

# New Zealand Diploma in Outdoor & Adventure Education (Level 5)



## Take your outdoor skills to the next level with our New Zealand Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education.

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 organized and 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 can also be obtained, further connecting you with the wider instruction and guiding community.

## PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### Compulsory courses

<b>Te Ao Maori</b>	Role model respect for the tikanga of local whānau, hapu and/or iwi and cultural groups while operating in a range of outdoor education contexts.
<b>Outdoor Leadership Skills</b>	Apply a range of teaching, learning and leadership theories to support and enhance outdoor adventure guiding and instruction in an outdoor adventure setting.
<b>Emergency Care in the Outdoors</b>	Prepare for and manage emergency care situations in an isolated location.
<b>Hauora and Safety Management</b>	Be equipped to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing suitable for outdoor instruction, and will develop an understanding of safety management systems relevant to outdoor environments.
<b>Kaitiakitanga</b>	Analyse and discuss elementary ecological and environmental processes and apply principles of conservation and sustainability while leading outdoor activities.

### Elective Courses

**Advanced Sea Kayaking**  
**Advanced Rock Climbing**  
**Advanced Rafting**

### Programme Fees and Additional Expenses

#### **Programme Fees**

\$8,988 including GST



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## What you will learn:

**Graduates of the NZ Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Education Level 5 are able to:**

- Demonstrate technical competency and judgement across a range of outdoor activities while operating in familiar and unfamiliar environments.
- Integrate principles of health, physical and psychological performance to enhance competent and safe participation for self and others in a range of outdoor activities.
- Role model and integrate the principles of kaitiakitanga, sustainability and environmental action while operating in a range of outdoor contexts.
- Role model respect for the tikanga and kawa of local iwi and/or hapū and other cultural groups while operating in a range of outdoor contexts.
- Apply teaching, learning and leadership theories and practices to programmes of learning and skill development that meet the needs of participants in outdoor activities.
- Plan, prepare and instruct or guide participants in a range of outdoor activities while maintaining safe, ethical and professional practice in familiar and unfamiliar outdoor environments.
- Instruct or guide a range of outdoor activities that are consistent with the safety management system of an organisation, including being able to assess and management an emergency care situation in an isolated location.

## PROGRAMME INFORMATION

### Employment Pathway

This qualification can lead to a role as an instructor or guide within community or private outdoor and adventure education/recreation/tourism providers, schools, leadership development programmes or self-employment.

This is a Level 5 qualification, and earns the learner 120 credits.

### Work Experience

Students must complete 30 works of work experience as part of this programme.

All work experience components will be carried out in accordance with the TOPEC Policy and Procedure - Work Placement and Work Experience.

### Entry Criteria

New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Leadership (Level 4) [Ref: 3662]

**OR**

New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor and Adventure Education (Multiskilled) (Level 4) [Ref: 3765]

**OR**

Equivalent skills and knowledge in consultation with TOPEC Director

**AND**

Current Comprehensive First Aid Certificate

**Start Date:** 19th January 2026

**End Date:** 30th October 2026

