



**OTAGO**  
POLYTECHNIC  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago



> Life Sciences Careers > Animal Care

# National Certificate in Animal Care

## Distance Only

<b>Duration:</b>	One year, part-time or one semester, full-time
<b>Location:</b>	Distance, with block courses at selected New Zealand locations.
<b>Options:</b>	Part-time and full-time by distance
<b>Start:</b>	February (part-time) and July (full-time only)
<b>Fee*:</b>	Domestic (approx): \$3,100
<b>Application:</b>	Preferred by 31 October (part-time) and 13 July (full-time) Applications will be received up until the programme commencement date.

This programme is the first step if you want to enter an animal-related profession such as grooming and exercise, habitat design, conservation, education, owning or operating a kennel, cattery or assisting at the SPCA. It can also help you gain entry to our veterinary nursing and rural animal care programmes. There is no work placement required in this programme.

This programme is a pre-requisite into the second year of the Certificate in Rural Animal Technology, and the second year of the National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing (distance).

### PROGRAMME DETAILS:

**Part-time Option:** During the year you will need to attend two compulsory hands-on block courses which will be available in Dunedin, and at various locations throughout New Zealand

**Full-time Option:** During the semester you will need to attend two hands-on compulsory block courses at various location in the South Island only.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Entry to this programme is open, however for guidance it is desirable that applicants have the following background:

#### Academic

- NCEA Level 1 Science, NCEA Level 2 Biology, School Certificate Biology or equivalent **and**

to assist you in your studies, we recommend you have:

- An understanding of the industry (a recommendation would be that you have worked or visited a veterinary clinic or SPCA)
- A commitment to study
- A commitment to animal welfare
- Computer skills equivalent to NCEA Level 2\*

\* Please contact our Community Learning Centres if you need to improve your basic computing skills. Free computer training is available to help you with your studies.

**International Students:** Are not eligible to enter this programme.

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

Applicants must supply certified copies of proof of identity, academic records, proof of residency (where appropriate), evidence of tetanus status and a Police, Drug and Health Check form.

### RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING:

Otago Polytechnic has a policy for RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).

### ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAMME:

All applicants are advised within ten working days of receipt of their application whether they have been accepted.

### ADDITIONAL COSTS:

- This programme is delivered electronically; regular access to a computer is compulsory.
- Access to a digital camera
- Access to a video camera/phone that can record video footage
- Stethoscope \$20
- Closed-in shoes (approx \$100)
- Compulsory text (approx \$200)
- Shirt \$50
- Name badge \$15
- Photocopy and printing costs for personal work and assessments
- Travel and accommodation costs associated with attendance at block courses.

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### STUDENT LOANS/ALLOWANCES:

**Part-time (February intake):** Students in this intake are eligible for student loans but are not eligible for any course-related costs or a student allowance.

**Full-time (July intake):** Students in this intake are eligible for student loans, student allowances and course-related costs.

Please contact Studylink for additional information –

Phone: 0800 88 99 00 or visit: [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

### FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS:

This programme leads directly into year two of the National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing (which commences in February). To complete this programme you will be required to study a further year part-time by distance.

### YOU WILL STUDY BY DISTANCE:

The focus of this programme is the companion animal (cats, dogs, rabbits, rodents, birds). You will learn about the husbandry, anatomy, physiology and handling of animals. You are also strongly encouraged to undertake some volunteer work in an animal-related workplace while you study. This could be the SPCA or your local boarding kennels. This will provide you with access to animals for your animal husbandry diary assessment requirements.

### BLOCK COURSES:

Include practical components of different unit standards. For example, Block Course One includes the practical components required to achieve unit standards such as Health and Safety and practical handling of animals. Applications received after a block course venue is full will be directed to an alternative block course venue. Block courses for the part-time option will be held in locations throughout New Zealand. Block courses for the full-time option will be held in Dunedin and Nelson (should numbers permit).

### PROGRAMME-SPECIFIC RISKS:

You will be given full training to minimise all programme-specific risks. Examples of risks associated with this programme are: lifting, animal bites and scratches, zoonotic diseases, computers, radiation from x-rays, gaseous anaesthetic gases, chemicals and drugs, UV radiation, sharp instruments, electricity, fire, gas cylinders, mercury thermometers. Your tetanus injection status will have to be up-to-date to handle any animals in this programme.

### YOUR WORKLOAD:

All study is self-directed. Part-time students should typically aim for around 15 hours of study per week, and complete assessments approximately every two weeks as per the programme calendar. Full-time students should typically aim for around 30 hours of study per week, and complete assessments approximately every week as per the programme calendar. You will need to attend two compulsory block courses during the year. Animal husbandry courses will require you to care for a number of animal species for two consecutive days.

### QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE:

Unit Standard	Unit No.	Level	Credits
Monitor health and provide husbandry for cats	5148	2	5
Monitor health and provide husbandry for rodents and rabbits	5149	2	4
Monitor health and provide husbandry for caged birds	5151	2	3
Demonstrate knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of animals	5180	2	10
Monitor health and provide husbandry for horses	5152	2	5
Provide emergency first aid care to companion animals	5181	5	8
Handle and transport injured companion animals	5183	3	2
Follow safe working practices and standards in the animal facility	5189	3	4
Recognise and interpret problems of behaviour in companion animals	5222	5	5
Monitor health and provide husbandry for dogs	7337	2	5
Demonstrate time management	12349	2	3
Demonstrate knowledge of stress and ways of dealing with it	12355	2	2
Demonstrate knowledge of zoonoses and their control	19894	3	3
Demonstrate and apply knowledge relating to animal facility environmental hygiene	21380	3	5
Demonstrate knowledge of ethical behaviour in relation to animals	21381	2	3

**\*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.

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