

# Environmental & Health Protection



Are you interested in protecting people and communities from environmental hazards such as pollution, unsafe food, infectious diseases and poor living conditions? Health protection is a growing industry, and health protection and environmental health officers are in high demand throughout New Zealand.

## INDUSTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor of Applied Science majoring in Environmental and Health Protection will enable you to gain a job as an Environmental Health Officer or Health Protection Officer. After getting a job with a local authority or other government agency, you will receive the appropriate designation or warrant.

## HOW MUCH COULD I EARN AFTER MY DEGREE?

New graduates starting as environmental health officers at councils usually earn about \$45,000 a year. Environmental health officers with some experience at councils earn an average of \$60,000, going up to about \$70,000 with increasing experience. Environmental health officers working in managerial roles usually earn more than this.

## WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB?

Demand for environmental health officers (EHOs) is very strong and many vacancies remain unfilled within New Zealand. The number of people working as health inspectors (including environmental health officers), doubled between 2001 and 2006, according to Census figures. Our students often gain employment before they complete their degree.

## WHAT TYPE OF EMPLOYERS CAN I WORK FOR?

Environmental Health Officers work for City Councils or Territorial Land Authorities. They help control discharges of hazardous wastes, food hygiene in restaurants, noise pollution and discharges of smoke and gases.

Health Protection Officers work for local Health Boards and are involved in the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the control of disease outbreaks and epidemics.

## CAREER PROGRESSION

Environmental health officers may move into health protection officer roles or progress to team leader, managerial or policy positions. There is also the ability to do individual consultancy in this area.

Information Source: [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

Jaimi is an environmental health officer for the Auckland City Council, and carries out health inspections at food outlets, tattoo parlours, hairdressers, and checks out potential hazards. Jaimi originally did a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Studies and cross credited papers for another two years' study in Health Protection. "I enjoyed the initial health protection papers and knew there was a shortage of health protection and environmental health officers in New Zealand."



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