

# Certificate in Disability Support

## Level 3



### Aim:

This programme prepares students who are wanting to gain knowledge and skills in the health & disability sector at an entry level to work in the disability sector or pathway into higher level health and disability programmes.

**Credits:** 70 credits

**Duration:** 22 teaching weeks plus 2 study break weeks. Face to face learning activities / Clinical Placement are normally scheduled over 3 days per week.

**Delivery:** You can expect the following workload for the theory modules:

- 20 hours per week engaging in face-to-face learning activities.
- 10 hours per week completing independent study tasks.

For 5 of the last 6 weeks of the programme you will be required to complete 120 hours of practicum in a commercial disability setting (24 hours per week). The 6th week is for feedback activities relating to the practicum.

**Qualification gained:** This programme leads to the New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Level 3)

**Career Pathways:** This programme aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge to work in the disability sector or further study in health and disability.

## Entry requirements:

### Domestic students –

- At least 16 years of age at programme start date.
- 8 credits at NCEA Level 1 in English (4 in reading, 4 in writing) or equivalent.
- Minimum of 3 years secondary education.
- There are no minimum academic requirements for applicants 20 years of age and over.

### International students –

- At least 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Year 12 or 13 qualification or equivalent (high school) including at least one science subject.
- IELTS 5.0 with individual no bands less than 5.0 or equivalent as per the English Language Proficiency Requirements for International students determined by NZQA.

These are specified in the table found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/nzqf-related-rules/the-table/>.



## What will I learn?

We value holistic education and guidance. This programme includes classroom-based learning, self-directed learning, and clinical placement. At the end of this programme, you will be able to:

- Show professionalism and ethical behaviour in a disability setting.
- Employ effective communication and behavioural management strategies.
- Apply knowledge of safe practice for medication assistance, safe handling, and infection control.
- Use natural supports and community participation to support the independence of persons living with a disability.
- Apply safe cultural practices and awareness of cultural differences in a person-centred care model.

## What could I earn?

On 18 April 2017, the NZ Government announced the Care and Support Workers (Pay Equity) Settlement Agreement. This set the standard for pay rates. The minimum rate for care and support workers employed after 1 July 2021 who hold an NZQA Health and Wellbeing Certificate at Level 3 is \$25 per hour.

If you hold an NZQA Health and Wellbeing Certificate at Level 4 or above, you will be eligible for \$27 per hour. Ask us for more information on our Certificate in Disabilities and Mental Health (Level 5) programme.



# FAQs

## How many days a week do I need to study?

You will need to engage in face to face learning activities / clinical placement a minimum of 3 days per week throughout the duration of the programme. You will also be expected to engage in at least 10 hours per week of independent study tasks.

## What resources will I need?

We operate a BYOD policy which means you will need to have a laptop. Your laptop will need to meet the following specifications:

- Windows 10 (or Mac Os 10.x Yosemite or higher)
- i3 dual core or equivalent processor 4GB RAM
- 320GB or greater hard drive
- Wireless capability 802.11n dual band
- At least a 13 inch screen
- Up-to-date antivirus software
- Battery life of a minimum of 6 hours (there is limited access to charging facilities in class)

We will provide you with a uniform for your clinical placement

## Does the programme include clinical placement/work experience?

Yes! You will complete 5 consecutive weeks of clinical placement (minimum of 120 hours).

## Will you assist with the job search?

We don't provide direct job assistance, but what we do provide is a programme that has been designed with industry needs in mind. This means that our graduates' skills are valued by industry. We provide access to employers through guest speakers and clinical placements. We have Clinical Placement Coordinators who work closely with industry and we are often approached for graduate information and informed of job recruitment campaigns. From time to time, companies will come on-campus to carry out interviews.

## Would I be able to work 20 hours while I am studying?

View Immigration NZ's guidance on what type of courses are eligible for work rights. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/study/working-during-after-your-study/working-on-a-student-visa>

## Would I be able to get post-study work rights after completion of this programme?

View Immigration NZ's guidance on what type of courses are eligible for post-study work rights. <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/apply-for-a-visa/visa-factsheet/post-study-work-visa#overview>

## What can I study after completion of this programme?

After completion of this programme, you can enrol into our Certificate in Disabilities and Mental Health (Level 5) programme.

## What jobs can I apply for after completing this programme?

Graduates of this programme will have the knowledge and skills to be able to work in a health and disability sector.