



New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6)



Domestic fee: \$7,826

International fee: \$22,220

Compulsory student levy >
StudyLink >

*Fees are approximate, subject to change and exchange rates

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > On campus in Dunedin or Wellington, or online with block courses. International students must study on campus. > A one year, part-time, online learning option is also available for those with existing knowledge and skills due to practical experience in this area. Find out more >
Duration	One year full-time on campus or online Two years part-time online
Delivery	On campus in Dunedin or Wellington with blended learning and work placements OR online with two - three compulsory block courses in Christchurch/Dunedin (South Island) or Tauranga/Wellington (North Island)

Credits	120
Level	6
Start	On campus (full-time): February Online (full-time): February Online (part-time, year 1): February Online (part-time, year 2): January Online (semester 2, year 1): 26 July
Apply	Now

NEW!

There are some exciting changes coming to our Animal Healthcare and Veterinary Nursing programmes in 2023. Updated programme information will be added as soon as possible.

To chat about the best options for you or for further information, please email vetnursing@op.ac.nz

Complete this programme to become a qualified veterinary nurse. This builds on the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) (Veterinary Nursing Assistant).

This Diploma aligns with international standards for veterinary nursing. Successful completion will enable you to meet the educational standards for entrance to the NZVNA/Allied Veterinary Professional Regulatory Council's voluntary register where you will be able to use the title of Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). It will give you the skills and knowledge required for a successful career as a professional veterinary nurse.

Graduate with up-to-date, detailed theoretical knowledge of companion animal healthcare and practical skills, including low stress handling techniques. In addition, you will be able to apply

sound principles of evidence-based practice with an ability to make independent nursing decisions to develop and deliver quality care to animal patients. You will be able to provide surgical veterinary nursing, medical veterinary nursing, manage veterinary nursing services and perform diagnostic sampling and medical imaging.

There is always a strong demand for qualified people to work within the veterinary and animal-related industries and, with this professional qualification, your expertise will be sought after. Employment opportunities are diverse and could include working as a veterinary nurse, veterinary nursing supervisor, veterinary practice management, industry representative for a veterinary wholesale company, in education (with additional training), or within animal control, wildlife management, animal breeding or conservation.

Entry requirements

Academic requirements

> New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) (Veterinary Nursing Assistant) OR equivalent.

Please note: the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) Rural Animal Technician alone does not meet entry requirements for the New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

Alternative criteria

> If you don't hold the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) or equivalent but do have significant clinical veterinary experience, knowledge and skills, you may be eligible to have this experience assessed and applied towards the entry criteria for this programme. [Click here](#) for more information about this option.

Other requirements

You will also be required to provide the following:

> If you are a new student to the School of Veterinary Nursing

> Criminal Convictions History (via the Ministry of Justice), which is 6 months old or less, before the start date of your programme (even if your report is clean we are required to sight this, your enrolment will be contingent on this report).

> If you have studied with us in the previous year, supplied a criminal convictions report and are returning to the School of Veterinary Nursing

> You will only need to make a declaration ([click here](#)) stating your history hasn't changed since the previous report.

All applicants must have:

> Evidence of a companion veterinary clinic who will support the practical components of the programme*.

Please note: Whilst you don't need to provide us with evidence of your Covid-19 vaccination status to study this programme, please be aware that some placement providers may ask you for this.

We also recommend that you hold a current First Aid Certificate.

*Once your application has been received, if successful, you will be sent an unconditional offer into the programme. In this unconditional offer, there will be a link provided to enable you to complete your enrolment. This will include forms where you can provide details of your veterinary clinic work placement where you will complete the required hours of work experience for this programme.

English Language requirements

> If English is not your first language, you must provide:

> New Zealand University Entrance OR

> Overall Academic IELTS 5.5 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.

Please note: You must also have access to a computer, camera, video and the internet to be able to successfully study this programme.

Want your existing skills recognised?

If you have extensive knowledge and skills due to practical experience in this area (5-7 years), you could gain this qualification through our Assessment of Prior Learning Pathway (APL). This option enables you to study part-time online, to evaluate your veterinary nursing career and to present a portfolio of evidence to show how you meet the requirements of the qualification.

Find out more >

Completing your application

You can enter information and upload documents directly into the application form. You may wish to prepare some of the required documentation beforehand.

To begin your application, click the Apply button at the top of this page.

You will need to provide:

- > Certified copies of proof of identity and proof of residency (where appropriate)
- > Proof of academic entry requirements (e.g. proof of your prerequisite qualification)
- > Criminal Convictions History Report - see details above in the evidence criteria section

You will study

Eight courses, totalling 120 credits, must be completed to gain this qualification.

Full-time (one year)

Each Level 6 course below is worth 15 credits

- > Veterinary Nursing Professional Practice
- > Nursing Process, Disease Pathology, and Life Support
- > Fluid Therapy, Nutrition, Wound Care and Bandaging
- > Clinical Skills 1
- > Surgery, Anaesthesia, and Pharmacology
- > Imaging, Diagnostics and Dentistry
- > Clinical Skills 2
- > Veterinary Nursing Services

Part-time (two years)

Year one

Each Level 6 course below is worth 15 credits

- > Veterinary Nursing Professional Practice
- > Nursing Process, Disease Pathology, and Life Support
- > Fluid Therapy, Nutrition, Wound Care and Bandaging
- > Clinical Skills 1

Year two

Each Level 6 course below is worth 15 credits

- > Surgery, Anaesthesia, and Pharmacology
- > Imaging, Diagnostics and Dentistry
- > Clinical Skills 2
- > Veterinary Nursing Services

Links to useful websites

- > New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association
- > British Veterinary Nursing Association
- > Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia
- > Canadian Association of Animal Technologists and Technicians

How you will study

We are a leader in the provision of on campus and online veterinary nursing education. Every student will have a Learning Adviser to provide group and one-on-one support, and help is always on hand through our extensive support systems.

We're proud to be partnering with Toi Ohomai to offer online delivery with block courses in Tauranga and with WELTEC to offer an on campus option in Wellington.

On campus

Full-time only (February start date)

- > Completed in one year.
- > Two days per week of facilitated sessions at the Dunedin or Wellington campus, supplemented with online, self-directed study.
- > Work placement blocks may be required to be completed outside of the Dunedin region for Dunedin-based students.

Block courses for online students

There are three block courses for this online programme. Block courses are compulsory. Attendance requirement for block course 3 may be waived depending on progress in the Clinical Skills 2 course. You may select which venue you attend for these block courses.

Cohort (study type and start time)

- > Full-time February students attend all three block courses in their year of study.
- > Part-time year one students attend block course 1 only.
- > Part-time year two students attend block courses 2 and 3.
- > Students who start the programme in July will have block course requirements communicated on enrolment.

South Island venue

- > Block course 1 is held in Christchurch (venue will be confirmed each year).
- > Block courses 2 and 3 are held in both Christchurch and Dunedin (at the School of Veterinary Nursing, Otago Polytechnic).

North Island venue

- > Block course 1 is held in Tauranga, Toi Ohomai Windermere Campus and, subject to enrolment numbers each year, Porirua at Whitireia campus.
- > Block courses 2 and 3 are held in both Tauranga, Toi Ohomai Windermere Campus and Porirua at Whitireia campus of Weltec.

Work experience

Work experience for a total of 240 hours in a veterinary clinic is required for all delivery options to complete this programme.

- > Some support will be provided with sourcing work placements for those students enrolled in an on campus programme (i.e. Dunedin or Wellington).
- > These placements may be based in the local area, or require travel to another area, as arranged with each individual student.
- > Students enrolled in online learning must organise their own work placements, although staff are able to provide advice on request.

Work experience requirements

You must complete practical skills to successfully finish this programme.

- > For all delivery options, a total of 240 hours of veterinary clinic work experience is required to complete clinical nursing skills. This must include experience in at least two different veterinary clinics (minimum of 40 hours in the second clinic).
- > Assessment of skills will be completed through varied assessment methods including video. However, you will not be required to take videos inside a veterinary clinic.
- > You may complete work experience hours weekly or in blocks depending on what works for you, and the clinic.
- > We strongly encourage you to seek more than the minimum number of work experience hours to ensure the best application of new knowledge.

As part of our efforts to be ready for voluntary accreditation via the Allied Veterinary Professional Regulatory Council, our skills lists are mapped to the RCVS Day-One Competencies and the AVMA Clinical Competencies.

Your workload

All study is highly structured, including directed and self-directed learning and work placement in veterinary clinics.

Full-time

- > 35-40 hours per week (including 7.5 hours per week in work placement)

Part-time (year one)

> 17-20 hours per week (including 3.5 hours per week in work placement)

Part-time (year two)

> Total 17-20 hours per week (including 4 hours per week in work placement)

Health and safety

You will be given full training to minimise all programme specific risks. Examples of risks associated with this programme are: lifting, animal bites and scratches, zoonotic diseases, computers, radiation from x-rays, anaesthetic gases, chemicals and drugs, UV radiation, sharp instruments, electricity, fire, gas cylinders, mercury thermometers and specialised veterinary equipment. Your tetanus injection status will have to be up-to-date to handle any animals in this programme.

Further study options

Continue learning and increase your employment potential with our New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) (Rural Animal Technician) or the third year of the Bachelor of Veterinary Nursing which we offer in collaboration with the Eastern Institute of Technology.

Additional costs

Some of the following additional costs may apply, depending on your circumstances:

- > Ongoing access to a computer, camera, video, and the internet.
- > Travel, accommodation, and food costs associated with attendance at work placements (all students) and block courses (distance students).
- > Highly recommended textbooks: \$400 (approx.)
- > Clinical uniform: \$50 (approx.) – buy an Otago Polytechnic polo and scrub shirt if your veterinary clinic work placement doesn't provide a uniform.
- > Name badge: \$15 (pin-back) or \$18.50 (magnetic) - buy an Otago Polytechnic name badge if your veterinary clinic work placement doesn't provide a one for you.
- > Scrub top: \$45
- > Stethoscope: \$21 (if you do not have one)
- > Closed-in shoes: \$100 (approx.) - health and safety requirement for block courses and clinical work placement.

Student loans information

Student loans and allowances are for domestic students only. For information about student loans and allowances please visit the Studylink website. It is important to apply for your student loan/allowance at the same time as you apply for this programme, due to the length of time Studylink take to process.

Loan/allowance applications can be cancelled at any time if you decide to withdraw your programme application or if it is unsuccessful.

Disclaimer

While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.

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