



Programme information: New Zealand Certificate in Animal Welfare Investigations (NZCAW)

What is the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Welfare Investigations (NZCAW)?

The New Zealand Certificate in Animal Welfare Investigations is a Level 5 programme that is delivered by Unitec's School of Environmental and Animal Sciences. It's designed to equip students with industry specific knowledge and technical abilities, as well as literacy, cultural and communication skills needed to be work ready.

It's ideal for people wanting to work as an Animal Welfare Inspector with the SPCA or MPI, and is recognised as the approved qualification by the Ministry for Primary Industries, who appoints all Inspectors. It would also be helpful for anyone working in the animal welfare industry particularly in a shelter or any animal compliance organisation.

This is a difficult and demanding programme. Just like the role of "Animal Welfare Inspector", it will tax you on mental, emotional, and time management levels. It is important that you are prepared for that and do not underestimate the time and commitment required. (See the "Distance Learning" and "Courses" sections below for more detailed information.)

Please note: This programme uses a blended delivery with a mix of online distance learning and campus based block courses. Students must attend the 3 on-site block courses spaced throughout the year and complete a total of 20 hours work experience and 6 hours' court room experience, which we will help you to facilitate.

What is the industry looking for?

Due to the growing public and legislative interest concerning the welfare of animals, the approved enforcement organisations (SPCA NZ and MPI) are on the lookout for work-ready graduates; people who have great communication and teamwork skills and who show the maturity and responsibility to work independently in this demanding role.

What is the programme content?

NZCAW provides a full understanding of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and associated law, as well as the knowledge and skills needed in; forensic investigation, animal health and handling and cultural and tactical communication.

The programme currently consists of five compulsory courses shown in Table 1 below. You must pass all five courses in order to gain the New Zealand Certificate. Details of each course follow the table.

Table 1: All courses are compulsory

Level	Course No.	Course Name	Credits	Pre-requisites	Co-requisites
5	NSCI 5774	Communication Skills	15	NIL	NIL
5	NSCI 5775	Investigation of Animal Welfare Offences	30	5776	NIL
5	NSCI 5776	NZ Animal Welfare Law	30	NIL	NIL
5	NSCI 5777	Prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 1999	15	5776 and 5775	NIL
5	NSCI 5778	Animal Health and Welfare	30	NIL	NIL

NSCI 5774 Communication Skills for Animal Welfare Inspectors (AWI) (15 credits)

- Mātauranga, tikanga, and te reo Māori;
- Working across cultural boundaries as an Inspector;
- Conflict communications;
- Education as a compliance tool;
- Professional communication.

NSCI 5775 Investigations of Animal Welfare Complaints and Offences (30 credits)

- Different types of investigations;
- Forensics;
- Interviews and statements;
- Recording and documenting;
- Search and seizure.

NSCI 5776 NZ Animal Welfare Law (30 credits)

- Animal Welfare Act 1999 and amendments;
- Legal terms and concepts;
- Other statutes, and codes of welfare;
- Offences and regulations;
- Professionalism and ethics.

NSCI 5777 Prosecution Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (15 credits)

- The prosecution system in NZ;
- Animal Welfare Act prosecutions;
- Offence selection;
- Prosecution files;
- Giving evidence.

NSCI 5778 Animal Health and Welfare for Inspectors (30 credits)

- Large animals and fowl;
- Companion animals;
- General assessments;
- Care of animals, self, and others.

Cross Credits

Students that have completed any courses that are similar to those described above are able to submit a [cross-credit application](#) by completing an application form with the required evidence. Applications are reviewed by the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences Programme Committee and students are informed of the outcome in writing.

Common cross-credits include qualified veterinarians and vet nurses cross-crediting NSCI 5778 Animal Health & Welfare and Police Officers cross-crediting NSCI 5775 Investigations, NSCI 5777 Prosecutions.

Please note that a requirement of a cross-credit for NSCI 5778 Animal Health & Welfare (30 credits) is that the student enrolls & passes the NSCI S500 Short Course in Animal Euthanasia (6 credits).

If you intend to apply for cross credits, please ensure that either a) you have already submitted all the relevant paperwork to Unitec prior to the first block course, which is preferable, or b) bring all relevant paperwork to the block course. This must be organised early on in the programme so that we are all aware of precisely what courses you need to take during the year.

For those taking all courses (i.e. full time), students are eligible for student loans and allowances, however, cross crediting of more than one course within the programme will change your eligibility for student allowance. Please discuss with StudyLink (www.studylink.govt.nz).

How and when do I apply?

The NZCAW starts at the beginning of February each year with an online orientation the last week of January. To be ready for this early start, the best time to apply for the programme is **prior** to the 1st of November of the previous year (e.g. by the 1st of November 2019 in order to start the Programme in February 2020).

This involves completing an [online application form](#). However, if there are still places available on the programme after this date, applications will still be accepted.

What is the selection criteria?

- At least 48 credits at NCEA Level 2 or equivalent in your best four subjects, including:
- At least 14 credits at NCEA Level 1 in mathematics or Pangaru
- At least 8 credits at NCEA Level 2 in English or Te Reo Māori
- Be at least 18 years old by the time the programme begins

If English is not your first language you will need one or more of the following:

- Have achieved at least 8 NCEA Level 2 credits in English (4 in reading, 4 in writing)
- Be able to provide evidence you satisfy our criteria for existing English proficiency

If you don't meet these requirements, you may still apply under special or discretionary entrance.

What if I don't meet the selection criteria?

If you don't meet the selection criteria above, you may meet the criteria for special or discretionary entry. You could also consider the [New Zealand Certificate in Animal Care \(Level 3\)](#) to prepare yourself for both tertiary and animal studies.

We ask applicants who do not have experience working or volunteering within the animal industry to take this programme as well (2 years or more is the recommended level of experience). Once you have successfully graduated from this programme, you will have the academic skills and experience necessary to move up to the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Welfare Investigations.

How old do I need to be?

Entry is open to anyone aged 18 years or older as at February 1st of the year of study, provided they also meet the academic requirements.

Please note: Due to the maturity and responsibility of the Inspector role, the SPCA is unlikely to employ anyone who is under 20 years of age.

Programme Dates for 2020

Please note: these dates fall outside of the regular Unitec calendar

Orientation (online): The week starting 27 January

Programme Start (online): 3 February

Block Courses: All block course run 6 days (Monday – Saturday)

1. 17 – 22 February
2. 8 – 13 June
3. 28 Sept. – 3 Oct

Programme End: The week ending 24 November.

So how does distance learning actually work?

There can sometimes be a perception that studying from a distance is easier, or there will be less content, but this is not the case. Studying from a distance is somewhat different to studying on-site, with daily lectures throughout the year, however the approximate overall study time is the same as it would be for any full time one year programme.

A large quantity of pertinent reading material will be supplied, mainly by our web-based learning platform (Moodle), and will come in a range of formats, including Microsoft Word documents, PDFs, PowerPoint presentations, or other web-based delivery methods including online books. Lecturers will also provide online assessments which will automatically provide feedback to you. Discussion forums are set up for all students to participate in, some of which may be assessed, while others are there to create a community of learning.

Lecturers and course coordinators may use Moodle to contact individual students by email, and will often load important announcements for the whole class to view. It is imperative that you access Moodle consistently during the week (including weekends) to keep on track in all aspects of the programme. You will receive training on how to use Moodle in your first block course

How do the block courses work?

All 3 block courses are 6 days in duration, and will be held at Unitec (Mt. Albert campus, Auckland). You must attend all 3 of these important and intensive blocks. This is important face to face time where we explore the physical skills and application of complex concepts in a hands on supportive environment.

Block courses start early on the first day, so if you're travelling from outside Auckland, we advise that you arrive a day early to account for any travel delays. Each block course ends at 4:15 pm at the latest on the last day. Tea, coffee and food can be purchased from various outlets on campus. Please be advised that some block courses take place outside regular semester therefore some food options may be limited.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide accommodation for those travelling from outside of Auckland, however there is plenty of accommodation available within the West Auckland area

What kind of work experience is involved?

There is a work experience component to the Investigations course (5775) requiring all students to spend 20 hours (3 days) with a fully appointed Inspector. You will accompany your assigned Inspector as they go through their day to experience the real life role. Though we cannot guarantee what experiences you will have, the Inspectors make every effort to include students in interesting cases and activities.

There is also a requirement for students to observe in a District Court for at least 6 hours to learn about the court system as part of the Prosecutions course (5777)

Most resources for this course will be supplied in electronic or hardcopy form. The exception to this is the Course Textbook:

Wells, Neil. (2018). Wells on Animal Law. Thomson Reuters

*Students can purchase at a 15% discount via the Thomson Reuters site using the PROMO CODE: **ACAD15** <https://www.thomsonreuters.co.nz/student>*

Do I need computer access?

Yes, prospective students must have consistent access to a computer with broadband and with appropriate word processing and slide presentation software, provided by Unitec and downloadable once you're enrolled. You need to be proficient at word processing, web browsing and e-mail communication; Unitec's Learning and Achievement Team offer upskilling in this area.

How much does the programme cost?

This programme costs approximately \$8000 (NZD), not including required text book, travel and accommodation costs during block courses, and work experience expenses. If studying full time, students are eligible for student loans and allowances.

How do I get further information about the programme?

Programme Advisors at Student Central: Email: study@unitec.ac.nz;

Telephone: 0800 10 95 10

If you have any other specific questions, please contact the Programme Coordinator Peggy Link via email or phone:

Email: plink@unitec.ac.nz; Telephone: (09) 815 4321 Ext 8201

