

Veterinary Nursing Assistant

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New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) (Veterinary Nursing Assistant)

📖	Level 5
🕒	1 year, full-time
💰	\$5,540 (indicative for 2023 intake)
🌐	\$30,321* (indicative for 2023 intake)

Study to become a veterinary nurse assistant and learn and practice a range of clinical skills in both classroom and workplace settings. After completing this programme, you'll be able to apply for registration with the New Zealand Veterinary Association as a Veterinary Nursing Assistant or you can continue onto the New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6) programme (run in conjunction with Otago Polytechnic).

Flexible study options

This programme is delivered by blended learning i.e. face to face and online learning. This means some of your lessons may be delivered via Moodle (our online learning platform), which will require you to have a computer and internet access at home. Students will also need to be able to study from home should Covid-19 Alert Levels change.

More detail about this qualification

Courses

VN4100: Introduction to Professional Practice

To enable students to demonstrate knowledge and skills essential for professional practice in veterinary practices.

VN4101: Animal Health and Husbandry

To enable students to demonstrate an understanding of animal health and husbandry and apply this while working with animals in an animal care facility.

VN4102: Reception and Client Services

To enable students to provide client and patient services in an animal care facility.

VN5100: Clinical Practice

To enable students to develop clinical practice, knowledge and skills, and use these while assisting the veterinary nurse or veterinarian. Under this subject students will learn the vital importance of animal welfare and how to maintain it amongst other things. Students will also learn about diseases both common and preventable and how to manage them.

VN5101: Diagnostics and Hospitalised Patient Care

To enable students how to demonstrate knowledge of diagnostic and hospitalised patient procedures and practices by assisting with these in a veterinary clinic. Students will also learn how to manage and care for the hospitalized patient and laboratory work.

VN5102: Surgery Preparation and Anaesthesia

To enable students to develop and apply skills and techniques essential for assisting in surgery and with anaesthesia.

VN5103: Professional Practice

To enable students to demonstrate integration of knowledge, skills and behaviours through providing professional veterinary nursing assistance in a veterinary clinic.

Teaching and learning

To succeed in this programme, you will need to attend all scheduled on-campus classes, complete all your work placement hours, and complete your self-directed learning (most of which is online in Moodle). The programme is largely classroom based, with theory to support practical application. You will be involved in practical lessons as well as regular self-directed learning, including group work, where you will undertake a variety of tasks such as research projects and case studies.

Work placement

Students must attend and complete a minimum of 240 work placement hours during the programme. You will need to secure your own placement in a veterinary clinic to complete a minimum of 240 hours. More detailed information regarding placement requirements will be provided at interview. You will need to arrange your own travel to and from your work

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placements; we encourage students to carpool if possible.

Important Note:

Please note that even though the work is enjoyable, some students may find some situations emotionally distressing, such as animals that have been abused, are injured or sick, or require euthanasia.

Allergies

If you have any allergies to animals, it is important to declare this at the time of enrolment, so this can be discussed with you.

Career options

Graduates of this qualification may be employed as a Veterinary Nurse Assistant working with companion animals in an animal-related facility and be able to:

- Maintain animal health and husbandry of animals in a veterinary clinic
- Care for hospitalised patients.
- Assist in surgery preparation and anaesthesia
- Assist with routine diagnostic procedures.

Entry requirements

Domestic

60 credits at NCEA Level 2 with at least 12 credits in Level 2 English, 12 credits in Level 1 Maths and 12 credits of relevant science at Level 1, or equivalent tertiary study, or meets the education provider's requirements for the equivalent numeracy and literacy standards.

International

A minimum IELTS (Academic) score of 6.0 with no band score lower than 5.5, or equivalent.

OR

Achieved the academic entry requirements in New Zealand or at an institution where English was the language of instruction and assessment.

Find your country's [equivalent academic entry requirements here](#)

**International fee displayed is for 1 year of study (equivalent to 120 credits) and does not include insurance and administration (approximately \$924 per year of study).*

Additional requirements

Applicants must:

- be a minimum of 18 years of age at the commencement of the programme
- provide a curriculum vitae and two reference
- provide a medical declaration indicating there is no evidence of a medical condition that will impact on their ability to practice safely as a veterinary nurse assistant
- have at least three days of work experience and/or observation of animals within a veterinary clinic
- undergo a police check at the time of entry into the programme. In the event of an adverse police report, entry into the programme will be at the discretion of the Head of School. In exceptional circumstances, the requirement for a police check may be waived by the Head of School
- students need to come in with a work placement.

Applicants must attend an interview which is used to discuss:

- preparedness and commitment to study
- identification of strengths and weaknesses related to study
- good character and aptitude for working with animals and the public.

The outcome of the interview will help determine the success of the enrolment.

Where it is suggested that the applicant is not ready to undertake the programme they will be supported to explore alternative study pathways.

Course-related costs

Medical equipment: \$120
Textbooks: \$200
Uniform/shoes: \$250
Stationary/calculator: \$100
Placement travel costs: \$250

How to apply

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

- Completed [Supplementary Application](#) for Health and Social Services Programmes
- [Referee report*](#)
- Verified ID
- Verified official transcripts
- Curriculum Vitae*

*Give the referee report to a person who is willing to be your referee. Ask them to complete the form and either return to yourself (so you can upload with your application), or scan and email to

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enrolments@wandw.ac.nz within 10 days.

Alternatively, completed applications can be printed off and dropped into:

Enrolments, Whitireia New Zealand, 3 Wi Neera Drive, Porirua

Or

Enrolments, WelTec, 21 Kensington Avenue, Petone, Lower Hutt

Related study options

Students are able to continue their studies with Otago Poly's [New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing \(Level 6\)](#) programme. This programme gives students the opportunity to study from the WelTec (Petone) campus should they choose to.

Form

Supplementary application form



Form

Referee report

