


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.

Graduate Diploma in Nursing Pacific

📖	Level 7
🕒	18 months, full-time
📅	17 Feb 2025 (Porirua)
💰	\$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 Graduate Diploma in Nursing Pacific's goal is to support Pacific trained nurses to finish their qualification, and to become registered 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

This programme provides an opportunity for Pacific trained nurses to undertake a nursing education programme that allows them to apply to the NCNZ for registration and a practicing certificate to work in Aotearoa New Zealand as a nurse. The programme is informed by Pacific pedagogies and provides an understanding of the various contexts of Pacific health while supporting learners' cultural capacity to be effective health professionals within a Nursing context. Additionally, the programme positively contributes to the ongoing demand for Pacific Nurses, to better meet and respond to the health needs of Pacific Peoples and communities who are proportionally overrepresented in poor health outcomes and use of the health services.

This programme contributes to the Government objectives to improve Pacific health and education outcomes.

This is a full-time programme and offers a combination of theory i.e. classroom-based sessions (block delivery) at our Whitireia (Porirua) campus, online learning and supported clinical experience (based where you live), which is practical/hands-on work completed in a variety of community and hospital settings.

Target group of learners:

Pacific Island trained nurses who have been registered and have worked in the health sector in their home country and now have permanent residency in Aotearoa New Zealand.

More detail about this qualification

Courses

Semester One

Adopts the Tokelau term of *Fakavae*, which refers to foundation. This foundational concept reflects the need to provide a sound platform to build cultural, academic and professional identity. The second is Pacific Identity, which allows learners to recognise the importance of this, no matter how strong their positioning is within this context. The third theme is the learner's journey to becoming a nurse and the importance of embedding knowledge, skills and expertise to enable them to 'Think like a nurse'.

Semester Two

Adopts the Samoan term *Faiā*, which signifies upholding respectful relationships, which transcend persona, encompassing within and between professional and community connections. This journey is a progression from the Pacific Identity in semester one, to Pacific Heritage and is inclusive of the professional theme 'Act like a Nurse', embedded in semester two.

Semester Three

The themes from Semester One and two are built upon, by adopting the Cook Island Māori term, *Turanga Neti*, where Neti is nurse and Turanga refers to the positions, status and responsibilities of the nurse profession. This theme is supported by the other two themes of 'Pacific Leadership' and 'Be a Nurse'.

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 use 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.

You will be required to attend online sessions when you are not based on campus for tutorials, lectures, and

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exams.

Clinical

To gain this qualification, students must complete a minimum of 895 hours of clinical experience (praxis). We are proud of the excellent working partnerships we have with our clinical providers, which include Te Whatu Ora Hospitals 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 semester 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, of 5 weeks (190hrs).

In semester two students will have 8 (300hrs) clinical weeks each semester; these are divided into blocks of between 2-4 weeks. In semester three students will have 9 weeks (405hrs) which will be one 9 week block.

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 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

Applicants must have permanent residency or approval to study as a domestic student.

Whitireia degree academic entry requirements (i.e. University Entrance) or equivalent.

Evidence of equivalence may include successful completion of high school studies overseas or recent tertiary study at Level 4, with a “B” average, and/or relevant work experience (paid or unpaid); application considered on a case-by-case basis with entry granted at the discretion of the Head of School.

- A Diploma of Nursing (L5) or Bachelor of Nursing (L7) from a Pacific Island nation
- A minimum of two years full-time equivalent work experience as a registered nurse in your home country
- A minimum of two years' work experience in the health sector in Aotearoa New Zealand

Evidence of suitability based on interview, health screening, safety check and referee reports.

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

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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

Students who are accepted into the course and successfully meet the criteria may be eligible to receive a Te Whatu Ora Support Fund covering course fees and some course costs such as:

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

Students will be informed how to apply for the support fund upon acceptance into the programme.

How to apply

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

Supplementary application form



Referee report Form



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