

## Environmental Engineer / Teacher



Nadeen  
Papali'i

I am of Samoan descent from Otara, Auckland. I attended Auckland Girls Grammar School.

My subject selection in high school was largely based on the subject requirements to get into engineering at the University of Auckland. I completed a Bachelor of Engineering majoring in Chemical and Materials (Honours) and also a Masters in Environmental Engineering (Honours). I then enrolled in a graduate programme called Teachfirst NZ and completed a postgraduate diploma in teaching - field based, and a postgraduate certificate with Unitec, MindLab, in digital and collaborative learning.

I did a lot of my training within engineering but I had very little experience within the workforce. Towards the end of my Masters' degree, I wasn't quite ready to enter the workforce. I still wanted to train and grow my confidence. TeachFirst NZ provided an opportunity to develop leadership, which has brought me to where I'm currently at, teaching Mathematics and directing the Health Science Academy at Tangaroa College.

I chose STEM because I loved problem solving and figuring out why things worked the way they did. Hearing there was (and still is) a need for more female Pacific representation within the field, I figured why not channel my purpose towards responding to a need, and so, my journey with STEM continues.

### Pathway:

- Year 11: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Maths, and Accounting
- Year 12: Physics, Chemistry, English, Calculus, Japanese and Accounting
- Year 13: Physics, Chemistry, Calculus, English and Japanese
- Bachelor of Engineering Majoring in Chemical and Materials (Hons)
- Masters in Environmental Engineering

# Environmental Engineer

[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

Environmental engineers assess the impact of engineering projects on water, soil, air and noise levels, and advise and design ways to minimise this impact. They also plan and design systems to treat and remove waste, such as waste water systems.

## Pay

Graduate environmental engineers usually earn  
**\$45K-\$75K per year**

Senior environmental engineers who work as team leaders or managers usually earn  
**\$100K-\$120K per year**

Source: Robert Walters Global Salary Survey, 2015.

## Job opportunities



Chances of getting a job as an environmental engineer are good due to a shortage of people in the role.

## Secondary education

A tertiary entrance qualification is required to enter further study. Useful subjects include English, maths with calculus, physics and chemistry.

## Length of training

3-4 years of training required

