



Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies

Study the environment and turn your passion for the environment into a meaningful career.

The Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies is designed for ākonga who already hold a degree in another discipline and wish to transition into the environmental field or upskill with applied environmental knowledge. This one-year, full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme offers a focused suite of courses that combine theory, practical skills, and real-world application.

Location	Hawke's Bay
Start	February and July
Length	1 year full-time*
Contact	Deborah Comrie Phone: 06 830 1376 Email: dcomrie@eit.ac.nz

Environmental management for a sustainable future

The Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies is a 120-credit, Level 7 programme designed to support flexible, individualised learning pathways. Each learner's programme of study is developed in collaboration with the programme team to reflect their academic background, interests, and career goals. While a minimum of 75 credits must be at Level 7 (and include the scientific research course), the remaining credits may be selected from relevant courses at Level 5 and Level 6.

Subject Areas include:

- Biosecurity
- 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

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 Graduate Diploma 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-4.00pm, Monday to Friday.

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



Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies Level 7, 120 credits



Hawke's Bay



Full-time: 1 year
Part-time: up to 3 years



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 of individual study per course per week.

Entry Requirements

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

Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- Successful completion of a three-year degree of equivalent qualification; or
- Applicants from industry who can demonstrate evidence of significant work and professional experience at degree level or above. These applicants will be required to participate in an interview prior to acceptance into the programme.

English Language Entry Requirements

All applicants must demonstrate an acceptable level of English language fluency prior to acceptance in the programme. 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 5 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

Entry with Credit

This is particularly relevant for prospective students who have extensive work experience. For all endorsements Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is available. A maximum of 45 credits from other programmes can be cross credited towards the Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies. Credit transfer cannot be made from the qualifying degree.

- Cross Credit (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.
- There is a fee for RPL.

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

RPL and CC cannot be awarded for a course if you are already enrolled in that course. An original transcript or notice of results from the institute at which you previously studied (or verified copies) will be required for all applications.

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 and tests.

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.



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.

Course Descriptions

The following is a list of courses available in the graduate diploma in Environmental Studies programme.

You must achieve 75 credits at level 7, including the Scientific research course. The remaining credits can come from elsewhere within the programme, subject to pre-requisite requirements.

Each learner programme of study will be designed alongside the learner and will differ depending on the enrolment period and timetabling constraints.

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. <i>Prerequisite: ENV6.900 Geographic Information Systems</i>	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. <i>Prerequisite: ENV6.020 Environmental Monitoring and Management</i>	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.



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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 Graduate Diploma in 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.



Graduate Diploma in 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).



Graduate Diploma in 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.