

EX- PERI- ENCE ARA

2026

GET
SET



- Assessed NCEA credit courses
- FREE Junior and Senior Tasters
- Information Sessions

To register or for more details, see your careers advisor or visit ara.ac.nz/exp

ara.ac.nz



Get a feel for tertiary-level study and explore a wide range of subject options with our 2026 Experience Ara offerings.

Campus tours

We offer tours at each of our six campuses, by arrangement. To book one, go to ara.ac.nz/book-a-tour. Please refer to the Experience Ara website for Manawa campus tour dates, as these are not available upon request.

Information & Preparation

If you're interested in a particular subject area at Ara, these sessions will give you lots of useful information on our programmes, plus great advice on how to produce a quality application, portfolio or audition.

Junior Tasters

Our Junior Tasters are ideal if you have little or no experience of a subject but you'd like to explore it as a potential future career. Designed for Year 9 and 10 students.

Senior Tasters

If you have some understanding of a particular subject area and you're considering studying it at tertiary level, our Senior Tasters are a great way to get hands-on experience. Designed for Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

STAR Courses

Our assessed STAR courses provide the chance to earn credits while gaining experience in a subject that you have a strong ambition to pursue. Designed for Year 11, 12 and 13 students.

Bespoke

If your school would like to register an entire class for an Experience Ara event, please email: engagement@ara.ac.nz for more information.

Key information

The majority of Experience Ara events are available on request to suit your school. Half day events cost \$30 per person and full day events cost \$50 per person. Please contact us to discuss dates and details.

A fee of \$50 will be charged per day if notice of non-attendance isn't received within 48 hours of the event. The fee will be waived if a medical certificate is provided (send to engagement@ara.ac.nz). For STAR courses, the non-attendance fee is the complete price of the course.

A maximum of five students per school can attend an event. If your school would like more than five students to attend, contact us at engagement@ara.ac.nz to arrange a bespoke occurrence.

For the most up to date information on all Experience Ara events, please visit our website.

Contact us

www.ara.ac.nz/exp
engagement@ara.ac.nz
0800 24 24 76

Christchurch experiences

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Information & Preparation



Accommodation

Ōtautahi House Online Information Session

Learn more about Ōtautahi House, what it's like to be a resident, and how to apply for the next intake!

DATE		TIME	
Thu 13 Aug		6pm – 7pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 hour	Online	FREE	All welcome

Ōtautahi House Tour

Come and check out Ōtautahi House, Ara's student accommodation facility located in central Christchurch on the corner of St Asaph and Madras Streets. During the tour, you'll view the apartments and learn about what it's like being a resident.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 8 Jul, Wed 30 Sep, Thu 8 Oct, Thu 16 Jul		2pm – 3pm 4pm – 5pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 hour	City campus	FREE	All welcome

Applied Technology

Architectural Studies Portfolio Workshop

Learn what makes a successful design portfolio when applying for the Bachelor of Architectural Studies.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 3 Jul, Wed 30 Sep		2pm – 5pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
3 hours	City campus	FREE	All welcome

Architecture, Construction & Engineering – Kahukura Open Evening

Explore the beautiful Kahukura building, talk directly to tutors and current students, and hear about the programmes and exciting career opportunities.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 19 Aug		4pm – 6pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
2 hours	City campus	FREE	All welcome

Computing Information Session

Learn about the study options for our digital technology programmes and talk to some of the tutors.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 9 Sep		5.30pm – 6pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Online	FREE	All welcome

Culture & Services

Art & Design Enrolment Advice

Confused by so many creative choices? Not sure what to study? Spend time with our tutors to learn which pathway will lead to your dream creative career. Bring examples of your best work and get feedback on how to make your application stand out.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 23 Oct		10am – 11.30am	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
2 hours	City campus	FREE	Year 13

Business Information Session

Join us online to learn about our business study options and talk to some of the tutors.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 10 Sep		5.30pm – 6pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Online	FREE	All welcome

Health, Science & Sustainability

Certificate in Exercise Information Session

Interested in health? Join our online info session to learn how you can turn a passion for exercise into a career in the fitness industry.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 10 Sep		5.30pm – 6pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Online	FREE	All welcome

Manawa Campus Tour

Come take a tour of the Manawa campus where Ara nursing, midwifery and medical imaging students are based.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 8 Jul, Thu 16 Jul, Wed 30 Sep		12.30pm – 1pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Manawa campus	FREE	All welcome

Medical Imaging Information Session

Learn more about studying medical imaging at Ara and take a tour of the Manawa campus where medical imaging students are based. These sessions will be held physically on campus and streamed online at the same time.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 23 Jul		7pm – 7.30pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Online	FREE	All welcome

Midwifery Information Session

Discover how you can study the Bachelor of Midwifery and shape a career as a registered midwife, guiding women through one of life's most meaningful events. The session outlines the blended delivery model used to enable you to study and work in your own community. It also gives an overview of the support available from midwifery lecturers based in your region.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 19 May, Wed 12 Aug, Wed 19 Aug		Check website for session times	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1.5 hours	Online	FREE	All welcome

Nursing Information Session

Find out about our nursing qualifications and discover why Ara is considered one of the best places in New Zealand to study nursing.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 13 Aug		7pm – 8pm (online)	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
45 min	Online	FREE	All welcome

Osteopathy Online Information Session

Find out about osteopathy as a career and learn about our Bachelor of Musculoskeletal Health.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 12 May, Wed 26 Aug		5.30pm – 6pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Online	FREE	All welcome



Social Work & Human Services Information Session

Do you like the idea of being able to help individuals and families overcome challenging situations in their lives? If so, come and learn about our Bachelor of Social Work and the opportunities of a career in this rewarding profession.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 13 May, Wed 9 Sep		6pm – 7pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 hour	City campus	FREE	All welcome

Sport Science, Health Promotion & Nutrition Online Information Session

Interested in health promotion or sports? Want to engage with people and have a positive impact on their lifestyle or nutrition? Join our online info session to learn about our study options in health promotion, nutrition and sports, which include an excellent mix of theory, practical and industry work experience.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 10 Sep		6pm – 6.30pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Online	FREE	All welcome

Sustainability & Outdoor Education Online Information Session

Join us online to find out about our highly practical outdoor education and sustainability courses and the careers they can lead to in this exciting field.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 26 Aug		5.30pm – 6.30pm	
Tue 15 Sep		6pm – 7pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 hour	Online	FREE	All welcome



Junior Tasters

Culture & Services

Introduction to Hospitality

Could hospitality be the career for you? Find out by using our kitchen and bar, under the guidance of our expert tutors. Try your hand at making a delicious burger in our commercial kitchen and create a mocktail in our training bar. Once you're done, you get to eat and drink your creations.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 8 Sep		9am - 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 9 - 11



Senior Tasters

Applied Technology

Architecture & Interior Design Taster

Explore the world of architectural design and interior design and discover which sparks your interest.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 29 May, Fri 21 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Builder for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the construction industry and see if being a builder or joiner is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 11 Sep		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Woolston campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Construction Management & Quantity Surveying Taster

Want to know what quantity surveyors or construction managers do? Come along for a fun team activity to learn more about these exciting professions.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 28 Aug		9am – 12pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Engineering Taster

Explore your engineering options with some hands-on fun activities to work out what specialisation speaks to you: civil, mechanical or electrical/electronics.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 5 Jun, Fri 28 Aug		9am – 12pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
3 hours	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13



Introduction to Cybersecurity

This taster will give you an insight into what cybersecurity is and some of the tech involved. You'll also learn how you can get into a career as a cybersecurity technician.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 17 Sep		9am – 12pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 12 & 13

Introduction to IT & Computing

Join us for a day learning about the software development, networking, web development and cybersecurity pathways available within our digital technology programmes.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 19 May, Tue 28 Jul		9am – 12pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
3 hours	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Mechanical Engineer for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the mechanical engineering industry and see if being an engineering tradesperson is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 12 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Woolston campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13



Painting & Decorating for a Day

A career as a painter and decorator isn't all about single colours on bedroom walls. Have a go at something different by getting creative with paint and stencils.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 15 May, Fri 14 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Woolston campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Plumber for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the plumbing industry and see if being a plumber is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 22 May, Fri 21 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Woolston campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Sparky for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the electrical industry and see if being an electrician is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Mon 4 May, Mon 15 Jun, Mon 17 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Woolston campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Welder for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the welding industry and see if being a welder is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 15 May		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Woolston campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Culture & Services

Art & Design for a Day

Come and meet some of our staff and see our extensive facilities, including computer suites, photography studios, a figure drawing room, as well as fine metal, woodworking, print and sewing workshops. We teach both hands-on and creative thinking skills. You'll also hear about the range of courses we have on offer.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 22 May, Fri 28 Aug		9am – 2pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 12 & 13

Art of Hospitality Service

Is a career in hospitality for you? Find out here! Get a taste of what full-time study at Ara in a hospitality programme would be like. Get hands-on experience and learn restaurant and beverage service skills in our training restaurant and bar.

DATE		TIME	
Mon 8 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Barbering Taster

Discover how to do a cutthroat shave using a balloon, apply professional treatments and learn how to prepare a client and shampoo, ready for a senior stylist. You'll get to be both client and student barber.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 15 Sep		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	\$30 (ex GST)	Year 11 – 13

Beauty Therapy Taster

Experience beauty therapy as a career. Learn what it takes to be a beauty therapist and practice a mini facial and manicure on your classmates and then take your turn to be pampered.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 27 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	\$30 (ex GST)	Year 11 – 13

Cookery Senior Taster

Spend the day in our commercial training kitchen under the guidance of a chef tutor. Prepare and cook dishes that use a range of chef tools and gadgets.

DATE		TIME	
Mon 8 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13



Hairdressing Taster

Find out if hairdressing is for you! Learn braiding and styling techniques using our mannequins then style each other's hair.

DATE		TIME	
Mon 4 May, Mon 10 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	\$30 (ex GST)	Year 11 – 13

Music Arts for a Day

Experience what it's like to study music full-time at Ara. Take a tour of the school and meet current students and our passionate tutors.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 21 May, Thu 4 Jun, Thu 30 Jul, Thu 13 Aug, Thu 27 Aug, Thu 10 Sep		11am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
4 hours	City campus	FREE	Year 12 & 13

NASDA for a Day

Experience what it's like to be a NASDA student. Observe the day's activities and explore the performing arts options and specialised facilities at NASDA.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 21 May, Thu 4 Jun, Thu 23 Jul, Thu 13 Aug, Thu 20 Aug		9.30am – 3.30pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 12 & 13

NZBS On Air Workshop

Think media's for you? Curious about journalism, radio or screen? Try it! Get hands-on. Write, record, film in the same studios our students use every day.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 7 Jul to Thu 9 Jul		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
3 days	City campus	\$500 (ex GST)	Year 12 & priority to Year 13



Health, Science & Sustainability

Introduction to Medical Imaging

Experience our world-class simulated medical imaging environment to see if this is the career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 28 May, Wed 1 Jul		9am – 12pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
3 hours	Manawa campus	FREE	Year 12 & 13

Introduction to Nursing

Gain an introduction to essential nursing skills like taking medical observations and washing your hands so they're really clean.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 18 Jun, Wed 22 Jul		9am – 12pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
3 hours	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Health Promotion, Nutrition, Sport & Exercise Senior Taster

Explore three programmes in one taster! If you have an interest in health, wellbeing or sport and exercise, then this is the taster for you. Be surprised at the diverse factors that impact health, explore some nutritious food swaps tailored for you, and experience sport and fitness testing used to monitor physical performance – all in one taster!

DATE		TIME	
Wed 6 May		10am – 2.30pm	
Wed 10 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Outdoor Education & Sustainability Taster

Have a day out and participate in an outdoor activity* while observing current students and learning what this career path is all about.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 5 May, Tue 18 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	City campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

*Weather dependent

STAR Courses

Culture & Services

All About Chocolate

Use chocolate in every dish within this course! You'll learn about baking with chocolate (think cookies, brownies and slices), how to use it in sauces and garnishes and discover the exciting career pathways for bakery and patisserie.

DATE		TIME	
Fridays 24 Jul – 14 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	CODE
4 days	City campus	\$300 (ex GST)	FHAC200
LEVEL	NCEA CREDITS	UNIT STANDARDS	FOR
2	2	13272	Year 11 – 13

Barbering Essentials

Try your hand at common barbering techniques, meet our expert tutors and experience our modern facilities to help you decide if barbering is the career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Mon 29 Jun & Tue 30 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	CODE
2 days	City campus	\$175 (ex GST)	STAR208
LEVEL	NCEA CREDITS	UNIT STANDARDS	FOR
2	1	21936	Year 11 – 13



Café Barista Level 2

Get an introduction to coffee making and commercial equipment from our expert tutors. Learn how to steam milk and extract espresso to prepare a variety of beverages using commercial espresso machines. Please note: practical skills and online theory modules are required to complete this course.

DATE		TIME	
Wednesdays 10 – 24 Jun or on request		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	CODE
3 days	City campus	\$360 (ex GST)	CBSC201
LEVEL	NCEA CREDITS	UNIT STANDARDS	FOR
2	4	17285	Year 11 – 13

Introduction to Patternmaking

Learn how to make pattern blocks for clothing using drafting and measuring equipment, plus basic flat patternmaking techniques and how to apply them to make patterns for a variety of outerwear.

DATE		TIME	
Mon 13 Jul – Fri 17 Jul		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	CODE
5 days	City campus	\$340 (ex GST)	CLST104
LEVEL	NCEA CREDITS	UNIT STANDARDS	FOR
3	6	13387	Year 11 – 13

Timaru experiences

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Information & Preparation

Early Childhood Education Information Session

Discover the delights of working in the early childhood sector with hands-on activities including games, quizzes, teaching and creating. You'll also meet current early childhood education students to get a feel for what it's like.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 29 Jul		5.30pm – 6.30pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 hour	Timaru campus	FREE	All welcome



Nursing Information Session

Find out about our nursing qualifications and discover why Ara is considered one of the best places in New Zealand to study nursing.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 6 May, Wed 12 Aug		5pm - 5.30pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Timaru campus	FREE	All welcome



Pre-Health Information Session

Find out about our nursing qualifications and discover why Ara is considered one of the best places in New Zealand to study nursing.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 6 May, Wed 12 Aug		5.30pm – 6pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
30 min	Timaru campus	FREE	All welcome

Junior Tasters

Culture & Services

Introduction to Hospitality

Could hospitality be the career for you? Find out by using our kitchen and bar, under the guidance of our expert tutors. Try your hand at making a delicious burger in our commercial kitchen and create a mocktail in our training bar. Once you're done, you get to eat and drink your creations.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 9 Sep		9am - 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 9 - 11



Senior Tasters

Applied Technology

Automotive 1 – Introduction to Vehicle Servicing

Try a range of hands-on experiences in an automotive workshop and see if this is the right career for you. This one-day course covers the fundamentals of vehicle servicing in a practical workshop environment.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 9 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Automotive 2 – Introduction to Engines

Try a range of hands-on experiences in an automotive workshop and see if being a mechanic is the right career for you. This one-day course covers elements of small engine repairs in a practical workshop environment.

DATE		TIME	
Tue 15 Sep		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Basic MIG Welding

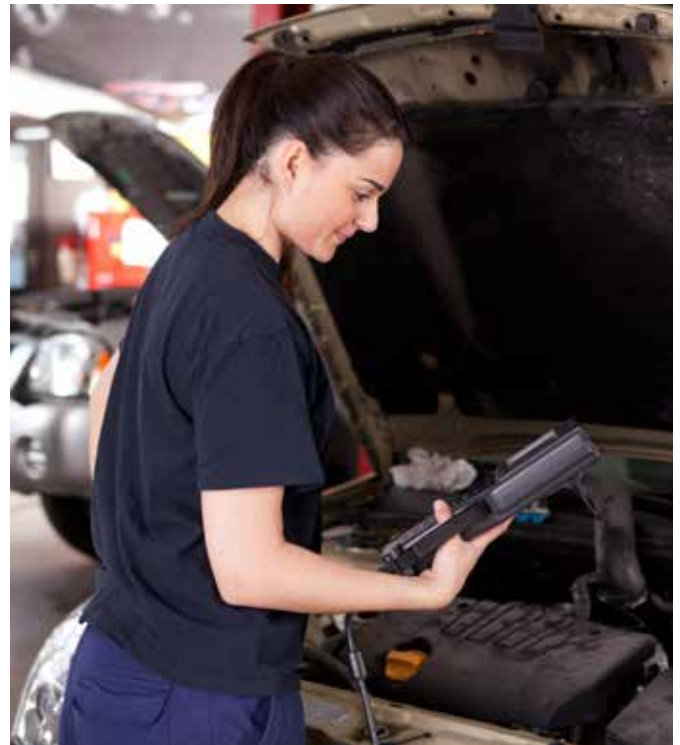
Gain a basic level of skill in the safe operation of MIG welding equipment.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 5 Jun		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Builder for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the construction industry and see if being a builder is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 4 Jun, Thu 17 Sep		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13



Mechanical Engineer for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the mechanical engineering industry and see if being an engineering tradesperson is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 22 May, Fri 7 Aug		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Welder for a Day

Try a range of hands-on experiences in the welding industry and see if being a welder is the right career for you.

DATE		TIME	
Fri 8 May, Fri 15 May, Fri 24 Jul		9am – 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 – 13

Health, Science & Sustainability

Early Childhood Education Taster

Discover the delights of working in the early childhood sector with hands-on activities including games, quizzes, teaching and creating. You'll also meet current early childhood education students to get a feel for what it's like.

DATE		TIME	
Wed 10 Jun, Wed 9 Sep		9am - 3pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	LEVEL
1 day	Timaru campus	FREE	Year 11 - 13



STAR Courses



Culture & Services

Café Barista Level 2

Get an introduction to coffee making and commercial equipment from our expert tutors. Learn how to steam milk and extract espresso to prepare a variety of beverages using commercial espresso machines. Please note: practical skills and online theory modules are required to complete this course.

DATE		TIME	
Thu 14, 21 & 28 May		9am - 4pm	
DURATION	LOCATION	COST	CODE
3 days	Timaru campus	\$360 (ex GST)	CBSC201
LEVEL	NCEA CREDITS	UNIT STANDARDS	FOR
2	4	17285	Year 11 - 13

FIND OUT MORE

ara.ac.nz/exp

City campus

130 Madras Street, Christchurch
Mon-Fri, 8am - 4.30pm

Manawa campus

276 Antigua Street, Christchurch
Mon-Fri, 8.30am - 4.30pm

Woolston campus

Road, Christchurch
Mon-Fri, 8am - 4.30pm

Timaru campus

32 Arthur Street, Timaru
Mon-Fri, 8am - 4.30pm

Connect with us:

Connect with us here:

FREE call (New Zealand): 0800 24 24 76

Email: engagement@ara.ac.nz

