

NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT (COMPANION ANIMALS)

Develop the knowledge and confidence to work with, care for, and manage the day-to-day needs of a wide range of companion animals in different situations.

If you want to further your career working with, and managing, companion animals like dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, and birds, then this is the programme for you. Explore the basics of animal anatomy, welfare, behaviour and husbandry, learn how to recognise signs of good and poor health across a range of companion animals, and understand how to manage animals in a range of environments.



What is the programme content?

You will learn to recognise and understand animal behaviour, develop your handling skills, and manage day-to-day animal health and husbandry in a facility environment such as Te Puna Kararehe (Unitec's Animal Behaviour and Husbandry Centre) where a variety of animals are housed, including rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, reptiles, fish, and birds.

You will also learn about health and safety planning, the ethics, philosophies and law that surround the animal industries, and develop a broad understanding of the biology of a range of animals.

What are the programme highlights?

- » Practical experience within Unitec's Animal Behaviour and Husbandry Centre - Te Puna Kararehe - looking after and handling a variety of animals.
- » Practical work placements and field trips within the animal industry and associated professions.
- » Experienced lecturers who are experts in the fields of animal behaviour, health, and welfare, and continue to work and research closely with industry.
- » Strong links with industry

What is the selection criteria?

To be eligible for admission to this Programme, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. At least 36 credits at NCEA Level 2 including 12 credits in English.
2. At least 12 credits at NCEA Level 1 in a relevant science subject (biology and chemistry are most preferred).
3. For international students where English is your second language, you will need one or more of the following:
 - » Have achieved NCEA Level 3 and New Zealand University entrance or equivalent.
 - » Be able to provide evidence you satisfy our criteria for existing English proficiency.
 - » Have achieved at least one English proficiency outcome in the last two years.

What if I don't have NCEA?

We also accept successful completion of the New Zealand Certificate in Animal Care (Level 3) or an equivalent qualification. Or, if you're over 20 years old and provide sufficient evidence, you may be eligible for special admission (see link below for these regulations). Discretionary admission is also available for those under 20 years' old who do not meet the NCEA requirements but can prove they are competent to study in this programme. The study of science subjects is an advantage for this programme as there is significant scientific content.

The applicant must also meet the General Admission and English language requirements as set out in the programme regulations here.



How and when do I apply?

The programme starts around late February each year. As its gaining popularity, due to the hands-on practical experiences that students gain, 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 2020 in order to start the Programme in February 2021). 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.

How is the programme structured?

- » The programme is structured for one-year full-time study (5 days a week over 2 x 16-week long semesters which is equivalent to 1200 hours of learning).
- » There are assessments throughout the year in the form of practical exams, written exams and/or written assignments.
- » You will also be expected to attend a one-day orientation in the week prior to the first semester (usually the last week of February) that is critical to your learning and success on this programme.

Please note: The lectures and practical lessons on-site only form one part of your learning: on-site hours' account for around 15 hours per week, so you will be expected to spend up to 18 hours per week on self-directed study. This may be revising, researching, writing assignments, tests, on-line discussions with staff and other students, or going through formative (non-assessed) work as directed by your tutors.

What will you expect from me?

We expect students to be self-motivated and committed, and have excellent time management skills. Being late to lectures or practical sessions adversely affects the learning environment for yourself and the rest of the class. Attendance for some practical's and field trips is mandatory for passing the programme.

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 that is provided by Unitec and downloadable once you are enrolled. You need to be proficient at word processing, web browsing and e-mail communication; Unitec's Student Success Team offer upskilling in this area.

If you have any other specific questions, please contact the Programme Coordinator Bianca Kuhlmann:

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