

What are the entry requirements to get onto the Certificate course?

We are looking for people with a passion for the outdoors. Keen to learn, you will be looking to expand your skills and then pass them on to others. You need to be 18 years old or over. There are also minimum academic entry requirements, see our [Tertiary Prospectus](#) for more information.

What are the entry requirements to get onto the Diploma course?

Have a genuine interest and enthusiasm to instruct and lead others in the outdoors. Be a minimum of 19 years of age and have completed a Level 4 Outdoor Certificate qualification, or have the following equivalent skills and experience:

1. White-water kayaking; independent kayaking in grade 2 water
2. Rock climbing; the ability to set anchors and lead climb with traditional (natural) placements (grade 12/severe)
3. Mountaineering (Alpine); camping and travelling with ice axe and crampons
4. Multi-day tramping (hiking/bush walking); on and off-track
5. Experience of sea kayaking and caving
6. A current first aid certificate
7. Risk management and knowledge of group management

We would need to see a log book of this experience submitted with your application.

There are also minimum academic entry requirements, see our [Tertiary Prospectus](#) for more information.

How much does it cost?

The Certificate course is \$8,900 for Domestic students and \$18,900 for International students.

The Diploma course is \$8,500 for Domestic students and \$18,500 for International students. The fees include the use of selected Hillary Outdoors technical gear outside of course time. You are required to have your own outdoor clothing and some equipment from day one, see our [Tertiary Prospectus](#) for more details.

Can I get funding for the Hillary Outdoors tertiary courses?

New Zealand Domestic students are able to apply for StudyLink funding for courses fees, living expenses and course related costs. Course-related costs can help buy material or services for your course. They are one of the three parts of a Student Loan. You can usually borrow up to \$1,000 a year for course-related costs. Your student loan contract must be accepted before you can claim for course-related costs. Australian Domestic students need to have New Zealand residency to be eligible to apply for StudyLink funding.

Domestic students who have not studied at tertiary level before may be eligible to get their first year free.

www.feesfree.govt.nz

I'm from Australia – do I count as a Domestic or international student?

Australian citizens and residents are treated the same as New Zealand citizens and residents and you will be charged Domestic fees.

Australian citizens or permanent resident who have not studied at tertiary level before may be eligible to get their first year free, as long as they have lived in New Zealand for three years or more. www.feesfree.govt.nz

Where can I go with these qualifications?

The Year 1 Certificate provides you the necessary skills to work in entry level Adventure Tourism/Guiding/instructing roles. The Year 2 Diploma gives you a solid grounding for a career in the outdoors. Companies actively seek our graduates as employees.

Gaining professional industry specific qualifications, through organisations such as NZOIA will improve your ability to gain employment in a range of guiding/instructing positions, both nationally and internationally – or go on to further study. You can travel; run your own business; work as an outdoor instructor.

How do these qualifications compare internationally?

The Year 1 New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (multi-skilled) Level 4 is equivalent to a Level 4 Australian Qualification, and a Level 4 European Qualification (Upper secondary general/Vocational Education Training (VET) school-leaving certificate).

The Year 2 New Zealand Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education (multi-skilled) Level 5 is equivalent to a Level 5 Australian Qualification, and a Level 5 European Qualification (SCHE qualification/higher professional qualification).

Where do I live during term time?

Students need to arrange their own accommodation. They often tend to live in shared rental houses (flattening) in Turangi/Tokaanu, which is a 25 minute drive from Hillary Outdoors. Students also need to provide their own transport to/from Hillary Outdoors to attend course, often car-pooling (sharing) with classmates.

What is the lifestyle like while studying?

The location is ideal for a great lifestyle. Being located in the Central North Island, near Tongariro National Park, means you will have easy access to wonderful outdoor playgrounds with many like-minded outdoor people for weekend adventures. Taupō is close enough to offer all the usual “big city” amenities.

Not only will you be living in a stunning environment, you will have easy access to kayaking, skiing, snowboarding, climbing, ice climbing, mountain biking, caving and more bush than you will ever need right on your doorstep.

When are the holidays?

Courses run from mid-February to mid-November, spread over two semesters and divided into four terms. Year 1 Certificate students have 6 weeks holiday and Year 2 Diploma students have 5 weeks holiday during the course. Dates are subject to scheduling requirements.

Can I work during term time?

It is possible to work during term time, but requires careful planning and time management. Course delivery is generally Monday to Friday, and may involve 25-35 contact hours. You should commit to a 9.00am – 5.00pm day, but your contact hours will vary from week to week. Trips away occur throughout the year when you will be required to be away for one or more nights and these will vary depending on the module. Students will need to commit to completing personal trips outside of course time to practice and consolidate their skills/experience as there is a required minimum number of personal days to be logged for various outdoor activities.

Will I receive any work experience?

Both the Year 1 Certificate and Year 2 Diploma courses include instructional work experience here at Hillary Outdoors Tongariro. Additional work experience occurs in a variety of other outdoor adventure and guiding businesses around New Zealand.

What teaching skills will I gain?

Planning and delivering outcomes-based lessons. Facilitating individual and group development.

Will I learn any business skills?

Graduates of our courses will be able to engage with both clients and employers. Expedition planning including finances, logistics and risk management skills. Communication, presentation skills and working to clients objectives in programme design.

Can I get a job at Hillary Outdoors when I have completed the Diploma course?

Successful Year 2 Diploma graduates may have the potential for future employment at Hillary Outdoors. The application process is the same as for external applicants.

What is the career progression?

Graduates from our Tertiary courses have the world at their feet. Many work as outdoor instructors in all parts of the world, at outdoor centres, some run their own businesses either here or abroad. Others complete further study and move into teaching or working in training and development.

Why should I do the Hillary Outdoors course rather than somewhere else?

You have the opportunity to study at one of New Zealand's leading outdoor education centres with over 40 years behind it. You will be trained by fully qualified, experienced outdoor professionals and have easy access to a wide range of amazing outdoor environments in the Central North Island – alpine, bush, caves, lakes, rivers and rocks.

What is the closing date for applications?

Courses start in mid-February, with applications accepted from July onwards. Skype interviews for all eligible candidates occur from September.

Who can I contact to find out more information?

For enquiries or for more information, contact Tui Brabyn – Tertiary Administrator ph:07 3865511 or email: tuib@hillaryoutdoors.co.nz