INFORMATION SHEET

Piano Tuning Technician

Leading to New Zealand Certificate in Piano Tuning and Technology (Level 4) 210 credits

Domestic Fees	Start Date
$65 per credit*	July Jan
Location	**Duration**
TBC	3 years

*Courses fee may vary slightly

The purpose of the programme

The aim of this programme is to provide safe, competent and professional acoustic piano tuner-technicians who can tune, repair, regulate, and rebuild upright and grand pianos, and operate a business providing piano repair and maintenance services.

Graduates of this programme will be able to:

- Tune and regulate pianos
- Repair and rebuild pianos
- Apply culturally appropriate and ethical professional and customer service skills to operate within a piano repair and maintenance business

COURSES/COMPONENTS

This programme is broken down into 24 courses that are delivered across three years.

Year 1 is full-time with some flexibility and part-time or distance options. Year 2 and 3 is part-time as it is expected that learners are working or have placement in the industry either in retail, or with piano tuner/technician or placed with a mentor. This is to enable the time to develop their craft.

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Course Code	Course Title	Credits	Purpose
Year 1			
PT4.101	History and Development of the Piano	5	This course establishes the professional knowledge and literacy required for piano tuners and technicians to be able to have professional dialogue with clients, customers and others. It covers knowledge of different keyboard instruments and the history and evolution of the piano, manufacturing and design and features.
PT4.102	Safe and Professional Work Practice	1	This course enables the learner to demonstrate capability to develop safe systems of work that underpins all the practical course work.
PT4.103	Piano Parts and Terminology 1	5	This course provides learners with appropriate and authentic language for repair tasks, documentation, ordering components and underpins repair and rebuild work. Some learning will take place in a piano workshop or as work experience.
PT4.104	Tuning Hammer Fundamentals	4	This course enables learners to apply the correct technique to maintain personal safety while undergoing piano tuning work as well as develop the knowledge and skill to tune accurately. They will be instructed how to do this and then will practice to gain confidence to start to master the technique (this may be in a piano workshop or as part of work experience).
PT41.05	Moving Pitch Accurately	4	This course enable learners to develop their technique for pin-setting to control pitch movement. Learners will be able to control pitch changes repeatedly and this underpins tuning, temperament and octave work. Learners will be instructed how to do this and then will practice to gain confidence to start to master the technique (this may be in a piano workshop or as part of work experience).
PT4.106	Piano Acoustics and Tuning Theory	8	This course is fundamental to developing the listening strategies for piano tuning. The knowledge gained from this course directly underpins the practice of piano tuning.
PT4.107	Tuning Unisons	7	This course covers ergonomics and safe body mechanics as well as development of a consistent technique when undertaking piano tuning activities. This is a core competency for all tuning activity. Learners will be taught techniques and then they must practice the skills to develop their mastery either in a workshop setting or as work experience.
PT4.108	Tuning Octaves	7	This course is to provide the ergonomics and safe working practice to underpin tuning practice. It includes octave specific pin control, and techniques that determine accuracy and stability. This is a core part of the practice of piano tuning. Learners will be taught techniques and then will practice skills to develop their mastery either in a workshop setting or as work experience.
PT4.109	Piano Tuning Temperament	6	This course covers the technical component directly impacting tuning accuracy and pin-setting including laying a temperament and stabilising unisons as a central competency of aural tuning. Learners will be taught techniques and then will practice skills to develop their mastery either in a workshop setting or as work experience.
PT4.110	Regulating Upright Pianos	12	This course is to provide conceptual grasp of action geometry that underpins all regulation tasks for upright pianos. Learners will apply this knowledge to regulate upright pianos under supervision. Learners will be taught techniques and then will practice skills to develop their mastery either in a workshop setting or as work experience.

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PT4.111	Regulating Grand Pianos	13	This course is to provide conceptual grasp of action geometry that underpins all regulation tasks for grand pianos. Learners will apply this knowledge to regulate grand pianos under supervision. Learners will be taught techniques and then will practice skills to develop their mastery either in a workshop setting or as work experience.
PT4.112	Piano Repair Fundamentals	16	This course is to provide the most common fundamentals of piano repair work on both upright and grand pianos. It includes the repair of action, keys and pedals to the standard required by the manufacturer's instructions, under supervision.
PT4.113	Applied Piano Tuning I	22	This course provides an opportunity for the learner to apply piano tuning knowledge and skills in a work environment, under supervision. Learners will conduct piano tuning and operate professionally, maintaining records and documents and interacting with customers.
Year 2			
PT4.201	Woodshop Skills for Piano Technicians	4	This course is to provide the core repair craft skills that underpin action, key and case repairs. It includes the safe and competent use of a hand and power tools, and accurate measuring techniques to enable efficient repair tasks.
PT4.202	Piano Parts and Terminology II	2	This course supports the selection of parts and materials as they relate the maintenance, regulation and repair of pianos. It covers the characteristics of the different materials used.
PT4.203	Restringing and Re-pinning Techniques	15	This course is to enable correct tool selection and preparation to be able to repair pianos competently. This is core rebuilding practice with significant practical components through projects supported by supervisor either in workshop or in work experience.
PT4.204	Business Skills for Piano Technicians	8	This course includes an awareness of obligations under Te Tiriti as it relates to engaging in clear and respectful communications with diverse clients and different contexts. It enables learners to meet legislative obligations and provide good-faith service practice. This includes diagnostic reporting in plain language for consumer confidence and good bookkeeping business practice skills relevant to operating a piano tuner and technician business.
PT4.205	Applied Piano Tuning II	21	This course is to enable the learner to engage in authentic practice to continue to develop their skills by applying their knowledge of piano tuning through tuning pianos under supervision. They will engage culturally appropriate customer service techniques and good business practice in a retail or other appropriate setting.
Year 3			
PT4.301	Intermediate Woodshop Skills for Piano Technicians	1	This course is to continue to develop the skill of core repair craft skills that underpin action, key and case repairs. It includes the safe and competent use of a hand and power tools, and accurate measuring techniques to enable efficient repair tasks.
PT4.302	Rebuilding Upright and Grand Pianos	19	In this course the learner will identify parts, source materials and make decisions for a rebuild project focusing on action, keys and pedals.
PT4.303	Player, Digital and Hybrid Pianos: An Introduction	4	This course is to expose learners to different types of pianos, their system functions, typical failure modes and the service implications so that learners

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			can set realistic scopes and timelines for prospective clients.
PT4.304	Tuning Upright and Grand Pianos	8	This course enables learners to continue to develop their skill and practice in piano tuning. They will focus on applied control that directly affects pin-setting accuracy and stability across a full instrument. It extends from the temperament to full-range tuning, integrating unisons, octaves and appropriate stretch with documented workflow. It also introduces ensemble/paired tuning (for duets or rehearsal settings) requiring refined judgement and alignment.
PT4.305	Voicing and Tone Regulation	8	This course is to introduce voicing and tone regulation of pianos. Learners will learn techniques to modify, improve and even out tonal quality of pianos.
PT4.306	Applied Piano Tuning III	10	This course is to provide an opportunity for learners to continue to develop their skill and practice in piano tuning with reduced supervision. Learners will exhibit professionally competent behaviours through culturally ethical business practice and respectful communication, reflection and review.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INFORMATION

For those already involved in piano tuning and technology, you may be eligible for credit recognition. Contact us to discuss.

Each course is delivered in succession, with applied courses acting as a capstone for each year. Some courses have requirement for placement. Placements with mentors are limited, and progression into practical and placement-based courses will be dependent on progress in theory courses, and on placement available. This ensures that the goodwill and capacity of mentors and industry partners are respected.

Types of topics you will learn include:

- Knowledge and history of pianos – types of instruments, evolution of piano to the modern instrument
- Business and customer services skills
- Technical skill and strategies working with upright and grand pianos
- Tuning and technician work – maintenance, regulation and repair
- Different piano types

Assessment will be a combination of practical work, supervisor sign off, assignment and tests.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Students will be 16 years or age or older
- Domestic student
- Have a musical background (plays an instrument/some music exams)
- All will be required to attend an interview/audition. Good aural perception and basic keyboard skills is required.
- This is a practical occupation and so good manual dexterity and flexibility is required. This will be ascertained during interview, including any support or adjustments you

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might need.

- Learners will need access to piano tuner/technician's workplace or mentors particularly for year 2 and 3.

More information about what to provide as evidence of meeting entry criteria and what to expect in the interview will be made available once you apply to enrol. Initially, enrolment may be granted for theory courses ONLY, in order to manage the limited placement opportunities for practicals.

PATHWAYS AND FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS

Graduates may progress to higher level qualifications in music and other related areas.
Graduates of this qualification may enter the workforce as piano tuner-technicians and in other related areas in the music industry.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY INCLUDES:

The Music Diploma (Performance) L5

Intro to Taxation for Creatives (Micro-credential) L5

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

This programme is TEC funded. Learner fees are around $65 (includes GST) a credit. For eligibility to access loans and allowances see **https://www.studylink.govt.nz** For Refunds and fee protection see: Important information

Recommended that students will need to provide their own:

- Laptop computer (**to access online components**)
- Stationery (paper, pens, journal books)
- You may wish to purchase some texts for your own library, but all learning materials will be provided.

For the practical courses you will need access to*:

- Tuning hammers and range of tuning tips
- Tuning mutes and temperament strip(s)
- Electronic tuning devices
- Regulating and repair tools, restringing tools, voicing tool(s)
- General hand tools, screwdrivers, pliers
- Consumables – glue, sandpaper
- Well organised tool case
- Travel and accommodation to placements

Expected costs

- Tuning tools and basic tools $1,600
- Regulating and repair tools $1500
- Rebuilding tools $500

Total: **Basic kit $3,100***

*There are a wide variety of tuner tools on the market. Guidance will be provided in the course, and you will have the chance to try a variety of tuning hammers in class, so you can purchase items that best suit you. Some loan tools may be available. New Zealand Piano Tuners and Technician Guild (NZPTTG) members may be able to access subsidies for travel to courses.

Go to website for more information

ENROL NOW!

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