

RADIATION THERAPIST KAIHAUMANU PŪHIHI

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Kia Ora **Hauora**
Supporting Māori into Health

WHAT IS A RADIATION THERAPIST?

Radiation therapists are part of a specialised team that use radiation to treat diseases, mostly cancers, in patients.

- work with radiation oncologists (cancer specialists) to plan and deliver treatment
- use computed tomography (CT) scans, computer programmes and clinical information to plan radiation treatment
- make immobilisation devices, such as masks, to help patients lie still during treatment
- build rapport and communicate with patients during treatment
- deliver radiation treatment using high energy x-ray machines (linear accelerators)
- educate people about radiation therapy and its side effects.

WHERE DO RADIATION THERAPISTS WORK?

In oncology (cancer) departments at

- Public hospitals
- Private hospitals

WHAT TRAINING DO I NEED?

To become a radiation therapist, you need to have a Bachelor of Radiation Therapy (BRT), or another qualification recognised by the Medical Radiation Technologists Board. You also need to be registered with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board.

The Bachelor of Radiation Therapy (BRT) is only available from the University of Otago's Wellington campus, and there are about 30 places on the course each year.

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

NCEA Level 3 in at least three or more of the following subjects, or at least one year's university study in science and psychology. Useful subjects include:

- Biology
- Maths
- Science
- Physics
- English
- Te Reo Māori (optional)

