


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

Published on 30 May 2024

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

 Level 7
 3 years, full-time
 \$8,048 per year (indicative for 2025 intake)
 NZ \$29,120* per year (indicative for 2025 intake)

Over the years Whitireia has developed a national reputation for supporting learners to become culturally competent and confident nurses. Learn how to improve health outcomes for communities across Aotearoa New Zealand. Be the person whom the public most value and trust while they undergo personal and challenging health journeys. This programme offers culturally and clinically focused experiences while offering a career in the health sector that's both challenging and rewarding.

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.

Students who successfully complete the programme are eligible to sit the Nursing Council of New Zealand State Final Examinations. When passed, the student applies to Nursing Council for registration as a Registered Nurse.

More detail about this qualification

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.

Courses

Year one

Has a primary health care focus. Ākonga are supported to become student nurses by gaining knowledge focused on concept-based learning of nursing theory and research, nursing science, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, cultural safety, sociology, communication and assessment. Ākonga learn clinical skills in our on-site simulation suites, as well as attending off-site clinical experiences in primary health care settings such as rest homes and community practice settings.

Year two

The ākonga has become an independent learner and is ready to add to the concepts gained through on-site workshops and context-based learning, with a focus on national health trends and simulated learning experiences. Block periods of off-site clinical learning have a focus on direct client care in mental health, community, and in-patient care settings.

Year three

The student nurse consolidates practice and theory knowledge in preparation for undertaking the roles and responsibilities of a registered nurse. Integration of knowledge, focusing on contemporary professional nursing and health issues in the local and global context, enables the ākonga to further develop in their clinical judgement, professionalism, and leadership. In the second semester students have an extended period in clinical practice to prepare for the Nursing Council State Final Examinations and registered nurse practice.

Teaching and learning

The Bachelor of Nursing 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.

A variety of teaching processes are used in the programme including lectures, tutorials, learning packages, workshops, ākonga presentations, online learning and practical sessions in the simulation suites where 'hands-on' skills are learnt and practiced.

Clinical

To gain a Bachelor of Nursing Degree, ākonga 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 Te Whata Ora Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley and private, iwi and community organisations. Their assistance enables us to provide ākonga with a variety of high-quality clinical placements, which allows ākonga to experience the range of opportunities available as a registered nurse.

In year 1, ākonga 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 2 & 3, ākonga 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.

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: \$270
- Medical equipment: \$185
- Uniform: \$220
- Vaccinations (if required by clinical placement): Costs will vary depending on vaccination required i.e. flu, whooping cough
- Clinical Travel Costs: These will vary depending on where you live and where your placements are.

Entry requirements

Academic entry requirements

Whitireia degree entry requirements or equivalent academic/work experience; evidence of suitability based on interview, health screening, safety check and referee reports.

International

Proven equivalence of 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

We may interview some applicants to determine their 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 ākonga, 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](#).

Enrolled nurse applicants can apply for credit recognition which is assessed on an individual basis. Please note that enrolled nurse applicants will not get direct entry into year two.

How to apply

Applicants should apply by doing the following;

- Apply online through the Bachelor of Nursing programme page
- Before you start your online application, you will need to have 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

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*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

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](#)

