurch



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

Learn essential skills for baking breads, cakes, biscuits, pastries and desserts. This hands-on course is a steppingstone to higher qualifications and your ticket to a career in baking.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Cookery (Level 4)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Bakery (Level 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Cookery – Advanced Cookery (Level 5)

OR

New Zealand Diploma in Cookery – Advanced Patisserie (Level 5)



Scan to learn more about Baking (Dual Enrolment)

Cookery and Restaurant Service Skills Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 3



Code: G21082



Christchurch, Timaru



Tuesday (Timaru)
Friday (Chch), 9am – 3pm

Take your first step towards a career in the hospitality industry. On this course you'll learn essential cookery and restaurant service skills and how to make barista beverages.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Cookery (Level 4)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Level 3 and 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Level 5)

OR

New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management (Level 5 and 6)



Scan to learn more about
Cookery & Restaurant Service
Skills Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)

New Zealand Certificate in Cookery Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 3



Code: NZ2100



Christchurch



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

Learn how to prepare and cook tasty dishes using real commercial kitchen equipment. You'll gain confidence using core cooking techniques and build your communication and teamwork skills along the way.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Cookery (Level 4)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Bakery (Level 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Cookery – Advanced Cookery (Level 5)

OR

New Zealand Diploma in Cookery – Advanced Patisserie (Level 5)



Scan to learn more about
Cookery Level 3
(Dual Enrolment)



Level



Code



Location



Starts

STUDY OPTIONS

Hospitality, Cookery and Beverage Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NZZ108



Christchurch, Timaru



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

Prepare for a career in cookery or hospitality by gaining essential basic skills in both.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Cookery (Level 4)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Food and
Beverage Service (Level 3 and 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in
Cookery (Level 5)

OR

New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality
Management (Level 5 and 6)

Hospitality Supported Learning Level 1 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 1



Code: G21080



Christchurch



Monday & Tuesday,
9.30am – 12pm

Gain practical skills and knowledge for entry-level employment in the hospitality sector. This course will equip you with hands-on experience in cookery, baking and restaurant service, and you'll learn about basic hospitality terminology.







Scan to learn more about
Hospitality, Cookery & Beverage
Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Scan to learn more about
Hospitality Supported Learning
Level 1 (Dual Enrolment)





HAIR AND BEAUTY

Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing
Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)

	Level 3
	Code: G21078
	Timaru
	Thursday, 9am – 3pm


Discover if a career in hair or beauty is for you. This is the perfect way to learn about two busy and exciting career pathways before deciding if you want to become a beauty therapist or hairdresser.

Salon Skills Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)

	Level 2
	Code: NZ2201
	Christchurch
	Thursday & Friday, 9am – 3pm

Get hands-on training in real salon skills – from chatting with clients to mastering safe work habits, staying on top of fashion trends, and planning your future.





Scan to learn more about
Beauty Therapy & Hairdressing
Level 3 (Dual Enrolment)



Scan to learn more about
Salon Skills Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)

**Introduction to Beauty Therapy
Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)**



Level 2



Code: NCEP4T



Christchurch, Timaru



Friday, 9am – 3pm

Get a taste for what it's like to work in the beauty industry and see if it's the career for you. You'll learn basic manicures and pedicures, facials, in-chair massage, brow shaping and simple make-up skills, all in a real salon setting.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Beauty Therapy (Level 4)



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in
Beauty Therapy (Level 5)



THEN:

Business programmes – for skills for
small business operators



Scan to learn more about
Introduction to Beauty Therapy
Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)

**Introduction to Barbering Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)**



Level 2



Code: NCEP4T



Christchurch



Friday, 9am – 3pm

Get hands-on experience learning key barbering techniques like cutting, trimming, styling and grooming, and build essential customer service skills to connect with clients like a pro.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Barbering (Level 4)



THEN:





Business programmes – for skills for
small business operators



Scan to learn more about
Introduction to Barbering
Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)

TRADES

Carpentry Level 3
(Dual Enrolment)





	Level 3
	Code: NZ2834
	Woolston
	Thursday & Friday, 9am – 3pm

This programme will equip you with a wide range of practical skills as well as an understanding of carpentry theory, calculations, quantities, drawing and communication skills. You'll also learn about tools, machines and timber, plus the construction of residential buildings and light commercial buildings.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry – Apprenticeship (Level 4)

Introduction to Agriculture
Engineering Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)

	Level 2
	Code: NCEP2T
	Timaru
	Thursday, 9am – 3pm


Get stuck into the basics of maintaining and repairing farm machinery. This hands-on programme blends automotive, engineering and welding skills to build your confidence in a general workshop setting.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Automotive Engineering (Level 3)



Scan to learn more about
Carpentry Level 3
(Dual Enrolment)



Scan to learn more about
Introduction to Agriculture
Engineering Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)

Introduction to Construction Trades Two Day Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP1T



Woolston



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

This practical course lets you try out carpentry, joinery, civil works and painting. You'll get to use hand and power tools while working on real projects – perfect for figuring out what trade suits you best.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Electrical Pre-Trade

OR

New Zealand Certificate in
Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Construction
Trade Skills (Carpentry)

OR

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

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Construction
Trade Skills (Joinery)

Introduction to Construction Trades One Day Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP1T



Woolston, Timaru



Friday, 9am – 3pm

Explore the carpentry, painting and decorating, joinery and civil works sectors of the construction industry. You'll develop a range of basic skills and use a variety of hand and power tools across a number of practical projects.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Electrical Pre-Trade

OR

New Zealand Certificate in
Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Construction
Trade Skills (Carpentry)

OR

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

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Construction
Trade Skills (Joinery)



Scan to learn more about
**Introduction to Construction
Trades Two Day Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)**



Scan to learn more about
**Introduction to Construction
Trades One Day Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)**

Introduction to Electrical Engineering Trades Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP2T



Woolston



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

This hands-on course is a great starting point for a career in the electrical sector. You'll gain essential skills and knowledge to move into a pre-trade course or electrical apprenticeship. You'll cover electrical theory, safety and testing, legislation and regulations, first aid, basic electric motors, tool use and industry-focused numeracy and literacy.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Pre-Trade (Level 3)

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Engineering Theory & Practice (Level 4) apprenticeship



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Engineering – Electrical (Level 6)



THEN:

Bachelor of Engineering Technology – Electrical



Scan to learn more about
Introduction to Electrical
Engineering Trades Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)

Introduction to Engineering Trades One Day Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP2T



Woolston



Friday, 9am – 3pm

On this course you'll learn how to work safely on engineering worksites, operate professional tools and machinery with confidence, and develop essential skills in welding, basic fabrication and mechanical engineering machine operations – all under the guidance of experienced tutors.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in
Mechanical Engineering (Level 3)



THEN:

New Zealand Certificate in Engineering
Fabrication (Level 4) apprenticeship



THEN:

New Zealand Diploma in Engineering
(Civil, Mechanical or Electrical)



THEN:

Bachelor of Engineering Technology
(Civil, Mechanical or Electrical)



Scan to learn more about
**Introduction to Engineering
Trades One Day Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)**

Introduction to Automotive and
Autobody Trades Two Day
(Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP2T



Woolston



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

Get hands-on with both automotive and autobody trades. From collision repair to tool handling and basic servicing, this programme gives you real-world experience and the skills to steer your next move with confidence.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Automotive
Engineering (Level 3)



THEN:

New Zealand Certificate in
Light Automotive Engineering (Level 4)
apprenticeship

OR

New Zealand Certificate in
Collision Repair and Automotive Finishing
(Level 4) apprenticeship

Introduction to Automotive
One Day (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP2T



Woolston, Timaru



Friday, 9am – 3pm

Get under the hood and discover the world of automotive trades. This hands-on programme gives you a taste of everything – from engine operations to welding techniques and vehicle maintenance.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Automotive
Engineering (Level 3)



THEN:

New Zealand Certificate in
Light Automotive Engineering
(Level 4) apprenticeship



Scan to learn more about
Introduction to Automotive &
Autobody Trades Two Day
Level 2 (Dual Enrolment)



Scan to learn more about
Introduction to Automotive
One Day Level 2
(Dual Enrolment)



Level



Code



Location



Starts

Introduction to Plumbing Two Day (Dual Enrolment)



Level 2



Code: NCEP1T



Woolston



Thursday & Friday,
9am – 3pm

This practical course lets you dive into real-world skills like cutting and joining pipes, welding, roofing and metalwork.

LEADS TO:

New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing,
Gasfitting and Drainlaying (Level 3)



THEN:

New Zealand Certificate in Plumbing
(Level 4) apprenticeship

OR

New Zealand Certificate in Gasfitting
(Level 4) apprenticeship



Scan to learn more about
**Introduction to Plumbing
Two Day (Dual Enrolment)**

FAQs

How do I apply?

Make an appointment to talk to your careers advisor at school about applying for one of our courses – they'll guide you through it step by step.

How do I get selected?

Make sure your application is fully completed, with all sections filled in accurately. Applications are assessed using a selection rubric to generate a final score. Placements are then offered based on these scores. Please note: Some programmes have limited spaces, so submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance.

Is there an age restriction?

You must be aged 15 or over at the start of the calendar year, be enrolled in a secondary school, and be in Year 11, 12 or 13. If you're turning 15 between January and March, contact Ara to discuss possible options.

Are there any other entry requirements?

To be considered for a Dual Enrolment course at Ara, you will need to have:

- a genuine interest in your programme of choice
- a record of regular school attendance
- a record of consistent and responsible behaviour at school
- a demonstration of maturity to study within a tertiary environment and the ability to manage the associated workload

How will I get to Ara?

Depending on your location, you may be eligible for travel assistance. Talk to your careers advisor if this applies to you.

What should I wear?

You need to wear suitable clothing and footwear for your course – we'll provide more information on your first day. Please note: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided for selected programmes.

What can I expect from my Dual Enrolment programme?

- A hands-on learning experience
- A mix of theory, practical and self-directed learning
- Literacy and numeracy skill development
- Access to state-of-the-art facilities and commercial spaces
- Relevant industry skills and experience





What is expected of me at Ara?

- Respectful, responsible and mature behaviour always
- 100% attendance to get the most out of your Ara experience
- Alcohol, smoking, vaping and drug use are forbidden
- You must remain on the Ara campus during course hours (you can't leave campus at lunchtime or during breaks)
- If you need to leave early, you must provide a letter signed by a parent/ caregiver or a school leave form
- Any serious attendance or behaviour issues will be addressed promptly and communicated to the relevant parties (serious misconduct may result in a discontinuation of enrolment)
- Personal protection equipment is compulsory for specific programmes due to health and safety regulations
 - you can't enter restricted areas without the correct PPE gear

Application - strength assessment

Criteria	Description	Points	Notes: What to look for
1 Complete Application Submission	All required sections are submitted, including school support and pathway statement.	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All documents received on time ✓ School endorsement included ✓ Application form is fully and clearly completed ✗ Missing key sections or signatures - score 0
2 Motivation for Joining (Q1)	Shows why the student wants to enrol and what they hope to achieve.	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clear, personal motivation ✓ Expresses a goal or purpose ✓ Connection to future plans or personal growth ✗ Vague, generic or copied responses - score 5 ✗ No response is a 0 score
3 Interest in Programme (Q2)	Explains why the student is drawn to this specific area of study.	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrates genuine interest ✓ Connects with student's strengths, passions, or learning style ✓ Shows understanding of the programme content ✗ Generic or unclear responses suggest limited understanding score is 5 ✗ No response is a 0 score
4 Relevant Experience (Q3)	Describes previous learning, hobbies, or life experiences related to the course.	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mentions relevant school subjects, volunteering, part-time jobs, projects, or personal interests ✓ Shows initiative or exposure to the field ✗ No relevant experience or "none" with no further explanation - score 5 ✗ No response is a 0 score
5 Future Career Goals/Study Plans (Q4)	Describes how this course fits into their future goals.	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clear and realistic next steps ✓ Connects pathway with a longer-term career or study direction ✓ Shows planning or interest in future opportunities ✗ No goals or "not sure" without explanation - score 5 ✗ No response is a 0 score
6 Fit with other commitments (Q5)	Shows awareness of how the programme will fit with current school/ personal life.	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Realistic reflection on time management ✓ Mentions school subjects, sports, work, or responsibilities ✓ Shows commitment to attend and succeed ✗ No mention of other commitments or unrealistic plan - score 5 ✗ No response is a 0 score
7 Authenticity of Application	Application responses appear to be genuinely completed by the student, without use of AI tools or external authorship.	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Writing sounds age-appropriate and personal ✓ Responses reflect real experiences, goals or feelings ✓ Minor grammar or spelling mistakes are okay if ideas are clear ✗ Overly polished, generic or robotic response - score 5 ✗ No response is a 0 score

Apply now

ara.ac.nz

info@ara.ac.nz

0800 24 24 76

City campus

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

Woolston campus

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

Timaru campus

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

