Bachelor of Health Science
(Paramedic)
Programme Overview

The Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) is a three-year full-time programme, run in conjunction with Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA), designed to prepare students for practice as contemporary ambulance paramedics.

Paramedics provide acute health care and emergency and urgent medical services to the community through a specialised body of professional knowledge, delivering care in variable environments. Through the use of clinical assessment, advanced medical procedures and treatment, they stabilise patients in clinically challenging environments, refer to primary and secondary care and provide on-going emergency medical care during transportation.

The BHSc (Paramedic) programme is delivered with a combination of theory classes, self-directed learning, practical sessions on campus, and clinical placements.

The programme involves considerable study and serious thought should be given before a student undertakes paid employment that will make it difficult to maintain sufficient study time, or to attend clinical experience. It is suggested that no more than ten hours per week are worked.

Why Choose Whitireia?

- The School of Health and Social Services has an excellent reputation for offering a friendly and supportive learning environment.
- We utilise a variety of teaching processes, which focus on discovery learning and active participation in workshops, lectures, tutorials and online activities.
- We provide supported clinical experiences which lead to a work-ready graduate.
- Whitireia has a vibrant student community that is rich in diversity.
- The Wikitoria Katene building provides state-of-the-art simulated clinical learning environments for nursing and paramedic students. These simulation suites give students access to the latest technology for clinical learning.

Student Support

At Whitireia, we are committed to students' success and therefore offer a range of services to meet the learning needs of individual students. These include Learning Support Services where one-to-one and small group assistance, peer tutoring, workshops and study skills sessions on a variety of topics, and online material are available.

To increase students’ chances of success, we provide support for students in other ways such as financial advice, counselling, childcare facilities, and a service for students who have a disability, illness, or health problems that may interfere with their studies.

Māori and Pacific Engagement Advisors are available to provide pastoral care for Māori and Pacific students, and information on alternative support networks and grants.
Programme Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Length</th>
<th>Three years full time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme Dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1:</td>
<td>9 February-16 April</td>
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<td>Term 2:</td>
<td>03 May-18 June</td>
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<td>Term 3:</td>
<td>12 July-1 October</td>
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<td>Term 4:</td>
<td>18 October-19 November</td>
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<td>Please note the July mid-semester break does not match the primary and secondary school holidays.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Learning Mode</th>
<th>This programme is delivered by blended learning i.e. face to face and online learning. This means some of your lessons may be delivered via Moodle (our online learning platform) which will require you to have a computer and internet access at home. Students will also need to be able to work from home should Covid-19 Alert Levels change.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme Fees</td>
<td>2021 fees will be on the programme webpage from October; as a guide, the 2020 fees were $7,073.00. These fees apply to NZ Citizens &amp; Permanent Residents only.</td>
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<td>Required course related costs (all costs are approximate)</td>
<td>Full details on course related requirements and costs will be available on the programme webpage from October.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health screening:</td>
<td>$250 must be completed prior to programme start</td>
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<td>Uniform:</td>
<td>$320 must be ordered prior to programme start</td>
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<td>Stethoscope:</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laptop/tablet/internet:</td>
<td>Prices vary</td>
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<td>Vaccinations (if required by clinical placement):</td>
<td>Costs will vary depending on vaccination required i.e. flu, whooping cough.</td>
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<td>Clinical Practice Guidelines:</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other course costs</td>
<td>Stationery: $50</td>
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<td>E-resources/textbooks</td>
<td>Students will be provided with access to online resources including textbooks, journals and, if required by the programme, the vSIM online simulation package. Any required hardcopy textbooks will be noted on the course related requirements list.</td>
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Age
Both WFA and St John Ambulance (St John) policies state that observers on ambulance shifts must be aged 18 years or above, therefore applicants must be 18 years of age by the start date of the programme.

Driver's Licence
It is strongly recommended that students hold a full driver’s licence before starting the BHSc (Paramedic) programme. A full clean New Zealand Class 1 driver's licence, held for a minimum of three years (without convictions and free of demerit points within the last two years) is a requirement of both WFA and St John before the student may be considered for either volunteer or permanent employment.

If students do not hold a full driver’s licence at the beginning of the programme, this will not prevent the student from undertaking the paramedic programme, but may restrict their opportunity for employment with an ambulance service until such time that they have held a full licence for three years.

If students do not hold a full driver’s licence, they must consider the implications of the start and finish times of their clinical placements in relation to the restrictions of their licence.

Employment
If an applicant has any medical or physical concerns, or any criminal convictions it is recommended that the applicant contacts the Human Resource Department of WFA and/or St John to discuss any impact this may have on future employment.
Programme Content

Detailed course information (i.e. course aims, learning outcomes, credits etc.) is available on the BHSc (Paramedic) page on the Whitireia website.

In Years One and Two, students will spend approximately half of each semester on campus, and the other half in clinical placements. There are variations to this pattern – the actual classroom and clinical timetable is provided to the student at the beginning of each semester.

In Year Three, courses are delivered online, with some block weeks spent on campus, to enable a greater amount of time spent on clinical placements. This requires the student to be particularly diligent and focussed in their studies, and to take more responsibility for their own learning and time management.

Year One

Year One introduces new students to human anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, and paramedic practice. Utilising context based learning; students explore the structure and function of the ambulance industry; roles and responsibilities of the paramedic; legal and ethical issues, including the implications of te Tiriti o Waitangi on paramedic practice; and the assessment and treatment of medical and trauma patients to a beginning practitioner level. The time spent on campus is divided between classroom theory and practical sessions in the simulation suites, where ‘hands-on’ skills are practiced and developed.

Students will attend a variety of clinical placements, including emergency ambulance, non-emergency ambulance, ambulance communications centre and rest homes. During these placements students are able to apply and develop the knowledge and skills from the classroom whilst under direct supervision.

Year Two

Year Two consolidates and builds on Year One, with pathophysiology and pharmacology integrated into clinical context, and more invasive paramedic practice. The student will transition from task focussed technical skills to critical thinking in relation to patient care, as well as continuing to develop skills in academic scholarship and research.

In a similar structure to Year One, the students will spend time in the classroom, in the clinical labs, and attend clinical placements – this year ranging from emergency ambulance, hospital emergency department, hospital operating theatre, delivery suite, and mental health.

Year Three

The structure of Year Three is significantly different to the previous years. Courses in this year are delivered online, with some block weeks spent on campus. Whilst the courses are a mix of clinical and non-clinical courses (as in the previous years), there is a greater focus on clinical reasoning, teamwork and leadership, along with in depth exploration of legal, ethical and sociological issues, and further development of research in relation to paramedic practice. The amount of time spent on clinical placements is increased in Year Three and is almost exclusively based in an emergency ambulance environment.
Theory

In Year One, theory hours are usually 9.00am-4.00pm, four days a week and these sessions are divided between the various courses being studied concurrently. This time on campus is also divided between classroom learning and practical sessions in the simulation suites where ‘hands-on’ skills are learnt and practiced.

A variety of teaching processes are used in the programme, including lectures, tutorials, and self-directed online learning.

The BHSc (Paramedic) programme follows a context-based learning philosophy – this requires the student’s commitment to completing required online learning before attending classroom sessions, where the focus will be on the application of the new knowledge.

Where there are no timetabled classes, students are expected to utilise this time on independent study. Students will also be required to complete independent study and work on assignments during weekends and term breaks.

Clinical

Over the course of the programme, the student will complete 1040 hours of clinical placements. The theory learnt in the classroom, and the practical skills covered in the simulation suites are applied in clinical settings under the direct supervision of health care personnel.

Whitireia delivers the BHSc (Paramedic) programme in partnership with WFA, and the required ambulance placements will be arranged for the student with WFA. Whitireia also has a close working relationship with St John to ensure that the content of the programme meet the needs of both NZ ambulance service providers.

Whitireia also has working partnerships with other clinical providers, including both the Hutt Valley and Capital & Coast District Health Boards to allow the student to attend clinical placements within the hospital and primary health care environments.

Due to the hours of work and location of placements throughout the greater Wellington region, it may be difficult to get public transport to attend clinical placements. The cost of transport to and from clinical placements is the student’s responsibility. These placements will include a variety of shift start and finish times, and may include days, nights, weekends and public holidays.

Students complete a portfolio of evidence which includes both clinical and non-clinical learning. This will form the basis of the graduate’s professional practice portfolio.
Entry Requirements

Applicants must meet both the Academic and Suitability entry requirements.

Applicants must be 18 years of age by the start date of the programme.

**Academic Entry Requirements**
Whitireia degree academic entry requirements (i.e. University Entrance) or equivalent.

Evidence of equivalence may include successful completion of high school studies overseas or recent tertiary study at Level 4, with a “B” average, (i.e. the Whitireia Pre-entry to Degrees or the New Zealand Certificate in Study and Career Preparation programmes), and/or relevant work experience (paid or unpaid); application considered on a case-by-case basis with entry granted at the discretion of the Head of School.

**International Students:**
Academic IELTS score of 6.5 in each band.

**Suitability Requirements:**
Applicants will be invited to attend an interview to determine their preparedness for study and ability to meet the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (if applicable), as well as any registration board requirements. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following qualities:

- Effective interpersonal communication skills
- Understanding of, and capability to, work in the professional health and social services sector
- Commitment and motivation to succeed

Suitability will also be assessed with reference to the applicant’s health screening, safety check* and referee reports.

*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.
Application Closing Date: Friday 30 October 2020

Applications received after this date will only be processed if places are still available.

How to Apply

1. We recommend you apply online from the Whitireia website.

2. Before you start your online application, you will need to have the following documentation available to upload when requested:
   - Completed ‘Supplementary Application for Health & Social Service Programmes’*
   - Referee reports* (refer to step 3 below)
   - Verified ID
   - Verified official transcripts
   - Curriculum Vitae

   *These additional forms are available on the programme webpage.

3. Give the referee reports to two people who are willing to be your referees. Ask them to complete the forms and either return to yourself (so you can upload with your application), or scan and email to enrolments@whitireia.ac.nz within 10 days. Please note applications will not be processed until both referee reports have been received.

4. Alternatively, completed applications can be printed off and either:

   Mailed to:  
   Enrolments, Whitireia New Zealand
   DX SX33459, Porirua 5022

   Dropped into:  
   Enrolments, Whitireia New Zealand
   3 Wi Neera Drive, Porirua.

Application Process

1. We will confirm receipt of your application by email.

2. Completed applications will be forwarded to the School to review. If your application is incomplete you will be emailed and asked to provide the missing documentation.

3. Applications are processed in order, by the date the School receives the completed application. Important note: Occasionally, due to demand, all places in a programme may be allocated before the programme closing date. We recommend you apply early and ensure your application is complete.

4. Applicants who meet the academic entry requirements will be interviewed by members of the Selection Committee to determine their suitability.

5. Applicants who do not meet the academic entry requirements will be contacted and advised of other possible pathways i.e. completion of a foundation programme.
Student Loans and Allowances

This programme is approved for Student Loans and Student Allowances through StudyLink. You can use the StudyLink website tools to check to see whether you are eligible for a student loan and/or allowance.

For full information on student loans and allowances visit the StudyLink website www.studylink.govt.nz or contact them on 0800 88 99 00.

Foundation Studies

Whitireia offers a choice of programmes to assist you to gain skills and knowledge in preparation for a variety of education or employment pathways. Programmes are offered at different levels, to provide you with a pathway suitable to your background, and are offered at different campuses, so you can study closer to home. Within the programmes, different strands are also available to support you to go onto further education or employment in a specific field.

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. Credit recognition may not exceed two-thirds of your chosen programme.

If you think you may qualify for credit recognition, please contact one of our Enrolment Advisors. It is important to do this as soon as possible so that you know which course/s you may have credit for, and therefore should not enrol in. They can then assist you to check the potential impact of credit recognition on your full-time status for eligibility for loans and allowances (domestic students) and immigration requirements (international students). They will also be able to provide information on the application process, evidence required and fees.

Information (including the application form) is also available on our website under enrolment information.

Fees

There is an Application Fee of $75 for domestic students only. For both domestic and international students, the fee for assessing evidence is $100 per hour. The assessment fee is capped at three hours and is invoiced to all applicants at the end of the process regardless of the application outcome.

We recommend applying for credit recognition well before your programme starts.

Further Information

Should you have any questions, please contact an Enrolment Advisor on 0800 944 847.