

Animal Healthcare Assisting



New Zealand Certificate in Animal Healthcare Assisting (Level 4)

📖 Level 4

🕒 1 year, full-time (part-time options available)

💰 \$7,528 (indicative of 2025 intake)

Become an Animal Healthcare Assistant, with the skills and knowledge required to work in the animal healthcare sector or to assist veterinary nurses or veterinarians in a clinical veterinary setting.

You'll learn a range of clinical and husbandry skills, in both the classroom and work placement settings, for a range of companion animals.

Programme outline

You'll learn about animal communication and behaviour, husbandry and hygiene, and handling and restraints for a variety of companion animals. You'll also learn about infection control, interpersonal relationships and clinical effectiveness.

Graduates of the programme will have the skills and knowledge to assist in the provision of healthcare for animal patients, working under broad supervision or guidance, within their scope of practice.

Graduates will be eligible to apply for registration on the New Zealand Register of Animal Healthcare Assistants.

More detail about this qualification

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.

You will be required to attend two on-campus days each week.

Practicum

You must complete at least 240 hours of practicum during the programme.

Weekly placements should be in an animal care facility such as a cattery, kennels, rescue, or doggy day-care. If

you are not already working or volunteering in one of these areas, we recommend you arrange a placement close to home. Our staff will assist you if you have difficulty finding a placement.

Placements should be one day a week for at least six hours. Placements can start from the beginning of week four, but only after you have completed your 'Passport to Practicum'.

In Trimester 2, you will be required to complete a block placement at a vet clinic, to achieve a minimum of 80 hours. Please do not book the block placement until you have started the programme.

Courses

| Course code | Course name | Credits |
|-------------|--|---------|
| ANML4101 | Companion Animal Professionalism and Infection Control | 15 |
| ANML4102 | Companion Animal Anatomy and Physiology | 15 |
| ANML4103 | Introduction to Companion Animal Husbandry and Behaviour | 15 |
| ANML4104 | Companion Animal Practicum 1 | 15 |
| ANML4105 | Companion Animal Health and Hygiene | 15 |
| ANML4106 | Companion Animal Clinical Assistance | 15 |
| ANML4107 | Companion Animal Preparation for Practice | 15 |
| ANML4108 | Companion Animal Practicum 2 | 15 |

Course related costs

The following costs are approximate. Confirmed costs and details on where to purchase your uniform will be sent out prior to the programme's start date.

- Uniform: \$100
- Placement travel costs: these will vary depending on where you live and where your placements are.

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.

Entry requirements

40 credits at NCEA Level 1, including 10 Literacy credits and 10 Numeracy credits, or a recognised equivalent;
OR a relevant qualification at NZQF Level 2 or above, or a recognised equivalent.

International

Proven equivalence of entry requirements plus an IELTS score of 5.5 (general or academic) with no individual band lower than 5 from one test taken in the preceding two years, or an equivalent described in NZQA Rules.

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

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission, all applicants must complete a [health and criminal declaration form](#) to ensure fitness to practice, prior to acceptance into the programme.

*Convictions of any offence may not necessarily exclude applicants from enrolment. Any decision is made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the delegated authority.

Selection processes may apply where the number of applications exceed the number of available places.

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.

How to apply

Complete the [health and criminal declaration form](#) and save to your computer so you can attach it when you complete the online application.

[Health and criminal declaration form](#)

