

Nursing





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Andrew



Nursing



Registered ED Nurse

Andrew's favourite subject at school was biology, and he had a passion for sports and being healthy. He wasn't sure what he wanted to study, but after his careers advisor suggested he might like a career in nursing, he went for it.

After hearing nursing students at Whitireia did a lot of practical work and placements, he enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing.

“Over half my time at Whitireia was spent in placements, it's one of the reasons I chose to study there. I have dyslexia, and I'm much better at learning something in a practical environment than in a classroom.”

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Andrew's placements provided him with a range of experience. He was able to put the theory into practice, but also get an idea of what work he wanted to pursue after graduating. He had placements in ABI (Acute Brain Injury), community mental health, the EDOU (Emergency Department Observation Unit), the cardiothoracic ward, and ICU.

“I really enjoyed my placements. I learnt a lot from them, especially acute brain injury (ABI). You see how someone's life can change in an instant, from something that's not their fault at all. It could be the smallest thing, and they've lost their whole world.”

Andrew knew he wanted to work somewhere where every day was different. Not long after graduating, Andrew was working in the Emergency Department (ED) at Wellington Hospital.

“I love coming to work every day not knowing what I'll be doing. I'm the type of person who always has to be moving. ED is definitely the right place for me. The team there is also great, they're always looking out for each other - it's like a family.”

For now, Andrew's loving ED. Next, he wants to pursue postgraduate study, and eventually, take advantage of the work opportunities for nurses in places like Antarctica or Africa.

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



Inspired by whānau, two sisters support each other to graduate with a degree in nursing from Whitireia

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Sisters Jerykah and Javaanah Toimata-Holtham, who are 13 months apart, have just qualified with a Bachelor of Nursing from Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga and both are now working full time as nurses in the Wellington region.

"I left Wellington Girls College before I finished highschool," says Javaanah, "and Jerykah ended up completing her schooling in Australia. Neither of us really knew exactly what the future held for us, and we had started doing casual work just to earn some money."

"But we have strong family ties to healthcare through our Pacific heritage, and our whānau encouraged us to think about this pathway as a possible way forward," says Jerykah.

"Our Niue grandfather spent much of his career as a psychiatric nurse in Porirua, and following in his footsteps, Mum qualified as a nurse at Whitireia, and is still dedicated after twenty years. They are an inspiration for us and we decided to start our own journey into healthcare," says Javaanah.

"The academic pathways at Whitireia gave us focus, and most importantly, gave us the confidence to start the bachelor degree in nursing," says Jerykah. "During the three-year degree we lived with our grandparents for family support, and to be close to the Whitireia campus."

Study was not always totally straightforward, as some of their programme had to be completed during COVID lockdowns, and in her final year of study Javaanah had a baby.

But Jerykah and Javaanah were supported by the Pacific Team at Whitireia who helped them secure Aniva funding to assist with their study, and travel to clinical placements. With this help, with encouragement from their whānau - and each other - both sisters remained committed to completing, and graduated this year.

Javannah now works as a community nurse with Ora Toa in Porirua.





"I love this work as it keeps me close to my community. Because I have both a Pacific and Māori background, I connect with many of the patients who are grateful to be with someone familiar as they discuss their health worries and needs. I feel this is such a valuable role, and it also allows me to be a Mum to my young baby too, as the hours are workable."

Jerykah is aiming to be a PAR (patient at risk) nurse, and is well on the way to that, currently working as a PACU (post anesthetic care unit) nurse at Wellington Hospital. "The work is intense, I love it and am learning so much!"

"Both sisters beam with pride as they talk about the work that they do and are an inspiration to other students that nursing is an achievable career, and that it offers a very diverse range of work options," says Carmel Haggerty, Head of School, Health & Social Services, Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga. "We are delighted that Jerykah and Javaanah have accomplished all that they have, and we look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in their work and lives."

"We celebrate every Pacific graduate. Jerykah and Javaanah take into their nursing practice the aspirations of their I-Kiribati and Niue communities, setting new goals and career frontiers for Pacific youth," says Jean Mitaera, Chief Advisor, Centre for Pacific Health and Social Practice.

Bachelor of Nursing Pacific

 Level 7
 3 years, full-time
 04 Aug 2025 (Porirua)
 \$8,048 per year (indicative for 2025 intake)

Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai. Turou oro mai ki te Apii Tuatoru o Whitireia. 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. 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.

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 three 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.

Teaching and learning

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, 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.

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.

Clinical

To gain a Bachelor of Nursing Degree, students must complete a minimum of 1,100 (pending Nursing Council Education change) 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.

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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 health screening to provide evidence of your current immunisation status, as required by our placement providers. Further information on this and the other course costs will be provided when 2025 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: \$200
- 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 programmes
 - 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

For international applicants - please email your completed application to international-admissions@wandw.ac.nz

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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