

# Outdoor Education & Ski Patrol

0800 TPP INFO  
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Tai Poutini Polytechnic  
West Coast  
NEW ZEALAND

 Te Pūkenga

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## DISCLAIMER

1. We do not set a closing date for applications. The Polytechnic reserves the right to not accept late applications, i.e., after the programme has started. You will be offered a place subject to meeting the entry and selection requirements and the availability of places on the programme.
2. Tai Poutini Polytechnic Ltd reserves the right to cancel, postpone or change the location of any course of programme. If this happens, we will let you know. If you have any questions call an Enrolment Advisor on 0800 400 411.
3. From 2023, Tai Poutini Polytechnic Ltd and the programme you have enrolled in will become part of Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology.
4. All programmes offered by Tai Poutini Polytechnic Ltd and other subsidiaries of Te Pūkenga are under review, to ensure they are portable, consistent and aligned with the needs of industry. The programme you have enrolled in may change over time
5. Full entry criteria and selection criteria available at [www.tpp.ac.nz](http://www.tpp.ac.nz)

For further info on awards and scholarships please refer to our Student Information Brochure.

# About Us

**At Tai Poutini Polytechnic we're serious about education. Our tutors are all experts in their field, have excellent industry connections and are passionate about teaching.**

We are part of Te Pūkenga, the national vocational tertiary education provider, with campuses on the West Coast and other NZ locations. This means we have access to more resources, can provide more options and flexibility for learners and we have plenty of opportunities for innovation.

Once fully established, Te Pūkenga will provide a flexible combination of campus-based, online and work-based learning to meet the needs of learners and employers. We are playing a big part in the sector reforms, testing new ideas, being proactive with initiatives and focusing on getting great outcomes for our learners.

Summer on the water, winter on the ski slopes – build a year-round career in the outdoors with Tai Poutini Polytechnic's internationally recognised Outdoor Education and Ski Patrol programmes.

You already have a love of the outdoors. Now you can turn that passion into a way of life. You'll learn the skills you need to live and work safely on mountains, rivers and ski slopes both here and around the world from seasoned professionals who know the business.

You'll get your hands-on training in some of the world's most breath-taking environments. You'll also learn the management, communication, leadership and safety skills you need to build a successful career.

There's no better place to start your career in the outdoors than Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

[tpp.ac.nz/outdoored](http://tpp.ac.nz/outdoored)  
[tpp.ac.nz/skipatrol](http://tpp.ac.nz/skipatrol)

# NZ Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education

## Outdoor and Adventure Education | Level 4

LEVEL

04

CREDITS

120

**AWARD: NZ Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multi Skilled)**

**DURATION: 34 weeks, full-time (excluding holidays)**

**LOCATION: Greymouth**

**START DATES AND DOMESTIC FEES:**  
Visit [www.tpp.ac.nz/outdoored](http://www.tpp.ac.nz/outdoored) for further information

Conditions apply. Visit [www.tpp.ac.nz/conditions](http://www.tpp.ac.nz/conditions)

If you love being in the outdoors and want to turn your passion into a career, TPP's outdoor education programmes will help get you started.

Whether you're a keen beginner with general outdoor experience or already have considerable technical experience under your belt, the NZ Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure and Education will increase your skills and challenge you. Our low student to tutor ratios and teaching experience mean we can help you progress at your level, pushing you further for more challenge or breaking it down if it's all new to you.

To augment the practical subjects and round out your skill set we'll spend some time studying risk assessment and management, meteorology, environmental science, communication skills, tikanga Maori, leadership and facilitation, outdoor first aid, pursuit theory, trip planning, exercise science, work and study skills.



### Graduate Profiles

Graduates of the NZ Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education are capable of moving into the tourism or education sectors in a variety of entry level roles. Examples of such roles include adventure and ecotourism guiding, education outside the classroom, community health and recreation programming and youth development programmes. There is a global market for this skill set and graduates of this programme are well placed to take advantage of this.

These skills enable graduates to be self-sufficient technically in a range of outdoor settings. The level is equivalent with that of a trainee instructor or guide in adventure tourism or outdoor education settings where the clients are beginners or closely supervised with established safety systems in place. These graduates would be working with experienced practitioners under direct supervision.

Graduates will have the skills and knowledge to facilitate low risk outdoor experiences for clients or students within a range of outdoor settings. Knowledge of physical health, education and a specialist First Aid qualification adds to their ability to observe and manage client/student safety.

Basic facilitation and presentation skills will enable graduates to manage a non-complex client or student experience in line with the expected outcomes of the organisation they are representing.

### Education Pathways

This qualification provides a pathway to the NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multi-skilled) (Level 5)

# NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education

## Outdoor Instruction and Guiding | Level 5

LEVEL

05

CREDITS

120

**AWARD: NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multi Skilled)**

**DURATION: 32 weeks, full-time (excluding holidays)**

**LOCATION: Greymouth**

**START DATES AND DOMESTIC FEES:**  
Visit [www.tpp.ac.nz/outdoored](http://www.tpp.ac.nz/outdoored) for further information

Conditions apply. Visit [www.tpp.ac.nz/conditions](http://www.tpp.ac.nz/conditions)

Take your outdoor skills to the next level with our NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education – and learn how to share your knowledge with others.

If you're passionate about the outdoors, what better way to earn a living than sharing your love for the outdoors with others! You will work with a wide variety of real clients in organised, supervised, instruction and guiding opportunities, receiving regular feedback and mentoring to improve your practice and prepare you for leading others out in the industry.

The nationally recognised NZ Outdoor Instructors Association (NZOIA) Leader qualifications are embedded into our programmes. They give you a kick start in the industry and connect you with the wider instruction and guiding community.

Generally, you will need to have completed our Certificate programme to gain entry into the Diploma, however if you think you have the pre-requisite skills for direct entry, give us a call and we can discuss your options.



### Graduate Profiles

Graduates of the NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education are capable of leading groups and managing clients or students safely in a range of outdoor settings in the education or tourism sectors.

The personal technical skill-set of graduates will be equivalent to that required by professional level qualifications (NZOIA, SKOANZ, NZRA) so graduates are capable of operating in moderate- to high-risk outdoor settings. This recognises a fundamental principle in outdoor leadership: that an instructor or guide must be able to operate safely and effectively in risk settings which are higher than those in which they may be expected to manage client safety.

Graduates will specialise in technical pursuit instruction, education or tourism experience management.

Knowledge and skills in safety management and group leadership will allow graduates to make proactive decisions in the field. This creates the potential to guide and instruct clients, unsupervised, in a variety of outdoor settings of low to moderate risk.

Group facilitation, presentation and teaching skills will allow graduates to effectively deliver the desired outcomes

of the organisation they represent. These could include technical skill delivery and instruction, human development, environmental and health education and tourism experiences.

Knowledge of Aotearoa New Zealand's special flora and fauna, its geophysical and socio-cultural make-up along with contemporary studies of global and local environmental issues allow graduates to "tell the story" of New Zealand while enlightening and entertaining their clients or students.

### Education Pathways

This qualification may provide a pathway to the: NZ Certificate in Outdoor Senior Leadership (Level 6) with strands Alpine, Bush, Caving, Education Outside The Classroom, Senior Raft Guide (Grade III), Senior Raft Guide (Grade IV/V), Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education, NZ Certificate in Avalanche Risk Management and Rock Climbing.

# NZ Certificate in Snowsport NZ Certificate in Avalanche

## Ski Patrol | Level 5

LEVEL

04

LEVEL

05

CREDITS

120

**AWARD: NZ Certificate in Snowsport Patrol (Level 4) and NZ Certificate in Avalanche Risk Management (Level 5)**

**DURATION: 26 weeks, full-time (excluding holidays)**

**LOCATION: Wanaka plus nationally for work experience**

**START DATES AND DOMESTIC FEES: Visit [www.tpp.ac.nz/skipatrol](http://www.tpp.ac.nz/skipatrol) for further information**

Conditions apply. Visit [www.tpp.ac.nz/conditions](http://www.tpp.ac.nz/conditions)

**Notes:**

1. Total Cost - includes some text books and most field transport.
2. Additional costs - during the 6 week work placement section of the programme, both travel and additional or alternative accommodation will need to be covered by students posted outside of Wanaka. Refer to [tpp.ac.nz/skipatrol](http://tpp.ac.nz/skipatrol) for more info.

If you're someone who is at home in the mountains – and can imagine making them your office – Tai Poutini Polytechnic's Ski Patrol programme is for you.

Over the last 20 years, TPP's Ski Patrol programme has produced some of the country's finest ski patrollers.

You'll do your practical ski patrol training in Wanaka, one of New Zealand's best ski destinations. Wanaka offers some of the most advanced skiing and riding terrain, including natural pipes, large open faces, terrain parks and great back county ski touring.

Avalanche and first aid training is provided in a realistic environment on the ski field. The practical nature of the training equips you with the skills to become a certified ski patroller in line with industry needs.

Our graduates are sought after by the global ski patrol industry and many have gone on to work overseas in Canada and Japan.

We aim to produce graduates who are work ready. We aim for consistently high levels of situational and self-awareness, a strong work ethic, and a mature attitude

# Sport Patrol and The Risk Management

to teamwork and leadership ability. Combined with skiing ability, these are the minimum skills required to gain a ski patrol job.

## Venue

Picturesque Wanaka, in the South Island of New Zealand, is home to much of the programme.

Wanaka is a popular holiday destination with domestic and international tourists year-round, due to its skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing and adventure tourism opportunities.

Five amazing ski resorts are within a ninety minute drive of Wanaka and students will be placed at one of a variety of New Zealand ski areas for a six week work placement section of the programme.

## Equipment

This is intended as a guide only. A complete equipment list will be included in your enrolment pack. Equipment costs will vary depending on what you already own and you will need all equipment on the list by the due date to take part in the programme.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic supplies the use of following equipment for training:

- A range of first aid equipment
- Ice axes
- Ropes

- Belay devices and karabiners
- Climbing helmets
- Reference texts
- Rescue toboggans
- Crampons
- Climbing and industrial harnesses
- Snow and weather analysis equipment

## Core Elements

- Meteorology
- Physiology and Health
- Outdoor Pre-Hospital Emergency Care (PHEC)
- Slope Management
- Mountain Skills
- Mountain Search and Rescue
- Snow Science
- Avalanche Geography
- Snow Blasting

## Programme Structure and Workload

The integrated approach of the programme allows for a combination of teaching, work experience and self-directed study to be delivered over a compressed timeframe.

The programme is guided by the needs of the industry, which looks for mature students who can work independently and have the ability to maintain work ethic for typically long workdays.

This means programme delivery hours will incrementally increase over the timetable to 10 hours per day and will include independent tutor guided learning for students.

Online learning, class lectures, small-group tutorials and/or practical's, on field training, scenarios, reflective practice, role play, presentations, demonstrations and independent learning all feature in the programme.

As the programme moves into the winter period, a six week internship will enable students to put their newfound skills into action with a working New Zealand ski patrol.

The programme includes the delivery and assessment of two national qualifications, which are taught concurrently - the NZ Certificate in Snowsport Patrol (80 credits at Level 4) and the NZ Certificate in Avalanche Risk Management (40 credits at Level 5). The level 5 qualification was previously known as Stage 1 Avalanche. Details of these qualifications can be found on the NZQA website.

Upon completion of the programme, students who achieve a passing grade in Meteorology, Snow Science, Avalanche Geography and Mountain Search and rescue, will be granted the NZ Certificate in Avalanche Risk Management (Level 5).

The NZ Certificate in Snowsport Area Patrol (Level 4) will be awarded to students who achieve a passing grade in all courses in the programme.

### Further Study Pathways

- NZ Certificate in Snowsport Patrol Leader (Level 5)
- NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education

For additional qualifications and guide training options please visit the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association website.

### Career Opportunities

Highly respected, the programme provides specialised training in the specific skills required for a first year ski patroller.

The programme allows for various careers. It sets strong foundations for related careers in the outdoors, including the ski guiding and avalanche safety industries, a variety of adventure tourism, safety management, summer guiding and/or instruction operations, The Department of Conservation, alpine search and rescue, education roles, nursing, ambulance officer and/or paramedic.

Many patrollers in fact balance their winter work with these types of careers, academic pursuits and/or trades such as building, accounting etc.



'The TPP Ski Patrol programme definitely gets you ready for the job. The training got me into the industry and I've got better opportunities and better options ahead.'

Claudia Mannering -  
Ski Patrol Graduate



# Staff Profiles



## **Rata Lovell Smith**

Rata is a talented, highly skilled and passionate educator whose enthusiasm for her work positively influences those around her. Rata adds value to the Outdoor Education department by not only being an excellent role model for aspiring female educators but also through her teaching across multiple subject areas including performance science, leadership, back country travel and whitewater kayaking.



## **Phillip Palzer**

Phil is passionate about outdoor adventure and education. He has a supportive attitude and positively influences the students while teaching them how to operate in the outdoors safely. Twelve years of raft guiding and white water kayak instruction allows Phil to pass on experience and knowledge. He empathises with students as they are learning. He also prides himself in building rapport and developing connections with his students.



## **Jock Barr**

Jock has 10 years' experience working as an outdoor educator and in the adventure tourism sector across a broad range of outdoor pursuits including whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, bush and alpine instruction. He has a real drive for seeing people gain their potential in both the outdoors and their personal lives. From his time in the education sector Jock has seen the value in learning through experience and backing this up with reflective processes and quality instruction. He aims to do this in the various subject areas he teaches at TPP.

# Entry Criteria

## Outdoor and Adventure Education

**Applicants must meet the following criteria:**

- Have successfully completed NCEA level 1 (or equivalent) and attained 42 NCEA credits at level 3.
- Be able to demonstrate suitable physical capability as outlined in the enrolment questionnaire and have a high likelihood of success in this programme.
- Applicants must hold a current First Aid Certificate which includes unit standards 6400, 6401, 6402 or equivalent, which has been completed within the previous 6 months of application.
- Applicants must successfully meet the safety check requirements of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 (conditional acceptance may be granted while this process is completed).
- Have their application reviewed by TPP staff.
- Have evidence of appropriate language competency if English is not the applicant's first language of IELTS 5.5 (or equivalent) with no band below 5.0.

**Special Notes:**

- Special entry may be recommended by the programme leader for applicants who do not meet the above criteria.

## Outdoor Instruction and Guiding

**Applicants must:**

- Have successfully completed NCEA level 2 (or equivalent) and attained 42 NCEA credits at level 3.
- Have completed a full year Outdoor Education programme at Level 4 or provide evidence of equivalent prior outdoor and academic experience.
- Must hold a current (completed within the previous 18 months before application) First Aid Certificate which includes unit standards 6400, 6401, 6402 or equivalent.
- Be able to demonstrate suitable physical capability as outlined in the enrolment questionnaire and have a high likelihood of success in this programme.
- Have evidence of appropriate language competency if English is not the applicant's first language of IELTS 5.5 (or equivalent) with no band below 5.0.
- Applicants must successfully meet the safety check requirements of the Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 (conditional acceptance may be granted while this process is completed).

**Special Notes:**

- Special entry may be recommended by the programme leader for applicants who do not meet the above criteria.

## Ski Patrol

**Applicants must meet the following criteria:**

- Applicants for whom English is a second language must meet IELTS or equivalent Level 5.5 or above.
- Meet the legal requirements of handling explosives.

- Evidence, acceptable to the programme staff, that the applicant meets or exceeds the ability to confidently ski or snowboard in most terrain and snow conditions. i.e. The majority of black runs on a large commercial ski area in New Zealand or overseas.
- Evidence is by letter of attestation from a level 2 skinsnowboard instructor or an industry professional such as a Ski Patrol HOD.
- Applicants must hold a current First Aid Certificate minimum 1 day course.
- Have successfully completed NCEA level 2 or equivalent and attained 42 NCEA credits at level 3.
- Special entry may be granted where evidence exists that the applicant can successfully complete the programme. Please contact the Polytechnic for details.

#### **Selection Criteria apply:**

- Prior work experience in the Snow Sports Industry (paid or voluntary) especially volunteer ski patrolling or trail crew
- Prior general experience in outdoor activities e.g. downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, tramping, mountaineering or rock climbing
- A strong and confident skier who is able to continuously ski black runs at a snow sport area all day
- Skier rather than snowboarder

As an alternative, appropriate video footage of the skiing and and/or transceiver entry criteria can be provided to the programme leader. Industry people acceptable to the Programme leader can also vouch for the applicant's ability. It is important to clarify with the programme leader beforehand what is required.

When the number of applicants who meet the entry criteria exceeds the number of positions available, applicants who meet more of the selection criteria than other applicants will be given priority in selection.

#### **Special Notes:**

- Special Entry may be granted where evidence exists that the applicant can successfully complete the programme.

Please contact the Polytechnic for details.

- If applicants are unclear about their ability to meet any entry criteria they can contact the programme leader for clarification.

### **Raft Guiding**

#### **Applicants must meet the following criteria:**

- Be 18 years of age or over. Applicants must have attended a minimum of four years secondary schooling and successfully completed NCEA Level One, or equivalent
- Mature students who do not meet the academic criteria, but demonstrate the motivation and commitment to study and are able to meet and provide documented evidence of the outdoor experience requirements (see below), will be considered
- Applicants must hold a current First Aid Certificate
- Applicants must meet and document the whitewater experience requirements as listed below:
  - Competent grade 2 kayaker with a reliable roll; and/or
  - 10 days in a Trainee Raft Guide role with a commercial rafting company operating trips on Grade 2 water or above
- Applicants for whom English is a second language must meet IELTS (or equivalent) Level 5.5 or above

#### **Special Notes:**

- Selection criteria may be determined through application documents, charter referee statements and interviews, written candidate questionnaire and an interview by the Programme Co-ordinator
- Candidates must supply contact details for two character referees

The following will be considered advantageous for candidate selection: favourable referee statements, prior experience in the rafting industry, extensive whitewater kayaking experience, prior tertiary education qualifications, prior experience working in the adventure tourism industry.

# More Info

Check out our website or contact us if you have further questions about entry requirements for your chosen programme.

If you require more information or wish to speak directly with a tutor please email us at: [study@tpp.ac.nz](mailto:study@tpp.ac.nz) or call 0800 TPP INFO.

## **Coast Connect Employment and Careers Hub**

Coast Connect creates opportunities for Coasters to connect, create relationships and find jobs. Coast Connect works with job seekers, students, local businesses, training providers and employers to create better outcomes for the West Coast.

You can visit the Coast Connect Employment and Careers Hub at Tai Poutini Polytechnic's Greymouth campus. Coast Connect is part of Tai Poutini Polytechnic's wider effort to support local industry and help people follow their career goals.

# How to Apply

**1**

**Decide on your programme**

**2**

**Apply -  
Free phone 0800 TPP INFO  
or Visit [tpp.ac.nz/apply](http://tpp.ac.nz/apply)**

**3**

**We'll assess your application  
and get back to you**

# The Tai Poutini “Edge”

Version 21.06.2022

Tai Poutini is nestled between the wild Tasman Sea and the grand Southern Alps. People who live on the West Coast know what it takes to live on the edge. Confidence, skills and a “can do, will do” attitude set them apart.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic graduates are out there on the edge doing it!

He aha te mea nui o te ao?  
He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people!

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