

Social Work





‘Whitireia taught me you don’t have to be a certain person to be able to study. It doesn’t matter where you’re from or what you’ve been through. Everyone and anyone can study.’

Tui



Social Work



Social Worker

Tui’s drive to become a social worker started when she worked as a Youth Leader.

“Working with young people opened me up to a lot of things happening in their world. I realised a lot of them didn’t have anyone to talk to, so I decided to become that person.

It was a member of Tui’s family that recommended the social work programme at Whitireia. As someone who hadn’t studied in a few years, it was important for Tui to be in an environment that supported her academically and mentally, as well as culturally.

One of Tui’s favourite things about studying at Whitireia was the opportunity to work with real people; “After we learnt the theories and approaches, we got to go out in the community on placement and put it into practise.” But most importantly, Tui says Whitireia taught her about who she was, as Māori, as Samoan, and as a wāhine in Aotearoa.

Now a Social Worker at Wellington HELP, Tui is proud to use her skills to help people on their journey to wellness. “If you are a person that serves and loves to help people, whether that be your community, your family, the people you love or just anyone, then social work is for you.”

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



Bachelor of Social Work

📖 Level 7

🕒 4 years, full-time. part-time available

💰 \$7,232 per year (indicative for 2025 intake)

Studying the Bachelor of Social Work will help you to develop a practice model that integrates non-indigenous and indigenous theories, models, thinking, and skills, which can help to enhance working with family, whānau, and people in the community.

Programme outline

This programme is designed to meet the professional and educational requirements of the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB) and Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) Code of Ethics and in doing so provides those who choose to study at Whitireia with a sound social work education, a recognised qualification, and a pathway to higher qualifications.

More detail about this qualification

Teaching and learning

The course is made up of both on-campus learning days and online tutorials. The online tutorials will take place on the non-campus days and are an essential part of your learning journey and will include course content and Tūāpapa tautoko.

The online tutorials will require you to have a computer and internet access at home. Students will also need to be able to work from home should Covid-19 Alert Levels change.

Year one

The foundations for social work education are established and begin to be contextualised. The ākonga starts to develop an awareness of their personal practice base and can see how theory informs social work practice and can apply knowledge of professional and legal responsibilities.

Year two

Ākonga understanding of social worker identity opens them to communication skills for different audiences, gain knowledge and practices that inform them of safe social work practices and become more aware of the social work context they are developing.

Year three

Year three continues to prepare ākonga to develop more specialist social work knowledge and skills. It contains the first 12 weeks of social work field placement where they will be aware of themselves and the 'others' with whom they engage on placement. Maintaining safe practice for themselves, their clients, and the organisation by drawing on their knowledge of ethics, law, and social work practice theory.

Year four

Ākonga are enabled to prove the competencies expected of them as new social work practitioners. Take responsibility for their actions, are informed by the many dimensions of social work knowledge, and can critically reflect on their actions and responses, as well as those of others. They are able to demonstrate an integrated philosophical approach to, and critical thinking about, Te Tiriti o Waitangi in a variety of work situations, ranging from the governance and management levels of an organisation to their own personal supervision and practice theory with clients in their last 12 weeks of placement.

Fieldwork placements

Students must complete their fieldwork placement experience of 12 weeks (60 days) in both Years 3 and 4. Over this 12-week period, students can expect to complete 60 days full time, with varied hours of work.

Please note, fieldwork placements may not be in the area that you live.

The cost of transportation to and from fieldwork placements is the student's responsibility. If students are working part-time priority must be given to attending fieldwork placements.

Course related costs

The following costs are approximate. Confirmed costs for next year and first day information will be available here from 01 October.

Health screening*: \$250

*Health Screening: In years three and four, health screening/vaccinations may be a prerequisite for attendance at some of the fieldwork placements. Students will be advised whether this is a requirement when their placement is confirmed. Please note students are responsible for any costs involved.

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

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

Applicants for whom English is an alternate language and who have not undertaken secondary education in English Māori or New Zealand Sign Language.

International

International: IELTS 6.5 academic in each band.

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 and ability to meet the Health Practitioner's Competence Assurance Act 2003, as well as any registration board requirements in terms of being fit for registration. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following qualities:

- Effective interpersonal communication skills
- Appropriate presentation
- Maturity and a positive attitude
- Commitment and motivation to succeed

Once course numbers are met, students are wait-listed in order of the date on which their application was submitted.

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.

Health screening

Students may be required to complete health screening to provide current evidence of their immunisation status, required by Te Puna Whai Ora | Ministry of Health and health organisations offering clinical learning experiences. These requirement would be discussed with students attending one of these fieldwork placements.

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](#).

How to apply

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

Give the referee report to someone who is willing to be your referee. Ask them to complete the forms and either return to yourself (so you can upload with your application), or scan and email to enrolments@wandw.ac.nz within 10 days.

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

[Supplementary application form](#)



Referee report



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