

New Zealand Certificate in Apiculture (Level 3)

Location

Online with block courses in:

- Akaroa (Rue Jolie)
- Ashburton (Brucefield Avenue)
- Christchurch (National Trades Academy)
- Cromwell, Central Otago (Bannockburn Road)
- Dunedin (Momona Hall)
- Gisborne (Eastwoodhill Arboretum)
- Hamilton (Fraser High School)
- Hokitika (72 Tudor Street)
- Lincoln (Biological Husbandry Unit)
- New Plymouth, Taranaki (Coastal Taranaki School, Okato)
- Orewa, North Auckland (Hibiscus Coast Community House)
- Queenstown (Southern Lakes English College)
- Tauranga (Whataroa Road)
- Timaru (Timaru Boys High School)
- Wellington (Newtown School)
- Whakatane (Toi Ohomai Campus)
- Whangarei, Kerikeri (Maromaku School)

Duration

33 weeks part-time; not available full-time

Delivery

A series of workshops supported by online content, self-directed study and practical work

Credits

65

DescLevel

65

Intakes

August

Apply

now

[APPLY NOW](#)

[Download PDF →](#)

Want to learn more about beekeeping? Apiculture is one of New Zealand's fastest growing industries and there is such high demand for this skill that it is listed on Immigration NZ's Immediate Skills Shortage List.

Graduates of this new programme will be able to work as an assistant beekeeper for commercial operators, as an independent beekeeper with a small number of beehives or even develop their own business. Alternatively, they will be able to pathway into Level 4 Apiculture training (either as a Leading Hand or specialising in queen bee rearing).

There is international demand for manuka honey and other beehive products and, during this programme, you will gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage your own beehives and be exposed to commercial apiarists in your local area. You will also have the opportunity to complete an American Foulbrood (AFB) disease recognition course as part of this Certificate.

Entry requirements

- Open entry.
- If English is not your first language, you must provide:
 - New Zealand University Entrance OR
 - Overall Academic IELTS 5.0 with no individual band score lower than 5.0 (achieved in one test completed in the last two years), OR
 - Acceptable alternative evidence of the required IELTS ([see here for NZQA proficiency table](#) and [here for list of recognised proficiency tests](#)).

If you need to improve your English Language skills, we offer a [wide range of English programmes](#).

Pathways into this programme

- [New Zealand Certificate in Primary Industry Skills \(Level 2\)](#)

- On job training for those employed in the Apiculture industry

Want your existing skills recognised?

Students who have previously completed unit standards in Apiculture at Level 3 may be able to claim recognition of prior learning to exempt themselves from completing the equivalent learning on this programme provided these units appear on their student Record of Learning.

Your workload

This programme will involve:

- two weekend days per month (from 9.00am-5.00pm each day) for eight months
- 12 assessments (a mixture of theory and practical)
- a one-day, industry-recognised bee disease workshop (short test to complete at end of workshop)
- reading three text books that we provide you with (see details of books below)
- the completion of a logbook documenting field work undertaken
- 5-10 additional hours per week for extra reading (online and books), undertaking assessments and doing practical work on your own beehives/course hives.

You will study

Each Apiculture tutor will develop their own course timetable and will supply you with the appropriate information. This information will include the dates of each workshop, their content and what will be assessed. There are no electives within this programme and all students undertake the following topics of learning:

- Bee behaviour and life cycle
- Suitable bee forage plants
- Beekeeping equipment
- Building a beehive
- How to feed bees
- Beehive products
- Manipulating beehives including swarm control, and dividing hives
- Re-queening beehives
- Harvesting and extracting honey
- Identifying and managing pests and diseases
- Shifting beehives
- Wintering beehives

At the end of this programme, you will have the knowledge and skills to manage your own beehives throughout a beekeeping season.

Further study options

Graduates of this programme can further their learning with:

- [New Zealand Certificate in Apiculture \(Queen Bee Rearing\) - 45 credits](#)

These courses can be completed on a part-time basis. Or, for those employed in the Apiculture industry full-time, the New Zealand Certificate in Apiculture (Level 3) and (Level 4) can be completed through an apprenticeship scheme.

Additional costs

- You will need to purchase your own Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes a beekeeping suit (overalls and veil), gloves, smoker and hive tool (approximately \$250).
- It is preferable that you wear steel-capped boots or gumboots.
- You will be supplied, free of charge, with the woodware to build your own beehive and will then be required to purchase a nucleus of four frames of bees, honey and a queen bee for approximately \$250.
- You will be supplied, free of charge, with three textbooks (worth \$130) and an industry-recognised American Foulbrood disease recognition course (worth \$100).
- You will need to have access to a computer and the internet. Course material will be made available online (through Moodle, our education online platform). Meetings, theory classes and assignments may be carried out online (via Microsoft Teams).

Please note: At the end of this programme, you will own a fully-functioning beehive and be able to manage this at a location that suits your needs.

Paying for your study

TTAF

The Government's Targeted Training and Apprenticeship Fund (TTAF) is currently running but will end in December 2022. That means only your part-time study undertaken in 2022 will be covered. You may be able to get some financial help for your remaining study through the Fees Free scheme if you're eligible (see info below).

Whilst this programme is free for you to study during 2022, the TTAF fund only covers tuition fees and compulsory costs such as student levies. It does not cover any additional costs or living costs.

You can pay for additional and living costs yourself if this is possible.

As a part-time learner, you're generally not eligible for student loans and allowances through Studylink but some help may be possible depending on your circumstances (for domestic students). Check the [Studylink website](#) for more information.

Fees Free

The Government is also running a funding scheme called Fees Free for domestic learners. This scheme normally pays for your first year of study if you've never been enrolled in tertiary study over 60 credits at Level 3 or higher in New Zealand. They have confirmed that TTAF does not impact on a learner's entitlement to also access the Fees Free scheme.

So, you'll be covered by TTAF for your first year of part-time study and, if you would have originally been eligible for Fees Free, you'll be able to access that to cover some

of your remaining part-time study.

[You can check your Fees Free eligibility here >](#)

Fees Free only covers your tuition fees. You would still need to pay for things like accommodation, living costs and placement transport costs.

Intakes:

Course	Description	Dates
25-DUN-S2	Dunedin	8 September 2025 Dunedin
25-COT-S2	Cromwell, Central Otago	8 September 2025 - Cromwell
25-BHU-S2	Lincoln (Biological Husbandry Unit)	8 September 2025- Lincoln
25-HLZ-S2	Hamilton	8 September 2025 - Hamilton
25-NTS-S2	Wellington (Newtown School)	8 September 2025 - Wellington
25-ORE-S2	Orewa	8 September 2025 - Orewa
25-HOK-S2	Hokitika	8 September 2025 - Hokitika
25-TKI-S2	Taranaki	8 September 2025 - New Plymouth

International **+64 3 477 3014**
New Zealand **0800 762 786**
Email **info@op.ac.nz**

Dunedin Campus
Forth Street, Dunedin
Private Bag 1910
New Zealand 9054

Central Otago Campus
Corner Erris & Ray Streets
PO Box 16, Cromwell
New Zealand 9342

Auckland Campus
Level 2, 350 Queen Street
PO Box 5268, Auckland
New Zealand 1141