



New Zealand
Tertiary College

LEVEL 7

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education)



A career in early childhood education is filled with opportunities for you to contribute to children's learning – from working directly with children as an early childhood teacher, to developing curriculum, to sharing your knowledge with other aspiring early childhood professionals as a lecturer.

Degree graduates from any discipline gain specialist knowledge with this New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved qualification. Featuring a strong practical component, students benefit from hands-on learning and working alongside study commitments. Upon completion, graduates are eligible to apply for New Zealand teacher registration and provisional certification.



Highlights

- ▶ Use your degree to fast-track eligibility for New Zealand teacher registration upon completion of this program.
- ▶ Benefit from hands-on learning with practical experience in early childhood settings.
- ▶ Enjoy the flexibility of study at NZTC.

Did you know?

All ECE qualified teachers are now included on Immigration New Zealand's Green List as roles eligible for work to residence with two years of work experience.

Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE) students can support a partner work visa.



40+ years
of early childhood
teacher education

NZQA 1
CATEGORY PROVIDER
New Zealand Qualifications Authority
Approved Category 1 Education Provider

Gain experience with guaranteed
home centre placements.



"NZTC was my first choice. With NZTC's online structure, I could study at night after everything else was done. That flexibility made it possible to manage my studies around family life.

My practicum centre became a big part of my journey. I worked there 16 hours each week during my studies, and after I graduated, the manager offered me a full-time position. Now I'm a registered teacher at the same centre.

I started on a Student Visa, then transitioned to a Post Study Work Visa upon graduation, and now I'm planning to apply for residency at the end of this year."

**- Hannah from China, a graduate of
Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education)**



Scan to watch her
interview video



New Zealand's leading early childhood teacher education provider

Our flexible modes of learning mean you can pursue the Graduate Diploma in Teaching (ECE) and maintain a balance between your study, work, family and other commitments.

Method of learning:	Full-time
Mode of learning:	Centre-based
Level:	7
Duration:	52 study weeks (Excluding holiday weeks)
Start dates:	Every Monday (Except for end of year holiday)
Credits:	160
Program fee:	\$38,000 (Program fee is valid for 2026 intakes only and might change without notice.)
Scholarship:	Up to \$10,000 of program fee¹

Entry requirements

Academic:

- ▶ Hold a bachelor degree or an approved equivalent qualification.

Note: Detailed academic entry criteria is determined by our admissions team.

English language competency:

- ▶ IELTS Academic 7.0 with no band lower than 7.0 or equivalent approved by the Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand and NZQA. Different band scores from multiple tests can be combined, conditions apply. teachingcouncil.nz | nzqa.govt.nz.

Other:

- ▶ Subject to satisfactory police checks, and referee report and interview. Required documents will be listed on conditional offer letter issued by admissions team.



Pay rate

Early childhood teachers usually earn \$57K-\$100K per year. Source: MOE, 2025



Benefits of studying at NZTC



Study options in
the North and
South Islands



Every Monday from second
week of January to first
week of November



Recognised by ACECQA
which allows students to
work anywhere in Australia



Centre-based learning
modes to prepare students
for work in a centre

Field Practice

This New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved qualification features a strong practical component that is studied through the required Field Practice course, so that you can put your learning into practice. During Field Practice placements, you are exposed to a range of early childhood settings, age groups, teaching approaches and philosophies. Some of your Field Practice can be carried out in your Home Centre (the centre you may already be employed at).



1. A NZD \$10,000 scholarship is available for a limited number of students. To apply, students must participate in an interview with the NZTC recruitment team or submit a personal statement. Terms and conditions apply.