

Pacific Nursing


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“When I looked into nursing and saw Whitireia offered a Bachelor of Nursing Pacific, I knew it would be a great opportunity to reconnect with my culture. Being able to study in an environment with people like me made all the difference.”

Sala

 Pacific Nursing

 Registered Nurse

When Sala’s husband was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2013, she was 44 and a full-time mum of four kids. Sala decided she needed to pursue a career that would enable her to support her family, no matter what happened.

Sala came across the Bachelor of Nursing Pacific at Whitireia and knew it would be a great opportunity to reconnect with her culture. Fortunately, Sala’s husband came out of remission, and she was able to commit to full-time study.

The first time Sala walked into class she was shocked. It was rare to be completely surrounded by people from the Pacific Islands. Everyone in the class was willing to help each other, and because of that, there was a 100% pass rate.

“Being able to study in an environment with people like me made all the difference.”

The tutors were approachable and understanding of their needs, like if Sala’s children were sick and she needed to leave class.

“I also got a lot of support from the Pacific Team; they went above and beyond to advocate for students’ needs and had an open-door policy to anyone that wanted to have a chat.”

Now Sala is a Registered Nurse at Hutt Hospital, working in the Emergency Department (ED). She was the first Pacific person to join the ED team in five years.

What Sala loves about her job is being able to connect with other Pacific Islanders in a healthcare setting. People often say to her, “It’s good to see one of us here.”

Read Sala’s full story on our website. Follow the QR code below.



Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga celebrate Pacific graduates at festive evening event

On the eve of its formal graduation ceremonies this week, Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga recognised the success of Pacific learners with its signature Pacific Graduation Celebration event, held at its Porirua campus.

Pacific graduands gathered with family and the community to give thanks, acknowledge the journey traveled, and celebrate together.

Speakers at the event included guest attendee Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone, Secretary for Pacific Peoples, and student representative Vasemaca Naborisi, who has just completed her postgraduate certificate in primary care specialising in nursing.

Commenting on the celebration, Ms Clifford-Lidstone said: "On behalf of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, I am very proud to support this acknowledgement of Pacific success and excellence in vocational education, which will result in our graduates entering meaningful careers.

"Seeing Pacific peoples succeed in vocational education aligns with our Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou goals to have prosperous Pacific communities and confident, thriving, resilient Pacific people.

"Malo lava on your achievements to date and may you continue to improve outcomes for Māori and Pacific communities through tautua – service."

Jean Mitaera, Chief Advisor, Centre for Pacific Health and Social Practice at Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga said of the occasion: "The success of each Pacific graduate is immediately impactful on their families and communities.

"That is the significance of vocational education – relevant, accessible, with the potential to change lives."

Mark Oldershaw, Manahautū, Executive Director of Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga said: "For many, the journey to qualifying is challenging, with work, family and life often becoming a necessary priority over study.

"So, to reach the significant milestone of completion, after much sacrifice, hard work, and with tremendous support from family and friends, is definitely worth celebrating.

"I am immensely proud of all of our graduates and it has been an honour to join this joyful recognition of Pacific success."

Student Support Pacific



We are leading the way in making meaningful connections with and for ākonga Pacific. By enabling a strong community presence, we can help our Pacific ākonga with the best possible study and pastoral care.

Celebrating Pacific language and cultures

Each year we celebrate nine Pacific language weeks in partnership with Porirua City Council and local cultural communities. Ākonga across our delivery sites will enjoy a mix of online, face-to-face activities and cultural events.

Working with communities

Our Pacific team are active members of their communities. They support and participate in local events and have a good understanding of the aspirations, needs, and strengths of these communities. Being a part of the community requires reciprocal relationships and supporting community leadership.

Our interconnectedness with community, leaders of education, and industry allows our learners the chance to see Pacific role models excelling in industry, giving our ākonga drive and inspiration to achieve their own goals.

The Pacific Advisors are able to connect ākonga who need further support to local Pacific service organisations.

Serving students

Turou Pacific is the uniquely Pacific welcome for ākonga. Ākonga Pacific meet kaimahi (staff), become part of a village and peer network.

Each year over 300 Pacific ākonga participate in Turou Pacific, a wonderful sense of belonging is created from day one! Pacific Advisors work at our Whitireia and Petone campuses and Te Kāhui Auaha. The advisors will be able to help with study and pastoral care related topics.

We have designated spaces on campus for our Pacific learners to come and be amongst peers, get some study done or even talanoa with graduates and tutors. Check out the Pasifika Centre in the Petone Campus and Ako Ake in the Whitireia Campus.

Celebrating Pacific Success

The Celebrating Pacific Success is our signature event where we celebrate the achievements of Pacific graduands. It's a wonderful opportunity for families, community and government leaders, and Pacific diplomats to pay tribute to each graduand and to acknowledge the 'whole village' who have contributed to each success story. It's certainly one of the most colourful events of the year!

We are proud of our relationship with ANIVA - Pacific Perspectives, Tupu Toa, Tupu Tai, key government scholarship sponsors and our Pacific providers across the region who provide access to internships/ post-study options, supported placements and employment.

Get in touch

Contact our team:

✉ PacificStudentSupport@wandw.ac.nz

Graduate Diploma in Nursing Pacific

📖	Level 7
🕒	18 months, full-time
💰	\$7,400 per year (indicative for 2023 intake)
🌐	TBC

Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai. Turou oro mai ki te Apii Tuatoru o Whitireia. Be supported to become a competent and confident registered nurse with the Nursing Council of New Zealand with this programme. Throughout your learning journey you'll integrate your knowledge of Pacific communities, cultural practices and nursing knowledge to improve health outcomes for Pacific peoples and the wider Aotearoa New Zealand community and overseas.

Programme outline

This programme provides an opportunity for Pacific trained nurses to undertake a nursing education programme that allows them to apply to the NCNZ for registration and a practicing certificate to work in Aotearoa New Zealand as a nurse. The programme is informed by Pacific pedagogies and provides an understanding of the various contexts of Pacific health while supporting learners' cultural capacity to be effective health professionals within a Nursing context. Additionally, the programme positively contributes to the ongoing demand for Pacific Nurses, to better meet and respond to the health needs of Pacific Peoples and communities who are proportionally overrepresented in poor health outcomes and use of the health services.

This programme contributes to the Government objectives to improve Pacific health and education outcomes.

This is a full-time programme and offers a combination of theory i.e. classroom-based sessions (block delivery) at our Whitireia (Porirua) campus, online learning and supported clinical experience (based where you live), which is practical/hands-on work completed in a variety of community and hospital settings.

Target group of learners:

Pacific Island trained nurses who have been registered and have worked in the health sector in

their home country and now have permanent residency in Aotearoa New Zealand.

More detail about this qualification

Courses

Semester One

Adopts the Tokelau term of Fakavae, which refers to foundation. This foundational concept reflects the need to provide a sound platform to build cultural, academic and professional identity. The second is Pacific Identity, which allows learners to recognise the importance of this, no matter how strong their positioning is within this context. The third theme is the learner's journey to becoming a nurse and the importance of embedding knowledge, skills and expertise to enable them to 'Think like a nurse'.

Semester Two

Adopts the Samoan term Faiā, which signifies upholding respectful relationships, which transcend persona, encompassing within and between professional and community connections. This journey is a progression from the Pacific Identity in semester one, to Pacific Heritage and is inclusive of the professional theme 'Act like a Nurse', embedded in semester two.

Semester Three

The themes from semester one and two are built upon, by adopting the Cook Island Māori term, Turanga Neti, where *Neti* is nurse and *Turanga* refers to the positions, status and responsibilities of the nurse profession. This theme is supported by the other two themes of 'Pacific Leadership' and 'Be a Nurse'. The aim is that by the third semester of the GDNP (Graduate Diploma in Nursing Pacific) programme, the learner has become proficient in confidently integrating nursing knowledge into professional practice. This includes the ability to demonstrate sound judgement, decision making, reflection, evaluation, professional conduct and best practice as a beginning nurse clinician in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Teaching and learning

Course content will be delivered via delivery based learning at the Whitireia Porirua campus between the hours of 9.00am-4.00pm (you will be required to attend these in person). Clinical placement may be in an area where you live.

A variety of teaching processes are used in the programme including lectures, tutorials, learning

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packages, workshops, student presentations, online learning and practical sessions in the simulation suites where 'hands-on' skills are learnt and practiced. If there are no timetabled classes, students are expected to use this time working in study teams or on independent study. Students will also be required to complete independent study and work on assignments during weekends and term breaks.

You will be required to attend online sessions when you are not based on campus for tutorials, lectures, and exams.

Clinical

To gain this qualification, students must complete a minimum of 895 hours of clinical experience (praxis). We are proud of the excellent working partnerships we have with our clinical providers, which include Te Whatu Ora Hospitals and private, iwi and community organisations. Their assistance enables us to provide students with a variety of high-quality clinical placements, which allows students to experience the range of opportunities available as a registered nurse.

In semester one, students learn clinical skills in our simulation suites (which are set up like hospital wards), as well as attending off-site clinical experiences in rest homes and the community, of 5 weeks (190hrs).

In semester two students will have 8 (300hrs) clinical weeks each semester; these are divided into blocks of between 2-4 weeks. In semester three students will have 9 weeks (405hrs) which will be one 9 week block.

Clinical weeks may include weekends. Hours during clinical blocks will vary according to the clinical placement, i.e. hospital shifts can include mornings 7:00am–3:30pm, afternoons 2:45–11:15pm and overnight. During clinical, students must be available Monday-Friday.

Career options

Outcomes

Our Nursing qualifications enable graduates to work as a beginning staff nurse in all areas where registered nurses are employed, both nationally and internationally.

Nurses are present across the entire spectrum of health-service delivery and, with over 40,000 registered; they are the largest part of the professional health workforce. The most common image of the nurse is in a hospital ward or general practice but, nurses are found in much wider range of health and disability services settings.

There is a nurse at work in child-health services, residential-care facilities, mental-health services, community services, marae, independent-

nurse clinics, public-health services, occupational health and safety, the defence forces, sexual-health services, ACC case management, prisons, policy development and implementation, health-service management, education and research – as well as in many other settings.

Becoming a registered nurse

Students who successfully complete a Bachelor of Nursing programme are required to sit the Nursing Council of New Zealand State Final Examinations. When these examinations are passed, the student applies to Nursing Council for registration as a Registered Nurse.

Future opportunities

On becoming a registered nurse, most graduates apply for new graduate programmes, which are run by Health New Zealand. Many graduates will also go on to complete postgraduate studies in nursing specialties i.e. Mental Health Nursing, Hospice Palliative Care and Primary Health Care. Some graduates will travel overseas, where a Bachelor of Nursing Degree from New Zealand is internationally recognised.

Entry requirements

Applicants must meet both the academic and suitability entry requirements.

Academic entry requirements

Whitireia degree academic entry requirements (i.e. University Entrance) or equivalent.

Evidence of equivalence may include successful completion of high school studies overseas or recent tertiary study at Level 4, with a "B" average, and/or relevant work experience (paid or unpaid); application considered on a case-by-case basis with entry granted at the discretion of the Head of School.

- A Diploma of Nursing (L5) or Bachelor of Nursing (L7) from a Pacific Island nation
- A minimum of two years full-time equivalent work experience as a registered nurse in your home country
- A minimum of two years' work experience in the health sector in Aotearoa New Zealand

Evidence of suitability based on interview, health screening, safety check and referee reports.

Interview / Evidence of suitability

The interview determines the applicant's preparedness for study, their ability to meet the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (if applicable) and

any registration board requirements in terms of being fit for registration. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following qualities:

- effective interpersonal communication skills
- understanding of, and capability to, work in the professional health and social service sector
- commitment and motivation to succeed

Safety check

The Children's Act (2014) requires all students, who may work with children during the course of their study, to be safety checked. Safety checking includes reference checking, work history, identity check, police vet and an overall assessment of the applicant's safety to work with children.

Health screening / Covid

Government COVID-19 vaccine mandates finished on Monday 26 September 2022, however, most placement providers will require evidence that ākongā (students) are vaccinated against COVID-19 (two vaccinations and one booster), before they allow any placements to proceed. Placements are an integral part of our health programmes and ākongā must complete these practical elements to successfully achieve their qualification. We cannot therefore guarantee a placement without this evidence, as per our clinical placement agreements with placement providers. If there are any questions or concerns relating to this, please email pacificnursing@whitireia.ac.nz in the first instance and one of our team will be in contact.

On acceptance into the programme, ākongā are required to complete a health screening to provide current evidence of their immunisation status, as required by Te Puna Whai Ora | Ministry of Health and our placement providers. At this stage ākongā will also need to provide a copy of their Covid vaccination record (instructions on how to do this will be included in the offer of place letter).

I'm unsure I meet the entry requirements

If you are unsure whether you meet the entry requirements, you should still apply. For some applicants we may recommend completion of some [FREE Tūāpapa study modules](#) prior to the start of the programme, which will build on your current skills and experiences to support your academic achievement.

Credit recognition

If you have relevant skills and knowledge through study or experiences in work or other activities, you may be able to receive credit for them when enrolling in a programme of study. This is done through a process called [credit recognition](#).

Course related costs

Students who are accepted into the course and successfully meet the criteria may be eligible to receive a Te Whatu Ora Support Fund covering course fees and some course costs such as:

Health screening: \$250* (must be completed prior to programme start)

Medical equipment: \$160* (must be ordered prior to programme start)

Uniform: \$200* (must be ordered prior to programme start)

Vaccinations (if required by clinical placement): Costs will vary depending on vaccination required i.e. flu, whooping cough

Stationary: \$200*

Clinical Travel Costs: These will vary depending on where you live and where your placements are*

Students will be informed how to apply for the support fund upon acceptance into the programme.

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How to apply

Before you start your online application you will need the following documentation available to upload when requested.

- Completed [supplementary application form](#) for health and social services
- [Referee report](#)*
- Verified ID
- Verified official transcripts

*Give the referee report to someone who is willing to be your referee. Ask them to complete the forms and return them to you (so you can upload with your application).

Alternatively, completed applications can be emailed to enrolments@wandw.ac.nz or dropped into:

Enrolments, Whitireia New Zealand 3 Wi Neera Drive, Porirua

Supplementary application form



Referee report Form



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