



**OTAGO**  
POLYTECHNIC  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago



> Health and Wellbeing Careers > Social Services

# Diploma in Applied Social Services (Level 6) (Specialty).

<b>Duration:</b>	Two Years, Full-time
<b>Location:</b>	Dunedin
<b>Options:</b>	Full-Time, Part-Time
<b>Start:</b>	February
<b>Fee*:</b>	Domestic (approx): \$ 4713 Per Year International (approx): \$16,000 Per Year
<b>Application:</b>	Preferred by 30 November

This professional qualification gives you the opportunity to learn and practise the skills required of social services practitioners, both within Aotearoa/New Zealand and internationally. Graduates will meet the competency standards required to work within the voluntary, non government sector, government and private sectors. Within this programme you will receive broad-based training in the theory and practise of social services and select an area of specialised study from the fields of Mental Health, Counselling, Career Practice and Disability Information and Provision.

**Note:** This Diploma integrates the National Diploma in Counselling (Level 6) previously offered as an independent qualification by Otago Polytechnic.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must hold a national qualification at Level 4 or above such as the Certificate in Human Services (Level 4), OR A minimum of 42 NCEA credits at Level 3 or higher (preferably in English-rich subjects) or equivalent.

**Other:** It is recommended that you are 18 years of age or older when commencing this programme as this will enhance your employment prospects. A commitment to working with people, sound communication skills, maturity, integrity, reliability and a warm and caring personality are helpful for people who wish to work in this area.

Please note that to ensure a suitable work placement you are required to declare any criminal convictions.

**International Students:** Must meet all stated entry requirements, plus demonstrate English language skills equivalent to an IELTS overall band score (academic) of 7.0 (with no individual band less than 7.0).

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING:

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is available for all courses within this programme in accordance with Otago Polytechnic's RPL policy.

## ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAMME:

Numbers on this programme are limited. Should the number of applicants exceed the places available, a waitlist will be compiled. Applicants on the waitlist will be accepted as places become available.

## FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS:

Otago Polytechnic intends to develop the Bachelor of Applied Social Services\* for delivery in 2009.

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

Applicants must supply certified copies of proof of identity, academic records, proof of residency (where appropriate) and curriculum vitae.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS:

There may be some costs incurred by students in travel to fieldwork placements.

## STUDENT LOANS/ALLOWANCES:

Full-time students of this programme are eligible for student loans and allowances (dependent on age and financial circumstances). Please contact Studylink for additional information. Phone: 0800 88 99 00 or visit:= [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

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### PROGRAMME SPECIFIC RISKS:

Students who have had experience of trauma, mental illness, abuse or life events causing emotional harm may experience some emotional risk. The School of Social Services has risk management procedures in place to mitigate these risks to students.

### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

This programme is comprised of 14 compulsory courses and specialty electives selected from four possible fields of practice. To be awarded the Diploma in Social Services (Specialty) (Level 6) students must successfully complete 240 credits including all compulsory courses and elective specialty courses with a minimum of 72 credits at Level 6 or above. Four national diplomas will be offered as embedded qualifications for those students who meet the necessary requirements: National Diploma in Career Practice (Level 6), National Diploma in Counselling (Level 6), National Diploma in Human Services (Level 5) and National Diploma in Mental Health (Mental Health Support Work) (Level 6).

### COURSES:

#### Year One:

##### **Personal/Professional Development (Level 5, Credit 15)**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the significance of self awareness and relate this to personal and professional to work safely and effectively with clients.

##### **Interpersonal Communication (Level 5, Credit 15)**

Students will have the opportunity to begin to develop interpersonal skills that enable them to communicate in an effective, safe and professional way.

##### **Introduction to Research (Level 5, Credit 15)**

Students will learn the skills that support them to achieve the academic requirements of this course, including academic communication, research skills, professional writing and assessment skills.

##### **Te Tiriti O Waitangi: Application and Practice (Level 5, Credit 15)**

Students will gain an understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with Māori.

##### **Human Development (Level 5, Credit 15)**

This course provides students with the opportunity to gain knowledge of the stages, influences, and theories of human development and the impact that this may have on within relevant fields of practice.

##### **Social Psychology (Level 5, Credit 15)**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a coherent process for working with individuals and groups based on the presenting needs of the individuals and groups.

##### **Skills and Application of Practice (Level 5, Credit 15)**

This course provides students the opportunity to develop professionally and gain skills for working within a collaborative therapeutic relationship. Students will gain knowledge and experience of using techniques in an intentional and responsive way and understand the way that these skills relate to theory.

#### Years One and Two:

##### **Introduction to Workplace Practice (Level 6, Credit 30) Elective**

**Specialties:** Career Practice, Counselling, Mental Health Support Work, Disability Information and Provision.

Students are provided the opportunity to gain experience of working with people within a supervised organisational setting which provides social services to the community.

#### Year Two:

##### **Social Construction (Level 6, Credit 15)**

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding and experience of people within the context of their families, communities, culture and society. Students will be supported in deconstructing the micro (individual), meso (organisational) and macro (structural) issues that impact on people and contribute to issues affecting their lives.

##### **Law and Social Policy in Aotearoa (Level 6, Credit 15)**

Students are provided with the opportunity to develop knowledge and experience of New Zealand law and social policy relevant to social services.

##### **Supporting Safe Practices: Responding to issues of Abuse, Neglect and Violence (Level 6, Credit 15)**

The objective of this course is to provide students the opportunity to develop knowledge of situations of disempowerment. Students will consider the processes and strategies for identifying and responding to issues of abuse neglect and violence (ANV).

##### **Iwi and Social Services (Level 6, Credit 15)**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the importance of working with Māori appropriate to protocol, respect and building relationships.

##### **Research Methods: (Level 6, Credit 15)**

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in using academic skills for gathering, interpreting, analysing and presenting information for evidence based research.

##### **Models of Practice (Level 6, Credit 15)**

Elective Specialties: Career Practice, Counselling, Mental Health Support Work, Disability Information and Provision. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the underpinning theories, researchers, and models of practice relevant to the field. Students will build on the skills and strategies which inform the practice and begin to develop a framework of practice which supports authenticity and congruency.

##### **Integration: (Level 6, Credit 15)**

Elective Specialties: Career Practice, Counselling, Mental Health Support Work, Disability Information and Provision.

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop an integrated model of practice. Students will demonstrate their application of theory into practice to provide professional and effective support to people.

\*DISCLAIMER: While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.