

How to apply for a PhD at the University of Auckland

PhD applications may be submitted at any time during the year.
Apply online at www.auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications

Step 1. Check your eligibility

www.auckland.ac.nz/doctoralentry



Step 2. Choose your area of interest

Decide on your potential research topic, then check our active research in that area by exploring:

- Faculty and department websites
- Discovery Profiles
<https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz>
- Find a supervisor
auckland.ac.nz/findasupervisor



Step 3. Prepare your documentation

You will need electronic copies of:

- Undergraduate and Postgraduate academic transcripts
- Initial Statement of Research Intent (complete this with your proposed supervisor)
- Curriculum vitae (résumé)



Step 4. Apply online

www.auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications

You will receive an acknowledgment email with your Application for Admission login details. You can use these details to keep track of your application status.

English language pathway

If you do not meet the English language requirements, we have two English language pathways that can help:

Foundation Certificate for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP)

www.ela.auckland.ac.nz/fcerteap

Fast-track programme: English Pathway for Postgraduate Studies (EPPS)

www.ela.auckland.ac.nz/epps

Application help

Follow our step-by-step guide for doctoral applications, admissions and enrolment.

www.auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications

Find an official agent or overseas representative who can help you with the application process in person.

www.auckland.ac.nz/overseasrep

Get answers to your questions using our online help tool.

www.askauckland.ac.nz

Email us at postgraduate@auckland.ac.nz for application help.



Doctor of Philosophy

PhD | 2023



School of Graduate Studies

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Email: postgraduate@auckland.ac.nz

www.postgrad.auckland.ac.nz

FAQs: AskAuckland.ac.nz



No.1
New Zealand
University*



No.6
Global Impact
Ranking**



Top 50
in the world for
12 subjects***

About the PhD

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a globally recognised postgraduate research degree and the highest academic degree you can achieve.

As a doctoral candidate, you will undertake three to four years of research. This will culminate in a thesis of original research that contributes significantly to knowledge and understanding in your discipline. Your thesis will be directed by your supervisors, then assessed by external examiners appointed by the University.

Why a PhD at the University of Auckland?

World-class reputation

The University of Auckland is among the top 1% of university globally. We are the highest-ranked¹ university in the country², and the only New Zealand institution in the QS top 100.

Leading research

We are New Zealand's largest research organisation, supporting 60 research units, centres and institutes. We have the most comprehensive research offerings of any university in the country, supported by the highest level of research funding.³

www.auckland.ac.nz/research

Extensive specialisations

We offer PhD studies in over 100 subjects, across all faculties and institutes:

Arts

www.arts.auckland.ac.nz

Business

www.business.auckland.ac.nz

Creative Arts and Industries

www.creative.auckland.ac.nz

Education and Social Work

www.education.auckland.ac.nz

Engineering

www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz

Law

www.law.auckland.ac.nz

Medical and Health Sciences

www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz

Science

www.science.auckland.ac.nz

Liggins Institute (health research)

www.liggins.auckland.ac.nz

Auckland Bioengineering Institute

www.abi.auckland.ac.nz

Outstanding academic community

We have the highest concentration of top-ranked researchers in New Zealand, and they support the greatest number of doctoral candidate completions in the country. Members of our thriving doctoral community regularly publish papers, attend international conferences and make significant contributions to global research.

Enriching environment

Discover our rich local culture, unique landscape and the reason our city's exceptional standard of living is among the best in the world.



Auckland, New Zealand

- A safe, culturally diverse city in a beautiful and politically stable country.
- New Zealand's largest city at 1.6 million people, and the centre of retail and commercial activity.
- Set on a magnificent harbour and combining the best of vibrant city life with refreshing natural beauty.

Work rights and family benefits

As a PhD candidate you have open work rights under the terms of your student visa.

On completion of your PhD, you can apply for a three-year Post-Study Work Visa (Open) which allows you to work for any employer in New Zealand.

Your spouse or partner is eligible for an open work permit valid for the duration of your PhD programme.

Your dependent children can attend New Zealand's primary and secondary schools at the same subsidised rate as New Zealand children.

www.immigration.govt.nz

New Zealand's borders are open and all international student visas are being processed as normal. Detailed instructions on how to apply for your student visa can be found on our website: auckland.ac.nz/visa-information

How we support you

Domestic fee rates

New international PhD candidates who live in New Zealand during their doctoral study pay the same annual tuition fees as New Zealand students. In 2023, that is just NZ\$7,659.60 per annum (excluding compulsory fees).

Generous scholarships

A range of scholarship options is available for international PhD candidates, including country-specific funding, the University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships and project-specific funding.

www.auckland.ac.nz/is-scholarship

Automatic research funding

Research support funding is available automatically to all PhD candidates. Postgraduate Research Student Support (PReSS) is a monthly payment for up to four years, intended to cover research costs and contribute to research-related travel, conference attendance and research consumables.

Doctoral development

The University offers a comprehensive range of services to support doctoral candidate development. You could benefit from in-person workshops, online learning and a range of other resources and unique opportunities to help you refine your skills and employability.

English language development

Our English language pathway helps anyone with a conditional offer to meet our language requirements. Once in the programme, you can explore our English language enrichment opportunities to support your studies.

Dedicated advice

Teams of expert advisers provide support throughout your studies. The International Office provides student advice around visas, opening a bank account and living in a new country. Once enrolled, the School of

Graduate Studies answers questions about your programme. Before that, please contact us at

www.askauckland.ac.nz or postgraduate@auckland.ac.nz

Accommodation

We can help you find quality accommodation in the heart of Auckland City, whether you are a single student, part of a couple or bringing your family. Choose from University residences or private accommodation.

www.accommodation.ac.nz

Preparing to apply

Entry requirements

Acceptance on to the programme is subject to staff availability for supervision, and appropriate facilities. You must demonstrate an ability to research independently and possess a high level of theoretical understanding of your subject area. You must also have completed a significant research project, dissertation or thesis during your qualifying degree. You can check your eligibility using our online calculator. All PhD candidates must have a GPE of 6.0 or above.

www.gpecalculator.auckland.ac.nz

You will need an overall IELTS academic score of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0, or approved equivalent.*

www.auckland.ac.nz/doctorenltry

Find a supervisor

We recommend that you engage with a prospective supervisor before you begin your online application.

Search Discovery Profiles, our online database of researchers and experts, to find detailed information about potential supervisors.

<https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz>

You can also browse the research going on in our different faculties and schools and find a supervisor to match your research interests.

auckland.ac.nz/findasupervisor

*You may apply for the PhD programme and receive a conditional offer if you have not yet met English proficiency requirements.



Dr Hamed Minaeizaeim was studying his PhD in Bioengineering at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) when he developed a device to make the chest physiotherapy exercises prescribed for children with lung disorders a fun thing to do.

The device, BreatheHero, was developed in collaboration with a team of researchers at the University, and has won several awards including the UniServices prize in the Velocity \$100,000 Challenge.

For his PhD Hamed focused on the lung, using mathematical modelling to develop a framework to track changes in diseased lungs more precisely than is currently possible. He was supervised by Dr Alys Clark and Professor Merryn Tawhai, both internationally recognised pioneers in lung modelling research.

Hamed began his studies in mechanical engineering in Iran before winning a scholarship to Stellenbosch University in South Africa, where he completed a Masters in Mechatronics Engineering. He decided to follow up on his passion for biomedical engineering and moved to Auckland to study at the ABI.

"It is one of the best multidisciplinary bioengineering institutes in the world," he says. "It's a multicultural institute with so many incredibly talented students and researchers who are researching cutting edge technology and science to reshape the future."

Hamed is now employed as a Research Health Intelligence lead at Mahitahi Hauora. He is leading a data analytic team to better identify where the gaps are in healthcare systems and how to address that.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND KEY STATISTICS

RANKED #1

The University of Auckland is the highest performing university in New Zealand, and ranks within the global Top 100 universities in the QS rankings for 2023.

Each year the University awards

225 new University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships

Auckland is ranked **1st in the world**

for **quality of living** by the 2021 EIU ranking (Economist Intelligence Unit)

Cover attributions:

*Times Higher Education 2022 and QS World Rankings 2023 **Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2022 QS World Rankings by Subject 2022

More than **3000** doctoral candidates; around **50%** international

We have the **highest concentration of top-ranked researchers** in New Zealand

