CERTIFICATE IN OUTDOOR EDUCATION - GEAR LIST

Welcome

Kia Ora, and thank you for choosing to study with us! We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Tai Poutini Polytechnic. Your programme fees cover the cost of accommodation, transport, and any specialist equipment required for programme activities. All technical equipment, including ice axes, ropes, kayaks and helmets, will be provided. However, if you already own specialist equipment, you may prefer to use your own. Please check with the relevant pursuit lead tutor beforehand to ensure your gear is suitable for the programme.

What You Need to Bring

The following gear list outlines what we expect you to arrive with. If you are unsure about what to buy or need advice on suitable equipment, please get in touch. We are happy to help you make informed decisions. The gear on this list will form the foundation of your outdoor career and, with the right care, should last you for many years. You will be putting your equipment to the test in a range of challenging outdoor environments, so it pays to invest in well-made, durable products. In many cases, buying quality gear that lasts is more cost-effective than repeatedly replacing cheaper alternatives. We strongly encourage students to consider second-hand gear wherever possible. Websites such as Trade Me and Facebook Marketplace are great places to find quality equipment at a lower cost.

Other Costs

Gear Hire – $50

Throughout the programme, students will have access to specialist equipment that they can hire for personal use outside scheduled classes and programme activities. This includes equipment such as kayaks, climbing ropes and rafts. A $50 gear hire fee is charged to help cover the ongoing maintenance, repair and general wear and tear associated with using this equipment during personal adventures.

Food Costs – $250

A key part of our programme involves communal cooking during multi-day trips. This provides students with valuable opportunities to develop teamwork, meal-planning and food preparation skills relevant to the adventure tourism industry. While a portion of the programme fees contributes towards food costs, students are also required to pay an additional $250 to help cover these expenses.

Both the gear hire fee and food contribution will be collected at the start of the year, once you arrive at Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

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Packs & Sleep	Item	Qty	Minimum Specs	Why you'll use it	Hot Tips / Recommendations
	Tramping Pack	1	65L, comfortable fit, ice axe loops, crampon attachments	Carries all your personal and group gear on multi-day trips.	Comfort is more important than weight. Osprey and Macpac are popular. Spend your money here,it'll last for years.
	Pack Liner	1	Durable plastic	Keeps all your gear dry.	Macpac sell Mountain Safety Council liners and they are a great cheap option. You could also get a Sea to Summit Ultra-Sil Pack Liner size large or similar product. More expensive but will last longer if looked after.
	Day Pack	1	30 - 40L with waist belt	Used almost every day for classes, field trips and running.	Buy one you can comfortably run with. Don't use your school backpack.
	Sleeping Bag	1	3-season minimum, comfort rating around -10°C	You'll sleep in snow and cold alpine environments.	One of the most important purchases. A thermal liner adds warmth. For down bags consider carrying in a dry bag.
	Optional: Sleeping Bag Liner	1	Thermal liner	Adds warmth and keeps your sleeping bag cleaner.	A cheap way to make your sleeping bag warmer.
	Sleeping Mat	1	Closed-cell foam or an inflatable sleeping mat (R-value 3 or higher)	Keeps you insulated from the ground and makes a huge difference to your sleep.	Option 1: Closed-cell foam (cheap yet bulky) Option 2: Sea to Summit, Nemo and Exped all make great mats.

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Footwear	Item	Qty	Minimum Specs	Why you'll use it	Hot Tips / Recommendations
	Tramping Boots	1	¾ shank minimum for winter, compatible with flexible crampons	Essential for tramping and mountaineering You can have one pair for summer/autumn tramping that isn't ¾ shank and one pair that are.	Get fitted properly. This isn't something to rush. Salewa… are great
	Running Shoes	1	Good tread, trail grip preferred	Used for training, running, field trips and approaches.	You'll wear these heaps. Trail runners are ideal.
	River Shoes	1	Must stay securely on your feet	Used for kayaking and rafting.	Old runners or Vans work well.
	Gaiters	1	Full-length canvas or similar	Keeps snow, mud and stones out of your boots.	Canvas lasts much longer than lightweight options. Sea to Summit Quagmire Canvas Gaiters are a good option.
	Socks	3+	Wool or thermal	Use often in the field	Warehouse can be a cheap place to get socks that work well.
	Optional: Walking Poles	2	Adjustable	Makes carrying heavy packs much easier.	Especially recommended if you have knee or back issues.

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Rain Gear	Item	Qty	Minimum Specs	Why you'll use it	Hot Tips / Recommendations
	Rain Jacket	1	Waterproof, seam sealed, hood	You'll wear it constantly on the West Coast.	Buy one slightly oversized so you can layer underneath. Test it in the shower for 10 minutes. Stoney Creek do a great cost-effective option Rab, Macpac Alpine and Gore-Tex jackets are all great.
	Rain Pants	1	Waterproof, seam-sealed	Keeps you dry on long wet days.	Stoney Creek Dreambull overtrousers are great value.
	Optional: Gumboots	1	Durable	Great for wet local days.	Saves your expensive boots and rain gear from unnecessary wear.
	Optional: PVC Rain Gear	1	Jacket and overtrousers	Perfect for really wet bush days.	Cheap, durable and worth having. To save your nice rain gear
Base Layers	Thermal Tops	3	Merino, wool or polypropylene (preferred) Note: No cotton	Used year-round for hiking, rivers and sleeping.	You can never have too many. Marketplace and op shops are gold. One good pair of merino for you body is great and then other to layer
	Thermal Bottoms	3	Merino, wool or polypropylene (preferred) Note: No cotton	Used year-round for hiking, rivers and sleeping.	Keep one nice dry pair just for camp.
Warm Layers	Heavy Fleece Tops	2	Wool or fleece	Great around camp and in cold weather.	Op shops often have excellent options.
	Heavy Fleece Pants	1	Wool or fleece	Perfect after cold river days.	Hunting stores often have warm, affordable options.
	Optional: Down Jacket	1	Down or synthetic	Great for camp and alpine trips.	Synthetic works better in wet climates but down has a better warmth to weight ratio.

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Head & Hands	Item	Qty	Minimum Specs	Why you'll use it	Hot Tips / Recommendations
	Beanie	1	Wool or fleece	Keeps you warm all year.	Also carried as a spare in their river kit.
	Buff/Balaclava	1	Wool or fleece	Extra warmth and protection.	Surprisingly useful in all seasons.
	Liner Gloves	2	Wool or polypropylene	Base layer for your hands.	Warehouse gloves are excellent value.
	Warm Gloves	1	Wool or fleece	Adds warmth over your liners.	Layering works much better than one thick glove.
	Waterproof Gloves	1	Needs to be a pair that is waterproof, warm and you can still “work a zipper” with.	Keeps your hands dry in snow.	If you have ski gloves, Leather gloves or Thermally lined water proof “freezing works” gloves like “ATG MaxiDry Elite”
Navigation & Essentials	Compass	1	Silva Ranger with a long base plate	Used for navigation, hiking and river trips.	The flat base plate compass is the right one. Avoid Kathmandu compasses.
	Head Torch	1	Bright, (rechargeable batteries are preferred)	Essential for moving safely at night.	Invest in a good one that holds charge Fenix and Led Lensor are both good.
	Wristwatch	1	Waterproof	Used on the river, climbing and navigation.	Essential for the program but it does not have to be the top-of-the-line model.
	Sunglasses	1	Polarised	Protects your eyes on rivers and in the mountains.	Fishing and outdoor stores have good options.
	Sunhat	1	Lightweight, quick drying	Sun protection.	Something that won't blow off easily is a bonus.
	Sunscreen	1	SPF 30+	Sun protection	

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Camp & Study	Item	Qty	Minimum Specs	Why you'll use it	Hot Tips / Recommendations
	Eating Kit	1	Container, spoon and fork	Used on every overnight trip.	Don't spend lots of money. Yoghurt containers work perfectly.
	Stationery	1	Pens, notebook and a waterproof notebook	Used throughout the course.	Organise a group order for waterproof notebooks from NZOIA it works out cheaper.
River Gear	Dry Bags	2	20L and 10L	Keeps your gear dry on the river.	Heavier weight PVC dry bags are better. Students often organise a bulk order.
	Wetsuit	1	Full length, 3mm minimum	Used for kayaking and rafting.	You'll use this a lot all year round! It's worth getting a good one
	Optional but reccommended: Whitewater Helmet	1	Whitewater helmet	Protects your head while on the river. We love our brains	We strongly recommend buying your own. The Sweet Wanderer has the highest safety rating. An option if you are unsure is to wait till you get here to try on sizes
	Whistle	1	Fox 40 Classic	River safety equipment.	Standard whistles with a ball don't work when wet
	River Knife	1	Folding rescue knife	Essential safety equipment.	The Palm folding knife is highly recommended.
	Carabiner	1	Pear-shaped carabiner	Used for your raft flip line.	1 x Pear shaped carabiners (Twist-lock gate recommended.)
	Tubular Nylon webbing (6metres)	1	15mm or 25mm width nylon webbing	Used for raft flip lines	Can be bought at most climbing stores.
	Optional: Nose Clip	1	Optional	Can make kayaking much more enjoyable.	Small purchase, big difference. Can buy when you arrive.

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Survival Kit	Item	Qty	Minimum Specs	Why you'll use it	Hot Tips / Recommendations
	Survival Kit	1	Waterproof bag containing: Lighter, flint & steel, Vaseline coated cotton balls, one bike tube cut into small pieces, duct tape, 5 zip ties, survival bag, 1–2m paracord	Used during survival training and emergency situations.	Pack everything into a small waterproof bag or heavy-duty Ziplock bag. Keep it compact and organised. Some recommendations are Flint and steel - Elemental Flint Fire Starter Survival bag - Rab Ark Emergency Bivi
	Knife	1		Super handy on most trips.	We recommend the Bahco Multipurpose Tradesman Knife.
First Aid	Personal First Aid Kit	1	Waterproof bag containing tape, pain relief, steri-strips, antiseptic, dressings, tampons, blister plasters and a needle	Required for all trips.	Build it once and keep it packed so it's always ready to go.
Climbing Gear	Climbing Shoes	1	Comfortable and snug fit	Used for climbing sessions throughout the year.	Don't size down as comfortable shoes are much better for beginners. Different brands fit different foot shapes so try a few.
	Chalk Bag and Climbing chalk	1	Basic	Used while climbing.	Share a bag of chalk with friends to save money.
	Sewn Sling	1	120cm Nylon	Used in climbing systems for your personal anchor chain.	Make sure that it is nylon and not Dyneema.
	Prussic Cord (4.5 metres)	1	6mm accessory cord	Used for climbing systems and rescue skills.	It will cut into long and short prussic loops when you arrive.

You may be excluded from some field trips if you do not have the equipment listed above.

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Additional Gear Purchases

The gear on this list will set you up for the course, but as the year goes on you'll probably find yourself wanting to buy a few more pieces of personal equipment. Things like a climbing harness, helmet, kayak, paddle, PFD, river helmet, dry top and other pursuit-specific gear become worthwhile investments as you discover what you enjoy most.

We recommend putting some extra money aside for these purchases, rather than spending your entire budget before the course starts.

If you are unsure of the correct type of equipment or brands to buy, ask us.

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