School of Health & Social Services

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 the Poutama Learning Skills Centre 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 liaison staff 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>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Programme Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1:</th>
<th>10 February-9 April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2:</td>
<td>28 April-19 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3:</td>
<td>13 July-25 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4:</td>
<td>12 October-20 November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note the July mid-semester break does not match the primary and secondary school holidays.

Programme Fees

2020 fees will be on the Paramedic pages on the Whitireia website from September; as a guide, the 2019 fees were $6,943.00. These fees apply to NZ Citizens & Permanent Residents only.

Additional Costs

Includes, but is not limited to, the following (all costs are approximate):

- E-resources/textbooks: Students will be provided with access to online resources including textbooks, journals and, if required by the programme, the vSIM online simulation package.
- Stationery: $50
- Clinical Practice Guidelines: $50
- Uniform: $300
- Stethoscope: $150
- Health screening: $250
- Clinical Assessment: Costs will vary depending on your Doctor’s fees.
- Vaccinations (if required by clinical placement): Costs will vary depending on vaccination required i.e. flu, whooping cough

Important Notes

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 contact the Human Resource Department of WFA and/or St John to discuss any impact this may have on future employment.

2020 Information for Applicants: Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic)

Fees, programmes and dates are subject to change
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 all courses are delivered online, with some block weeks spent on campus, and 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**

Theory hours at Whitireia 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 learning packages online.

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

If 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. It is strongly recommended that students have a computer at home with internet access.

**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 as such 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.
Quality of learning is identified by the completion of clinical logs, in which the student reviews patient care, records skills undertaken and details learning from the placement experience.

Supervision feedback forms will be completed by the student’s supervisor and will reflect on the student’s abilities and progress during these placements. Clinical logs are reviewed by the Course Coordinator to ensure sufficient workload has been documented.

**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.

**National Certificate of Educational Achievement (Vocational Pathway Social and Community Services Sector) (Level 2)**

The aim of this one semester programme is to assist you to gain foundation language, literacy, numeracy, and generic skills in order to pursue education or employment pathways.

**New Zealand Certificate in Study and Career Preparation (Level 3)**

This one semester programme provides you with an initial pathway for entering tertiary study in preparation for further study or training at Level 4. It also provides a foundation of skills and knowledge which you can take through your academic life. Two strands are offered: health science and social science.

**New Zealand Certificate in Study and Career Preparation (Level 4)**

This one semester programme provides you with an initial pathway for entering tertiary study in preparation for further qualification at Levels 5–7 (diplomas and degrees). It also provides a foundation of skills and knowledge which you can take through your academic life. Two strands are offered: health science and social services.

**Pre-entry to Degrees**

Entry to this course is by invitation of the Selection Committee and involves you completing a ten week (November-February) online programme, with optional on-site sessions.

**Credit Recognition**

Credit recognition includes cross credit, credit transfer and recognition/assessment of prior learning, and we recommend applying well before the programme starts.

The applicant applies for credit recognition by submitting the Application for Credit Recognition form, attaching the verified supporting documentation and paying the application for credit recognition fee. The application will then be assessed by programme staff to determine whether the evidence of skills and knowledge is authentic, relevant, current and sufficient to enable the equivalence to stated graduate profile or learning outcomes. Their recommendation goes to the Centre of Learning Achievement Committee for a final decision.

**How to apply:**

Contact Whitireia and request further information about credit recognition.
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:
Attend an interview to determine the applicant’s preparedness for study and ability to meet the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (if applicable), as well as any registration board requirements, in terms of being fit for registration. 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 25 October 2019

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 ‘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.

Further Information

Should you have any questions, please contact:  Enrolment Advisor, Phone: 0800 944 847

Student Loans and Allowances

For information on student loans and allowances visit the StudyLink website www.studylink.govt.nz or contact them on 0800 88 99 00. Use the StudyLink website tools to ensure you are eligible for a student loan and/or allowance.