

# Te Taketake: Frequently Asked Questions

---

So, you have decided the time has come to get a qualification that will allow you to work in the field of addictions treatment. Welcome!

Te Taketake is a Level 7 Addictions Counselling Diploma that produces graduates who are ready to work in the field and as such, it actively combines theory with practice. As a Level 7 qualification, it is the equivalent of the final year of a university degree. While this is not the same as having a degree, it does mean that we produce graduates with the specialised and technical knowledge and skills to provide treatment to people seeking assistance with problems of gambling, alcohol and drug use. While you will learn to apply specialised knowledge, Te Taketake is also about promoting your own personal growth; just as you will work with whaiora to encourage their personal growth, so too Te Taketake expects that you will be a more self-aware and reflective practitioner by the end of the Diploma.

## How much does it cost to do Te Taketake?

The fees for 2021 are yet to be set by the TEC. In 2020, Te Taketake fees were \$3,585 per year. This is only an indicative figure for 2021 as the fees will not be set until later this year. However, we aim to keep the fees as affordable as possible.

Te Taketake programme is eligible for student loans, but not allowances or course related costs.

If you are applying for a scholarship, make sure you have a Plan B should you be turned down.

Fees must be paid by the start of the first Wānanga or a payment plan agreed and started before you begin the first Wānanga.

## Are there any additional costs?

Yes, there is a koha cost for meals (please see the Wānanga section for more information on this), textbooks and any travel required to get to and from the Wānanga sites in Dunedin or Rotorua. Depending on your situation, you may also need to purchase accommodation. MHTI can provide marae style accommodation for some students (please see the Wānanga section for more information on this).

## What can I expect at each Wānanga?

Most wānanga are 3-days duration. The April and August Wānanga are 4 days duration. The first wānanga will start at 8:30am on the Friday morning, and will begin with a Powhiri. Thereafter all wānanga will start 9:00am, unless otherwise negotiated. Classes on Friday and Saturday conclude at around 8:30pm and on Sunday no later than 3.00pm. It is expected that you are on time so please arrange your travel accordingly.

There will be 13 sessions of 90 minutes in duration for each wānanga. Days begin and end with karakia/quiet time. All teaching is done bi-culturally and tangata whenua are always acknowledged as part of the process.

Attendance at every wānanga is expected. Should you miss a wānanga due to sickness or family emergency please bear in mind that you must attend a minimum of 80% of wānanga time. This means that if you miss more than 3 days over the year of study, you will not be eligible to continue to year 2 or graduate (if you are in year 2). If you are unable to meet this requirement, you will need to attend wānanga in the following year to complete the course expectations.

There is often mahi kainga (homework) during wānanga for the next day.

All work in the wānanga is confidential and students are expected to maintain and honour professional boundaries.

## 2021 Wānanga Dates

Rotorua Wānanga Dates	Dunedin Wānanga Dates
March 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	March 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>
April 8 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> **4days**	April 15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> **4 days**
May 7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup>	May 21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>
June 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	June 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>
NO WĀNANGA IN JULY	NO WĀNANGA IN JULY
August 5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> **4 days**	August 19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> **4 days**
September 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	September 24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>
October 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	October 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>
November 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	November 26 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>

## Is accommodation provided during the Wānanga?

If you are travelling from out of region and require accommodation, there is provision made for some people to stay. The cost for this accommodation will be \$40 (+GST) for the entire Wānanga and the payment will be due, preferably by direct credit, before Wānanga commences.

Alternatively, you may choose to make your own accommodation plans elsewhere. Please complete the accommodation booking form if you want to reserve a bed. Please Note: if you plan to stay at the marae, please bring your own toiletries, towel and duvet or sleeping bag. Sheets, pillows and pillowcases are provided.

## What about meals during Wānanga?

MHTI will provide lunch, dinner, and morning and afternoon tea, however tauira are asked to look after their own breakfast and supper in the North Island only. All meals are provided in the South due to a lack of any other options. Tauira are also asked to respect the marae and to help with the cleaning, dishes, etc. We will meet vegetarian requirements for tauira, but any other needs must be met by the tauira (e.g. gluten free, dairy free, sugar free).

Koha: We ask Tauira to make a voluntary koha contribution towards the food we provide. A Year 2 student will collect this during wānanga.

## Where can I do Te Taketake?

We deliver the training at two sites (Waitati and Rotorua) on different weekends. It is expected that you will choose the one that is the most convenient for you but if you are unable to attend your usual wānanga you are welcome to attend the other as an alternative. Please arrange this directly with the kaiako.

You may find that if you decide to come to the South course, whilst you are not guaranteed a place, you are more likely to be offered one.

## What qualifications do I need before I apply for Te Taketake?

We expect taura to have completed a Level 5 qualification before applying for Te Taketake.

## What does it mean that Te Taketake is an “applied” diploma?

Te Taketake teaches you the theory of addictions counselling at the same time as expecting you to apply your theoretical knowledge into your practice. If you don't already work in the addictions field, you will need to find yourself a student placement as you are required to complete 400 hours of clinical practice over the 2 years of the diploma. As a result we believe that we produce graduates who are ready to start work in the addictions field on completion of their training.

This means that most taura find themselves having to learn a lot of new and complex information in a short period of time.

You are required to provide evidence of your clinical placement with your application.

## I'm in recovery and I have a criminal history. Will this exclude me?

Often people are motivated to work in the addictions field as a result of their own experience of recovery from gambling, alcohol or drug use. We ask that you have been in recovery for a minimum of 2 years before applying. The same goes for being free of offending against others and no convictions in the last 2 years. Please note that in your application you will be asked to include a copy of a current Department of Justice criminal check.

Having a criminal history, whilst it does not automatically exclude you, may impact on your ability to gain a placement for your clinical hours.

## Do I need to be in therapy myself?

We do not require people to be in therapy but taura often find it helpful to do so as Te Taketake is as much about your personal growth as it is about learning the skills of being an addictions counsellor.

In this field of work you will find yourself working with people who experience problems with substance use and gambling in addition to issues of violence, childhood adversity, offending against others, and people with a range of ethnicities, gender, sexual and lifestyle choices. Can you put aside your own experiences and values in order to work with people who are different from yourself?

Consider if you've been able to move forward with your own life difficulties (whether related to substance abuse or not). Can you separate 'your stuff' from 'their stuff' so that you can focus on the needs of the whaiora or their whānau? If this is difficult for you then you might need to take some more time before applying for Te Taketake.

## My life is busy already so how much time will I need to make for study?

As well as attending 8 wānanga each year, you will need to spend at minimum of 10 hours a week on self-directed study and completing assessments as well as completing 400 clinical hours over the 2 years of the Diploma.

The wānanga run from Friday morning till lunch time on Sunday.

If you are new to the field of addictions treatment or your experience is limited to your own recovery, you will find yourself having to learn a lot of complex new information in a short period of time so you may need to allocate more than our suggested minimum of 10 hours per week.

As adult learners, there are of course also the demands of family, whānau and work to juggle alongside your study. Before you decide to enrol for Te Taketake we suggest you talk to family, whānau and friends about what you are thinking of taking on as you will definitely need the support of others if you are to add study to your life.

## I'm not sure if Te Taketake is the right qualification for me. How can I find out more about what it is like?

Talk to someone who has done Te Taketake and find out how they experienced it. Would they recommend it? What worked for them, what didn't?

If you don't know anyone who is currently doing Te Taketake or has recently completed it, please drop us an email and we will try and put you in touch with someone.

## Will I need textbooks for Te Taketake?

Purchasing textbooks is essential for the successful completion of the course. A list is provided as a part of enrolment booklet on our website and has been included with this information. It is not possible to meet course expectations by only using the internet.

## Will I need a laptop or desktop computer?

It is expected that students will have access to computers and that assignments are typed. Year 2 students are expected to bring laptops to class.

Year 1 students are asked to present some work in class using presentation software (for example PowerPoint or Keynote). Please bring a laptop if you have one. These projects are completed in small groups so you will not be disadvantaged if you do not have a laptop at the beginning of Year 1.

## It has been a while since I did any study. What can I do to prepare myself?

As you are likely to find yourself having to learn a lot of new information and develop complex skills, we suggest that you do what you can to ensure your computer skills are adequate ahead of starting. Do you know how to create, save and write documents? Can you search for information online? Can you use email and PowerPoint software?

The same goes for your writing skills. While your writing and analysis skills will develop over the course of Te Taketake, if you know that this is not one of your strengths consider doing a course or getting some tutoring to develop your writing skills.

Get a dictionary as you are going to come across a lot of new words! You might consider getting yourself a notebook to record the new words and their meanings as come across them so that you create your own dictionary over time. It's a good learning tool too.

Learn how you learn best. While the kaiako of Te Taketake will use a range of teaching tools it is helpful if you have an appreciation of how you learn. Try this questionnaire to see if you have a preference for visual, aural, read/write or kinaesthetic (hands on) learning strategies. You can complete the questionnaire online for free. [www.vark-learn.com](http://www.vark-learn.com)

Studying while working can make life challenging so you will need to be as organised as possible. Is childcare sorted? How will you keep track of what work is due and when? When will you make time for personal study? Do you have a suitable space to study away from day to day distractions?

Start work early on finding yourself a placement where you can do your clinical hours. If you already work in the addictions field then this may be straightforward but if not, it will likely take some time to negotiate. Some addiction services will not employ people (or host students) who have an addiction or offending history so if you do, you will need to explicitly check this with your potential placement. You will need your placement to have started by the second wānanga (April).

### Provisional Registration with DAPAANZ (Drug and Alcohol Practitioners Association of New Zealand)

Te Taketake is two years study plus 400 hours clinical practice while you are studying. Graduating with the Te Taketake Diploma allows you to hold a Provisional Registration with DAPAANZ once successfully completed. It does not guarantee you acceptance as DAPAANZ have their own criteria. You need to meet DAPAANZ Criteria for this and can apply 6 months after completion if you have done required number of clinical hours post completion.

*If you have any other questions or queries you would like to discuss as part of deciding if Te Taketake is the course for you,*

*Please contact Claire Aitken [claire@moanahouse.org.nz](mailto:claire@moanahouse.org.nz) or T. 03 477 0842.*

---