

New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Dairy Farming) (Level 3 & 4) (Offshore International Students Only)

Intakes
22/02/2027 (New Plymouth)

Duration
20 months

International Fees
$16,969.17* (Level 3)
$28,349.57* (Level 4)

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WESTERN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AT TARANAKI
TE KURA MATATINI O TARANAKI

New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Dairy Farming) (Level 3 & 4) (Offshore International Students Only)

Gain the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for the day-to-day operational management of a pastoral farming production system. This qualification is targeted at people who are experienced workers in the agriculture industry and are looking to move into, or are at, a management level position in an agricultural production enterprise.

*Pending NZQA approval

Graduates will be able to:

- apply theoretical knowledge of key farming inputs to pastoral farming systems.
- assist with key livestock production tasks in a pastoral farming context.
- use appropriate technology within a pastoral farming system.
- assess and minimise risk to self, others and equipment.
- apply knowledge of sustainable practices to pastoral farming systems.
- coordinate agribusiness activities using appropriate technology and a range of effective communication and interpersonal skills
- benchmark a farm's physical performance against data from industry high performers to identify strategies for improving farm physical and financial performance
- produce routine management reports to inform decision making for a farm production system
- take responsibility for routine maintenance of vehicles, plant, machinery, and equipment
- implement and monitor a farm environmental plan

Graduates of the Dairy Farming strand will also be able to implement and monitor:

- milk harvesting and milk quality plans
- a dairy livestock health plan
- a dairy livestock breeding plan
- a dairy livestock feeding plan

Level 4 Courses

AGC4.001

This course is intended for people working in a farming context and recognises the skills and knowledge necessary to take responsibility for benchmarking their own farm's physical performance against primary industry performance targets.

AGC4.002

This course is intended for people who are working in a farming context and recognises the skills and knowledge necessary to take responsibility for producing regular management reports on a range of routine farming activities, using appropriate technology and effective communication and interpersonal skills.

AGC4.003

This course is intended for people who are able to take responsibility for carrying out a routine maintenance schedule of vehicles, plant, machinery and equipment.

AGC4.004

This course is intended for people who are required to implement and monitor a farm environment plan within a farming context. Are able to: describe regulatory guidelines for environmental management, and on-farm greenhouse gas emissions in relation to farm management; evaluate risks to farm and catchment environments and implement and monitor a farm environment plan.

AGC4.005

This course is intended for people working in a dairy operation and recognises:

- the skills and knowledge necessary to take responsibility for the management of a dairy milking operation

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- the ability to describe factors that have a relationship with milk quality industry standards
- manage milk harvesting procedures and cleaning procedures and plant maintenance to optimise milk quality
- and manage people capability.

AGC4.006

This course is intended for people who are working in a livestock farming operation and recognises the skills and knowledge necessary to take responsibility for implementing and monitoring a livestock health plan.

AGC4.007

This course is intended for people who are working in a livestock farming context and recognises the skills and knowledge necessary to:

- take responsibility for implementing, monitoring and evaluating a livestock mating plan
- take responsibility for implementing and monitoring a farm parturition plan

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AGC4.008

This course is intended for people who are working in a pastoral livestock production system and recognises the skills and knowledge necessary to take responsibility for implementing and monitoring a livestock pastoral feeding plan in a farming workplace.

Dairy Farming Strand

Must complete all courses

AGC4.005

Milking

Manage milk harvesting to optimise efficiency and milking performance outcomes. Unit 28854

Manage milk harvesting to optimise milk quality on a dairy farm. Unit 28855

AGC4.006

Livestock Health

Describe livestock health management strategies, and implement and monitor a livestock health plan. Unit 28856

AGC4.007

Livestock Breeding

Describe livestock mating management strategies, and implement, monitor and evaluate a livestock mating plan. Unit 28857

Describe livestock parturition management strategies, and implement and monitor a farm parturition plan. Unit 28858

AGC4.008

Livestock Feeding

Describe pasture production methods, and implement and monitor a pastoral livestock feeding plan. Unit 28859

Level 3 Courses

AFS3.001

Utilise Technology

This course aims to provide the student with knowledge of how to use pasture measuring apparatus and record results.
Local MOD104

AFS2.032

Safety in the Workplace

This course aims to provide the student with the ability to:

- identify and describe rural workplace hazards, the

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reasons why they are hazards, and the harm they cause
- describe hazard control methods, and complete associated documentation; demonstrate knowledge of the economic, physical, and psychological consequences of injury in a rural workplace
- demonstrate knowledge of the role of organisations associated with workplace safety, and the HSE Act
- in a rural workplace, identify and locate hazards, and describe reporting and emergency procedures
- demonstrate safe work practices

Units 23540, 23541

AFS3.003

Environmental Financial Sustainability

This course aims to provide the student with the ability to:

- describe factors affecting water and air quality, methods of reducing their adverse effects, and regional and national standards for air and water quality; and describe a process to improve water and air quality in an agribusiness context
- analyse basic farm balance sheets

Unit 17205

AFS3.026

Feeding and watering livestock

This course aims to provide students with the ability to:

- apply knowledge of pastoral livestock feed demand in a primary industry workplace
- assist with livestock feeding in a pastoral livestock system
- assist with supplying water to livestock in a pastoral livestock workplace

Units 28920, 28923, 28924

AFS3.027

Soil Management

This course aims to provide students with the ability to apply knowledge of soils and soil management practices to increase production in a primary industry workplace.

Unit 28921

AFS3.028

Management of Pasture Plants

This course aims to provide students with the ability to apply knowledge of soils and soil management practices to increase production in a primary industry workplace.

Unit 28922

AFS3.029 - Milk Cows

This course is aimed at students who are working on a dairy farm, and recognises the skills and knowledge required to handle livestock in a farm dairy following parturition; milk dairy livestock; and isolate milk unsuitable for collection. Unit 28937

AFS3.030 - Treat Dairy Cattle

This course aims to provide the student with the ability to assist with livestock husbandry tasks in a pastoral livestock system. Unit 28976

Entry Requirements

This pathways programme is open to international students that must be able to provide evidence of prior farming experience. If you are unsure whether your background meets the entry criteria or would like further clarification, please email international@witt.ac.nz and we can assist you.

English language requirements

Candidates whose first language is not English must

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have an IELTS score of 5.5 with no band score lower than 5.0, or equivalent.

International Scholarships

Please see here for information regarding international scholarships.

Level 4 Work placement components

It is required, students find their own farm for the work placement component. This placement will commence September 2027.

It is expected that students will work on farms in the local area and spend most of their time gaining hands-on experience in the agricultural industry.

Working on a farm is a key part of this programme, as it ensures that all learning and assessments take place in a real work environment where theory directly connects to practical farm work.

Qualifications Eligible for a Post Study Work Visa

Qualification
A certificate at NZQF Level 4 or higher

Knowledge requirements (focus area)
Dairy Farming or Livestock Farming strands of the New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Level 4)

Related jobs
Dairy cattle farmer

Additional Expenses

A laptop or tablet is required - approx $750

Other additional expenses include:

- Gumboots - approx $100
- Wet Weather gear - approx $300
- Overalls - approx $100

We recommend waiting to purchase gumboots, wet weather gear and overalls until you have been assigned to a farm, as some farmers may provide them.

*International Fee Exclusions

International fees displayed are for 1 year of study (equivalent to 120 credits); OR as specified for the duration of the programme of study, and do not include the below;

- Travel and Medical Insurance – NZ $800 per year (provided by UniCare NZ)
- Compulsory Student Services Fee (CSSF) – NZ $320 per 120 credits

International fees may increase in each new academic year. Any increase in the fees is required to be paid in full before a student is enrolled and allowed to attend class.

Post Study Work Visa Eligibility

International graduates may be eligible for an open Post Study Work Visa.

https://www.witt.ac.nz/international-students/post-study-work-visa-eligibility

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