

PROGRAMME GUIDE 2027



OUR SCHOOL PARTNERS



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GREAT FUTURES

The West Coast Trades Academy gives secondary school students the chance to start training for a trade while they are still at school.

Students in Year 11, 12 and 13 have the option to study in a trades programme as well as working towards their NCEA qualifications.



START HERE!

Trades Training

We are in the business of training students for real jobs. There is a demand for skilled and dedicated people to work in a whole range of trades from Engineering and Hair and Beauty to Manaaki Tāpoi. So that is what we teach.

Start your Training Now

If you want to stay at school but are keen to start training for work, the West Coast Trades Academy is the place for you.

Our training is designed so you can study with us but still stay at school, be around your friends and keep doing all the extra curricular activities such as sports, drama and music that you love.

It's the best of both worlds. You still do all the fun school stuff, but at the same time you get a head start on your career by working towards NCEA Level 2 and 3 and gain valuable work related skills in the Trades Academy programme of your choice.

How does Trades Academy Training Work?

We work with your school to find the training option that works best for you.

Students complete an expression of interest on line and then work through a selection process with their school based Trades Academy Coordinator.

Training is either provided at your school, at Tai Poutini Polytechnic, by Whenua Iti Outdoors, or Papa Taiao. There are no fees for Trades Academy learning and transport is provided to get students to their learning destinations.

Working Together for your Success

We are serious about your success which is why we expect a one year commitment from you to achieve NCEA Level 2 and 3 and achieve the credits offered by your trades programme.

We will work closely with you and your school to make sure you are managing your studies. If you need support, advice or extra help please talk to your teacher, careers' advisor, school trades academy co-ordinator or the Manager of the West Coast Trades Academy.

Training Fees

There are no fees to pay. All costs including travel and accommodation is paid by the West Coast Trades Academy!

5 REASONS TO CHOOSE TRADES ACADEMY

1. Get a head start on your career

Explore different industries, gain practical skills and discover what career path is right for you.

"It's given me an idea of what area I want to work in and gain qualifications towards."



2. Learn by doing

Spend less time behind a desk and more time developing hands-on skills with industry professionals.

"Working with the tutor and learning new things, the real world."



"It gives me a head start."

3. Build confidence

Challenge yourself, learn new skills and grow your confidence in a supportive environment.

4. Make connections

Meet like-minded students, work as part of a team and build relationships with tutors and employers.

"Learning people skills, meeting people and working as a team."



5. Open doors for your future

Earn credits, gain recognised qualifications and prepare for employment or further study.

"It's getting me closer to the job I want to do."



Timetable

Day and Programme	Year/Level	Location	Provider
Thursdays			
Conservation and Earthcare - Specialising in Nursery Production	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Papa Taiao Earthcare
Environmental Tourism	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Papa Taiao Earthcare
Fridays			
Conservation and Earthcare - Specialising in Pest Control	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Papa Taiao Earthcare
Outdoor Adventure Skills	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Thursdays or Fridays - TBC			
Carpentry	Level 2	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Carpentry	Level 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
West Coast Industry Ready	Level 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Early Childhood Education	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Mechanics	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Engineering	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth or Westport	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Computer Programming and AI	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Cheffing and Bakery	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Café Skills	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Hairdressing	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Residential Courses and Block Courses			
Trades Digger School	Level 2 and 3	Greymouth	● Tai Poutini Polytechnic
Manaaki Tāpoi	Level 2 and 3	Tasman/Nelson	● Whenua Iti Outdoors
Adventure Tourism Leadership	Level 2 and 3	Tasman/Nelson/Canterbury	● Whenua Iti Outdoors
Employment and Life Skills		West Coast and Tasman/Nelson	● Whenua Iti Outdoors
Uniformed Services	Level 2	Tasman/Nelson	● Whenua Iti Outdoors
Outdoor Emergency Response	Level 3	Tasman/Nelson	● Whenua Iti Outdoors

* Please note the timetable may change from the details outlined above.

Our providers

● Tai Poutini Polytechnic ● Papa Taiao Earthcare ● Whenua Iti Outdoors

CARPENTRY

LEVEL 2



Build a Career

Building and construction is an excellent career option. In the next five to ten years New Zealand is going to need a lot of people with skills in this area, especially in Christchurch and the West Coast.

This programme will get you started on a career in building, and is hands-on, project based learning designed to give you skills in the building and construction sector. You will learn how to use and manage hand tools, power tools and machinery; and build decks, utility buildings, garden furniture and other items.

There is a high need for qualified builders in New Zealand and with the skills you gain through your Trades programme and by completing your NCEA Level 2 qualifications at school you will be highly employable. After completing this certificate you could become an apprentice with a building or construction business, or go on to study in a range of areas including carpentry, Level 3 and 4 programmes.

What you will learn:

- How to manage hand tools, power tools and machinery.
- Build decks, utility buildings, garden furniture and other items.
- Develop trade sketches and drawings.
- Concreting.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:

Construction and Infrastructure



Credits:

Level 2
Up to 25 credits



Duration:

1 year programme preparing students for pre-trade carpentry or employment

Starts: February 2027

Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:

Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:

Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Building apprenticeship
- Joinery
- Construction sites
- Roofing
- Paving and landscaping
- Concreting and bricklaying
- Painting and decorating

Further study options

- Certificate in Carpentry (Residential and Commercial) (Level 3)
- National Certificate in Carpentry (Level 4)
- National Certificate in Joinery with strands in Cabinetry, Exterior Joinery and Stairs

CARPENTRY

LEVEL 3



Take Your Building Skills to the Next Level

Ready to build on the skills you've already developed? Carpentry Level 3 is designed for students who have successfully completed the West Coast Trades Academy Level 2 Carpentry programme, or who have gained equivalent experience through Gateway, school hard materials programmes or practical work in the building industry.

This practical, project-based programme gives students the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and skills required to begin a career in the building and construction industry. Students will undertake a substantial BCATS Level 3 building project while developing competency in measuring, calculating, selecting and using construction materials, and safely operating a wide range of tools and equipment.

With a strong focus on workplace standards, quality workmanship and health and safety, this programme provides an excellent pathway into apprenticeships, employment or further study within the construction sector.

What you will learn:

- Complete a full BCATS Level 3 building project.
- Read and interpret building plans and specifications.
- Measure, calculate and set out building projects accurately.
- Select and safely use construction materials.
- Operate a wide range of hand and power tools.
- Apply workplace health and safety requirements.
- Develop quality workmanship and finishing techniques.
- Work independently and as part of a construction team.
- Build practical skills that prepare you for apprenticeship training.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Construction and Infrastructure



Credits:
Level 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme preparing students for apprenticeships, further study or employment in the building and construction industry

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Building apprenticeship
- Residential construction
- Commercial construction
- Joinery
- Roofing
- Concrete and foundation work
- Landscaping and outdoor construction
- Building labourer

Further study options

- New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Level 4 Apprenticeship)
- New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trades
- Building and Construction Apprenticeship
- Specialist qualifications in Joinery, Roofing or Concrete Construction
- Diploma or Degree pathways in Construction Management

WEST COAST INDUSTRY READY LEVEL 3



Work Ready. Industry Ready. Future Ready

West Coast Industry Ready – Level 3 is designed to prepare students for employment, apprenticeships and further training across a wide range of industries including construction, civil infrastructure, engineering, forestry, mining, transport and manufacturing.

Ideal for Year 13 students, or motivated Year 12 students ready to achieve Level 3 qualifications, this practical programme focuses on the core workplace skills that employers consistently look for. Students may have previously completed a Level 2 Trades Academy programme, gained experience through Gateway or work placements, or simply have a strong interest in pursuing a career in industry.

Learning is hands-on and workplace focused. Students will develop practical skills in health and safety, risk assessment, machinery operation and workplace communication while gaining industry-recognised qualifications. The programme includes forklift operator training and licensing, along with practical experience using workplace equipment and following industry-standard procedures.

This programme provides an excellent foundation for apprenticeships, employment and further vocational training across many of New Zealand's key industries.

What you will learn:

- Workplace health and safety practices.
- Hazard identification and risk assessment.
- Toolbox meetings and workplace communication.
- Safe operation of machinery and equipment.
- Forklift operation and forklift licence.*
- Basic machinery inspections and pre-start checks.
- Safe lifting and load handling techniques.
- Workplace problem-solving and teamwork.
- Professionalism, communication and employability skills.

*Subject to meeting licensing requirements.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Construction and Infrastructure



Credits:
Level 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme preparing students for employment, apprenticeships and further vocational training

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Construction labourer
- Civil infrastructure worker
- Engineering apprentice
- Manufacturing operator
- Forestry worker
- Mining operator
- Transport and logistics assistant
- Warehouse and distribution
- General industry trainee
- Forklift operator

Further study options

- Apprenticeships across a wide range of trades
- New Zealand Certificate in Infrastructure Works
- New Zealand Certificate in Mechanical Engineering
- Primary Industries qualifications
- Construction and Civil Infrastructure qualifications
- Manufacturing and Engineering qualifications
- Transport and Logistics qualifications
- Further Level 3 and Level 4 vocational programmes

TRADES DIGGER SCHOOL



Welcome to your Introduction to Digger School!

The West Coast is expecting a surge in civil construction and building projects. Our employers need staff to man the tools and operate the heavy machinery and earth moving equipment.

This is an exciting, hands on project based programme covering the practical skills involved in preparing a building or construction site for excavation, learning compaction and paving.

The course also introduces you to geological knowledge, important site safety and leads to learning about the safe operation of machinery such as diggers, dozers and rollers.

In block course format, 80% of your learning will be on site.

If you are interested in a career in operating construction machinery, building, forestry, mining or general skilled labouring, this is the course for you.

What you will learn:

- Demonstrate correct use of hand tools for infrastructure works, and clean and store tools.
- Carry out pre-start and shutdown procedures on a generator.
- For small machinery used on infrastructure works sites: select maintenance tools, fuel, and lubricants; carry out maintenance checks; and clean up and store tools and materials.
- Demonstrate knowledge of materials and equipment for interlocking pavers for infrastructure works; prepare for laying pavers; place and embed pavers under supervision; and clean-up site.
- Identify and describe infrastructure works materials and compaction; prepare for compacting operations; accept and hand spread materials; and assist with compaction of materials.
- Demonstrate knowledge of rocks and minerals.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Construction and Infrastructure



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
30 credits



Duration:
This is a 1 year programme
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth block courses



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Civil construction worker
- Digger operator
- Excavator
- Mining operator
- Forestry worker

Further study options

New Zealand Certificate in Infrastructure Works (Level 3) with optional strand in Plant Operation



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Start Your Journey in Early Childhood Education

Interested in working with tamariki/young children and helping them learn, grow, and feel confident? This programme is a great starting point if you are thinking about a future in early childhood education, teaching, education support, or working with tamariki/young children and whānau.

You will explore how tamariki/young children learn through play, relationships, communication, and safe, positive environments. You will also learn about child development, health and safety, professional responsibilities, and Te Whāriki, the early childhood curriculum used in Aotearoa New Zealand.

You will develop useful skills, get a taste of what early childhood education is like, and see whether this is a pathway you would like to continue after school.

You can gain credits towards NCEA and build a useful foundation for further study in early childhood education, teaching, education support, or related areas.

What you will learn:

- How tamariki/young children learn, grow, and develop.
- The importance of play in early childhood education.
- Building positive relationships with children and whānau.
- Health, safety and wellbeing in ECE settings.
- What it means to work professionally and responsibly with children.
- Te Whāriki, the early childhood curriculum in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Career pathways in education and community services.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:

Social and Community Services



Credits:

Level 2 and 3
Up to 27 credits



Duration:

1 year programme preparing students for employment or further study in Early Childhood Education and related fields.

Starts: February 2027

Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:

9am - 3pm Thursdays
or Fridays



Provider:

Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Early childhood centre assistant
- Playgroup or community early learning support worker
- Teacher aide or learning support assistant
- Nanny or Home-based Educator
- Family and Community Support Worker

Further study options

- New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Education Support (Level 4)
- New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary Education)

MECHANICS



Drive your Future

Take the first step to getting your dream job in the automotive industry with this qualification. You'll be taking vehicles apart, fitting tyres, doing servicing, locating and diagnosing electrical faults and learning how to manage customer enquiries.

Students will learn in the new automotive workshop at the Tai Poutini Polytechnic in Greymouth, which opened in January 2016. Key skills in the programme include a wide range of practical skills such as disassembling and reassembling a four stroke engine, dismantling engines, safe working practices and learning how to use tools and equipment in automotive workshops.

After completing this programme you can get work as an apprentice in an automotive business or do further study at polytechnic in the automotive industry. Once completing this programme you will have a number of practical skills for working in the automotive industry such as tyre servicing, fault finding and basic servicing. The programme also provides theory components for students towards their driver's license.

What you will learn:

- Taking vehicles apart.
- Fitting tyres.
- Servicing vehicles.
- Locating and diagnosing electrical faults.
- Engine rebuilding.
- Drawing and understanding engineering sketches.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Manufacturing Technology



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme preparing students for pre-trade mechanics or employment

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Automotive engineering apprenticeship
- Panel beaters
- Tyre servicing
- Warrant of fitness testing
- Automotive sales and servicing
- Brake servicing

Further study options

- National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Electrical and Mechanical Engineering) (Level 4)
- National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Heavy Engineering) (Level 3)
- National Certificate in Motor Industry (Automotive Specialist Engineering) (Level 4)

ENGINEERING



Machine Work

If you are interested in the bigger picture and like designing, repairing, building or maintaining machines and tools, then engineering could be the career for you.

This programme is focused on working with machining, developing fabrication skills, gaining knowledge and skills using hand and power tools. In addition you will learn about welding, working with engineering drawings, applying calculations and measurement in your work as well as working safely in an engineering workshop.

There is a strong demand for people with engineering skills, particularly on the West Coast. Businesses are looking for employees with a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the engineering trade. There are many career options for engineers for work in areas such as manufacturing, building and construction, aviation, boat building and transport, agriculture and energy. When you have completed your training through the Trades Academy, you can work towards a Level 3 National Certificate or a diploma in engineering.

What you will learn:

- Designing, repairing, building or maintaining machines and tools.
- CAD design.
- Mechanical engineering.
- Engineering drafting.
- Welding procedures.
- Safe work practices.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Manufacturing Technology



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme preparing students for pre-trade engineering or employment

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth or Westport
9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Mechanical engineering apprenticeship
- Fitting, turning and tool making
- Precision machining and fitting
- Plant maintenance and diagnostics
- Auto CAD

Further study options

- National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 4)
- National Diploma in Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) (Level 6)

Note: The status of a fully qualified tradesperson is achieved at the completion of The National Certificate in Engineering (Level 4)

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING AND AI



Explore the Future of Tech

Ready to step into the cutting-edge world of technology? Our unique course, blending Level 2 and 3 NCEA credits, offers an exciting introduction to Computer Programming and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Designed for students in Years 11 to 13, this course covers the essentials of coding and web development while teaching you how to harness the power of AI to create smarter, more efficient digital solutions.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to advance your skills, this course equips you with the knowledge and experience to excel in today's tech-driven world. You'll be well-prepared for further study, internships, or immediate application of your skills in real-world projects.

What you will learn:

- Knowledge of a personal computer system.
- Managing and protection of data.
- Creating a website.
- Creating simple computer programs to a set brief.
- Understanding local area network technologies.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Manufacturing Technology



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
This is a 1 year programme
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Paid internship with fusion
- Computer support technician
- Web developer
- Web designer
- Database/systems administrator
- Programmer
- Software architect
- Network engineer
- Project manager

Further study options

- NZ Certificate in Information Technology Essentials (Level 4)
- NZ Diploma in Information Technology Technical Support (Level 5)
- NZ Diploma in Web Development and Design (Level 5)
- NZ Diploma in Systems Administration (Level 6)

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE SKILLS



Explore. Challenge. Lead.

If you love the outdoors, enjoy challenging yourself and want to build practical skills that prepare you for adventure, leadership and employment, then Outdoor Adventure Skills – West Coast is the programme for you.

This practical, hands-on programme gives students the opportunity to experience a wide range of outdoor recreation activities while developing confidence, resilience and teamwork. Based at Tai Poutini Polytechnic in Greymouth, students will learn through real outdoor experiences across the stunning West Coast environment.

Throughout the year, students may participate in day trips and occasional overnight expeditions, applying their skills in real-world settings. Modules are selected each year and may include whitewater kayaking, tramping, bushcraft and navigation, rock climbing and abseiling, sea kayaking, caving, rafting, cycle touring, bike maintenance, outdoor emergency response and rescue skills.

Students will develop practical outdoor recreation skills while learning risk management, leadership, communication, environmental awareness and how to safely operate in challenging outdoor environments.

What you will learn:

- Outdoor recreation and expedition skills.
- Bushcraft, navigation and weather interpretation.
- Risk management and outdoor safety.
- Whitewater and sea kayaking skills.
- Rock climbing and abseiling techniques.
- Tramping and camping skills.
- Cycle touring and bike maintenance.
- Outdoor emergency response and rescue skills.
- Communication, teamwork and leadership.
- Personal resilience, confidence and self-management.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
This is a 1 year programme
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Fridays



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Outdoor recreation instructor
- Adventure tourism guide
- Conservation field worker
- Outdoor education assistant
- Department of Conservation field support
- Tourism and visitor experiences
- Search and Rescue volunteer pathways
- Outdoor equipment retail

Further study options

- New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Education (Level 3 or 4)
- Outdoor Adventure Leadership programmes
- Outdoor Emergency Response
- Adventure Tourism qualifications
- Conservation and Environmental Management
- Uniformed Services
- Recreation and Sport qualifications

CHEFFING AND BAKERY



Master Chef Dreams?

If your passion is cooking and you want to work as a chef this programme is the one for you. This programme will prepare you with the basic skills to begin working in a kitchen or provide you with the ability to progress into further training.

A programme of introductory cookery with relevant theory and practical learning is the start of a career where you can work all over the West Coast, New Zealand or overseas. Employment options include kitchen hand, chef or cook. Further training options include Professional Culinary Arts Level 4 and 5, or there are specialised training options such as patisserie, baking or butchery.

Our commercial kitchens are equipped to a high standard to cater for all your learning needs. Check out West Coast Trades Academy on Facebook to see what cookery students prepare during their training.

During the course students are introduced to specialist cooking areas such as baking, fish filleting, commercial catering as well as learning about food safety and expanding their knowledge of culinary products.

What you will learn:

- Beginner cookery.
- Cooking food by baking, boiling, poaching, steaming and grilling.
- Participating in a group/team.
- Apply safe working practices in a commercial kitchen.
- Clean food production areas and equipment.
- Handle and maintain knives in a commercial kitchen.
- Entry to NZ Hospitality Championships.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme
preparing students for
pre-trade cheffing, bakery
or employment

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Kitchen hand
- Chef/cook

Further study options

- Certificate in Professional Culinary Arts (Level 4)
- Diploma in Professional Culinary Art Level 5 (this qualification incorporates London City and Guilds qualifications).

CAFE SKILLS



Keen to Find out is the Faced Paced Hospitality Industry is for you?

The hospitality industry is one where no two days are the same. The domestic tourism industry along with the continuous growth of café culture and the popularity of eating out in our towns and cities, means there are real job opportunities within our New Zealand cafés, restaurant and bars.

This course offers you the chance to gain a variety of hands on skills in food preparation, beverage making, barista skills, front of house, customer service and baking. You will learn in a hands-on environment, by working in the polytechnic commercial kitchen and service delivery will be real, not theory, in the Tai Poutini Restaurant.

What you will learn:

- Food safety.
- Beverage making.
- Customer service.
- Food preparation.
- Table service.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme
preparing students
for employment
in hospitality

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Café barista
- Waitress
- Café food preparation
- Café front of house
- Tourism and hospitality customer service roles
- Kitchen-hand
- Retail

Further study options

- New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Level 3)

HAIRDRESSING



Are you Salon Selective?

With an on-campus hair salon, you can directly apply your learning on a daily basis to become a cut above the rest.

Whether you want to build a business, find a creative outlet or care for people's wellbeing by helping them to look good and feel great about themselves, hairdressing is an industry that is always in demand.

Carve out a career in the entertainment or fashion industry, work in a local salon or take your skills globally. Training at the on-campus salon gives you a strong foundation to all the elements of hairdressing in a hands-on way, with a focus on delivering a great experience to customers and clients.

What you will learn:

- Customer service skills.
- Hairstyling.
- Fashion trends in hairdressing.



Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Level 2 and 3
Up to 25 credits



Duration:
1 year programme preparing students for pre-trade hairdressing, beauty or employment

Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
Greymouth 9am - 3pm
Thursdays or Fridays (TBC)



Provider:
Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Self-employed/own business
- Hair salon manager
- Hairdresser
- Senior hair stylist
- Hair stylist for TV/movie industry/fashion/events
- Image consultant
- Film/theatre/TV stylist
- Salon receptionist
- Colour technician
- Trainee hairdresser
- Industry assessor/tutor

Further study options

- Industry Employment/Apprenticeships and ITO Training
- Certificate in Hairdressing (Salon Support) (Level 3)
- Certificate in Advanced Professional Hairdressing at NMIT (Level 4)

CONSERVATION AND EARTHCARE



Specialising in Pest Control

Year 1, 2 and 3 (Years 11-13)

Spend time discovering the extraordinary endemic biodiversity of the West Coast while working with industry experts to plan and take action towards future sustainability problems.

Conservation and Earthcare Pest Control focuses on restoring the endemic biodiversity on land (Whenua Restoration) through pest control operations. The aim of the course is to empower young people to take action and contribute to future sustainability.

Throughout the course students work collaboratively to plan, implement and evaluate a range of pest control projects. Students will also have the chance to participate in 'Project Pollinate', where they will learn introductory apiculture/beekeeping skills.

This course has large practical components and contains some theory elements.

*Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata, Haere Whakamua.
Care for the land, care for the people, go forward.*

What you will learn:

- How to prepare for and carry out rural pest animal population survey monitoring.
- How to prepare and use traps to control rural pest animals.
- Concepts of sustainability and how they relate to our complex world.
- How to plan, carry out and evaluate action taken to improve future sustainability.
- How to collaborate and work effectively with a diversity of people.
- Weather interpretation skills.
- Land based navigation skills.
- Workplace health and safety.
- Practical 21st century skills.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Primary Industries



Credits:
Up to 20 credits
Level 2 (Year 1 and 2's)
Level 3 (Year 3's)



Duration:
This is a 3 year programme



Timetable:
9am to 3pm Fridays
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Provider:
Papa Taiao Earthcare

Employment options

- Conservation ranger
- Biosecurity officer
- Field technician
- Resource manager
- Environmental scientist
- Pest operations
- Sustainability practitioner

Further study options

- Certificate in Conservation
- Certificate in Land Based Sustainability
- Certificate in Pest Management
- Certificate in Pest Operations
- Diploma in Environment and Sustainability
- Diploma in Environmental Management
- Bachelor of Environment and Society
- Bachelor of Business in Sustainable Enterprise

CONSERVATION AND EARTHCARE



Specialising in Nursery Production Year 1, 2 and 3 (Years 11-13)

The first thing to come back in the restoration process is vegetation, once habitat is formed invertebrates return, then reptiles, followed by birds. Conservation and Earthcare Nursery Production focuses on the first part of the restoration process, the regeneration of native flora (revegetation).

Conservation and Earthcare Nursery Production is an introductory course into nursery, horticulture and restoration work. Students explore the extraordinary biodiversity of the West Coast and learn about the structure and function of ecosystems. You will research how changes in land use affect environmental sustainability and complete field based investigations into local restoration projects. You will get the opportunity to run and manage a native nursery, and be involved in the whole growing process, from seed collection right through to tree planting. Throughout the year-long project students will get opportunities to take part in and lead community restoration projects and work alongside industry experts. Students will also have the chance to participate in 'Project Pollinate' where you will learn introductory apiculture/beekeeping skills. This course has large practical components and contains some theory elements.

Tiakina te wao nui a Tāne hei oranga mōu.

Look after the great forest of Tāne and in turn it will look after you.

What you will learn:

- Introduction to horticulture plant science.
- Introduction to plant nursery production.
- Restoration, regeneration and project management.
- Workplace health and safety.
- Concepts of sustainability and how they relate to our complex world.
- How to take action to address future sustainability problems.
- Practical 21st century skills.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Primary Industries



Credits:
Up to 20 credits
Level 2 (Year 1 and 2's)
Level 3 (Year 3's)



Duration:
This is a 3 year programme



Timetable:
9am to 3pm Thursdays
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Provider:
Papa Taiao Earthcare

Employment options

- Conservation ranger
- Horticulturist
- Nursery manager
- Biosecurity officer
- Resource manager
- Environmental scientist
- Resource manager
- Sustainability practitioner

Further study options

- Certificate in Horticulture
- Certificate in Nursery Production
- Certificate in Conservation
- Certificate in Land Based Sustainability
- Diploma in Horticulture
- Diploma in Environment and Sustainability
- Diploma in Environmental Management
- Bachelor of Environment and Society
- Bachelor of Business in Sustainable Enterprise
- Bachelor of Horticultural Science

ENVIRONMENTAL TOURISM

Where tourism, te taiao and the future of the West Coast come together

NEW
for 2027!

Te Tai o Poutini is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most distinctive tourism destinations. Visitors come from around the world to experience our ngahere, mountains, coastlines, wildlife, national parks, local stories and communities. The future of tourism on the West Coast depends on how well we care for these taonga while creating meaningful and sustainable visitor experiences.

Environmental Tourism – West Coast explores the important relationship between tourism, conservation, environmental sustainability and regional prosperity. Through practical and experiential learning, ākonga will discover how tourism businesses, communities and mana whenua work together to protect te taiao, respond to environmental challenges and create experiences that benefit both visitors and local people.

Working alongside tourism operators, community organisations and environmental specialists, ākonga will gain real-world insight into regenerative tourism, visitor experiences and the unique natural and cultural identity of Te Tai o Poutini. They will explore how our landscapes, biodiversity, heritage and pūrākau help shape unforgettable visitor experiences and contribute to the success of one of the West Coast's most important industries.

Learning will take place in authentic locations throughout the region, allowing ākonga to experience a wide range of tourism operations while exploring how businesses balance environmental responsibility, visitor expectations and economic sustainability. They may participate in guided experiences, visit tourism destinations and investigate how the West Coast is leading the way in sustainable and regenerative tourism.

The kaupapa of Papa Taiao sits at the heart of this programme. Ākonga will develop a stronger connection with te taiao while growing their understanding of kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga and their role in supporting the wellbeing of the whenua, local communities and the future of tourism on the West Coast.

Alongside industry knowledge, students will build confidence, communication, teamwork, leadership, customer service and problem-solving skills. This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical learning, meeting people, exploring new places and contributing ideas about the future of tourism in Aotearoa.

What you will learn:

- The importance of environmental tourism to the West Coast and Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Sustainable and regenerative tourism.
- Visitor experiences and destination management.
- West Coast tourism businesses and career opportunities.
- Local history, pūrākau and cultural perspectives.
- Guiding, interpretation and storytelling.
- Manaakitanga and creating exceptional visitor experiences.
- Tourism business challenges, including seasonality and sustainability.
- Health and safety within tourism workplaces.
- Communication, teamwork, leadership and employment skills.
- Planning and presenting sustainable tourism ideas.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Level 2 and 3



Duration:
This is a 1 year programme



Timetable:
9am to 3pm Thursdays
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027

This programme is delivered primarily as a weekly day course and may include field trips and occasional overnight experiences.



Provider:
Papa Taiao Earthcare

Employment options

- Tourism Guide
- Eco-tourism
- Visitor Experience Host
- Tourism Operations
- i-SITE and Visitor Services
- Tourism Marketing
- Events and Experience Coordination
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Regional Tourism Organisations
- Conservation Tourism

Further study options

- Further study in Tourism, Business, Sustainability or Environmental Management

Designed for both Year 12 and Year 13 students, this programme can be delivered at either NZQA Level 2 or Level 3. Learning and assessments are tailored to suit individual students and support their future education and career goals.

MANAAKI TĀPOI



Experience our Culture

Manaaki Tāpoi explores and celebrates the importance of Cultural Tourism within NZ and builds a deeper understanding of Te Āo Māori.

Take a journey through the cultural history of Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui (the Top of the South). Learn from expert tutors and kaumatua, visit and stay on marae across the region and interact with Māori business leaders of the region. This programme is designed to be experiential and active whilst embedding and reinforcing pride in Aotearoa's cultural heritage. You will learn the importance of strong connections to Te Ao Māori and the value these connections can bring to a wide range of career paths.

Manaaki Tāpoi (Introduction) at Level 2 focuses on whanaungatanga, kaitiakitanga, serving of kai and te reo greetings and farewells used in tourism. On completion of Manaaki Tāpoi (Introduction), students can pathway onto the Manaaki Tāpoi (Advanced) programme at Level 3. This course focuses on kaitiaki practices in Māori Tourism and the history of natural attractions and significant sites in our region. This is a unique programme option within New Zealand.

Manaaki Tāpoi Extension

The Manaaki Tāpoi Extension programme will strengthen participant's understanding both of the uniqueness of Māori culture as well as the interconnectedness of Te Ao Māori.

The Manaaki Tāpoi Extension course aims to build on skills and knowledge developed on the Level 2 and Level 3 courses.

What you will learn:

Level 2

- Explain kaitiakitanga in terms of how Māori interact with te taiao.
- Explain the use of tikanga Māori as part of exercising kaitiakitanga.
- Describe whanaungatanga in relation to the way Māori interact with the natural world.
- Describe whanaungatanga in relation to a local Māori environmental management system.
- Prepare wharekai for service, as part of a team, in accordance with kawa and tikanga.
- Serve kai, as part of a team, in accordance with kawa and tikanga.
- Clear tables, as part of a team, in accordance with kawa and tikanga.
- Clear wharekai after service, as part of team, in accordance with kawa and tikanga.
- Explain the importance of Māori place names in tourism.
- Present a short mihi and poroporoaki in te reo Māori with local tikanga.

Level 3

- Explain kaitiaki practices in a Tourism Māori context.
- Participate in a noho marae.
- Identify and explain the cultural significance of natural attractions in tourism Māori.
- Identify and explain the cultural significance of man-made attractions in tourism Māori.
- Explain the importance of respecting Māori customs and practices in Tourism Māori.
- Contribute within a team or group which has an objective.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Up to 19 credits at
Level 2 and 3



Duration:
This is a 2 year programme
Starts: Term 1/2 (dates TBC)



Timetable:
Level 2: 13 Days (2 x 4 day
blocks, 1 x 5 day block)
Level 3: 13 Days (1 x 5 day
block, 1 x 8 day block)



Provider:
Whenua Iti Outdoors



Location:
Tasman/Nelson

Employment options

- Tourism guides
- Travel consultant
- Teaching
- Hotel management
- Cultural interpretation
- Entrepreneur

Further study options

- Manaaki Tāpoi Extension Course
- Certificate in Outdoor Education (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Tourism (Level 3)
- Tourism and Hospitality (Level 3 to 5)
- Royal New Zealand Police College
- University studies – such as teaching, business or management studies

ADVENTURE TOURISM LEADERSHIP



Bring on Adventure

Some of the very best learning in life comes through challenging your personal boundaries and training to work well in difficult situations.

Get outdoors, get active and have fun while you learn a wide range of outdoor skills. At the same time the Adventure Tourism Leadership programme allows you to develop your personal leadership style, enhance your communication skills, and determine your contribution to creating a high functioning team.

These personal and social skills are not only critical in today's world of work they are transferable to any career path you choose to take. During the Level 2 course you will experience mountain biking, caving, sea kayaking, rock climbing and camping, and in so doing, gain valuable credits at NCEA Level 2. The Level 3 course builds on existing outdoor skills allowing students to become more confident and skilled in different outdoor environments and wilderness emergency response situations.

What you will learn:

Level 2

- Demonstrate the use of basic rope systems for top rope rock climbing and abseiling.
- Demonstrate basic rock climbing movement.
- Demonstrate sea kayaking skills on sheltered or slow moving water.
- Experience camping.
- Select, set up and maintain a mountain or cycle touring bike.
- Mountain Bike on intermediate to expert terrain.
- Demonstrate basic caving skills.

Level 3

- Prepare for, participate in, and evaluate an outdoor experience as a member of a group.
- Create a personal bush survival kit and demonstrate bush survival skills.
- Explain search and rescue procedures.

Uniformed Services (Level 2) and Adventure Tourism Leadership (Level 2) provide pathways onto this Level 3 programme. Students with equivalent experience in the outdoors can also be accepted onto the Level 3 course.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Credits:
Up to 18 credits at
Level 2 and 3



Duration:
This is a 2 year programme
Starts: 2 intakes per year
(dates TBC)



Timetable:
4 x four day block courses



Provider:
Whenua Iti Outdoors



Location:
Tasman/Nelson/Canterbury

Employment options

- Adventure tourism guide
- Outdoor instructor
- Health and education programming
- Youth education training

Further study options

- Certificate in Outdoor Education (Level 4)
- Adventure Tourism Leadership (Level 3)

EMPLOYMENT AND LIFE SKILLS



Build Confidence for Life Beyond School

Through Experiential Learning, connection to our inspiring natural environment and by offering a variety of personal challenges, this course will provide you with opportunities to learn more about yourself, helping you to develop the skills you need to gain employment or go to training outside of secondary school.

The programmes person-centred approach will support and motivate you. The skilled and caring tutors will work along side the student team to help you to build the confidence and skills you need for the next stages of life once you leave school. Our tutors will help you to create a personal plan to help you to achieve YOUR goals.

As a skills development course, the programme does not offer NCEA accreditation. The focus is to help you to be work and life “out of school” ready!

What you will learn:

- You will develop a personal plan for your individual success and to help you reach goals.
- Team building skills.
- Communication skills.
- Key employment skills.
- Personal well-being and self care.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Service Industries



Duration:
This is a 1 year programme
Starts: February 2027
Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:
11 days, mix of day programmes and overnights



Provider:
Whenua Iti Outdoors



Location:
West Coast and
Tasman/Nelson

Employment options

A wide range of employment options await you. During the course you will learn how to meet supportive employers and gain entry level work in a wide range of industries from hospitality, retail, health care and administration. The world of work is your oyster!

Further study options

This course can lead to the New Zealand Certificate in Foundation Skills (Level 1) and Supported Learning (Level 1) at Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

UNIFORMED SERVICES



An Extraordinary Career

If you want to pursue an active and exciting career path in the uniformed services but are not quite sure which service, then this is an ideal opportunity to try them out.

Paramedics, Police, Fire Services, Search and Rescue and Defence Forces – these uniformed services all offer varied and exciting career opportunities.

You will have the opportunity to experience a simulated search and rescue exercise, emergency survival skills and find out what it is really like to be a paramedic, police officer, firefighter or a member of the defence forces. Learning is practical, active and engaging – this is a fun way to take a big step towards achieving NCEA Level 2 while gaining your basic first aid certificate and also refining your career path.

What you will learn:

- Provide basic life support and first aid.
- Manage first aid in an emergency situation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of general purpose knots and lines.
- Use general purpose knots and lines in an emergency situation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the role and functions of Civil Defence general rescue at ground level.
- Identify safety equipment, safety precautions and hazards in general rescue situations at ground level.
- Plan and carry out searches to locate simulated casualties within a specified area at ground level.
- Move casualties to safe locations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of formal interviews.
- Be interviewed in a formal interview.
- Plan, conduct and review an informal interview.
- Communicate in the outdoors using two-way radio.
- Communicate in a team or group which has an object.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Social and Community



Credits:
Up to 17 credits
mainly at Level 2



Duration:
This is a 1 year programme
Starts: 2 intakes in 2027
(dates TBC)



Timetable:
13 Days (2 x 4 day blocks,
1 x 5 day block)



Provider:
Whenua Iti Outdoors



Location:
Tasman/Nelson

Employment options

- Paramedic
- Emergency services
- Search and rescue
- Police officer
- Fire fighter
- Civil defence training

Further study options

- Positions within the New Zealand Armed Forces
- Certificate in Emergency Management

OUTDOOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Be Ready for Anything

This programme will equip students with practical skills in Risk Management and Emergency Response with a focus on the outdoors.

The Outdoor Emergency Response Level 3 programme provides students with the ability to identify, prepare for, manage and respond to risks and emergency events that can occur in an outdoor environment. These emergencies could range from weather events, accidents or medical emergencies in remote areas, search and rescue operations and missing persons.

What you will learn:

- Increasing willingness to learn.
- Understanding and assuming personal responsibility.
- Developing belief in self and increasing confidence.
- Developing a positive attitude.
- Recognising and developing potential.
- Developing resilience skills (coping with challenge and change).

Course details



Vocational Pathway:
Social and Community



Credits:
Level 3
Up to 16 credits



Duration:
Residential block
course format

Starts: 2 intakes in 2027
(dates TBC)



Timetable:
13 Days (1 x 5 day block,
1 x 8 day block)



Provider:
Whenua Iti Outdoors



Location:
Tasman/Nelson

Employment options

- Paramedic
- Emergency services
- Search and rescue
- Police officer
- Fire fighter
- Civil defence training

Further study options

- Positions within the New Zealand Armed Forces
- Certificate in Emergency Management

How to Apply



We are looking for students in Years 11, 12 or 13 who are focused, committed to learning and keen to work towards a career in the trades. If that sounds like you – apply today!

It's easy to apply. Talk to your trades coordinator or school careers adviser and then complete an application form online at www.wcta.ac.nz. Your parent or caregiver will need to digitally approve your application. There are no fees (yes, it's free) for the programme and some materials such as protective clothing will be provided by the Trades Academy.

The closing date for 2027 applications is Friday 16th October 2026.

Application Process

Once we receive your application form, you and your parents or caregivers will be invited to attend an interview to discuss your options further.

Enrol now!

- » Start training for a career while studying at school
- » No fees
- » Keep up school friendships and extra curricular activities while at the Trades Academy
- » Continue with core subjects at school
- » Gain workplace skills, develop independence and responsibility for your learning
- » Develop self-esteem and communication skills
- » Achieve NCEA endorsed by one or more Vocational Pathway
- » Additional expenses such as transport will be covered by the Trades Academy
- » Individual learning plans will ensure your achievement is monitored by your school and the Trades Academy
- » The Trades Academy manager and school co-ordinators are on hand to support you!



Great
futures
start here

**The West Coast
Trades Academy gives
secondary school students
the chance to start training
for a trade while they are
still at school.**

Students in Year 11, 12
and 13 have the option to
study in a trades programme
as well as working towards
their NCEA qualifications.

There are no fees for
the Trades Academy.

West Coast
**Trades
Academy**

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