

Policy, Practice and People

Postgraduate study in Social Practice,
Global Studies, Indigenous Studies
and Public Policy



auckland.ac.nz/arts/pg-study



Waipapa
Taumata Rau
**University
of Auckland**



Why postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study offers a transformative pathway to advance your expertise, broaden your career horizons, and make a meaningful impact in your chosen field. As New Zealand's highest-ranked university*, our postgraduate programmes combine academic excellence with real-world relevance, empowering you to stand out in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Whether you're pursuing further study directly after your bachelors, planning a career change, or seeking specialist skills to elevate your leadership potential, you'll find options that align with your goals.

With world-class teaching, cutting-edge research, and a global alumni network, postgraduate study here is more than an academic milestone, it's a launchpad for your future.

**65th in the world, QS World University Rankings*



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What postgraduate study is right for me?

Postgraduate certificates (PGCert) and diplomas (PGDip)

Postgraduate certificates and diplomas are a good choice if you want to do further study in an area you're interested in without doing a research project and/or you'd like to study part-time over a longer period and want a more flexible route to enrol in a one-year masters degree.

PGCert:

A PGCert is a shorter, more focused postgraduate qualification that provides a focused introduction to a subject. Most postgraduate certificates at Waipapa Tamata Rau are designed to be 60 points, which represents a focused programme of study.

PGDip:

PGDips are a longer, more in-depth option. Most postgraduate diplomas are designed to be completed in one year of full-time study, requiring 120 points. Some programmes allow for part-time completion, often over two years.

Masters

A masters degree offers a range of options and is a good choice if you want to dive deep into a specialist area, contribute to knowledge in your field or upgrade your skills and expertise.

The majority of our masters programmes offer both a taught pathway (more classes, smaller dissertation research project) and a research pathway (larger thesis research project) and are offered as a 120-point degree or 180-point degree.

A 120-point masters typically requires one year of full-time study, while a 180-point masters usually requires 1.5 years of full-time study. The point value also reflects the workload and the amount of material covered.

The 180-point programme is designed for students who may not have the specific prior qualifications for the 120-point programme or who prefer a longer, more in-depth study experience.

Doctorate

A PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) gives you the opportunity to take on independent and original research, supervised by academic experts and research leaders. You'll network and collaborate with a wide range of figures in your field, and it can be the beginning of an academic research career path.



Lead change, empower communities

Postgraduate study in Social and Community Leadership, Social Work, and Professional Supervision equips both experienced practitioners and career-changers with the advanced skills, insight, and ethical grounding needed to lead meaningful change in complex social environments.

These programmes recognise the value of transferable skills gained across a wide range of professions, such as leadership, communication, problem-solving, and strategic thinking and build on them through critical analysis, cultural competency, policy understanding, and evidence-based practice.



Ready to make a meaningful impact?

If you're passionate about solving society's most difficult problems, it's critical to build a range of professional skills to help foster change. For those seeking a more purpose-driven career, this is your pathway to transition into work that creates tangible social impact.

With a strong emphasis on leadership, supervision, and social justice, postgraduate study in Social and Community Leadership, Social Work or Professional Supervision empowers graduates to translate existing expertise into purposeful work, fostering positive change for individuals, organisations, and communities, while building a deeply fulfilling professional future.

Students learn to guide teams, support workforce wellbeing, and foster sustainable change across the social-good sector, including NGOs, iwi and community organisations, health and social services, and public agencies.



Social and Community Leadership

Social innovation is now seen as a critical tool to deliver a more just and equitable world, while leadership is a critical component of successful social change. Drive this change by enhancing how organisations lead, deliver, and facilitate initiatives that make a real difference. Ideal for graduates and professionals seeking leadership, programme design, or evaluation roles across social, community, health, and education sectors.

Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Community Leadership

Flexibly designed to suit those working full- or part-time in community, government, not-for-profit and social good sectors, as well as graduates from a range of disciplines, this certificate will advance your skills and build your ability to lead and innovate.

- 60 points
- Available part-time (there is no full-time certificate option)

Master of Social and Community Leadership

With its strong foundation of leadership training, this programme will teach you how to implement solutions that respond to social and community contexts. By learning about evaluation and research, you will gain the knowledge and abilities to produce more sustainable and scalable change in a complex world.

- 180 points
- Full-time: 18 months, available part-time

Please note: This programme can be completed 100% online (depending on your elective choices), 100% face-to-face or a mixture of both.

Counselling

Postgraduate study in Counselling prepares you for a profession focused on supporting mental health, emotional wellbeing, and personal development. You will gain advanced therapeutic skills for working with individuals, families, and diverse communities, enabling you to practise with empathy, cultural responsiveness, and strong ethical awareness across a range of settings.

Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling Theory

Develop foundational counselling skills and explore key therapeutic approaches, theories, and ethical frameworks that underpin effective practice. This programme provides a pathway to advanced study and professional training in counselling.

- 120 points
- Full-time: 1 year, available part-time

Please note: The PGDipCounsTh is equivalent to the first year of the Master of Counselling. If you achieve a GPA of 5.0 or higher and include a research methods course, you may apply to progress into the second year of the Master of Counselling. The programme includes supervised counselling practice (minimum 100 hours) and professional supervision requirements

Master of Counselling

Build advanced capability in counselling practice through supervised clinical experience, research-informed learning, and critical reflection. You will deepen your understanding of therapeutic approaches and develop the professional competencies required to support clients across a range of contexts.

- 180 or 240 points
- Available part- and full-time

Please note: This is a limited-entry programme requiring relevant prior study, professional experience, and an interview. This programme is designed for those seeking to develop professional counselling practice and may contribute toward meeting requirements for professional registration, depending on the pathway completed.

Social Work

Postgraduate study in Social Work prepares you for a profession dedicated to confronting social inequality and supporting positive change in the lives of individuals, and communities. You will develop advanced skills for working with children, families, and diverse cultural communities, enabling you to practise with confidence, cultural responsiveness, and ethical awareness across a wide range of settings.

Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work

Explore advanced approaches and interventions in social work practice and examine current research in social work. Pursue this programme as a standalone qualification or as a pathway to the Master of Social Work.

- 120 points
- Full-time: 1 year, available part-time

Please note: The PGDipSW is equivalent to the first year of the Master of Social Work. If you complete the PGDipSW with a GPA of 5 or higher, you can choose to progress to the second year of the Master of Social Work. There are some pre-requisites. More information can be found on our website.

Master of Social Work

Build advanced capability in social work interventions and develop the research expertise needed to critically examine practice, generate insight, and drive continuous improvement in the field.

- 120 or 240 points
- Available part- and full-time

Please note: This programme is for qualified social workers. If you are looking for a postgraduate programme in order to become a qualified social worker, see the Master of Social Work (Professional) below.

Master of Social Work (Professional)

Ideal for graduates from varied disciplines who are driven by human wellbeing and social justice, this programme builds advanced capability in bicultural practice, collaborative partnership, and forward-looking social sector leadership, preparing you to effect meaningful change across complex systems. This programme leads to registration as a qualified Social Worker.

- 240 points
- Full-time: 2 years, available part-time

Which programme is right for me?

A common question facing prospective students is what programme they should choose.

Social practice is a broad discipline that touches on many areas, including those that intersect with social and community leadership. However, there are some key distinctions that separate the programmes.

Master of Social and Community Leadership (MSCL)

You should choose the MSCL if you want to produce social change by making organisations more effective in how they lead, deliver, and facilitate said change.

You may be interested in this programme if you:

- Are coming from undergraduate study and want to develop deeper knowledge of working in this exciting area of social and community change and leadership
- Already have a social work qualification and want to develop leadership and/or programme design and evaluation skills and competencies
- Already work in the social and community, health or education sectors and are looking to step up into leadership, programme design or evaluation roles

Master of Social Work (MSW)

Choose the MSW to deepen your expertise in social work theory, policy, and research, and to develop advanced skills in programme design, evaluation, and social impact without pursuing professional registration.

Perfect for graduates and professionals who want to influence organisations, shape policy, and lead initiatives that create real change in communities and social systems.

Unlike the MSCL, which focuses on leadership across social and community organisations, the MSW emphasises critical analysis, interdisciplinary research, and advanced practice knowledge. It provides the tools to shape policy, design and evaluate programmes, and lead initiatives that create meaningful change across the social, health, and community sectors.

Master of Social Work (Professional) (MSW (Prof))

The MSW (Prof) is the programme to pick for a rewarding career as a qualified social worker. It combines advanced theory with hands-on practice, preparing you to support individuals, families, and communities while building the skills, cultural competence, and professional expertise required for registration.

Ideal for graduates and professionals ready to step confidently into the social work profession. This programme will prepare you to lead, advocate, and drive positive change across communities, health, education, and social services throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

Professional Supervision

Strengthen your clinical practice and enhance your professional supervision skills to better support practitioners and clients alike. Engage with complex social issues and explore a focused area of clinical or supervisory interest.

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Supervision

Develop your knowledge and skills in this multi-disciplinary programme designed to meet the demand for qualified supervisors in a range of contexts. It is possible to credit the courses passed for this certificate to the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Supervision, if you wish to advance your qualification further.

- 60 points
- Full-time: 6 months, available part-time

Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Supervision

Grow your skillset through short block-courses and online flexible self-directed study, with feedback from peers and lecturers. Through elective courses you will have an opportunity to develop critical skills in staff management and explore teaching and learning strategies for supervising students on placements.

- 120 points
- Full-time: 1 year, available part-time

Master of Professional Supervision

This programme offers a broad understanding of professional supervision, covering various theories, models, and skills relevant to the field. It emphasises the development of a strong theoretical foundation and the ability to critically analyse and integrate different perspectives in supervision.

- 180 points
- Full-time: 18 months

Master of Professional Supervision (Practice)

This programme is tailored for experienced professionals seeking to deepen their specialized knowledge and practical application of professional supervision in diverse contexts. It concentrates on the application of advanced knowledge to practice, with a strong emphasis on cultural sensitivity and sustainable practices within various settings.

- 180 points
- Full-time: 18 months

Which masters should I choose?

The main difference between the two masters programmes is that the **Master of Professional Supervision (Practice)** comprises 30-point papers which focus on practical approaches and specialist skills. This programme is tailored for professionals who want to strengthen their supervision skills within their current practice.

The thesis route for developing bespoke research in professional supervision is the **Master of Professional Supervision**. This programme is designed for those aiming to lead and shape the field of professional supervision.

Please note: Both masters programmes require that you have at least three years of relevant professional experience and be currently employed or volunteering in a relevant professional context. Relevant contexts may include health, counselling, education, social or human services.



"I'm a lecturer for a nursing programme and my teaching is around how we understand ourselves and others, I also work in a coaching and development capacity, so my work is all about helping people to reach their potential. The Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Supervision has given me a deeper insight into my teaching content and provided me with more resources for my lecturing role.

"The flexibility and format of classes make the certificate very manageable for full-time workers – I'd definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to develop in supervision or management roles."

REBECCA WEBSTER

Graduate: Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Supervision
Family Violence Coordinator at Health NZ - Waitematā



Bridge cultures, influence the future

Postgraduate study in Global Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Public Policy provides both experienced professionals and career-changers with the knowledge, analytical skills, and cultural understanding needed to navigate and influence complex societal and political landscapes.

Building on the strengths you have already developed in your career, these programmes expand your capacity for research, policy development, advocacy, and strategic planning.

Whether your background is in government, non-profit, education, or other sectors, you will gain the insight, professional credibility, and reflective practice skills to pursue role where your work can drive lasting positive change.





Ready to create real-world change?

These programmes emphasise critical thinking, intercultural awareness, and evidence-informed approaches, preparing graduates to engage with global and local challenges in meaningful and impactful ways, opening doors to a wide range of career opportunities.

Graduates are equipped to take on leadership and specialist roles in government, international organisations, non-profits, and community-based organisations, as well as in research, advocacy, and policy development. By developing advanced analytical, strategic, and intercultural skills, you are positioned to influence decisions and initiatives that shape societies both locally and globally.

Completing one of these programmes also enhances professional credibility and career mobility. You will gain the capacity to navigate complex policy environments, lead cross-cultural initiatives, and engage effectively with stakeholders across sectors.

Whether you aspire to advise governments, drive social and economic change, or contribute to Indigenous and community-led initiatives, postgraduate study provides the tools, networks, and confidence to progress into roles that align with your values and maximise your impact.



Master of Global Studies

Designed for graduates of a Bachelor of Global Studies, Bachelor of Arts, or Bachelor of Science with a relevant major, who are ready to deepen their understanding of the complex forces shaping our world.

Explore human rights, environmental sustainability, global business, and Indigenous issues while developing the analytical, creative, practical and collaborative skills to drive meaningful change.

This is a taught masters which allows you to tailor an individual study pathway within a flexible and robust curriculum framework, encompassing courses in a wide variety of fields.

- 180 points
- Full-time: 18 months

"Being issue driven and being able to approach a challenge from a range of perspectives, gives students essential critical thinking skills that are valuable in the for-profit, non-profit, governmental, and entrepreneurial professional realms."

CHRIS OGDEN

Associate Professor, Programme Director and Associate Professor in Global Studies

Where can this programme take me?

This degree equips you to make a tangible impact across sectors and disciplines. You will develop practical skills in creative problem-solving, strategic thinking, collaboration, and partnership-building, preparing you to address real-world challenges and drive meaningful change on a global scale.

Graduates of the Master of Global Studies are well positioned for dynamic and future-focused careers. The programme develops highly sought-after capabilities in global analysis, cross-cultural communication, policy thinking, and collaborative leadership, opening professional pathways across international development, diplomacy, government, NGOs, business, sustainability, media and consultancy. It also provides the stepping stone to doctoral study and the opportunity to contribute leading research in these fields.

For early-career graduates, the degree provides a strong platform to enter globally oriented roles, while professionals benefit from enhanced strategic insight and the ability to work effectively across borders and sectors. Employers value graduates who can navigate complexity, build partnerships and translate global challenges into practical solutions, making this qualification a powerful driver of career progression in both local and international contexts.

Master of Indigenous Studies

Study the innovations emerging from the world of Indigenous research. Grounded in Māori and global Indigenous perspectives, this programme explores the political, cultural and economic dimensions of Indigenous life, with a strong focus on tino rangatiratanga (self-determination). Students are encouraged to think critically, work across disciplines, and develop a nuanced understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems as dynamic, future-focused and deeply connected to place, language and community.

Designed for both emerging graduates and experienced professionals, the degree equips students with advanced analytical, research and leadership skills that are highly valued across public policy, education, community development, health, environmental management and the creative industries.

Students benefit from close engagement with leading Indigenous scholars and a learning environment that supports meaningful dialogue, ethical research practice and real-world impact.

- 120 or 180
- Available both full- and part-time

Where can this programme take me?

Graduates of the Master of Indigenous Studies are well positioned to contribute to Indigenous advancement and social justice initiatives, while strengthening their ability to work effectively with Indigenous communities in Aotearoa and globally.

You will gain a distinctive and highly transferable skill set that enhances career pathways across a wide range of sectors. The programme strengthens strategic thinking, policy analysis, research capability and cultural competency, preparing graduates to take on influential roles in government, iwi and Māori organisations, NGOs, education, health, environmental management, and consultancy.

For professionals already in the workforce, the degree supports career progression and leadership development. Employers increasingly seek graduates who can engage thoughtfully with Indigenous knowledge, Treaty-based frameworks and community-led approaches, making this qualification a powerful asset in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally.

Master of Public Policy

A Master of Public Policy equips you with the tools to understand, design and influence public decision-making in complex and rapidly changing environments. The programme offers a strong foundation in policy analysis, economics, governance and evidence-based decision-making, while engaging critically with the social, political and ethical dimensions of public policy.

You will learn to assess policy impacts, evaluate alternatives and develop innovative solutions to pressing issues such as inequality, climate change, housing, health and economic development, with a strong emphasis on real-world application.

Designed for both recent graduates and working professionals, the degree develops advanced analytical, research and communication skills that are highly valued across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Students benefit from close connections with policymakers, practitioners and leading academics, as well as opportunities to apply their learning through practical projects and policy-focused research

- 120 and 180 points
- Available both full- and part-time

Where can this programme take me?

Graduates of the Master of Public Policy are highly sought after for their ability to analyse complex issues and translate evidence into practical, well-informed policy advice. The degree supports strong career progression into roles such as policy analyst, advisor, consultant and strategist across central and local government, Crown entities, international organisations, NGOs and the private sector.

For professionals already working in policy-related fields, the programme enhances leadership capability and strategic influence, while recent graduates gain a clear pathway into impactful public service careers.

Employers value graduates who can combine rigorous analysis with strong communication skills, ethical judgement and an understanding of the political realities of decision-making, making this qualification a powerful asset for shaping policy outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand and globally.



Application details

For information about all the postgraduate programmes and courses we offer, visit

auckland.ac.nz/aed/pg-study

Application details

Check postgraduate entry requirements:

auckland.ac.nz/pg-entry-requirements

Apply:

auckland.ac.nz/apply

Need help with your application or have questions?

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs

auckland.ac.nz/askus





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