



**OTAGO**  
POLYTECHNIC  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago



> Life Sciences Careers > Veterinary Nursing

# National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing

<b>Duration:</b>	One year, full-time (34 weeks) or two years, part-time by distance learning (34 weeks per year excluding holiday periods).
<b>Location:</b>	Dunedin (full-time) or by distance with block courses at selected NZ locations.
<b>Options:</b>	Full-time or part-time by distance.
<b>Start:</b>	February
<b>Fee*:</b>	Domestic (approx): \$4,743 (Full-time option) Distance (Year 2) (approx): \$2,900 International (approx): \$15,500 (Full-time study only)
<b>Application:</b>	October 31

If you have a passionate interest in the welfare and care of animals then this programme will prepare you for a career as a veterinary nurse in an animal-related workplace.

The qualification can be completed in one year of full-time study in Dunedin, including one day of work experience per week and one full week placement in a veterinary clinic.

You may also study by distance over two years, gaining the National Certificate in Animal Care in Year One, then completing the National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing in Year Two. Distance students will undertake one day of work experience per week in Year Two only. Work experience in a veterinary clinic is required.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Entry to the full-time, one year programme requires 60 NCEA credits at Level 2 or equivalent. Entry into year two of the distance programme requires the National Certificate in Animal Care as a prerequisite qualification.

**International Students:** Are eligible for entry to the full-time programme and are subject to specific New Zealand Immigration and Otago Polytechnic regulations. Applicants must hold an overall band score (academic) of no less than 6.0 IELTS (writing and speaking scores no less than 6.0; reading and listening scores no less than 5.5 IELTS) or recognised equivalent.

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

If you have not enrolled in the School of Veterinary Nursing previously, applicants must supply certified copies of proof of identity, academic records, proof of residency (where appropriate) and evidence of current tetanus status.

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING:

Students may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) according to the Otago Polytechnic RPL policy AP501.

## ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAMME:

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

## FURTHER STUDY:

You could undertake the National Diploma in Veterinary Nursing, or the Certificate in Rural Animal Technology at Otago Polytechnic.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS:

- The distance programme is delivered electronically; regular access to a computer is compulsory.
- The full-time programme, is in part, delivered electronically. Therefore regular access to a computer is required.
- Access to a still camera
- Access to a video camera/phone that can record video footage
- Stethoscope \$20
- Closed-in shoes (approx \$100)
- Required text (approx \$300)
- Shirt \$50
- Scrub top \$45
- Name badge \$15
- Photocopy and printing costs for personal work and assessments
- Travel and accommodation costs associated with attendance at block courses (distance programme) and work placements.

## STUDENT LOANS/ALLOWANCES:

Full-time students of this programme are eligible for student loans, course-related costs and allowances (dependent on age and financial circumstances).

Part-time by distance students are eligible for loans, but not course-related costs or student allowances. 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:**

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, 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:**

Full-time students need to be available to attend classes five days a week. These will be a mixture of face-to-face teaching, lab sessions, practical handling, work placements, surgeries and self-directed learning. Attendance is important as you cannot receive credit for work you have not attended.

All distance study is self-directed. Typically you should aim for around 10 to 15 hours of study per week. You will need to attend two block courses during the year as per the programme calendar. Attendance at block courses is compulsory.

Approximately every two weeks an assignment will be due as per the programme calendar.

You will need to complete 260 hours work experience in a veterinary clinic (approximately one day per week).

**QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE:**

	Unit Title	Level	Credits
5148**	Monitor health and provide husbandry for cats	2	5
5176	Collect and test diagnostic samples from companion animals, and prepare the samples for dispatch	3	4
5180**	Demonstrate knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of animals	2	10
5189**	Follow safe working practices and standards in the animal facility	3	4
5195	Demonstrate knowledge and skills for providing veterinary reception services	3	6
5200	Prepare for an intravenous drip, and monitor an animal while on fluid therapy	4	4
5222**	Recognise and interpret problems of behaviour in companion animals	5	5
7337**	Monitor health and provide husbandry for dogs	2	5
19894**	Demonstrate knowledge of zoonoses and their control	3	3
21380**	Demonstrate and apply knowledge related to animal facility environmental hygiene	3	5
21381**	Demonstrate knowledge of ethical behaviour in relation to animals	2	3
5183**	Handle and transport injured companion animals	3	2
5165	Describe parturition and after care of companion animals	3	3
5155	Prepare animal patients for surgery	4	5
5156	Assist with animal surgery as a circulating veterinary nurse	5	8
5157	Assist with animal surgery as a surgical veterinary nurse	5	5
5158	Assist the veterinarian with animal anaesthetic and analgesic procedures	5	18
5160	Nurse a hospitalised animal patient	3	5
5178	Assist to take radiographs of animals and process	3	4
5179	Conduct preliminary clinical examination of an animal	4	3
5181**	Provide emergency first aid care to companion animals	5	8
5191	Admit and discharge animal patients	3	4
5192	Dispense animal drugs as directed by the veterinarian	3	3
21384	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of professional behaviour for veterinary nurses	3	3
12349**	Demonstrate time management	2	3
12355**	Demonstrate knowledge of stress and ways of dealing with it	2	2
5149**	Monitor health and provide husbandry for rodents and rabbits	2	4
5151**	Monitor health and provide husbandry for caged birds	2	3
5202	Assist the veterinarian to perform post-mortem procedures	3	3
5213	Assist with artificial breeding of dogs	2	2
21379	Demonstrate knowledge of requirements relating to transport of cats and dogs	2	2
1296	Conduct a one to one interview	3	3
3501	Apply listening techniques	1	3
3503	Participate and communicate in a team to complete a routine task	1	2
5152**	Monitor health and husbandry for horses	2	5
9677	Participate in groups and/or team which has an objective(s)	2	3
11831	Apply skills and qualities of a salesperson in a retail or distribution environment	3	6

\*\* Year 1 Veterinary Nursing or Animal Care standards.

**\*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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