



Secondary Programmes at the New Zealand Marine Studies Centre 2026

In 2026, the NZ Marine Studies Centre offers onsite, offsite and online programmes to support Secondary education. All of our programmes are aligned with the NZ Curriculum and can support NCEA assessments. They also allow students access to local marine coastlines, university laboratories, scientific equipment and marine creatures.

For further details phone 03 479 5826, email rob.lewis@otago.ac.nz or see our website: www.marine.ac.nz

Adaptations and Behaviour

Mighty Molluscs or Crabs Galore – Year 9-10

How do adaptations identify a taxa and how do variations to these relate to a species' survival in it's niche? Classify molluscs or crustaceans, investigate how they feed and survey the intertidal zone to compare the distribution of their species.

3 hrs. \$13.5 per student (GST excl.)

Intertidal Investigation – Year 12

Investigate adaptations and community structure on the rocky shore using appropriate sampling techniques either as a practice (formative) or final (summative) assessment for NCEA. Links well with Diversity in Form & Function for a full-day programme. .

Supports BIO2.6-AS91158 (can be adapted for SCI1.2-AS91921 and EASS2.4-AS91190)

3hrs. \$13.5 per student (GST excl.)

Diversity in Form and Function – Year 12-13

A comparative study to look at structure and function in relation to survival in particular niches. Adaptations observed and demonstrated with living examples. Laboratory series of comparative dissections. Focus is flexible depending on teachers' requirements: respiration/gas exchange, feeding/nutrition, or reproduction/ life histories.

Supports BIO2.6-AS91155 (can be adapted for BIO3.5 AS91605)

3 hrs. \$13.5 per student (GST excl.) and \$2 per student (GST excl.) for dissection

Small Animal Study – Year 13

Carry out a practical investigation in a biological context. Focus on one animal species and investigate its behaviour in response to abiotic and biotic factors. Design and carry out individual student investigations. Includes support with reference materials and bioethics.

Supports BIO3.1-AS91601 (can be adapted for BIO2.1-AS91153 and EASS2.4-AS91190)

19hrs approx. \$4.5 per student per hour (GST excl.)

Behaviour of Marine Animals – Year 13

Investigate the behaviour of marine animals in response to abiotic and biotic environmental factors. Living examples of symbioses, predator/prey adaptations, reproductive strategies and biological clocks.

Laboratory series of mini investigations with live examples of taxes and kineses.

Supports BIO3.3-AS91603.

2 hrs. \$9 per student (GST excl.)

Socio-scientific Issues, Conservation, and Local Contexts

Meeting with a Marine Scientist – Year 9-13

Online

All our programmes can be supported either partly or fully by distance, allowing students to engage with our scientists. Examples are: i) support for data analysis and interpretation of 3.1 achievement standards in Science, ii) Discussion of socio-scientific issues, and iii) live induction to intertidal transect surveys so students are equipped to carry one out themselves.

\$60 per hour (GST excl.)

Marine Plastics, from Micro to Macro – Year 9-11

At the NZMSC or on your local shore

Investigate ocean currents and anthropogenic impacts through a survey of ocean litter, where data collected feeds directly into the NZ waste legislation. Provides students with the training, equipment and technology to take part as 'Citizen Scientists' in the Litter Intelligence Project.

Supports SCI1.1-AS91920 (can be adapted for EASS3.2-AS91411, BIO3.2-AS91602, and MATH1.1-91944)

3hrs. Tide dependant. \$13.5 per student (GST excl.)

Ocean Acidification – Year 12-13

Carry out a practical investigation in an Earth and Space Science context. Focus on abiotic changes of a future ocean (pH and/or temperature) and investigate the potential physical, ecological, or behavioural impacts. Design and carry out individual student investigations. Under guidance, students do practical work and data collection. Includes support with reference materials and bioethics.

Supports EASS3.1-AS91410 (can be adapted for EASS2.1-AS91187 and EASS2.4-AS91190)

19hrs approx. \$4.5 per student per hour (GST excl.)

NZVR Caring for Taoka Species – Year 9-11

In your classroom

Experience Aotearoa/NZ's marine environment through Virtual Reality videos (Blake NZ-VR, NZ Geographic). Students will learn about the physiology and classification of marine mammals, explore the history of these animals in Aotearoa, and how scientists study them. Discuss environmental and anthropogenic factors that impact local extinctions, and come up with actions that we can take to better look after these species and protect the moana.

Supports SCI1.1-AS91920

Class up to 35. 1-2 sessions \$200 (GST excl.), 3-4 sessions \$320 (GST excl.)

Monitoring the Moana Participatory Science - Year 9-13

Use scientific methods to monitor marine communities in all scales. Choose between using microscopes to identify and count plankton, underwater cameras to look for sharks and identify fish, or quadrats to survey the shoreline.

Can support SCI1.1-AS91920, SCI1.2-AS91921, and MATH1.1-91944

3hrs. May be tide dependant. \$13.5 per student (GST excl.)

Customisable Programmes

Our programmes can be customised to fit your class and enquiry topics. Most of our programmes can be adapted to fit different age groups and learning needs. Programmes can be combined to cover content of multiple topics/assessments in one day. Just get in touch with our educators to find out what we can do for you and your class.

Please note: the prices quoted are for NZ schools only and do not include GST. We are happy to adapt these programmes for other interested groups.





Secondary programmes

Marine Discoveries for Schools

Join scientists and wildlife at the NZ Marine Studies Centre

Get hands-on with live species, work in University laboratories and get access to local marine coastlines. In 2026, the NZ Marine Studies Centre offers both onsite and online programmes to support Secondary learning.

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