

Cookery





'I appreciated the focus on techniques through learning recipes. I learned how to think of what I wanted the outcome of a dish to be and what tools I needed to make it happen.'

Zach



Cookery



Head Chef, Abandoned Brewery

Cookery graduate Zach Meech has recently stepped into the role of Head Chef at Abandoned Brewery's new Petone site. From the get-go, Zach has been hands-on, hiring his own team, and building the kitchen from scratch. Zach's role has him dealing with a little bit of everything—creating the menu, dealing with suppliers, training staff and cleaning fridges. We spoke to Zach about his experience and how he landed at Abandoned Brewery in Petone.

A passion for cookery

From a young age, Zach had always had a love of food but had heard that being a Chef could be high stress, so wasn't sure if it was for him.

"I was obsessed with food and cooking ever since I was a teenager. Making elaborate pastas for lunch, and baking lime pies for my flat mates. I was a bit resistant to becoming a chef because of all the stories about stress and pressure. Eventually I decided to go for it, and I loved it."

Building a foundation of skills

When Zach studied, the programme was known as the "Level 4 Diploma in Culinary Arts", these days, the equivalent would be the Level 4 Certificate in Cookery. The year-long practical programme introduces students with little to no experience to the culinary field. Students learn various cooking methods, food preparation, food safety, and techniques required to create a variety of restaurant

style dishes from meat and poultry (or entrees and mains) to pastry and desserts.

The focus on practical work appealed to Zach, and he had no aversion to sampling so many types of dishes, saying he "ate like a king".

Diving into the industry

During his course, Zach got his foot in the door doing work experience at Monterey in Newtown, a small smoked meats and burger restaurant. Once he graduated, they offered him a full-time job. After that, he picked up various different skills at companies across the Wellington region; learning about allergies at a high-end childcare centre, variety as a temp chef at catering companies, and eventually, Seashore Cabaret, where he worked his way up to Sous Chef. That then led to the opportunity at Abandoned Brewery.

Creative freedom in the kitchen

Zach loves the variety and freedom at Abandoned Brewery. He's got a lot of work to do, but he's able to get creative.

"In a small kitchen and small team, my role really includes a little bit of everything. From creating and costing the menu, to dealing with suppliers, to cleaning fridges to staff training, to getting annoyed when someone comes in at 9.30pm on a Wednesday. I do a bit of everything."

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



Whitireia and WelTec hospitality and cookery programmes return to Petone campus

Published on 22 February 2024

WelTec's hospitality programmes have returned to the original Kensington Avenue hub in Petone.

The decision to leave the previous location on Cuba Street in Central Wellington came about following the end of the lease and a willingness to be joined up with other tutors and students on a WelTec campus in a community central to the Wellington region.

"Re-creating our hospitality hub on the Petone campus will draw students from a wide catchment in the Wellington region," says Mick Jays, Head of School, Creative and Hospitality.

"It is on street level and has parking, making it more accessible for our students and creates a better link to the campus and surrounding neighbourhoods. We have upgraded the site significantly to create three cutting edge industrial teaching kitchens and a service kitchen and as part of the return, the training restaurant and cafe, along with a new pop-up bakery, will be open to the public on certain days of the week."

"Having the students practice their cookery and hospitality skills in our on-campus eateries will be fantastic experience for them and will connect them nicely to the 'foodie' hub of Petone," says Ben Shadbolt, who is leading the project.

"Hospitality is now so much more than cookery. The flexibility in course offerings allows student to 'earn while they learn' and leads to a diversity of careers."

"Most of our managed traineeship chef students will already be working, getting qualified while they continue to work. Hospitality level 3 can either be done full time for 17 weeks or two days a week for 34 weeks. The diploma in Hospitality Management level 5 and the Diploma in Cookery level 5 occupy students two days a week allowing students time to work and get on-the-job experience. We also offer a food and beverage level 4 qualification delivered one day a week over 17 weeks with 12 hours on-the-job training.

"As part of helping students into work or work experience during or following their study, we link locally and regionally with employers which span a wide range of food service, food production, restaurants, hotels, aged care and conference centres," says Ben.

Commenting on the move, Tony Parun, director of Petone-based food company, Brezelmania commented: "We have a longstanding and very good relationship with WelTec with many graduates successfully take up jobs with us. Petone is a vibrant place with many food businesses and restaurants, I think it is a great area for WelTec to run its hospitality programmes from here."

Helen Lim studied level 3 Hospitality at the WelTec Cuba Street Campus. She is now studying level 4 Cookery at the relocated site in Petone, and is enrolled for further hospitality studies into level 5 starting in March.

"I am excited to be working toward my diploma in hospitality at WelTec and by the time I am complete I will have some knowledge of both cooking, as well as the business side. The new Petone hub for my WelTec study is friendly and I like that there is parking."

Kua tuwhera ā tumatanui ngā ratonga

Services open to the public

Bistro 107

Our fully supervised training restaurant has moved to Petone Campus and is open on selected dates throughout the year. Keep an eye out on our websites for the next round of bookings!

Aria Beauty Therapy

Our beauty therapy students offer an array of beauty treatments, with support from fully qualified professional therapists. Enjoy a professional spa service for a fraction of the cost today.

The salon is open every Thursday from 9:30am–2:30pm, July through to October, at two locations:

- 📍 **Te Kāhui Auaha**
65 Dixon Street, Wellington
- 📍 **Petone Campus**
O Block, Buick Street, Petone

Barbering

Sharpen up your look in our professional barbershop. Our barbering students frequently cut and shave all types of hair to build their portfolio in their pursuit to become a professional barber.

We have two locations available:

Te Auaha Barbering Academy

- 📍 Te Kāhui Auaha,
65 Dixon Street, Wellington
- 📅 Tuesday–Thursday
- 🕒 9:30am–3:30pm

The People's Barber

- 📍 Whitireia Porirua Campus,
3 Wi Neera Drive, Porirua
- 📅 Tuesday–Thursday
- 🕒 10am–3pm

Te Whare Makawe

Hair on Campus

Experience a range of different services at highly competitive prices. You'll leave looking and feeling great.

We have two locations available:

Petone Campus Salon

- 📍 O Block, Buick Street, Petone
- 📅 Thursday
- 🕒 1–7pm

Whitireia Porirua Campus Salon

- 📍 Corner of Tutuira Place and
Wi Neera Drive, Porirua
- 📅 Wednesday
- 🕒 9:45am–4:30pm

Latte Lab

Located in the Hospitality Campus at Petone, the Latte Lab gives students the chance to develop front of house and barista skills in a cafe-like environment. The Latte Lab is where we do the coffee training for our programmes and STAR tasters (Secondary Schools).






The lab opens up as a pop-up cafe at certain times of the year. Customers are able to purchase barista-made coffee and bakery items.



Book now!

Scan the QR code to book your appointment and find out more information!

New Zealand Certificate in Cookery (Level 4)

 Level 4
 1 year, full-time
 23 Jun 2025 (Petone)
 \$6,636 (indicative for 2025 intake)
 \$25,000* (indicative for 2023 intake)

Take your love of food and all things culinary further with our Certificate in Cookery, this programme will give you the skills you need to take the first step in starting your professional career as a chef no matter what your experience level is.

As well as learning complex dishes and culinary techniques, you'll gain an understanding of larder and catering operations, and dietary principles.

This programme is delivered full-time on campus and will accommodate part-time working hours. However, if you are already working in a commercial kitchen, please see the Managed Traineeship pathway as an option.

What you will learn

This one-year full-time programme is “hands-on” and is suitable for those who may have little or no experience in the culinary field. The focus is on the essential skills of food preparation, cookery methods and techniques that will provide you with the keys to open your culinary world.

The learning accelerates to include the more complex aspects of professional cookery along with the compulsory compliance requirements.

You will learn through practical tutorials and workshops and be assessed in a purpose-built environment alongside students of all ages and of different cultures and backgrounds.

- Cooking methods and their applications
- Cold larder techniques
- Food safety, Health and safety

- Standard operating policies and procedures for commercial kitchens
- Preparation, cooking and presentation of fish dishes
- Farinaceous and vegetable dishes
- Preparation, cooking and presentation of meat and poultry dishes
- Patisserie techniques to produce and present desserts
- Techniques to produce dough and pastry products

Managed Traineeship Pathway

If you're working in a commercial kitchen or an employer wanting to develop your staff, this is the programme for you. “Earn while you learn” and turn your experience into a qualification and become a qualified chef. Develop your skills from the basics to advanced techniques guided by our professional chef tutors in a hands-on purpose-built environment.

Learn through practical tutorials and workshops and be assessed in a purpose-built environment alongside other trainee chefs. Access to our online learning system and regular on-site visits will provide additional support to both the trainee and the employer throughout the process.

What you will learn

The Managed Traineeship Pathway leads to the New Zealand Certificate in Cookery Level 4 and is specifically designed for trainee chefs already working in professional kitchens.

The one-year (40 week) programme requires an on-campus attendance of one day per week on alternate weeks (20 days total) and is designed to support trainees to work towards becoming a qualified chef whilst continuing to be employed in the industry.

You will learn through practical tutorials and workshops and be assessed in a purpose-built environment alongside other trainee chefs. Access to our online learning system and regular onsite visits will provide additional support to both the trainee and the employer throughout the process.

- Cooking methods and their applications
- Cold larder techniques
- Food safety, Health and safety
- Standard operating policies and procedures for commercial kitchens

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.

- Preparation, cooking and presentation of fish dishes
- Farinaceous and vegetable dishes
- Preparation, cooking and presentation of meat and poultry dishes
- Patisserie techniques to produce and present desserts
- Techniques to produce dough and pastry products

Career options

The programme will prepare students for entry-level positions in a commercial kitchen environment. The progression to senior roles will be dependent on time and relevant experience in the industry in a variety of workplaces for example Hotels, Restaurants, Catering companies, institutions, Stadiums and cruise ships.

- Trainee / Commis Chef
- Demi Chef de Partie
- Chef De Partie
- Sous Chef
- Head chef
- Executive Chef

Entry requirements

Under 20 years

60 credits at NCEA Level 1 including 10 literacy and 10 numeracy credits, or equivalent.

Over 20 years

If you're 20 years or over, you may qualify for special admission on this programme. Contact us if you don't meet the Under 20 entry criteria.

Managed Traineeship pathway

Candidates must be employed for a minimum of 24 hours per week in an approved hospitality business in an appropriate position (e.g.: Kitchen Assistant, Commis Chef, Junior Chef or similar role).

International students

Minimum IELTS (academic) score of 5.5 with no band score lower than 5 is required, or equivalent.

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

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

You must be able to carry out the physical requirements of the programme.

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