

# Certificate in Pharmacy Technician

## Level 5



### Aim:

The programme aims to provide mature domestic and international learners with skills and qualifications which will enable them to work in New Zealand as a pharmacy technician.

**Credits:** 149 credits

**Duration:** 62 teaching weeks plus 8 study break weeks, and either 4 or 8 weeks of summer break depending on intake start date. 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.

You will complete 440 hours of practicum in a commercial healthcare setting. This is made up of 22 consecutive weeks of practicum.

### Qualification gained:

This programme leads to the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Core) (Level 4) and the NZ Certificate in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Advanced) (Level 5).

Graduates will be able to work in a dispensing pharmacy under the direct supervision of a pharmacist. You will be able to work in a range of dispensary related roles including those in community, hospital, industrial and educational settings in pharmacy.

### Career Pathways:

Students may pathway to further learning such as the NZ Diploma in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Specialist) (Level 6).

### 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

- Understand the Pharmacy Council Code of Ethics
- Communicate with customers
- Apply the relevant pharmacy legislation and regulations.
- Apply an advanced level of knowledge of human anatomy, physiology and medicine used in the treatment of health disorders.
- Understand the use of and dispensing medicine services.





## What will I earn?

Once you train to become a Pharmacy Technician you can expect to earn the following:

- Pharmacy technician trainees usually earn between minimum wage and \$45,000 a year.
- Qualified pharmacy technicians can earn between \$45,000 and \$52,000.
- Hospital pharmacy technicians who take on additional responsibilities can earn up to \$56,000.

Sources: Auckland District Health Boards/PSA, 'Allied, Public Health and Technical Multi-employer Collective Agreement, to October 2017; Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, 2017. <https://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs-database/health-and-community/health/pharmacy-technician/>

## Entry requirements:

### All students –

An interview is required to confirm suitability for entry into the programme.

### Domestic students –

- 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Level 3 New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3) qualification, OR a domestic or international bachelor's degree qualification in a health related field, OR comparable pharmacy qualification which will be determined through a review of the transcript of learning.

### International students –

- 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Level 3 New Zealand Certificate in Pharmacy (Introduction to Pharmacy Practice) (Level 3) qualification, OR a domestic or international bachelor degree qualification in a health related field, OR comparable pharmacy qualification which will be determined through a review of the transcript of learning.
- IELTS 5.5 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/nzqa-related-rules/the-table/>.



# 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 a total of 22 consecutive weeks of clinical placement (minimum of 440 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 the NZ Diploma in Pharmacy (Pharmacy Technician - Specialist) (Level 6). We can provide guidance on the institutes that offer this programme.

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

You will be able to work in a range of dispensary related roles including those in community, hospital, industrial and educational settings in pharmacy.