

Diploma in Disabilities and Mental Health

(Applied) Level 5



Aim:

This programme aims to provide international and domestic learners with the knowledge and skills to provide person-centred care to those living with disability or mental health conditions, or to pathway into further study in the areas of health, disability, or mental health and addiction.

Credits: 195 credits

Duration: 65 teaching weeks plus 11 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 600 hours of practicum in a commercial mental health and/or disability setting. This is made up of two practicums, Practicum 1 is 10 weeks (240 hours). Practicum 2 is 15 weeks (360 hours)

Qualification gained:

This programme leads to the NZ Certificate in Health & Wellbeing (Advanced Support) (Level 4), and the NZ Diploma in Health & Wellbeing (Practice / Applied Practice) (Level 5).

Graduates will be able to work in the following areas: residential support for disabilities, community worker, disabilities services officer, family support worker, residential care officer, intellectual disability, physical disability, learning disabilities, dementia support, and mental health support.

Career Pathways:

Students may pathway to further learning such as a Diploma in Enrolled Nursing, an undergraduate degree programme in Health or our partner school AGI Education's Diploma in Mental Health and Addiction (Applied Practice) (Level 6).

What will 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 4 is \$27 per hour.



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:

- Use ethical and Professional behaviour in a disability setting.
- Apply person-centred models of care for a person living with a disability.
- Employ communication in response to vulnerability in a multicultural communication context.
- Integrate knowledge of disability and mental health support services into a support plan for a person living with a disability.
- Combine knowledge of mental health and addiction models of recovery to facilitate rehabilitation goals.
- Critically integrate government strategies and initiatives for Maori and Pasifika into support goals for Tangata Whenua living with a disability.
- Reflectively evaluate own support practice.

Entry requirements:

Domestic students –

- Over 18 years of age at programme start date.
- New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Level 3) with strands in Health Assistance or Social Support OR An equivalent and relevant qualification OR Have work experience in a health field for a minimum of three years.
- There are no minimum academic requirements for applicants 20 years of age and over.

International students –

- Over 18 years of age at programme start date.
- Bachelor's degree in a health field eg. nursing, social sciences, or health sciences OR A relevant tertiary qualification in health as determined through a transcript of learning OR Have work experience in a health field for a minimum of three years OR Have a New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Level 3) with strands in Health Assistance or Social Support.
- 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/nzqf-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 25 weeks of clinical placement (minimum of 600 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 partner school AGI Education's Diploma in Mental Health and Addiction (Applied Practice) (Level 6).

What jobs can I apply for after completing this programme?

You will be able to work in the following areas: residential support for disabilities, community worker, disabilities services officer, family support worker, residential care officer, intellectual disability, physical disability, learning disabilities, dementia support, and mental health support.