

Bachelor of Medical Imaging

Information



Information for prospective students

Medical imaging is an exciting, often frontline career where patient contact is an interesting and rewarding aspect. The technology advances continually, providing the opportunity for life-long learning and the right to register and practise overseas in countries such as Australia and the United Kingdom

On completion of this degree, the opportunity exists to study post graduate modalities, eg computed tomography (CT) scanning, nuclear medicine, ultrasound, mammography and magnetic resonance imaging. This would be a way of gaining promotion within the profession

Programme information

The Bachelor of Medical Imaging is a full-time, three-year programme at Ara Institute of Canterbury, based at the Health Research Education Facility at Ara's Manawa campus, 276 Antigua Street, Christchurch.

We accept around 38 students each year. When you're offered a place on the programme you're also offered a clinical placement which amounts to more than 50% of the programme. During your placement you'll work a 40-hour week and will be treated as an honorary staff member however, you won't be paid. Staff act as your supervisors and teachers, and a clinical tutor is appointed in each clinical centre.

We offer clinical placements in Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim, Christchurch, Greymouth, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill. We do our best to place you in your preferred clinical centre, however this isn't always possible.

You may be offered a place on the programme with a clinical centre that isn't one of your top choices.

Your clinical placement will be your clinical training base for the three years of study. Clinical placements alternate with academic blocks over four terms throughout the year. In Year 2 you're expected to attend one term in an alternative clinical centre. Ashburton and Oamaru may also be available in Year 2.

A current first aid certificate (Red Cross Comprehensive or a St John Workplace) is required at the time the programme starts. For more information about which specific unit standards are required, please contact the department.

Textbooks: approx \$1,500. The majority of texts are used across all three years.

Travel and accommodation costs: all travel costs are your responsibility. Once you know your clinical placement location, we advise you to source your accommodation early. As you're away for 9-10-weeks at a time, flatting is not always an option. Many of the main cities have hostel accommodation which cater for block periods but you may need to book in advance. Average accommodation costs can vary from \$200-\$300 a week before food and utilities. You'll also need to budget for commuting costs (bus, train, car etc).

Health check: Some costs will be involved in establishing your immune status and any required vaccinations for the compulsory health questionnaire.

Uniform: A uniform is required for clinical placement. This includes two tops with a specific Ara logo (\$70 each), smart black trousers (generic) and comfortable shoes (black, generic).

Health and immunisation status

If you're offered a place on the programme, you'll be asked to fill out a health questionnaire that lets you and Ara know what your immune status is. District Health Boards require these before students can be admitted to clinical placements. We strongly recommend that you take this opportunity to fully protect yourself (and therefore the patients that you work with) from illness and diseases that are prevalent in our society.

The medical imaging programme is physically demanding and you are always on your feet. If you have a history of back, hip or foot problems, we recommend you discuss this with a tutor.

Work experience

During clinical training in Years 1, 2 and 3, you'll be expected to work some weekend and evening shifts. These aren't excessive and students really enjoy the experience. Remember you'll be working in a service that operates 24/7. When you're qualified, you need to be prepared to work evening and night shifts, or on-call duties.

Registration

After graduating with a Bachelor of Medical Imaging you'll need to apply for registration with the New Zealand Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB). The fee to apply for registration is \$364 and is non-refundable even if your application is unsuccessful.

Once you've been granted registration in the relevant scope of practice, you must be issued with an Annual Practising Certificate (APC) before you can practise in New Zealand. Applicants will need to pass the Ministry of Justice criminal records check and the requirements of the Vulnerable Children's Act. The APC must be renewed every year and its issue is dependent on you providing the MRTB with evidence of enrolment and participation in a Board-approved recertification programme (commonly referred to as a CPD programme).

Typical programme structure

# Of weeks	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Term 1 (approximately 10 weeks)	Academic block All classes at Manawa campus	Clinical block All students attend their designated clinical placement (or alternative clinical placement)	Academic block All classes at Manawa campus
Term Break (2 weeks)			
Term 2 (approximately 10 weeks)	Clinical block All students attend their designated clinical placement	Academic block All classes at Manawa campus	Academic block All classes at Manawa campus
Term Break (2 weeks)			
Term 3 (approximately 9 weeks)	Academic block All classes at Manawa campus	Clinical Block All students attend their designated clinical placement (or alternative clinical placement)	Clinical Block All students attend their designated clinical placement (25 weeks with two weeks allowed for leave during this time)
Term Break (2 weeks)			
Term 4 (approximately 9 weeks)	Clinical Block All students attend their designated clinical placement	Academic block All classes at Manawa campus	

Note: a planning calendar with exact dates is available to all students once accepted onto the programme.

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