Ara Institute of Canterbury

International Mini Guide 2027

GET SET

Ara

ara.ac.nz/international

WHY STUDY IN CHRISTCHURCH

Find your perfect balance

Studying in Christchurch means you can find your perfect balance; between excellence and innovation, harmony and wellbeing.

#1 **Top education system globally**
(English speaking country for preparing students for the future, creating global citizens)

365+ **Walking, hiking and mountain bike tracks within 20 minutes of the city centre**

50+ **Schools welcoming international students**

38% **Cheaper to rent in Canterbury than Sydney**

Christchurch is the second largest city in New Zealand with a population of around 400,000 people. It is a welcoming and inclusive city that celebrates diversity. With a vibrant mix of cultures, it offers a rich tapestry of cultural experiences, festivals and cuisines from around the world.

In recent years, Christchurch has undergone a remarkable transformation, emerging as a modern and dynamic city that blends rich heritage with cutting-edge architecture and sustainable design. It has a vibrant arts and culture scene, a brand-new multi-purpose stadium, numerous galleries and museums and world-class street art. It also has an efficient and user-friendly public transport network.

The city is blessed with many parks and recreation facilities. From the CBD it is just 20 minutes to the beach or walking and mountain biking tracks in the nearby Port Hills. In Christchurch, you are perfectly situated to explore all that the South Island has to offer, from spectacular mountains, lakes, glaciers and national parks to spa towns and world-class wineries.

WHY CHOOSE ARA

At Ara, you'll learn by doing. Our programmes combine hands-on experience with academic knowledge, helping you build the skills, confidence and practical expertise employers value. Through purpose-built learning environments, real-world projects and work-integrated learning opportunities, you'll graduate ready for your next career step.

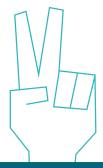
Our tutors bring extensive industry experience to the classroom, ensuring your learning reflects current professional practice. Strong industry connections help keep programmes relevant and create opportunities to engage with employers throughout your studies.

As one of New Zealand's largest institutes of technology and polytechnics, Ara offers qualifications across business, engineering, health, information technology, hospitality, creative industries, trades and many other fields. Flexible pathways let you progress from certificate to postgraduate study as your goals evolve.

You'll join a diverse and supportive community where your success is our priority. Dedicated international student support is available before you arrive, throughout your studies and as you prepare for your future.

With a focus on applied learning, industry engagement and student success, Ara equips you with the knowledge, practical experience and globally recognised qualification to succeed in a changing world.

You will be part of a friendly, inclusive community



We focus on hands-on, real-life learning

Qualifications at Ara are world class

Our tutors are experts

You will be work-ready when you graduate

FEES 2027

English Language courses

Course	Duration	Start Date	Fees
Administration fee			$295
Student Services Levy			$10.20 per week
Intensive English	4 weeks (Minimum)	Every Monday Starts 11 Jan Finishes 17 Dec	$424 per week
English plus Volunteer Work	8 weeks	Flexible	$3,745
NZCEL (New Zealand Certificate in English Language) Level 3 Level 3 Applied Level 4 Academic Level 5	Full-time: 18 weeks	Full time: 9 Feb, 20 Jul, 14 Sep (Level 4 & 5 only)	$8,716 per semester
CELTA	Part-time	7 Jul, 8 Nov	$5,761.53 plus levy of $89.18
Customised group programmes	4 weeks (Minimum)	*Please enquire*	*Please enquire*

Exam fees

Pearson Test of English exam fee	$490

Other fees

Student Services Levy	$408 per year
Student carpark	$6 per day

Medical and travel insurance

International students (including group students) must have appropriate and current medical insurance while in New Zealand.

The cost of insurance for a full-time student is:

Months	Premium	Months	Premium
12	$992	6	$506
11	$885	5	$377
10	$796	4	$321
9	$731	3	$273
8	$641	2	$202
7	$570	1	$123

Living expenses

We recommend you budget **$1,709** per month for living expenses including accommodation and general living costs.

Homestay providers and fees

- Provider one: **New Zealand Homestay**

  Recommended to individual students aged 18 and over.

  For terms and conditions, please visit: **newzealandhomestay.co.nz/students/student-pricing/**

- Provider two: **NZEAS**

  Recommended to individual students aged under 18 and group students.

  For terms and conditions, please visit: **ara.ac.nz/explore/accommodation/homestays/**

Fees	Providers: NZEAS
Placement/matching fee	$320 incl GST
Airport transfer	$80 incl GST (individual) $50 incl GST (group - 3 or more, each)
Student request to change homestay	$180 incl GST
Under 18 code of practice monitoring	$200 incl GST

NZEAS packages / prices			
Students	Long term weekly - no lunch	Long term weekly - incl lunch	Short term daily (less than 28 days) - no lunch/incl lunch
Single student	$370	$400	$60 / $65

Transportation

metroinfo.co.nz

metroinfo.co.nz/nextbus

timaru.metroinfo.co.nz

Note: Fees are correct at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice.

PROGRAMME LISTINGS

Programme	Level	Duration	Commences	Indicative Tuition Fees NZ$ per year	IELTS Entry Requirement				
					Overall	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
ENGLISH FOR FURTHER STUDY (NZCEL)									
New Zealand Certificate in English Language (General)*	3	18 weeks	Feb/Jul	$8,716	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
New Zealand Certificate in English Language (Applied)*	3	18 weeks	Feb/Jul	$8,716	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
New Zealand Certificate in English Language*	4	18 weeks	Feb/Jul/Sep	$8,716	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in English Language	5	18 weeks	Feb/Jul/Sep	$8,716	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
STARTER AND PATHWAYS									
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways*	3	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,884	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways*	4	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.5	5.0	5.5	5.0
ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING									
Graduate Diploma in Construction Management	7	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,237	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying	7	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,237	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Architectural Studies	7	3 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Construction (with specialisations in Construction Management and Quantity Surveying)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$27,237	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Architectural Technology	6	2 years	Feb	$24,737	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Construction (with specialisations in Construction Management and Quantity Surveying)	6	2 years	Feb/Jul	$26,157	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Electrical)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$31,101	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.0
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Civil)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$31,101	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.0
Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Mechanical)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$31,101	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.0	6.0
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Electrical)	6	2 years	Feb/Jul	$29,380	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Civil)	6	2 years	Feb/Jul	$29,380	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Mechanical)	6	2 years	Feb/Jul	$29,380	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Engineering (Electronic)	6	2 years	Feb/Jul	$29,380	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
BUSINESS									
Master of Applied Management (180 credit)	9	1.5 years	Feb/Apr/Jul/Oct	$28,694	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Master of Applied Management (240 credit)	9	2 years	Feb/Apr/Jul/Oct	$28,879	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Management	8	1 year	Feb/Apr/Jul/Oct	$30,546	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Management	8	6 months	Feb/Apr/Jul/Oct	$15,271	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Graduate Diploma in Business Transformation and Strategy	7	1 year	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Event Management	7	1 year	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Hotel and Tourism Management	7	1 year	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management	7	1 year	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Marketing and Sales**	7	1 year	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Operations and Product Management	7	1 year	Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Project Management**	7	1 year	Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Graduate Diploma in Supply Chain Logistics**	7	1 year	Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Accounting	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Applied Management (with specialisations in Business Transformation & Strategy, Event Management, Hotel & Tourism Management, Marketing & Sales, Operations & Product Management, Project Management, Supply Chain Logistics)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Business (with specialisations)	5	1 year	Feb/Jul	27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Business (Administration & Technology)	4	6 months	Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Business (Administration & Technology)	3	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,884	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
COMPUTING & IT									
Graduate Diploma in Information & Communication Technologies	7	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,237	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Information & Communication Technologies (with pathway in Network Engineering, Software Engineering, Data Engineering, General)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$27,237	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Cybersecurity	6	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,237	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Information Technology Technical Support	5	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,237	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Information Technology Essentials*	4	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,618	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

Programme	Level	Duration	Commences	Indicative Tuition Fees NZ$ per year	IELTS Entry Requirement				
					Overall	Listening	Reading	Writing	Speaking
FOOD & HOSPITALITY									
New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced) - Cookery Strand*	4 & 5	2 years	Feb/Jul	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Diploma in Cookery (Advanced) - Patisserie Strand*	4 & 5	2 years	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management	5	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Baking (Generalist) (Career Baker)*	4	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Food & Beverage Service	3 & 4	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
HEALTH, SCIENCE & SUPPORT									
Postgraduate Diploma in Osteopathy	8	1 year	Feb	$30,544	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Bachelor of Medical Imaging	7	3 years	Jan/Jul	$31,101	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Bachelor of Midwifery	7	4 years	Feb	$31,001	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.5	7.0
Bachelor of Musculoskeletal Health	7	3 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Nursing*	7	3 years	TBA	$31,547	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
New Zealand Diploma in Enrolled Nursing	5	1.5 years	Mar	$27,768	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Graduate Diploma in Laboratory Technology	7	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.5
Bachelor of Applied Science (with specialisations in Human Nutrition, Health Promotion, Sport & Exercise Science)	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science	6	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Certificate in Exercise	4	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Diploma in Veterinary Nursing	6	2 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Certificate in Animal Management with Companion Animal strand	4	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Bachelor of Social Work	7	4 years	Feb	$27,768	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Social and Community Services)	4	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
LANGUAGES & EDUCATION									
New Zealand Certificate in English Language Teaching to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)	5	1 month	May	$5,728	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care*	5	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education*	4	6 months	Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Introductory Skills)*	3	6 months	Feb	$13,884	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Master of Sustainable Practice	9	1.5 years	Feb/Jul	$28,694	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice	8	1 year	Feb/Jul	$30,544**	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Graduate Diploma in Sustainability and Outdoor Education	7	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education	7	3 years	Feb/Jul	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education	5	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multiskilled)	4	1 year	Feb/Jul	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
MEDIA, DESIGN & STYLE									
Master of Creative Practice	9	1.5 years	Feb	$28,694	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Practice	8	1 year	Feb	$30,544	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Bachelor of Design (with specialisations in Applied Visual Art, Fashion, Game Animation, Visual Communication)	7	3 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Certificate in Digital Media and Design*	4	6 months	Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Creativity*	4	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Bachelor of Music	7	3 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Bachelor of Music Theatre	7	3 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Certificate in Music	4	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Performing Arts	4	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Bachelor of Broadcasting Communications	7	3 years	Feb	$27,768	6.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
New Zealand Certificate in Fashion	4	6 months	Feb/Jul	$13,884	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Diploma in Beauty Therapy	5	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New Zealand Certificate in Beauty Therapy*	4	1 year	Feb	$27,768	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

Fees for the 2027 academic year are inclusive of GST but exclude the Student Services Levy. Fees were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice.

*^Timaru only *Available in Timaru **These programmes are subject to NZQA approval*

GO WHERE LOCAL GROWTH IS

Construction & Architecture

If you want a secure career where you can point to a large-scale building or infrastructure project and say, "I helped design and build that," this is your path.

#2
Top-earning industry
$4.74B/yr

Job vacancies up
32%
year-on-year
(MBIE)

LEVEL 3 (60 CREDITS)	LEVEL 4 (60 CREDITS)
NZ Cert in Study & Employment Construction, Architecture, ICT Pathway 6 months Open Entry	**NZ Cert in Study & Employment** Construction, Architecture, ICT Pathway 6 months

Manufacturing & Engineering

If you like solving problems, inventing things, using advanced tech and earning a premium paycheck straight out of study, this is it.

#1
Top-earning industry
$5B/yr

Job vacancies up
24%
year-on-year
(MBIE)

LEVEL 3 (60 CREDITS)	LEVEL 4 (60 CREDITS)
NZ Cert in Study & Employment Engineering Pathway 6 months Open Entry	**NZ Cert in Study & Employment** Engineering Pathway 6 months

Computing & Information Technology

If you want a creative, fast-paced, well paid career that lets you work with the latest AI tools right here in Christchurch, this path is for you.

Most connected tech hub
in New Zealand

Job vacancies up
14%
year-on-year
(MBIE)

LEVEL 3 (60 CREDITS)	LEVEL 4 (60 CREDITS)
NZ Cert in Study & Employment Construction, Architecture, ICT Pathway 6 months Open Entry	**NZ Cert in Study & Employment** Construction, Architecture, ICT Pathway **NZ Cert in IT Essentials**

Health & Science

If you want to make a real difference in people's lives while building a rewarding career, the health and science sector offers excellent long-term prospects.

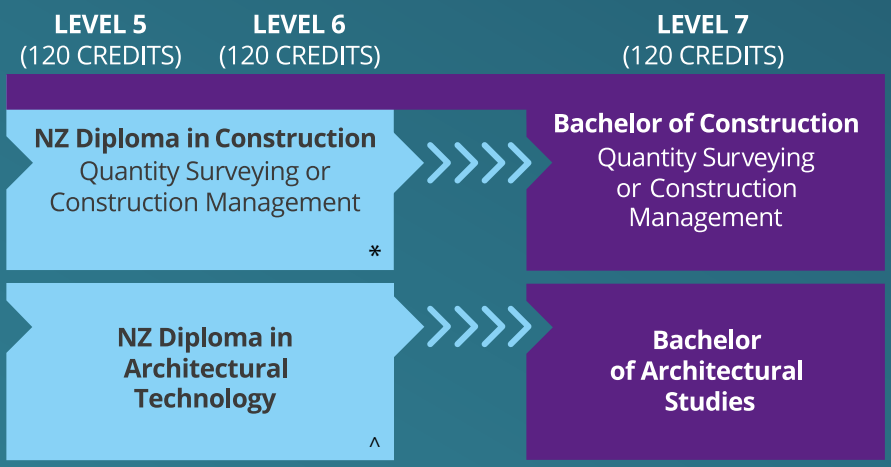
26%
of NZ's health tech companies are in Christchurch

One of the
TOP 3 sectors
for job growth
(MBIE)

LEVEL 3 (60 CREDITS)	LEVEL 4 (60 CREDITS)	LEVEL 5 (240 CREDITS)	LEVEL 6 (240 CREDITS)
Health and Science Pathway	**Pre-Health Pathway**	**NZ Diploma in Enrolled Nursing**	**NZ Diploma in Veterinary Nursing**

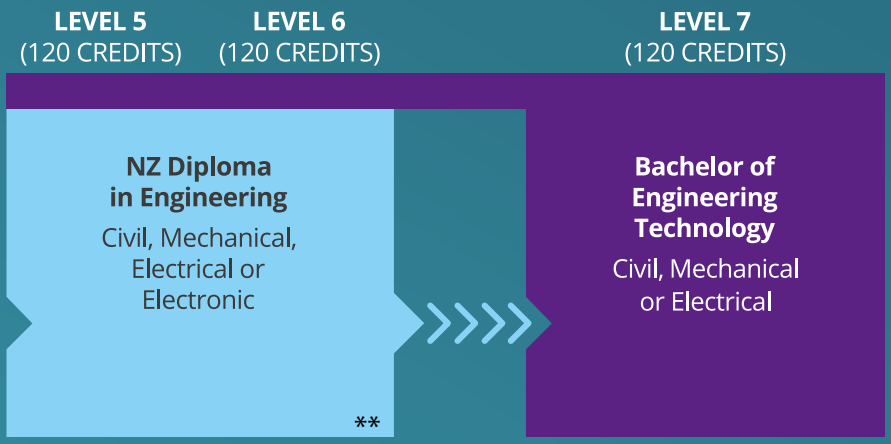
Please note: Successful completion of a pathway qualification does not guarantee entry into the pathway's destination programme of study or employment. English language requirements still apply.

**Up to 240 credits may be transferred to the relevant strand of the Bachelor of Construction.*
^ Cross-credit options are available towards the Bachelor of Construction and Bachelor of Architectural Studies.
*** Up to 180 credits may be transferred to the relevant strand of the Bachelor of Engineering Technology*



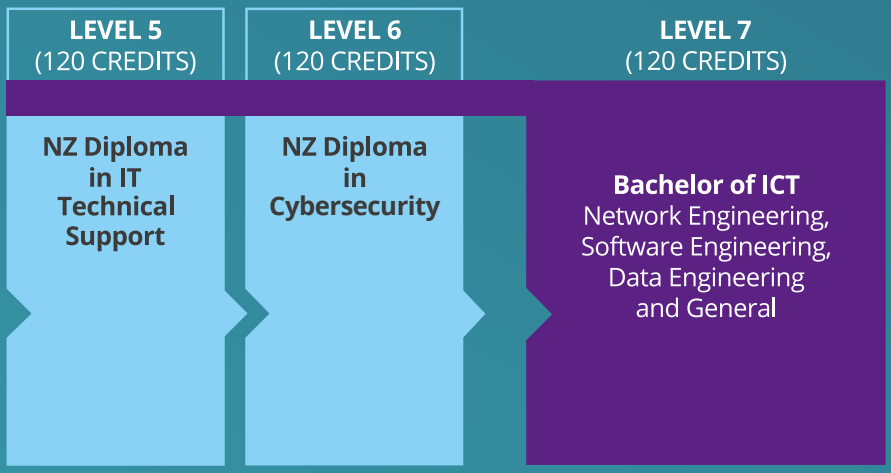
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Architectural designer
- Building consent officer
- Sustainability consultant
- Quantity surveyor
- Procurement manager
- Project manager
- Construction site manager
- CAD technician
- Architectural technologist
- Draughtsperson
- Property financial adviser



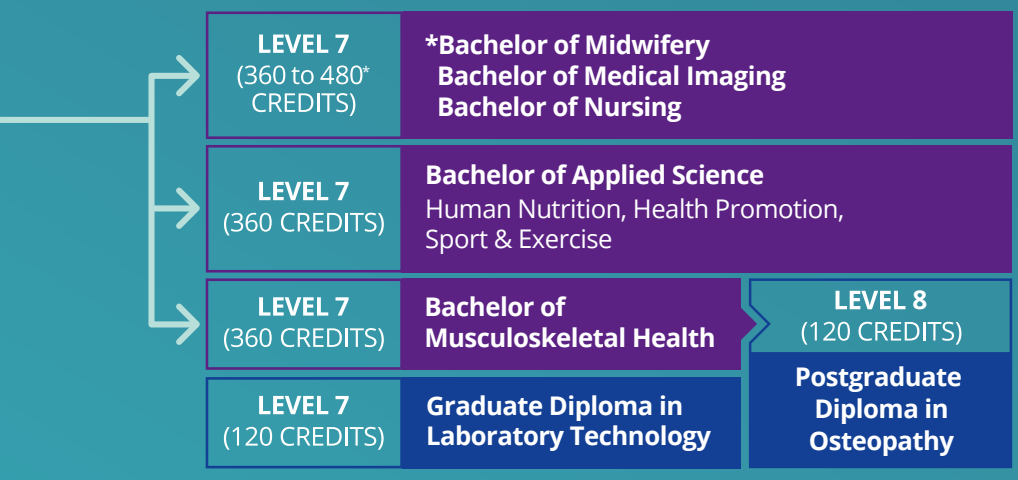
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Power systems engineer
- Robotics and automation engineer
- Maintenance/plant engineer
- Electrical systems engineer
- Maintenance technician
- Structural engineer
- Roading and transportation engineer
- Civil design engineer
- Mechanical design engineer
- Manufacturing engineer



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Data engineer
- Business intelligence (BI) developer
- Data solutions consultant
- Software developer
- Software test analyst
- Web developer
- Cybersecurity analyst
- Cybersecurity support roles
- Network operations specialist
- Cloud infrastructure engineer
- Network engineer



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Health promoter
- Nutritionist
- Strength and conditioning coach
- Registered nurse
- Midwife
- Medical imaging technologist
- Osteopath
- Laboratory technician
- Registered veterinary nurse

APPLY NOW
ara.ac.nz

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

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

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

Connect with us:

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Email: international@ara.ac.nz

Ara
Institute of Canterbury

October 2026