



Whakatane High School • Marine Studies

At Whakatane High School, students can study the unique Science subject of Marine Studies. The earth's oceans are a very important part of the globe's ecosystems and as a coastal town facing the Pacific Ocean, the marine environment is very important to our community. To learn about marine species and plants, currents, weather patterns and water temperature is to learn that everything is inter-related and of utmost importance to the health of the planet.

At year 12 (NCEA Level 2) and 13 (NCEA Level 3). Students receive four hours of instruction per week from a science teacher who has had special training in marine science. Students complete Achievement Standards and gain credits for the National Certificate of Educational Achievement.



Year 12

The year 12 course covers Coastal Ecology, the Biology of Mussels and Crustaceans, the Deep Ocean, the Biology of Sharks, a practical investigation and a unit on the Sustainability of the Fishing Industry.

Students also have as the opportunity to complete a PADI Open Water Diving qualification.

The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to Marine Science with a balance of theoretical and practical skills. The year 12 course provides a pathway for students into the year 13 Smart Paths Marine Studies programme.



Year 13

The year 13 course was created by the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic Marine

Studies Department and is designed to be taught by secondary school teachers with support and resources supplied by Bay of Plenty Polytechnic.

As part of the course we offer the opportunity to complete a PADI Advanced Diver qualification.

During Term One, student's will use their diving skills to complete a Marine Surveying unit of work which involves carrying out underwater surveys of fish and invertebrates. This carries NCEA credits and will be done at Mayor Island and will be run by Polytechnic dive instructors.

There are also units on Marine Ecology, the Biology of Fin Fish, Marine Reserves, Sustainability of Shark Fishing, Oceanography and an investigation into Crab Behaviour.



Whakatane High School
Goulstone Road
Private Bag 1021

Whakatane 3158 • New Zealand
www.whakatanehigh.school.nz

FindUs App





Whakatane High School

Bay of Plenty • New Zealand

Marine Studies



PADI Open Water Course

Students who join this course have the option to complete a PADI Open Water Dive Certificate. For this they first have to visit their General Practitioner (Doctor) and complete the PADI medical test.

International Students can complete the PADI medical in their home country and then complete the theory component online in their own language before they arrive in Whakatane or once they arrive. Once students have passed the theory exam the practical components of the course take place. This involves a pool session, introductory dives in a lake, followed by sea dives.

The cost for a medical in NZ is about \$NZ 70.00 and the cost for the PADI Dive course is about \$NZ 450.00

Apart from the classroom work, the Marine Studies classes go on several diving trips throughout the year. The cost of a day's diving is around \$NZ 230.00.



Heron Island Dive Trips

There are two 5-day Marine Studies trips to the University of Queensland's Marine Research Centre at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef. One takes place in Term Two (for year 12) and one in Term Three (for year 13).

The Heron Island trip costs about \$ 2800.00 all inclusive. The trips are optional, however the teacher reserves the right to accept or refuse to take students to Heron Island.

Students choosing this subject should bring their wetsuit if they already own one. The availability of the dive trips is subject to student numbers.



Whakatane High School

Goulstone Road
Private Bag 1021
Whakatane 3158 • New Zealand
www.whakatanehigh.school.nz

Member of
ODENZ and Education Tauranga



Please contact our Director of International Students, Mrs **Sue Whale**, for further information: sue.whale@staff.whs.co.nz