



# New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Level 6)



**Domestic fee:** \$7,710

**International fee:** \$22,220

Compulsory student levy >  
StudyLink >

\*Fees are approximate, subject to change and exchange rates

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; On campus in Dunedin or Wellington, or by distance with block courses. International students must study on campus.</li> <li>&gt; A distance learning option is also available for those with existing knowledge and skills due to practical experience in this area. Find out more in the 'Want your existing skills recognised' section below.</li> </ul>
Duration	One year full-time on campus or by distance   Two years part-time by distance
Delivery	On campus in Dunedin or Wellington with blended learning and work placements OR by distance 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 2022 By distance (full-time): February 2022 By distance (part-time, year 1): February 2022 By distance (part-time, year 2): January 2022 By distance (semester 2, year 1): 26 July 2021
Apply	Now

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.

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.

#### Delivery options

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

We're proud to be partnering with Toi Ohomai to offer an distance 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

#### 2021 Block Courses for Distance students

There are three block courses for this distance 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 (starting in February 2021) attend all three block courses in their year of study.
- > Part-time year 1 students (starting in February 2021) attend block course 1 only.
- > Part-time year 2 students (started in February 2020) attend block courses 2 and 3.
- > Full-time July students (started in July 2020) attend block course 1 (specific day to be confirmed) and block course 2 unless attendance requirement has been waived (depending on progress in Clinical Skills 2).
- > Part-time July students (started in July 2020) attend block course 1 (specific day to be confirmed) and block course 2).

#### South Island venue

Block course 1 is held in Christchurch at the Lincoln Events Centre.

Block courses 2 and 3 are held in both Christchurch at the Lincoln Events Centre AND Dunedin at the School of Veterinary Nursing, Otago Polytechnic.

#### North Island venue

Block course 1 is held in Tauranga, Toi Ohomai Windermere 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.

#### Entry requirements

##### Academic criteria

- > You must have the pre-requisite qualification New Zealand Certificate in Animal Technology (Level 5) (Veterinary Nursing Assistant) OR equivalent.
- > International students will be individually assessed to ensure you meet the entry requirements. [Click here](#) for your country's equivalent academic entry criteria.

> 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.

#### 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.

#### Evidence criteria

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

- > Evidence of a companion veterinary clinic who will support the practical components of the programme\*.
- > Current basic First Aid Certificate (highly recommended).

\*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.

All applicants must also:

- > Have access to a computer, camera, video and the internet.

Want your existing skills recognised?

If you have extensive knowledge and skills due to practical experience in this area, please ask us about our assessment of prior learning process. Email [vetnursing@op.ac.nz](mailto:vetnursing@op.ac.nz)

#### 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

#### 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.

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

Work experience requirements

You must complete practical skills for the successful completion of this programme.

- > For all delivery options, a total of 240 hours of veterinary clinic work experience is required to complete clinical nursing skills.
- > Most skills are completed in the workplace, but some skills that are hard to obtain in practice are assessed in block courses.
- > 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.
- > We suggest that you broaden your skills and aim to do work experience in at least two clinics during your studies.

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.

### 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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