

Ngā Toi

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Whitireia and WelTec unite programmes to create new Te Ao Māori performing arts group

Whitireia and WelTec have established a new interdisciplinary group called Ngā Toi to unite Māori and Pacific performing arts and music within Te Wānanga Māori.

“The creation of Ngā Toi enables a roopu (unit) that will bring together creative and performing arts within a Māori-led ecosystem,” says Jeanette Grace, Dean of Te Wānanga Māori at Whitireia.

The new group, created following consultation and feedback, will be based at the Whitireia Porirua campus and will deliver the following programmes:

- New Zealand Certificate in Performing Arts (Level 3) incorporating performing arts and music
- New Zealand Certificate in Music (Level 4)
- New Zealand Diploma in Performing Arts (Level 6) (Māori and Pacific Dance).

“Ngā Toi upholds the vocational education ethos to engage ākonga (students) with learning, develop self-confidence, link back to cultural whakapapa, and enable success,” says Mark Oldershaw, Manahautū Executive Director at Whitireia and WelTec. “It also presents an opportunity to grow an interdisciplinary performing arts group with strong kaupapa and retain the level 3 and 4 music programmes within this newly established group.”

Ngā Toi will be co-located in the current facilities used by Māori and Pacific Performing Arts at Whitireia in Porirua. A kawenata (governance group) led by the Dean of Te Wānanga Māori and including the Chief Advisor Pacific and Head of the School of Creative and Hospitality will oversee the new unit.

“We endeavour to shape our practice and delivery to facilitate learning and success in the Wellington region, and our flexible approach responds to needs and maximises accessibility to vocational education for ākonga (students) in our region,” said Mr Oldershaw.

New Zealand Certificate in Performing Arts (Level 3)



Level 3



17 weeks, full-time



\$3,526 (indicative for 2024 intake)

Begin to specialise in Māori and Pacific performing arts or Music. Learn beginner skills in individual and ensemble performance. Become immersed in cultural frameworks that inform and inspire creative flair.

What you will learn

Taught over 17-weeks, students will choose a strand of performance to specialise in where they will learn tailored skills. There are two strands on offer;

Māori and Pasifika Performing Arts

- Introduction to Māori and Pasifika Performing Arts
- Māori and Pasifika Performing Arts
- Māori and Pasifika Technique Studies
- Ensemble Workshop
- Ensemble Performance

Music

- Introduction to Music and the Music Industry
- Music Instrument Studies
- Ensemble Workshop
- Ensemble Performance

More detail about this qualification

Māori and Pasifika strand

Introduction to Māori and Pasifika Performing Arts

To introduce students to basic vocal and movement skills for Māori and Pasifika performance genres, and to work in the performing arts industry which include health and safety practices.

Māori and Pasifika Technique Studies

To develop students' basic skills in Māori and Pasifika performance techniques, ability to prepare for presentation to an audience and establishment of a routine practice schedule.

Ensemble Workshop

To develop students' ability to prepare in an ensemble for performance, taking responsibility for both personal performance and interpersonal communication and collaboration.

Ensemble Performance

To develop students' performance skills and extend their learning from other courses into performances for audiences.

Music strand

Introduction to Music

To introduce students to theoretical elements of music that contribute to playing a musical instrument, and to introduce students to work in the music industry which include learning health and safety practices.

Introduction to Music Instrument Studies

To develop basic skills in playing a musical instrument (in this course, the voice is included as an instrument), ability to prepare for presentation to an audience and establishment of a routine practice schedule.

Ensemble Workshop

To develop students' ability to prepare in an ensemble for performance, taking responsibility for both personal performance and interpersonal communication and collaboration.

Ensemble Performance

To develop students' performance skills and extend their learning from other courses into performances for audiences.

Career outcomes

This qualification may lead to employment of self-employment as a novice performer in the performing arts industry such as a musician or dance performer.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is correct at the time of print. Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga reserves the right to cancel or postpone any of the programmes, and shall not be liable for any claim other than the proportion of programme fees that the cancelled portion bears. Some programmes may be dependent upon formal approval from NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority), TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) funding allocation, and the number of enrolments. As part of the NZQA targeted review of all Level 1-6 New Zealand qualifications, there may still be changes to some programmes starting in 2024. Fees, programmes, entry and selection criteria, and dates, are subject to change. Please check the relevant programme pages at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz for up-to-date information and full entry regulations before applying to enrol. Information regarding English language requirements is available on each course page at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz.

Graduates will be able to use the skills learned from this programme and apply them in cultural performance-based contexts within their community.

Graduates can also pathway on to the New Zealand Diploma in Performing Arts – Māori and Pacific Dance, where they will further hone their skills in their chosen specialty.

Entry requirements

Dance: Evidence of physical capability to complete the programme based on audition

International: IELTS 5.5 (no band lower than 5.0), or equivalent.

Related study options

- New Zealand Certificate in Music Level 4
- New Zealand Diploma in Performing Arts – Māori and Pacific Dance