

Paramedicine





‘The tutors made me feel comfortable straight away.’

Rosie



Paramedicine



Wellington Free Ambulance Paramedic

The moment she read into it, Rosie was hooked on the idea of paramedicine.

Previously a visual arts student, Rosie returned from overseas travel not sure what her next step was. It wasn't until she came across the Whitireia Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) online did she consider a new career.

Having a degree under her belt already, Rosie absorbed as much as she could during her studies, forming strong relationships with her fellow students and tutors. Her tutors Ken and Josie were very passionate and patient people who inspired her during the programme. The best part of the course was the mix of theory and practical work in the ambulance – the mix of both is perfect, in her opinion.

Now working for Wellington Free Ambulance, Rosie's days are varied and jam-packed. The best part of her job is meeting people from all walks of life. She loves the excitement of not knowing what kind of day she's going to have – from attending accidents involving elderly, to helping people injured at sports games.





While the long hours can be challenging, the bonds she has formed with her colleagues make it all worthwhile for Rosie. The ability to share moving experiences with and lean on each other is what it's all about.X

She may have stumbled upon paramedicine, but it's turned out to be Rosie's dream job. Her advice to people considering paramedicine as a career is to just keep going and keep learning. "It's not an easy job, but the rewards are worth it."

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic)

 Level 7
 3 years, full-time
 \$12,157 per year (indicative for 2025 intake)
 NZ \$39,000* per year (indicative for 2025 intake)

Gain skills to provide emergency and non-urgent medical care in a range of situations. Develop skills to assess, stabilise, treat and refer patients. Learn through clinical placements in ambulance services, hospitals and other environments.

Programme outline

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

Paramedics provide emergency and urgent medical services to the community through a specialised body of professional knowledge, delivering care in variable environments. Using 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, simulation on campus, and clinical placements. The programme involves considerable study and serious thought should be given before a ākonga 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.

A distance version of this programme is offered for working or volunteering paramedics. The Flexible Learning Stream (FLS) of the Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) is designed for students with an existing National Certificate or National Diploma in Ambulance Practice (Level 5) or with a practicing level of EMT or paramedic.

More detail about this qualification

Teaching and learning

Theory and practice are integrated across the three years including timetabled campus-based sessions (in classrooms and the simulation suite), and clinical block weeks.

In year one ākonga attend campus-based sessions with regular clinical blocks. In year two and three, as ākonga increasingly become independent learners, clinical blocks increase, and campus-based learning is supported by online learning.

Courses

Year one

Year one introduces ākonga to relevant science and pharmacology, and beginning Paramedic practice. Utilising context-based learning ākonga explore the structure and function of the New Zealand Health System, roles and responsibilities of the paramedic; legal and ethical issues, te Tiriti o Waitangi in paramedic practice; and the assessment and treatment of medical and trauma patients to a beginning practitioner level.

Year one course outline

Year two

Year two consolidates and builds on year one, with pathophysiology and pharmacology integrated into the clinical context, and more increased focus on paramedic skills. Ākonga will transition from task focused technical skills to critical thinking in relation to patient care, as well as continuing to develop skills in academic scholarship and research.

Year two course outline

Year three

The structure of year three increases the online content and delivery as ākonga are increasingly independent, with block weeks on campus. There is a greater focus on clinical reasoning, teamwork and leadership, along with in-depth exploration of legal, ethical and sociological issues. Ākonga will further develop their research skills in relation to paramedic practice. The amount of time spent in clinical placements is increased in the third year and is almost exclusively based in an emergency ambulance environment.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is correct at the time of print. Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga reserves the right to cancel or postpone any of the programmes, and shall not be liable for any claim other than the proportion of programme fees that the cancelled portion bears. Some programmes may be dependent upon formal approval from NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority), TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) funding allocation, and the number of enrolments. As part of the NZQA targeted review of all Level 1-6 New Zealand qualifications, there may still be changes to some programmes starting in 2024. Fees, programmes, entry and selection criteria, and dates, are subject to change. Please check the relevant programme pages at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz for up-to-date information and full entry regulations before applying to enrol. Information regarding English language requirements is available on each course page at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz.

Year three course outline

Clinical

Over the course of the programme, ākonga will complete 1000 hours of clinical learning in a variety of settings, where ākonga apply knowledge and skills under the direct supervision of health care personnel.

Course related costs

Prior to starting the programme, you will be required to complete health screening to provide evidence of your current immunisation status, as required by our placement providers. All ākonga must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 (two vaccinations and one booster), as this is currently mandated by both Wellington Free Ambulance and Hato Hone St John. Further information on this and the other course costs will be provided when 2025 costs are confirmed. The following costs are approximate.

- Health screening: \$270
- Uniform: \$320
- Stethoscope: \$100
- Vaccinations: costs will vary depending on vaccination required

E-resources and Textbooks: ākonga will be provided with access to online resources including textbooks, journals and, if required by the programme, the vSIM online simulation package.

Entry requirements

University entrance or equivalent academic/work experience and evidence of suitability based on an interview, health screening, safety check and referee reports. Applicants must be 18 years of age by the start date of the programme.

International students

Proven equivalence of entry requirements plus IELTS 6.5 in each band, or equivalent.

Find your country's [equivalent academic entry requirements here](#)

**For fee exclusions, please see our [terms and conditions](#).*

Interview/Evidence of suitability

We may interview applicants to determine their preparedness for study and their ability to meet the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (if applicable). 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

Safety check

The Children's Act (2014) requires all ākonga, 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.

Driver licensing

It is recommended that ākonga 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 Hato Hone St John employment.

If ākonga 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 concerns

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

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](#).

I'm unsure I meet the entry requirements

If you are unsure whether you meet the entry requirements, you should still apply. For some applicants we may recommend completion of some [FREE Tūāpapa study modules](#) prior to the start of the programme, which will build on your current skills and experiences to support your academic achievement.

How to apply

1. 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 form](#) for health and social services programmes
- [Referee report](#)

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- Verified ID
- Verified official transcripts

*Give the referee report to someone who is willing to be your referee. Ask them to complete the forms and either return to yourself (so you can upload with your application), or scan and email to enrolments@wandw.ac.nz within 10 days.

Alternatively, completed applications can be emailed to enrolments@wandw.ac.nz

For international applicants - please email your completed application to international-admissions@wandw.ac.nz

Hear from our graduates

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi6cvOiW_88&t=1s

Supplementary application form



Referee report Form

