

Language, Education & Sustainability

Reo, Ako,
Toitū te Taiao



Education

Encourage and facilitate life-long learning as a professional educator.

Effective educators have an aptitude for outstanding communication and a passion for working with learners to achieve their goals. Our tutors who educate educators all have recent experience of both teaching and teacher training. No matter what kind of learner you're interested in helping, our hands-on approach combined with our extensive industry connections will ensure that your study leads to fulfilling employment.



Scan to learn more about our Education courses



New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care



Level 3



Christchurch, Timaru



Full-time: six months



February

New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care



Level 4



Christchurch, Timaru



Full-time: six months



July

Take the first step towards a rewarding career working with children.

The New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care will prepare you to participate in the care and education of infants, toddlers and young children in entry-level carer roles, and for higher level study leading to a teaching qualification.

The programme covers: early childhood learning and development progression; bicultural framework for childhood learning in Aotearoa New Zealand; planning learning experiences for young children; health, safety and wellbeing in the early childhood environment; ethical responsibilities and professional practice; basic Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori specific to the early childhood environment. It also includes a work placement practicum in an early childhood setting where you can apply what you're learning.

Build on your knowledge and skills for the early childhood education sector.

This programme will prepare you to provide practice-based education and care in early childhood settings and/or to pathway into higher-level study leading to a teaching qualification.

The programme covers: designing learning experiences aligned to socio-cultural theories of learning and development; developing a personal philosophy of professional practice; developing inclusive teaching practices that promote diversity and the place of Māori as tangata whenua; using effective communication strategies to establish healthy relationships in early childhood environments. It also includes a work placement practicum in an early childhood setting where you can apply what you're learning in an authentic work environment.

New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care



Level 5



Christchurch, Timaru



Full-time: one year



February

Extend your skills to become a knowledgeable and confident early childhood educator.

This programme will equip you to provide high quality, practice-based education and care in early childhood settings, and/or to pathway into higher level study leading to a teaching qualification.

The programme covers: the early childhood education curriculum (Te Whāriki) and the role of play in child learning and development; effective written and oral communication; and the use of te reo Māori. It also explores bicultural infant and toddler care and education strategies to create high quality, safe and inclusive learning environments.

You'll develop, reflect, and receive feedback on skills in observation, assessment and planning for teaching young children. The programme includes a 180-hour supported placement experience, enabling you to support children's social and emotional competence.



New Zealand Certificate in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Education (Vocational/Workplace)



Level 5



Christchurch



Part-time: 15 weeks



January

Develop learners' literacy and numeracy within your vocational teaching context.

This professional learning course is for practising educators and meets TEC qualification requirements for educators working with foundation level learners.

Delivered through a blend of workshops, online activities and workplace support, it focuses on applied teaching practice, enabling you to embed literacy and numeracy development activities into your vocational or workplace training programme.



Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.



Level



Location



Duration





Starts

New Zealand Certificate in Adult and Tertiary Teaching

 Level 5

 Christchurch

 Part-time: 15 weeks

 January


Enhance your teaching skills and further your career.

Delivered through a blend of workshops, online activities and workplace support, this work-based programme focuses on applied teaching practice. Areas covered include group facilitation skills, questioning strategies, assessment and moderation, and learner-centred approaches suitable for diverse learner groups. Upon completion, you'll be able to develop core teaching and learning facilitation skills appropriate to New Zealand adult and tertiary learning environments.

Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Teaching and Learning

 Level 7

 Christchurch, online

 Part-time: one year

 Various

Enhance your tertiary teaching practice and broaden your career opportunities.

Designed for practicing tertiary educators, this programme will enable you to create learning environments that enhance learning and empower learners.

You'll gain group facilitation skills, questioning strategies and learn how to use evidence-based principles and practices to design, facilitate, assess and evaluate learning. You'll also develop skills for using an inquiry process for continual improvement in your teaching practice, develop collegiality in your work environment and explore learning theories and models to inform your teaching practice and philosophy. The emphasis is on achieving the best possible synergies between the dual roles of educator and industry professional.



English

Improve your English for work, study and everyday life.

Ara is internationally recognised as one of the best English language training centres in New Zealand, with students from more than 30 countries choosing to study with us to improve their English speaking, listening, reading and writing.

In addition to the high-quality tuition from our friendly, professional tutors, you'll have the opportunity to develop your skills on a daily basis by mixing with other English-speaking students on campus.



Scan to learn more about our English Language courses

New Zealand Certificate in English Language



Levels 1 to 5



Christchurch, Timaru, Ashburton



Full-time: six months (per level)
Part time: one year (per level)



February, July

Improve your language skills for employment, study and everyday situations.

This qualification has Foundation, General, Applied and Academic options at various levels. All options will give you language skills and knowledge for living and working in New Zealand so you can communicate with some independence and fluency in English language contexts.



English Language Training



Level 4



Christchurch, Timaru



Full-time: four weeks minimum
Part-time: four weeks minimum*



Weekly

Enhance your fluency, accuracy and vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading and writing.

This is an intensive English language programme. You'll learn core skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, and develop specific conversation skills such as turn taking, active listening, responding, communication strategies and negotiation. The learning environment is active, hands-on and collaborative with pair and group activities, role playing, presentations and discussions.

*Depending on visa status

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)



Level 5



Christchurch, blended/online



Part-time: 11 weeks
Blended/online: 15 weeks



July, November

Learn how to teach English anywhere in the world.

With this internationally recognised Cambridge ESOL qualification, you can teach English as an additional language to people anywhere in the world and your skills will be in high demand.

You'll gain an understanding of the key principles and practices of effective English language teaching. For your assessed teaching practice, you'll teach two different classes with students from a wide variety of language backgrounds.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.



Level



Location



Duration



Starts

Māori Language and Culture

Add to your everyday skillset by enhancing your cultural capability.

Our Māori language and culture courses are designed to give you a distinct advantage in today's competitive employment market, and to enhance your ability to communicate within everyday family and community environments.

Our expert tutors are passionate about sharing their knowledge, skills and industry connections. In a stimulating and supportive whānau environment they'll work with you to discover your strengths and help you succeed.



Scan to learn more about our Māori Language and Culture courses



Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 2) - Beginners



Level 2



Christchurch, Timaru, Ashburton



Part-time: one year



February



Start your journey of discovery into te reo.


If you have a personal or professional interest in te reo Māori and you'd like to contribute positively to the development of the Māori language this is the start you need.

You'll develop the language skills to communicate, with little support, in familiar everyday contexts and in some Māori environments. You'll learn and practice aspects of hui whakatau (gatherings), mihimihi (acknowledgments and introductions), and discuss traditional narratives. Marae-based experiences will provide authentic, meaningful engagement with local Māori communities.

Te Pōkaiāhi Reo (Rumaki, Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 3) - Elementary

 Level 3

 Christchurch, Timaru

 Full-time: 19 weeks
Part-time: one year

 February

Gain beginner te reo skills for everyday life and work.


This programme is ideal for increasing your understanding of te reo for your career and personal development.

Designed for fast progress, you'll learn in weekly class sessions and maintain your progress at times that suit you with online resources. You'll also have authentic and supported learning opportunities with live-in wānanga (language workshops) held at our fully equipped whare. These immersive experiences will normalise language use and equip you to use the language you learn to enrich everyday life, add value to your workplace, bring te reo into your home, or enhance your career opportunities.

Te Pōkaiāhi Reo (Reo Rua) (Te Kaupae 4) - Advanced Elementary

 Level 4

 Christchurch

 Full-time: 19 weeks
Part-time: one year

 February, July*

Take your te reo journey to the next level.

If you'd like to develop your skills and knowledge to communicate independently in familiar and not-so-familiar aspects of te ao Māori, this is the programme for you.

You'll gain language skills and knowledge that will provide you with a broad understanding of how the language is connected to the land, environment, prominent places, people, histories and stories. You'll also extend your understanding and application of knowledge in varying contexts and begin to develop your independent production of the language.

Culturally immersive experiences at marae during your studies will provide you with authentic, meaningful engagement with local Māori communities.


**February - part-time; July - full-time*



Te Pōkaiāhi Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 5) - Intermediate

 Level 5

 Christchurch

 Full-time: 19 weeks
Part-time: one year

 February

Gain te reo skills for the workplace and the Māori-speaking community.

With a focus on developing skills that enable you to use te reo at home, in the workplace, on the marae and in various other contexts, this programme will take your reo skills to the next level.

You'll establish strategies to understand increasingly complex language patterns and develop your ability to engage and speak with growing confidence in te reo. You'll develop your language skills through face-to-face interactive classes, online resources and activities, live-in wānanga (language workshops) and possibly haerenga (trips) to local landmarks.

Live-in wānanga provide opportunities to use te reo in authentic, culturally rich settings and to practice fulfilling a range of roles in various, safe, simulated contexts.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.



Te Pōkaitahi Reo (Rumaki) (Te Kaupae 6) – Upper Intermediate



Level 6



Christchurch



Full-time: 19 weeks
Part-time: one year



February, July*

Make an impact at work, at home and in the community with advanced te reo skills.

Designed to help you make an impact and realise your unique potential, this full immersion programme will equip you to be marae ready and work ready. It will also give you a distinct advantage in today's competitive employment market.

You'll have the opportunity to develop complex language patterns, apply your acquired language in various familiar and unfamiliar contexts and communicate effectively and creatively in the changing work environment.

You'll also develop your language skills through face-to-face interactive classes, online resources and activities, wānanga (language workshops) and possibly also haerenga (trips) to local landmarks.

**February - part-time; July - full-time*



"Being able to learn Māori cultural context was life changing."

Tania, Māori Language

Sustainability and Outdoor Education

Nurture, sustain and lead the way with a rewarding, future-focused career.

Appreciation for our natural environment—and the desire to explore and protect it—has never been greater. As a professional in this sector, you can lead and guide adventure seekers, foster conservation efforts and work towards a more sustainable future for the environment and society.

Our highly practical outdoor education and sustainability programmes will prepare you for meaningful work in a variety of areas from instruction to conservation. You'll connect and immerse yourself in the environment and culture and be empowered to decide your career direction. You'll also be encouraged and challenged in areas such as critical thinking, problem solving, people management and creativity. As a result, you'll enhance your adaptability and equip yourself to lead and help others in a rapidly changing world.



Scan to learn more about our Sustainability and Outdoor Education courses



New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multi-skilled)



Level 4



Christchurch



Full-time: one year
Part-time: up to three years



February, July

Learn how to lead others confidently in outdoor pursuits.

Taught by some of the most qualified educators and instructors in the country, this programme will give you skills to participate in and lead a range of outdoor activities under supervision in low-risk outdoor environments. It covers adventure leadership, performance and health, kaitiakitanga and environmental education, sea kayaking, rock climbing, bush walking and two leadership-themed pathways in mountain biking and bush environments.

You'll learn about equipment, weather, local conditions, logistics and safety management, leadership theories, sustainability, performance, and cultural and environmental respect.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.

New Zealand Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multi-skilled)



Level 5



Christchurch



Full-time: one year
Part-time: up to three years



February

Prepare for an adventurous career in the outdoors.

This programme has been designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge the industry requires to meet increasing demand for outdoor leaders and guides, and to prepare you for a varied, rewarding and adventurous career.

You'll learn through a mix of group tutorials, practical outdoor activities, field trips, online learning and work-integrated experiences. Taught by some of the most qualified educators and instructors in the country, you'll gain skills in leadership, sustainability and environmental education, supervision and instruction.

You'll also become technically competent in a range of outdoor pursuits including sea kayaking, rock climbing, bush walking and mountain biking, and learn how to plan, prepare, instruct and guide participants in a range of outdoor activities while maintaining safe, ethical and professional practice.



"It's a different way of learning and it's great."

Arthur, Sustainability and Outdoor Education

Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education



Level 7



Christchurch



Full-time: three years
Part-time: available



February, July

Become an emerging leader in sustainability and outdoor education.

This is the only outdoor education degree in New Zealand that includes sustainability as a major component. It provides a unique combination of theory and practice to ensure you graduate with a sound understanding of contemporary social and cultural issues, geography and sustainability, and a proven capability in outdoor education. It's a broad degree that allows you to tailor your learning to meet the needs of a variety of career aspirations including teaching, conservation, outdoor instruction and guiding.

During your studies, you'll engage with the natural landscape to develop an in-depth understanding of sustainability, and what it means to our society now and for the future. You'll explore flora and fauna and consider social geography with the human influences and impacts on our environment including how decisions on land use are made. You'll also develop your inter-personal skills and learn effective methods for teaching, guiding and helping people engage with and respect our spectacular natural environment.


Essential studies include health and wellness, geography, environmental science, professional practices, leadership and safety. These are mixed with elective theory and practical courses to foster your personal strengths and interests.



Graduate Diploma in Sustainability and Outdoor Education

 Level 7

 Christchurch, online

 Full-time: 18 months
Part-time: up to four years

 February, July

Advance your professional development in sustainability and outdoor education.

This programme combines theory and practice for advanced professional development and is ideal for established teachers, outdoor educators and instructors or as a retraining opportunity for graduates of other degrees.

You'll learn about journey-based environmental science, contemporary issues in sustainability and outdoor education, resource management and how to implement sustainable practice.


The broad base of your studies will be complemented by elective practical and theory courses to develop your personal interests and strengths.



Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Practice

 Level 8

 Christchurch, online

 Full-time: six months
Part-time: up to 18 months

 February

Gain foundational knowledge and specialist skills in sustainable practice.


If you have an interest in sustainable practice and you'd like to develop higher-level understanding and specialist skills from your undergraduate degree, this is an ideal step into postgraduate study.

The programme will equip you with core foundational knowledge about the theories, driving forces and worldviews (including Te Ao Māori) related to sustainable practice. As part of your studies, you'll apply your knowledge to specific contexts that will show how interdisciplinary frameworks and research can help address complex sustainability problems.

Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice

 Level 8

 Christchurch, online

 Full-time: one year
Part-time: up to three years

 February, July

Acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be a change-maker in sustainability.

This unique programme is designed for individuals seeking an in-depth professional development opportunity to become an agent for change in sustainable practice.

It will enable you to explore sustainable practice through a focus on relationships between policy and practice, research and multi-disciplinary project work. You'll also develop and apply advanced understandings of the theories, driving forces and worldviews (including Te Ao Māori) that relate to sustainable practice within the context of your discipline-specific knowledge.

Upon completion you'll be able to advocate for, and contribute to, more sustainable practices in a range of contexts.

Visit ara.ac.nz for all entry requirements and fee information.



Master of Sustainable Practice



Level 9



Christchurch, online



Full-time: 18 months
Part-time: up to four years



February, July

Become a leader in sustainable practice.

The Master of Sustainable Practice is designed for individuals seeking to lead innovative problem solving in sustainable practice. It culminates with a 60-credit applied research dissertation.

Across the range of core, project and applied research components, you'll gain advanced interdisciplinary skills and knowledge that will enable you to: critically evaluate and apply concepts of sustainable practice; work independently and collaboratively; become a change-maker contributing to sustainable practice. You'll also develop and apply advanced understandings of the theories, driving forces and worldviews (including Te Ao Māori) related to sustainable practice within the context of your discipline-specific knowledge.

The programme facilitates collaboration and innovation and applies an interdisciplinary framework to address complex sustainability problems. Upon completion you'll be able to: advocate for, and lead change towards, more sustainable practices; apply high level research skills to plan and conduct independent inquiry projects related to sustainability in professional contexts; and be an independent learner who can utilise and undertake research to formulate solutions to sustainability issues.



Notes

Notes

Come and see us at one of our main engagement events in 2025/2026.

Christchurch Careers Expo 2025

Wolfbrook Arena, Addington
May

June Open Day 2025

All Christchurch & Timaru campuses
June

Summer Open Day 2026

City, Woolston and Timaru campuses
January

For details see

ara.ac.nz

Apply now

ara.ac.nz

info@ara.ac.nz

0800 24 24 76

City campus

130 Madras Street, Christchurch
Mon–Fri, 8am–4.30pm

Manawa campus

276 Antigua Street, Christchurch
Mon–Fri, 8.30am–4.30pm

Woolston campus

Ensors Road, Christchurch
Mon–Fri, 8am–4.30pm

Timaru campus

32 Arthur Street, Timaru
Mon–Fri 8am–4.30pm

Ashburton campus

37 Alford Forest Road, Ashburton
Mon–Fri, 8.30am–4.30pm

Oamaru campus

44 Humber Street, Oamaru
Mon–Fri, 8am–4.30pm

Ara Connect

City campus, Madras Street, Christchurch
Timaru Campus, 32 Arthur Street, Timaru
Woolston Campus, Ensors Road, Christchurch

