


Youth Work





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Taare

 Youth Work

What inspired you to get into Youth Work?

There was a period in my life when I needed support, and youth workers were really there for me. They created a safe space where I felt heard. No matter how I was feeling or what had happened that day, they were always there to listen and lift my spirits.

How has studying Youth Work been?

I've been loving it, best decision of my life! There's lots of love and support from the tutors. Being here helps me grow and heal as a person, mentally and spiritually. They've taught me the importance of talking positively to yourself, it's restructuring my mindset. I've always been a bit shy, but building these skills is really growing my confidence.

Is there any subject that you are particularly enjoying?

I am really enjoying learning about building intentional relationships – I'm learning how to understand and approach situations better, and improve my communication skills.

Are there any particular tools they teach you to help build intentional relationships?

Lots! But it really comes down to listening to people. You want to help them on their journey, you're not there to lead the way. You want to hear them out, and really understand what they're going through.

How have you found the tutors?

They're really there for you. They want you to succeed, so they make sure you've got the tools to do so. Watching them and seeing how they approach situations has really opened my eyes. They take the time to listen and are reassuring; it's influenced how I interact with people.

In the Diploma of Youth Work you have to do a certain number of hours at placement every year – where are you doing yours?

I'm lucky to be doing my placement at Naenae Boxing Club! It doesn't feel like work, I love being there to support people. Whilst there's a big focus on boxing, it's also about creating a safe space for youth to feel comfortable and be heard, and in turn building their confidence. Shout out to Tash and the coaches there as well, you guys are awesome. I learn a lot from just being there.




What do you want to do after you graduate?

Anything that involves sports and building one-on-one relationships.

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



New Zealand Diploma in Youth Work (Level 6)

 Level 6
 2 years, full-time (part-time options available)
 07 Jul 2025 (Porirua)
 \$7,792 per year (indicative for 2025 intake)

Start your career in youth work by studying the New Zealand Diploma in Youth Work. Learn the skills that will help the young people in our community to grow to be the best version of themselves.

Programme outline

The New Zealand Diploma in Youth Work (Level 6) aims to develop competent youth practitioners, who will enter the profession or the youth development sector. The programme provides training and education to ensure graduates meet the established industry competency standards for youth work.

Graduates of this qualification will have the skills and knowledge required to work in vocational roles, disciplines or contexts such as: youth work or youth development in a range of settings such as non-governmental organisations, justice/corrections, social services, residential and community, iwi services, mental health support, peer support, and those that operate in a cultural or faith-based context.

More detail about this qualification

Teaching and learning

The programme is delivered by blended learning which includes block courses onsite at the Porirua campus and online learning, which you will need to self manage. You will need to have a computer and internet access at home for the online sessions.

A variety of flexible teaching processes are used in this programme and may include active learning, self-directed and tutor directed learning, online learning, tutorials, block courses, workplace learning (practicum) and group work.

Year one

Provides a strong foundation of knowledge, self, values,

cultural awareness, ethics, legislation, and personal and professional reflection skills in a professional setting.

Year two

Consolidates year one learning through the development of independent and reflective practitioners who can make positive contributions to the youth development profession and other youth practitioners. The course focus shifts to the integration of theory with practice and ethics in youth work.

Practicum

The practical work-based components of the programme prepare students for work as youth practitioners who integrate positive youth development principles into their practice.

The minimum practicum hours for this programme are:

75 hours at Level 5

- YD5107: Entering professional practice

130 hours at Level 6

- YD6211: Design, deliver and evaluate initiatives (50)
- YD6204: Supporting youth participation (40)
- YD6207: Developing professional practice (40)

Course related costs

- Students are expected to organise and pay for their own transport to and from placements, as well as travel and accommodation costs to attend block courses.
- Students will also require access to a computer and an internet connection.
- Students are required to complete a minimum of 13 hours of professional supervision over the course of the programme. This is organised and funded by the student (\$50-\$120 per hour).

Entry Requirements

NCEA Level 3 or equivalent qualification/work experience and evidence of suitability. Suitability will be assessed with reference to the applicant's health/wellbeing, safety check and referee

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reports. Once course numbers are met, students are wait-listed in order of the date on which their application was received.

International

IELTS 6.00 (no band lower than 5.5), or equivalent]

Find your country's [equivalent academic entry requirements here](#)

*For fee exclusions, please see our [terms and conditions](#).

Safety check

The Children's Act (2014) requires all students, who may work with children during the course of their study, to be safety checked. Safety checking includes reference checking, work history, identity check, police vet and an overall assessment of the applicant's safety to work with children.

I'm unsure I meet the entry requirements

If you are unsure whether you meet the entry requirements, you should still apply. For some applicants we may recommend completion of some FREE [Tūāpapa study modules](#) prior to the start of the programme, which will build on your current skills and experiences to support your academic achievement.

Credit recognition

If you have relevant skills and knowledge through study or experiences in work or other activities, you may be able to receive credit for them when enrolling in a programme of study. This is done through a process called [credit recognition](#).

Health screening

Students may be required to complete health screening to provide current evidence of their immunisation status, as required by Te Puna Whai Ora | Ministry of Health and health organisations offering clinical learning experiences.

How to apply

Before you start your online application, you will need to have the following documentation available to upload when requested:

- Completed [Supplementary Application Form](#) for Health and Social Services Programmes
- [Referee report](#):
- Verified ID
- Verified official transcripts

Give the referee report to someone who is willing to be your referee. Ask them to complete the forms and either return to yourself (so you can upload with your

application), or scan and email to enrolments@wandw.ac.nz within 10 days.

Alternatively completed applications can be emailed to enrolments@wandw.ac.nz or dropped into:

Enrolments, Whitireia New Zealand, 3 Wi Neera Drive, Porirua

For international applicants - please email your completed application to international-admissions@wandw.ac.nz

Supplementary application form



Referee report



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