



Bachelor of Environmental Studies

Study the environment and help shape the future.

Turn your passion for the environment into a meaningful career with the Bachelor of Environmental Studies. This degree combines scientific knowledge with practical skills in areas like ecology, conservation, biosecurity, GIS, and sustainability to tackle real-world environmental challenges in Aotearoa and beyond.

You will explore how natural systems work, how human actions affect the environment, and how we can monitor, manage, and restore ecosystems - this programme prepares you for work that matters.

PLEASE NOTE: Subject to NZQA approval and accreditation.

Location	Hawke's Bay
Start	February and July
Length	Three years full-time*
Contact	Deborah Comrie Phone: 06 830 1376 Email: dcomrie@eit.ac.nz

* Part-time study available.

For NZ Citizens and Permanent Residents

Environmental management for a sustainable future

In this degree programme, you will learn about ecosystems, conservation issues, sustainable management of land and plant life, as well as the management strategies that promote the conservation of biodiversity and address biosecurity.

As an environmental studies learner you will learn core environmental science and sustainability principles, practical field and research skills, and how to manage and protect natural resources.

Subject Areas include:

- Biosecurity
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- Ecological Restoration
- Applied Field Surveying
- Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa
- Environmental Sampling and Monitoring
- Soil Science
- Sustainability 101
- Introduction to Biology
- Scientific Research Project
- Freshwater Ecology and Monitoring

Please note: Subject to NZQA approval and accreditation.

Career and Study Opportunities

Possible job and career opportunities can include:

- Conservation Officer/Ranger
- Sustainability Advisor
- Biosecurity Advisor
- Biodiversity Consultant
- GIS Analyst
- Catchment of Community Engagement Facilitator
- Environmental Monitoring Officer

On completion of the Bachelor of Environmental Studies you may wish to further your knowledge with a relevant postgraduate qualification.

Timetable

Your study time will be made up of contact time (e.g. class times, tutorials, field trips, online sessions) and non-contact time (your own individual study time).

Contact Time

On campus classes are usually scheduled between 8.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

For a current timetable, please refer to eit.ac.nz/students/timetable.



Aimey Tahu (Ngāpuhi) Graduate - Bachelor of Applied Science (Biodiversity Management), Catchment Coordinator - Sustainable HB

Bachelor of Environmental Studies

Level 7, 360 credits



Hawke's Bay



Full-time: 3 years

Part-time: equivalent



Fee: Visit fees.eit.ac.nz to see the fees for this programme



2026 Key Dates

Intake One

Starts: Monday, 16 February
Year ends: Friday, 27 November

Intake Two

Starts: Monday, 20 July
Year ends: Friday, 25 June 2027

Semester Breaks

6-17 April
29 June - 17 July
28 September-9 October

Non-contact Time

You should plan to spend 6 hours per week, per course on individual study.

Entry Requirements

A personal interview is available as part of the application process.

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- University Entrance; or
- Successful completion of the NZ Diploma in Environmental Management [Level 5]; or
- An equivalent qualification; or
- Evidence regarded as sufficient by EIT of your capability to undertake and complete the programme of study; or
- At the discretion of EIT where the applicant is over 20 years of age and demonstrates the capability to undertake and complete the programme of study.

Preference will be given to applicants who have achieved either:

- 12 credits or more at NCEA Level 3 in Science-rich subjects (such as, Biology, Physics or Chemistry); or
- 12 credits or more in English-rich subjects (such as English, History, Geography and Economics).

English Language Entry Requirements

If English is not your first language you are required to have an acceptable level of English fluency. This may be demonstrated in a variety of ways, including:

- Successful study of a programme in which English was the language of instruction (conditions apply)
- Completion of a New Zealand Certificate in English Language (Level 4 with any endorsement)
- IELTS Academic score of 6.0, with no band score lower than 5.5, achieved in a single test within the two years preceding enrolment
- International equivalents to IELTS accepted by NZQA

In addition, applicants are required to show evidence of good school records.

Entry with Credit

You may already have some knowledge or skills that can be recognised as part of your intended study. This may take a number of different forms including study at a private training establishment, workplace training, other tertiary study, life experiences or voluntary work. If you think you may qualify, you may want to apply for Cross Credit (CC) or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

- CC is based on the equivalency of courses or qualifications. You would apply for CC if you have passed a very similar course at the same level.
- RPL is based on the assessment of your current knowledge and skills. You would apply for RPL if you had gained the relevant knowledge and skills through life experiences and informal learning situations.

You will be asked to provide details of anything that you would like considered as credit toward your intended programme of study, as part of your application.

You must apply prior to enrolment. CC and RPL cannot be awarded for a course you are already enrolled in.

The overall RPL credit limit is 50%.

For further information and enquiries about CC and RPL please contact the Programme Coordinator, Lisa Turnbull, on 06 830 1879 or LMTurnbull@eit.ac.nz.

Assessments

Assessments include evidence portfolios, projects, reports, presentations, case studies, laboratory workbooks, tests and exams.

Year 13 Scholarship

Our Year 13 Scholarship supports school leavers across the Hawke's Bay region to study any one of our degrees or selected diploma programmes that lead into a degree by providing one year FREE* study.

Live outside these region? No problem, there are some programmes that are available for applications from Year 13 students nationwide, so if you are Year 13 and want to study one of these, you can apply for this scholarship too.

The Year 13 Scholarship covers one year of tuition fees including any course related costs which have been approved to be included as part of the scholarship. When combined with the Government Fees Free initiative, some Year 13 Scholarship recipients are studying fees free for two years of their degree.

For full information about the Year 13 Scholarship check out year13.eit.ac.nz or email yr13@eit.ac.nz.

* Conditions apply.

Scholarships

Scholarships are a way to help financially support your study. They can make life easier by helping to cover your fees and living expenses while you complete your qualification. You don't always need to be an academic high-flyer to qualify.

Find out what's available at scholarships.eit.ac.nz or for general scholarship information please contact scholarships@eit.ac.nz.



Experienced Lecturers

At EIT, you can be confident in the quality of our teaching and your learning experience. EIT is highly regarded in New Zealand for research excellence due to the quality of our community centred research, our publications and our external grant income provided by funding institutions who have confidence in our research capability. You can be confident your lecturers use the latest knowledge and research in their field of expertise to inform their teaching, and many are at the forefront of knowledge creation within their discipline area.

Dr Amelia McQueen

PhD (Ecology), MSc (Ecology), BSc (Botany/Zoology)

Amelia specialises in many aspects of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecology. She has a particular interest in ecosystems such as wetlands, frost flats, and podocarp forest and exploring plant and invertebrate communities inter-relationships (e.g. moths in podocarp forest remnants). Amelia values exploring ecosystems, answering questions focused on biodiversity, inter-relationships and filling knowledge gaps for different ecosystems. She has been involved in a number of research projects and is highly regarded for the development of education packages for the White Pine Bush Reserve, Waste Aware - Napier City Council, Ball's Clearing Scenic Reserve, Ōtātara Outdoor Learning Centre and Waiaroha - HDC water treatment and freshwater education facility.

Dr Dinusha Jayathilake

PhD (Marine Science), MSc (Geoinformatics), BSc Honours (Botany/Plant Biology)

Dinusha is a specialist in using GIS (Geographic Information System) to develop maps, do spatial analysis and interpretations relating to ecology. She specialises in terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecology, population and community dynamics, and species distribution modelling (habitat suitability modelling). Dinusha collaborated with the United Nations Environmental programme and her published maps are available on the UNEP-WCMC map portal. In 2020 Dinusha was part of a team of researchers awarded the Elsevier Atlas Award for their work 'Where Marine Protected Areas would best represent 30% of ocean biodiversity'. Dinusha's current research involves measuring the extent of seagrass (*Zostera muelleri*) in Hawke's Bay using object-based supervised classification of visible spectrum drone images.

Gerard Henry

MSc (Plant Taxonomy), DipHort

Gerard has previously held appointments at the Royal Parks London, Windsor Great Park, the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew) and the National Trust for England and Wales. His qualifications include a Masters degree in Pure and Applied Plant and Fungal Taxonomy from the University of Reading and a Diploma in Horticulture from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. Gerard is a current member of the Kew Guild, the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network and Forest and Bird.

Dr Glen Robertshaw

PhD (Environmental Science), MSc (Environmental Science) Distinction, BSc (Chemistry) Honours

Glen's background is in chemistry, environmental modelling and environmental land management. His PhD involved developing a Decision Support System that modelled the movement of radioactive contaminants through soils, plants, animals and the food production system and identified optimal strategies for re-mediating the land taking into consideration the social, ethical and environmental impacts. Glen's research includes investigating the levels of complexity of agricultural and environmental models as well as modelling the effects of climate change on crops in New Zealand. He developed a prototype programme to allow DOC Rangers to identify when Kiwi eggs are ready to hatch and so be taken to a sanctuary to be reared until old enough to survive in the wild. Glen is currently involved in a research project looking at heavy metal concentrations in Hawke's bay vegetables.

Chris Thorman

BSc (Agriculture) Honours, DipCropProtection

Chris has spent much of his professional life working in the agricultural and food processing sectors, having previously managed the growing operation for the supply of potatoes into Bluebird and ETA, and before that was responsible for 3500ha of crops in Scotland. He has worked with some of the big names in the agricultural/processing sectors, developed his own seed potato company, and in the 1990s was the biggest organic grower of seed potatoes in Europe by area. Chris is still well-connected to the agriculture industry and offers consultancy services to NZ farmers and packers for their storage and handling systems. Chris shares his real-world experiences and understanding of the importance of incorporating good environmental management with agricultural and horticultural practice.

The experience you need & the support to succeed

When you study at EIT you'll get the kind of experiences that will help you gain the knowledge and skills to get ahead.

You'll also be supported by lecturers and tutors who are here for you, within a learning environment where you are treated as an individual, not just a number.

They'll know your name and you'll receive one-on-one attention to make sure you get the support to succeed.

Course Descriptions

Year One - Level 5

Course No.	Brief Description	NZQA Level	No. of Credits	Semester Offered
ENV5.100	Sustainability 101 Principles and models of sustainability, historic and contemporary Māori sustainability perspectives and practices and contemporary environmental issues.	5	15	1
ENV5.200	Environmental Conservation in Aotearoa Legislation, context and community.	5	15	1
ENV5.400	Environmental Sampling Knowledge and skills required for environmental sampling in order to monitor ecosystems.	5	15	1
ENV5.700	Environmental Science Interactions between humans and the environment.	5	15	1
ENV5.310	Introduction to Biology Introductory knowledge about the biology of plants and animals.	5	15	2
ENV5.500	Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa Biological and cultural knowledge.	5	15	2
ENV5.800	Introduction to Earth System Sciences How natural processes create landforms and provide resources and hazards for humans.	5	15	2
ENV5.900	Introduction to Ecology and Biodiversity Environmental responses of plants and animals, community and ecosystem ecology and conservation biology.	5	15	2

Year Two - Level 6

Course No.	Brief Description	NZQA Level	No. of Credits	Semester Offered
ENV6.100	Freshwater Ecology And Monitoring This course aims to develop students' knowledge about freshwater environments and skills in related sampling and analysis.	6	15	1
ENV6.200	Biosecurity This course aims to develop students' knowledge of global biosecurity risks, threats to the Aotearoa environment and management methods for invasive species.	6	15	1
ENV6.800	Soil Science This course gives an introduction to the nature, formation, and classification of soils, their physical, chemical, mineralogical, and biological properties, and issues of soil quality, land degradation and sustainable management.	6	15	1
ENV6.020	Environmental Monitoring and Management This course aims to develop students' applied knowledge and skills to assist with environmental management, monitoring, analysis and reporting.	6	15	1
ENV6.500	Sustainable Futures This course aims to develop students' knowledge of current trends in sustainability and topics in environmental management.	6	15	2
ENV6.700	Principles of Ecology This course covers the principles of ecology, including adaptation to the environment, intra- and inter-specific interactions, community and ecosystem dynamics, and biogeography.	6	15	2
ENV6.900	Geographic Information Systems This course aims to develop understanding in the use and application of GIS, GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and RS (Remote Sensing) for modelling and presenting spatial data and information.	6	15	2

Course No.	Brief Description	NZQA Level	No. of Credits	Semester Offered
ENV6.030	Environmental Statistics and Research This course aims to develop students' ability to design scientific research and analyse environmental data using standard statistical techniques.	6	15	2

Year Three - Level 7

Course No.	Brief Description	NZQA Level	No. of Credits	Semester Offered
LM6.08	Towards Sustainable Business* The aim of this course is to develop the knowledge, skills, and competencies to evaluate and propose sustainable business practises.	6	15	2
ENV7.100	Ecological Restoration To provide ākonga with the knowledge and skills related to ecological restoration, and to apply the principles and standards as set out by the International Society for Ecological Restoration.	7	15	1
ENV7.200	Environmental Conservation Science To prepare ākonga for professional roles in conservation, equipping them with the skills to design and implement effective conservation strategies in diverse environmental contexts.	7	15	1
ENV7.300	GIS Analytics The aim of this course is to provide ākonga with the knowledge and skills related to GIS for environmental management.	7	15	1
ENV7.400	Scientific Research Project To provide ākonga with the knowledge and skills to carry out an applied research project and effectively communicate their findings to stakeholders using a range of media.	7	30	1 & 2
ENV7.500	Applied Field Surveying The aim of this course is to provide ākonga with the knowledge and skills related to the application of taxonomy, field sampling methods and collection techniques for a range of plants, animals, and fungi.	7	15	2
ENV7.600	Catchment Management - Mountains to Sea* The aim of this course is to provide ākonga with the knowledge and skills related to catchment management in Aotearoa New Zealand.	7	15	2
ENV7.700	Environmental Modelling* Introduces ākonga to the principles and applications of environmental modelling focusing on the development, implementation, and evaluation of models used to simulate environmental systems and processes.	7	15	2

* Only 2 of these courses will be offered in Semester Two.



How to Enrol

There is an easy 3-step process to follow when enrolling at EIT.

Step 1

Check out eit.ac.nz to see the programmes available for you to study. A copy of the course information for each programme is available on our website.

Step 2

You can now use your RealMe verified identity to apply for study at EIT. If you use your RealMe verified identity you will no longer be sent a copy of your application form to sign. You also will not need to provide us with a copy of your primary ID.

If you apply online without using RealMe then you will be sent a summary of your enrolment to check and sign. It will also include course selection forms which you need to complete and return. Your enrolment cannot progress until you have sent the summary and forms back to us.

You can also apply using a paper enrolment form. Please call us on 0800 22 55 348 and we will send you one out.

You will receive an acceptance letter from your Faculty with programme information. This will include the start date of your study and any special information regarding your programme. Depending on your chosen programme of study, you may be invited to attend an interview before you are accepted.

Step 3

Arrangement for full payment of enrolment fees must be made before the start of your programme. You will receive an invoice with payment details.

Fees Free Government Scheme: Tertiary education is fees-free for eligible domestic tertiary students. To check if you are eligible, go to FeesFree.govt.nz and enter your National Student Number (NSN). If you are not eligible you will be responsible for paying your fees.

Scholarships and Grants: Scholarships and grants make life easier by helping to cover your fees, other costs and living expenses while you study. You don't always need to be an academic high-flyer to qualify. You can find out more about scholarships and other options for paying your fees at eit.ac.nz.

StudyLink: If you need to pay for your own study you can choose to apply for your Student Loan and Student Allowance with StudyLink. You should do this early, even if you haven't yet been accepted on your programme. You can change your details later if anything changes. Visit studylink.govt.nz to find out more about StudyLink.

Student Services Levy

The student services levy is a compulsory non-tuition fee that is charged to students enrolled at EIT. The levy is to contribute to the provision of quality student services that support learning. The funds received by EIT from the levy are ring-fenced, meaning they can only be spent on student services.

Student Loans and Allowances

StudyLink is a service of the Ministry of Social Development. Apply well before your programme begins (even if you haven't been accepted yet) so you'll be ready to get your payments when you need them most.

Check out what you qualify for at studylink.govt.nz.



DISCLAIMER:

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Bachelor of Environmental Studies

Enrolment Checklist

Please Note

The following documents need to be completed and returned with your enrolment form.

Without these documents we are unable to proceed with your application.

Please complete and return the following:

- ☐ Enrolment Form
- ☐ Health Declaration
- ☐ English Language Form
- ☐ One page **handwritten** letter explaining why you want to study for a Bachelor of Environmental Studies
- ☐ Verified copy of your New Zealand full birth certificate carrying a unique identification number or Passport*

*Verification of your Birth Certificate or Passport must be completed by a JP, EIT | Te Pūkenga Programme Administrator or Registry staff member.



Bachelor of Environmental Studies

Health Declaration

It is essential to declare honestly on this form. A declaration of a medical condition does not mean that you will be excluded from your preferred programme of study. It provides an opportunity for us to discuss with you an appropriate plan for your situation.

Please read carefully and tick or highlight the appropriate box(es).

Applicant full name: Student ID:
Please print full name clearly If known

Health declaration

I have listed below any medical condition(s) (mental or physical) that may impact on my ability to work safely in the environmental studies field. If none, please write N/A.

Other information

Please let us know of any other information that will help us provide you with the best support to enable you to succeed (for example: learning difficulties, other special needs).



Bachelor of Environmental Studies

Competency in English Language Form

My first language is:

English

☐

Māori

☐

NZ Sign Language

☐

Other: (Please provide details)

☐

If English, Māori or NZ Sign Language are not your first language you will be required to satisfy the English as an additional language requirements. Please refer to the information in this application pack.