

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.



Fast-track door to nursing in Aotearoa opens for Pacific nurses

A grandmother of seven is among 40 ākonga (students) who have signed up for a new diploma to support Pacific-trained nurses into the New Zealand workforce.

"I was so moved on the first day – I saw all of us and I thought, 'Wow, this is amazing, this is a significant move,'" said Salote Tuivakano, who trained and worked as a community nurse in Fiji for 14 years before moving to Ōtautahi/Christchurch 14 years ago.

Te Pūkenga Whitireia's 18-month Graduate Diploma of Nursing Pacific launched in July in Tamaki Mākaaurau/Auckland, where it is being hosted by Manukau Institute of Technology. It is aimed at Pacific-trained nurses with two years' nursing experience, who now reside in New Zealand — many of whom have been working in the unregulated health workforce for years.

Tuivakano's story is similar to many of her fellow ākonga. Unable to register and practise as a nurse here after the Nursing Council tightened its English language requirements in 2008, she worked as a health-care assistant (HCA) in the community and aged care for the next 14 years. But she is excited to finally have the chance to return to nursing.

"I think I'll stay here for good! I'm not planning to go anywhere else, I love New Zealand!"

"Standing here I'm so proud to have the opportunity to register as a nurse in New Zealand. Hopefully we can have a better life, not only for me — for my family, my kids and my mokos," says Apati, a grandmother of seven.

Sureti Navecucu, also a Fiji-trained nurse, worked as an aged care HCA after coming to Waihopai/Invercargill in search of better education for her daughter 11 years ago. But she always wanted to resume her nursing. "This is a great opportunity so I just grabbed it!" she told *Kaitiaki*.

Ane Apati, from the tiny island nation of Tuvalu where she had been an RN for 14 years, worked in a chicken factory when she first arrived in New Zealand seven years ago. But she didn't last and the desire to become a nurse "is really strong for me". She, too, worked as an HCA in aged care before

gaining a scholarship and place on the diploma — one of just three Tuvaluans.

Head of Pacific nursing Whitireia, Tania Mullane, said the ākonga Pacific — so long locked out of nursing in Aotearoa — would bring a "wealth of professional and cultural experience and knowledge that will significantly contribute to the Pacific populations that reside in Aotearoa".

"Being part of giving these ākonga an option to get New Zealand nurse registration is significant, especially knowing the sacrifices they have made to leave their home islands, come to NZ and to be on the programme."

Most of the ākonga — 35 of 40 — had been supported through Te Whatu Ora's Pacific health workforce scholarships which contribute to fees, uniforms, equipment, travel and stipends for indigenous Pacific islanders, whose communities here endure inequitable health outcomes. Te Whatu Ora was also providing support with clinical placements, Mullane said.

A high portion of the Pacific health workforce in New Zealand is made up of unregulated workers. Less than four per cent of the RN workforce identify as Pacific compared to a fast-growing Pacific population of eight per cent.

"Growing the Pacific health workforce is one of the aims of the Government's health workforce plan.

But, in a class-wide interview, many ākonga told *Kaitiaki* they had worked for years in non-nursing health roles since coming to New Zealand. This was despite extensive experience in their homes — countries like Niue, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati — in areas such as maternity, primary health and paediatrics.

"For all the years I have been living here, I was dreaming to become a registered nurse."

The Nursing Council requires most internationally-qualified nurses (IQNs) to pass expensive and difficult English tests and as well as paying \$500 for credentialling. NZNO's Pacific nursing section chair 'Eseta Finau has said many end up working for low wages in the unregulated workforce.

However, from 2024, English standards will be eased as the Nursing Council seeks to balance the need for more IQNs amid a global nursing shortage, with public safety.

Mullane said demand for the first intake had been high, with a waiting list already for next year's diploma. "It's very popular, as this was the first time an accredited programme has been developed that specifically meets the needs of Pacific Island-trained nurses," she said.

Mullane has said she hopes most ākonga would reach the standard of English required over 18 months.

Nursing Council chief executive Catherine Byrne said the council was "very supportive" of the diploma, which would likely lead to more Pacific RNs in Aotearoa.

The council continued to explore other pathways for Pacific nurses to register here, Byrne said.

This article was originally posted on Kaitiaki's website. Kaitiaki Nursing New Zealand is the official journal of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation, Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa. Check out the original article on their website, and find out what they're up to on their Facebook page.

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

Bachelor of Nursing Pacific

	Level 7
	3 years, full-time
	\$7,600 per year (indicative for 2024 intake)
	\$28,000* per year (indicative for 2024 intake)

Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai. Turou oro mai ki te Apii Tuatoru o Whitireia. The Bachelor of Nursing Pacific programme's goal is to support you to become a competent and confident registered nurse with the Nursing Council of New Zealand. 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

For over thirty years nursing has been a major programme at Whitireia. During this time, Whitireia has developed a reputation for producing work-ready graduates who are highly regarded by industry.

Whitireia offers applicants the choice of three Bachelor of Nursing Degrees, all of which are approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority and meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand's requirements for registration. These are the Bachelor of Nursing, Bachelor of Nursing Māori and Bachelor of Nursing Pacific.

All are three-year full-time programmes and offer a combination of theory i.e. classroom-based sessions at our Porirua campus and supported clinical experience, which is practical/hands-on work completed in a variety of community and hospital settings.

More detail about this qualification

Courses

Year one

Fakavae (Tokelau term of Fakavae, which refers to the concept of foundation)

The student will have the opportunity to gain insight

into their own Pacific identity, by introducing them to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Pacific worldviews, and values and models in the context of Aotearoa. The students will acquire core communication skills and foundational nursing skills which they will demonstrate in a diverse range of clinical and cultural learning environments that cover lifespan.

Year two

Faiā (Samoan term which signifies upholding respectful relationships)

Year two will build on the foundational knowledge and skills acquired in year one, by displaying the beginning attributes of nursing praxis, such as; effective communication, self-reflection and ability to interpret and make meaning from interactions with others across a variety of health care settings. At a beginning level, using reflection and critical thinking, the student can facilitate decision making in response to interpretation from a nurse context.

Year three

Turanga Neti (Cook Island: Neti is nurse and Turanga refers to the positions, status and responsibilities of the nursing profession)

By year three, the student is able to demonstrate that they are successfully transitioning out of their 'student role' and into the role of the beginning practitioner. They will confidently be able to move between their Pacific communities and the world of non-Pacific health care services in ways that add value to both. The year 3 student has become proficient in their ability to integrate nursing knowledge into professional practice. This includes the capability to demonstrate sound judgement, decision making, reflection, evaluation, professional conduct and best practice as a beginning nurse clinician.

On successful completion of this programme graduates receive the Bachelor of Nursing Pacific, are eligible to sit the Nursing Council State Finals, and can apply to enrol in postgraduate programmes of study.

Teaching and learning

Theory hours at Whitireia are usually 9.00am-4.00pm during theory weeks. The programmes each have a different non-teaching day. A variety of teaching processes are used in the programme including lectures, tutorials, learning 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,

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.

students are expected to utilise 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.

The programme's non-teaching day is Monday. However please note that students may be required to attend tutorials, lectures and exams on some Mondays.

Clinical

To gain a Bachelor of Nursing Degree, students must complete a minimum of 1,100 hours of clinical experience (praxis). We are proud of the excellent working partnerships we have with our clinical providers, which include both the Hutt Valley and Capital & Coast District Health Boards 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 year 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.

In years two and three, students will have 14–16 clinical weeks each year; these are divided into blocks of between 3–9 weeks. Please note these 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 Bachelor of 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.

University entrance or equivalent academic/work experience, and evidence of suitability based on interview, health screening, safety check, and referee reports.

International students

Proven equivalence to entry requirements plus IELTS 6.5 in each band, or equivalent.

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

**For fee exclusions, please see our [terms and conditions](#).*

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.

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

Prior to starting the programme, you'll be required to complete a health screening to provide evidence if your current immunisation status, as required by our placement providers. Further information on this and the other course costs will be provided when 2024 costs are confirmed. The following costs are approximate.

- Health screening: \$250
- Medical equipment: \$160
- Uniform: \$200
- Vaccinations (if required by clinical placement):
Costs will vary depending on vaccination required
i.e. flu, whooping cough
- Stationery:
- Clinical Travel Costs: These will vary depending on where you live and where your placements are

How to apply

Applicants should apply by doing the following;

1. Apply online through the Bachelor of Nursing Pacific programme page
 2. 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

Related study options

Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Specialty Nursing

Postgraduate Certificate in Nursing

Supplementary application form



Referee report Form



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