



Made for More

 Elim Leadership College

Prospectus 2027

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Welcome



Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to Elim Leadership College (ELC)

Choosing to study is about much more than gaining a qualification. It is about discovering who God has created you to be, growing in your faith, and preparing to influence the world around you. For more than three decades, ELC has equipped people throughout Aotearoa New Zealand for ministry, leadership, and service. Our vision is to develop Christ-centred leaders who make a lasting difference in churches, communities, workplaces, and nations.

At ELC, learning happens in community. As students journey together, they are encouraged, challenged and inspired by lecturers and experienced ministry practitioners. Excellent support is provided by supervisors and a dedicated support team.

Whether you are taking your first steps in theological study, preparing for ministry leadership, or seeking to deepen your understanding of God and His purposes, we invite you to join us. We believe God has placed gifts, purpose, and calling within every person. Our commitment is to help you discover those gifts, strengthen your faith, and equip you to serve with confidence and humility.

We would be honoured to walk this journey with you.

Andrew Fistonich

Principal

ELC's Mission & Who We Are

**Our mission is to train and equip leaders
to reach, serve and influence the world for Christ.**

We are Elim

Elim Leadership College (ELC) was established in 1997 by Elim Christian Centre — our culture and DNA are Elim. We serve the whole Elim movement and welcome students from other churches also.

We are partnering

We believe the best way to equip leaders is in the environment of a healthy local church. We partner with local churches in which our students serve. Therefore, we only enrol applicants into our programmes who have been endorsed for ministry by their Pastor.

We are growing people

We seek to grow leaders of Christ-like character who have developed practical leadership and ministry skills. We are committed to walking with each student on their personal leadership journey of growth.

We are equipping for practical ministry

In all our programmes, learning goes hand-in-hand with real-world application.



Why Study At Elim Leadership College?

All learning is Bible-based

- Our leadership streams are all biblically-based and taught by experienced practitioners
- We teach biblical interpretation and theology in all of our programmes
- We believe in the life-changing message of the gospel and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit

Learning is transformational

- Biblical truth, an emphasis on spiritual growth, mixed with outstanding support from our Student Support team and church-based mentors results in life transformation
- With our blended delivery model, regular lectures are delivered online. For those in the internship programmes, two in-person Block Intensives accelerate and consolidate learning and relationships, and are an opportunity for encountering God in a fun environment

Academic learning is paired with hands-on experience

- Interns are based in their local church where their ministry is guided by a supervisor and supported by a mentor
- Night School students can outwork their learning in their local context
- Our programmes are NZQA accredited and teach transferable skills

ELC sets you up for lifelong leadership

- Learning how to sustain your faith in life's trials is essential in today's world. ELC will equip you to continue growing in your Christian journey and leadership development
- Graduates have stepped into pastoral roles or have taken the knowledge and skills into the community and marketplace



Elim Leadership College has shaped me by deepening both my theological understanding and my leadership. It has challenged me to think biblically, lead with greater humility, and continually prioritise my relationship with Jesus above ministry outcomes. The integration of learning with practical ministry has allowed me to immediately apply what I've studied within my local church, strengthened my confidence and competencies as a pastor and reinforced in my thinking that healthy leadership flows from ongoing spiritual formation and lifelong learning, for "All ministry is overflow."

KAYLIN TAMIHANA

Lead Pastor, Elim Christian Centre Whangarei

What Can I Study?

QUALIFICATION		LEVEL	DURATION	STUDY OPTION
Night School	NZ Certificate in Christian Studies	Level 3	One year	Part time (Evenings)
Internships	NZ Certificate in Christian Ministry	Level 4	One year	Full time
	NZ Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership)	Level 5	One year	Full time
	NZ Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership)	Level 6	One year	Full time

Internships

Internships are for those who want to grow in their faith. You may want to learn to lead ministry teams well, have a greater influence in your community, or feel called to be a pastor. After a conversation with your pastor, a ministry area will be determined for your year of serving. Lectures and tutorials are delivered weekly online, with ministry in your home church supported by a mentor and supervisor.

Each of the three years of the internship programme has its own qualification; however, they are all integrated and each subsequent year builds on the former.





My three years at ELC have shaped me in ways I am still deeply grateful for. As a 2023 graduate, ELC grounded me in God's Word, shaping how I see God, people, and ministry. It formed me spiritually and emotionally, teaching resilience, obedience to Jesus, and faithfulness in everyday life. I was also equipped with practical leadership and pastoral skills in serving, listening, and walking with people well. These foundations have led me into full time youth work with rangatahi in their communities, living out ministry wherever God places us.

CHENAE KOREWHA
Level 6 Internship graduate

Night School

Explore Faith. Grow Deeper. Perhaps you volunteer in your church and have a busy life during the day but want to strengthen your faith and deepen your understanding of the Bible. This part-time programme delivered in the evening is for you.

You will learn and grow in your Christian life by gaining a foundational knowledge and understanding of biblical principles and Christian practices. The Certificate in Christian Studies Level 3 is an NZQA approved qualification. An online community is created through lectures and tutorials delivered weekly in the evenings.



Internships

Academic Study and Practical Ministry

NZ Certificate in Christian Ministry (Internship) Level 4

Level 4 | 120 credit | Full time | 1 year | NZQA accredited

The Certificate in Christian Ministry (Internship) is ideal for those with ministry potential who feel called to serve in their local church. The content of this programme is divided into two main areas, theoretical (60 credits) and practical (60 credits) linking theory with practice. Interns work within their home church (or another ministry context) under a supervisor and supported by a mentor.

Courses

- ***Leadership Foundations (15 credits)***
An introduction to foundational Christian leadership principles including both personal and organisational aspects and practices needed for sustainability in leadership.
- ***Defining our Faith (15 credits)***
This course provides a basic understanding of Christian beliefs and begins to outline some of the practical implications of these beliefs for Christian life and ministry.
- ***Ministry in Action (15 credits)***
This course provides a foundational understanding of Christian ministry including working with volunteers, leading a small group and communication.
- ***Reading and Interpreting Scripture (15 credits)***
This course overviews the story of the Bible and introduces students to the core skills required for interpreting scripture.
- ***Internship 1 (30 credits)***
Interns work independently in their local church under the guidance of an experienced local supervisor and mentor. They will set goals for their ministry area and learn to prioritise key tasks and responsibilities.
- ***Internship 2 (30 credits)***
In conjunction with their supervisor, interns will review goals and revise their plans in a manner that builds on what they accomplished in Internship 1. They will also evaluate their work/life balance to ensure sustainable leadership and ministry.

In undertaking this programme interns will commit to approximately 33 hours per week:

- 1 x 1-hour tutorial per week (Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:00am)
- 2 x 2-hour live online lectures per week (Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 am and 12 noon – 2pm)
- 15 hours per week ministry in their local church
- 13 hours per week of self-directed study and assessments

Additionally:

- 1 x online Block Intensive (in February)
- 2 x residential Block Intensives (May and August in Auckland)

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be 18 years or over. There are no academic prerequisites.

International Students

A minimum English Language IELTS (Academic) 5.5 with no band score lower than 5, or equivalent is required.



I grew up in church and already had ministry experience, but I reached a point where I wanted a stronger foundation in who God is, why I believe in Jesus, and what my faith is really about. ELC gave me the space and challenge to grow deeper in my walk with Jesus, reminding me that who I'm becoming matters just as much as what I'm doing. The practical ministry experience prepared me for my current role and continues to shape how I build relationships, lead people, and faithfully serve and contribute to God's house.

TONE TOGIATAMA

Worship Pastor, Elim International Church Wellington

NZ Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership) Level 5

Level 5 | 120 credit | Full time | 1 year | NZQA accredited

This programme is designed to build on the learning gained in the first year, further developing interns in their church ministry effectiveness and leadership skills as well as gaining transferable skills and personal attributes. Interns work within their home church (or other ministry context) under a supervisor and supported by a mentor.

Courses

- *Leadership in Action (15 credits)*

This course develops the student's knowledge and understanding of Christian leadership and how it applies. Core leadership practices and Christian leadership models will be examined, and critical and strategic thinking skills are developed.

- *Studying and Communicating God's Word (15 credits)*

This course focuses on the core principles of exegesis and hermeneutics. Students will also have the opportunity to practically apply what they have learned through giving short presentations.

- *Theology in Practice (15 credits)*

This course unpacks two core Christian doctrines – ecclesiology and pneumatology, evaluating their application for the church today and within the student's own ministry context.

- *Following Jesus: Discipling Yourself and Others (15 credits)*

We examine the biblical and theological basis for discipleship, and evaluate contemporary discipleship models.

- *Practical Ministry 1 (30 credits)*

This course enables students to formulate and implement their own ministry plan and strategies, and review and evaluate their performance under the guidance of an experienced local supervisor and mentor.

- *Practical Ministry 2 (30 credits)*

This course enables students to reformulate and implement their own ministry plan and strategies based on research completed during semester one and review and evaluate their performance under the guidance of an experienced local supervisor and mentor.

In undertaking this programme interns will commit to approximately 33 hours per week:

- 1 x 1-hour tutorial per week (Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:00am)
- 2 x 2-hour live online lectures per week (Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 am and 12 noon – 2pm)
- 15 hours per week ministry in their local church
- 13 hours per week of self-directed study and assessments

Additionally:

- 1 x online Block Intensive (in February)
- 2 x residential Block Intensives (May and August in Auckland)

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be 18 years or over and have completed the NZ Certificate in Christian Ministry (Level 4) or equivalent, or meet the criteria for recognition of prior learning.

International Students

A minimum English Language IELTS (Academic) 5.5 with no band score lower than 5, or equivalent is required.



NZ Diploma in Christian Studies (Christian Leadership) Level 6

Level 6 | 120 credit | Full time | 1 year | NZQA accredited

The aim of this programme is to produce Christian leaders who have both the theoretical understanding and operational skills required to undertake a senior position within a church or church-related agency.

Courses

- ***Project Management (40 credits)***

This is a year-long course where students set up and manage a major project through the year providing regular progress reports, and evaluating project delivery and outcomes. The project will be specific to their ministry responsibility and be conducted under broad supervision.

- ***Exemplary leadership (40 credits)***

This is a year-long course that covers a range of leadership topics, including models of Christian leadership, exemplary leadership practices, emotional intelligence, and leading through crisis. Students will critically evaluate each of these areas, applying them both in their own lives and in their ministry context and integrating biblical and theological understanding.

- ***Ministry in Practice (20 credits)***

In this course, students will examine various responsibilities within their area of ministry, and evaluate at least one of the areas identified from several viewpoints including practical, biblical, and theological perspectives. They will then reflect on how they have practically responded to these issues.

- ***Personal Growth (20 credits)***

In this course, students will critically reflect on their own personal, spiritual and leadership development, formulating actions for improvement and evaluating the results.

ELC has been the anchor of my spiritual and leadership growth. I joined the Night School as a new Christian where I learned to dive into Scripture and truly apply it. Internships (Levels 4–6) expanded my heart to deeply know God, taught me to simply be with Him, to sit, contemplate His character, and let His presence reshape my leadership. This powerful foundation gave me the confidence to step out and be who He made me to be. Today, I am incredibly honoured to serve as the Next Steps Pastor at Elim Christian Centre, Pukekohe. ELC prepared me for my purpose.

KATE ERAMIHA

Next Steps Pastor, Elim Christian Centre Pukekohe



In undertaking this programme interns will commit to approximately 33 hours per week:

- 1 x 1-hour tutorial per week (Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:00am)
- 2 x 2-hour live online lectures per week (Wednesdays, 9:00 – 11:00 am and 12 noon – 2pm)
- 15 hours per week ministry in their local church
- 13 hours per week of self-directed study and assessments

Additionally:

- 1 x online Block Intensive (in February)
- 2 x residential Block Intensives (May and August in Auckland)

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be 18 years or over and have completed the NZ Diploma in Christian Studies (Level 5) or equivalent, or meet the criteria for recognition of prior learning.

International Students

A minimum English Language IELTS (Academic) 6.0 with no band score lower than 5.5, or equivalent is required.



Studying at ELC was a life-changing journey for me. As an international student, I faced the challenge of studying in English, but the staff and those around me continually encouraged and supported me. Through biblical teaching and leadership training, I grew closer to God, built meaningful relationships, and discovered that effective leadership begins with a servant's heart. ELC equipped me spiritually and practically to serve with confidence in Chinese Alpha, Small Groups, and among international students. I am deeply grateful for how it continues to shape my faith, ministry, and everyday life.

JANICE WU

Small Groups in Chinese Alpha Assistant
Elim Christian Centre Botany

Night School

NZ Certificate in Christian Studies Level 3

Level 3 | 40 credit | Part time | 1 year | NZQA accredited

The Certificate in Christian Studies Level 3 is ideal for those who want to learn and grow more but are unable to commit to full time learning. You will learn and grow in your Christian life by gaining a foundational knowledge and understanding of biblical principles and Christian practices.

Designed for busy adults, parents, church volunteers, and those wanting to grow in their faith, Night School provides accessible biblical training that fits around work, family, and ministry commitments.

Courses

Term 1	<i>Relationship with God (10 credits)</i> This course focuses on how to develop and maintain a strong relationship with God. Students will also be encouraged not only to reflect on how they spend their time with God, but also make a spiritual growth plan to target specific areas of growth.
Term 2	<i>Digging into God’s Word (10 credits)</i> This course overviews the storyline of the whole Bible, enabling students to grasp the magnitude of the overall story. Along the way, students will be introduced to some basic tools for studying the Bible and begin to put them into practice by making their own observations of some selected Bible verses and passages and discussing how these might apply today.
Term 3	<i>Biblical Leaders (10 credits)</i> In this course, students will examine what it means to be a biblical leader, by drawing lessons from the lives of selected leaders in the Bible. Along the way, students will be encouraged to reflect on their own personal leadership and character growth.
Term 4	<i>Living and Sharing Your Faith (10 credits)</i> The book of James highlights many practical ways to live out your faith in difficult situations. In this course, students will study this very practical book. They will not only be reflecting as to how the principles James shares might apply to them today, but will also learn how to share their faith with others.

In undertaking this programme students will commit to approximately 10 hours per week:

- One evening lecture per week Tuesday 7.00 – 9.00 pm (two hours)
- One evening workshop per week Thursday 7.00 – 8.00 pm (one hour)
- Associated readings and assignments – self-directed learning

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be 18 years or over. There are no academic prerequisites.



I enrolled because, although I'd been a Christian for many years, I wanted a deeper understanding of God's Word and to grow closer to Him. This course came alongside me during one of the hardest seasons of my life and became a real anchor in my life. ELC staff and the online community encouraged, prayed for, and challenged me, reminding me that heart transformation matters more than perfect grades. The teaching was practical, engaging, and easy to understand. If I could fit this course into my busy family life, anyone can and I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone.

JESSLYN COMISION
Night School, Level 3 graduate



I longed to know God's Word more deeply but had no idea this journey would be divine heart surgery, reshaping my faith, purpose, and identity at every step. Night School was a foundation and a stepping stone into Level 4, which enabled me to be refined from the inside out. Then, in Level 5, I uncovered the "why." In Level 6, I carry not just knowledge but a mature, Spirit-led confidence to serve, lead, and disciple. These sacred pages of my story have been hand-shaped by God Himself. Every lesson learned, prayer prayed, conversation shared, and breakthrough won has become part of who I am.

NAHUM CHIKOWARE
Night School, Level 3 graduate

Academic Dates

SEMESTER ONE 2027	
Night School orientation	Tuesday 2 February
Night School lectures commence	Tuesday 9 February
Internship orientation	Wednesday 10 February
Night School workshop commence	Thursday 11 February
Semester One begins	Monday 15 February
Internship Block 1 Intensive	Monday 15 February – Thursday 18 February
Easter	Friday 26 March – Monday 29 March
Internship Block 2 Intensive	Monday 31 May – Thursday 3 June
Anzac Day (observed)	Monday 26 April
King’s Birthday	Monday 7 June
Matariki	Friday 25 June
Semester One ends	Friday 2 July

Fees

PROGRAMME FEES - NIGHT SCHOOL	
NZ Certificate in Christian Studies Level 3	\$1,412

All fees are inclusive of GST

SEMESTER TWO 2027	
Semester Two commences	Monday 19 July
Night School commences	Tuesday 20 July
Internship Block 3 Intensive	Monday 23 August – Thursday 26 August
Labour Day	Monday 25 October
Night School ends	Friday 3 December
Semester two ends	Friday 3 December
Graduation	Sunday 12 December

INTERNSHIP BLOCK INTENSIVES	
Block 1 Intensive	Monday 15 February – Thursday 18 February
Block 2 Intensive	Monday 31 May – Thursday 3 June
Block 3 Intensive	Monday 23 August – Thursday 26 August

PROGRAMME FEES - INTERNSHIPS	
NZ Certificate in Christian Ministry Level 4	\$6,150
NZ Diploma in Christian Studies Level 5	\$5,814
NZ Diploma in Christian Studies Level 6	\$5,520

Next Steps

We invite you to take the next steps in your journey.
Scan the QR code for our website and to commence your application.
Ensure you meet the entry requirements listed below.



Student Loans and Allowances

Internship programmes are eligible for student loans and allowances through Studylink.

Entry Requirements for Internship Programmes

- **Level 4:** Applicants must be 18 years or over. There are no academic prerequisites.
- **Level 5:** Applicants must be 18 years or over. NZ Certificate in Christian Ministry (Level 4) or equivalent, or meet the criteria for recognition of prior learning.
- **Level 6:** Applicants must be 18 years or over. NZ Diploma in Christian Studies (Level 5) or equivalent, or meet the criteria for recognition of prior learning.
- Police vetting is part of the enrolment process to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults and children.

International Students

- For Level 4 and Level 5 a minimum English Language IELTS (General and Academic) 5.5 with no band score lower than 5 is required.
- For Level 6 a minimum English Language IELTS (General and Academic) 6.0 with no band score lower than 5.5 is required.

Entry Requirements for Nights School

- **Level 3:** Applicants must be 18 years or over. There are no academic prerequisites.

Get In Touch



For further information: <https://www.elc.ac.nz>

Instagram: @elimleadershipcollege

Phone: 09 280 3246

Email: info@elc.ac.nz

ELC's Mission

TO TRAIN
AND EQUIP
LEADERS
WHO
REACH,
SERVE AND
INFLUENCE
THE WORLD
FOR CHRIST

Accreditation

Elim Leadership College is accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority under the provisions of the Education Act 1989 to provide education and training.



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