

# Doctor of Philosophy

PhD | 2026



**TOP 2%**

WORLD UNIVERSITY  
SUSTAINABILITY RANKING\*

**TOP 50**

IN THE WORLD FOR 5  
SUBJECTS\*\*



Waipapa  
Taumata Rau  
**University  
of Auckland**

# UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND KEY STATISTICS

#1

UNIVERSITY IN NEW ZEALAND<sup>1</sup>

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 2026.

EACH YEAR THE  
UNIVERSITY AWARDS

225

NEW UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

On average during their studies,  
doctoral candidates attend

3

CONFERENCES AND AUTHOR

3

PUBLICATIONS

AUCKLAND IS RANKED

#5

IN THE WORLD

for quality of living by the Mercer  
Quality of Living City Ranking 2024

WE HAVE MORE THAN

3,000

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

AROUND

50%

ARE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We have the  
HIGHEST CONCENTRATION  
OF TOP-RANKED  
RESEARCHERS  
IN NEW ZEALAND

## About the PhD

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

International doctoral candidates at the University of Auckland pay the same tuition fees as New Zealand doctoral candidates – just NZ\$8,347.20<sup>2</sup> or around US\$5,000.<sup>3</sup>

## Why a PhD at the University of Auckland?

### World-class researchers

We are an institution of global standing, ranked 65th in the world.<sup>1</sup> We have the highest number of top-ranked researchers and annual graduate student completions of any university in the country.

[auckland.ac.nz/research](https://auckland.ac.nz/research)

### Dynamic international community

Our doctoral candidates and supervisors represent the best and brightest from all over the world, representing around 90 nations. We come together to find solutions to humanity's greatest challenges.

### Comprehensive support

We support your PhD journey with our outstanding financial, academic, research, career, and wellbeing services. These include comprehensive training and development opportunities, and the unique Postgraduate Research Student Support (PReSS) account – individual funding granted to every doctoral candidate for research expenses.

[auckland.ac.nz/doctoral-candidates](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoral-candidates)



## Extensive specialisations

We offer PhD studies in over 100 subjects, across all of our Faculties, Large Scale Research Institutes, and University Research Centres:

### Arts and Education

[auckland.ac.nz/arts](https://auckland.ac.nz/arts)

### Business and Economics

[auckland.ac.nz/business](https://auckland.ac.nz/business)

### Engineering and Design

[auckland.ac.nz/engineering](https://auckland.ac.nz/engineering)

### Law

[law.auckland.ac.nz](https://law.auckland.ac.nz)

### Medical and Health Sciences

[auckland.ac.nz/fmhs](https://auckland.ac.nz/fmhs)

### Science

[auckland.ac.nz/science](https://auckland.ac.nz/science)

### Liggins Institute (health research)

[auckland.ac.nz/liggins](https://auckland.ac.nz/liggins)

### Auckland Bioengineering Institute

[abi.auckland.ac.nz](https://abi.auckland.ac.nz)

We have 60-plus Research Centres and institutes, learn more online.

[auckland.ac.nz/research-centres](https://auckland.ac.nz/research-centres)

Te Aka Mātauranga Matepukupuku

**Centre for Cancer Research**

Ngā Ara Whetū

**Centre for Climate, Biodiversity & Society**

CCREATE-AGE

**Centre for Co-Created Ageing Research**

Te Poutoko Ora a Kiwa

**Centre for Pacific and Global Health**

**James Henare Māori Research Centre**

**MĀPIHI: Māori and Pacific Housing  
Research Centre**

\* QS Sustainability Rankings 2025

\*\* QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025

1. QS World University Rankings 2026

2. This is the 2025 tuition fee. The 2026 tuition fee had not been set at the time of publication. To be eligible for the domestic fee, you must reside in New Zealand for the duration of your PhD programme. However, you may undertake research activities and conferences overseas during your doctoral programme.

(for a cumulative total of no more than 12 months).

3. October 2025

## Why Auckland?

- › A safe, culturally diverse city in a beautiful and politically stable country.
- › New Zealand's largest city at 1.7 million people, and the centre of retail and commercial activity.
- › Set on a magnificent harbour and combining the best of vibrant city life with inspiring natural beauty.



"Interactions with lab mates and supervisors create a rich intellectual environment where ideas are shared, perspectives are challenged, and collaborations are formed."



**Zhibo Xing, China**  
PhD in Computer Science  
[auckland.ac.nz/meet-zhibo](https://auckland.ac.nz/meet-zhibo)

## Employment opportunities

When you study in New Zealand as a full-time international PhD candidate, your visa will allow you to undertake paid work. On completing your PhD, you may apply for a three-year post-study work visa through Immigration New Zealand.

[auckland.ac.nz/visa-information](https://auckland.ac.nz/visa-information)

## Family benefits

As a PhD candidate based in New Zealand, you can bring your family when you study. Your spouse or partner may apply for an open work visa valid for the same duration as your student visa.

[immigration.govt.nz](https://immigration.govt.nz)

## 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 2026 that is expected to be about US\$5,000 per annum (excluding compulsory fees).

### Generous scholarships

A range of scholarship options are available for international PhD candidates, including country-specific funding provided by your home government and local agencies. The University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships (UoADS) are also an option for all applicants. These are highly competitive and only available as part of the admission process.

[auckland.ac.nz/phd-scholarships](https://auckland.ac.nz/phd-scholarships)

### CSC scholarship

This is offered by the Chinese Scholarship Council and provides a living allowance, economy return airfares, student visa

fees, and the cost of health insurance for up to four years.

[auckland.ac.nz/china-csc](https://auckland.ac.nz/china-csc)

### Automatic research funding

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

[auckland.ac.nz/press](https://auckland.ac.nz/press)

### Doctoral development

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

[auckland.ac.nz/doctoral-opportunities](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoral-opportunities)

### English language development

Our English language pathways help 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.

[ela.auckland.ac.nz](https://ela.auckland.ac.nz)

### Dedicated advice

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) facilitates support and services for doctoral candidates, from enrolment to completion. Our Doctoral Experience team works to ensure that all doctoral candidates have access to a wide range of training, development and networking opportunities across the University's research community.

[auckland.ac.nz/doctoral-candidates](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoral-candidates)

## 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.

[auckland.ac.nz/accommodation](https://auckland.ac.nz/accommodation)

## 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. 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.

[gpecalculator.auckland.ac.nz](https://gpecalculator.auckland.ac.nz)

You will need an overall IELTS academic score equivalent.\*

[auckland.ac.nz/doctoralentry](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoralentry)

### Find a supervisor

Before you complete your online application, please contact the academic whom you would like to work with during your PhD. You can find information about all of our supervisors online.

[profiles.auckland.ac.nz](https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz)  
[auckland.ac.nz/findasupervisor](https://auckland.ac.nz/findasupervisor)

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/research](https://auckland.ac.nz/research)

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



# How to apply for a PhD at the University of Auckland

PhD applications may be submitted at any time and a PhD candidate can begin their studies on the first of any month of the year. While there is no application closing date, please note that many scholarships have closing dates. Applications can be submitted at any time, but if you wish to be considered for a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarship (UoADS), note that there are four closing dates for applications. If you are awarded a UoADS, you would need to start on one of four start dates throughout the year. You cannot be awarded a UoADS if you already have a scholarship funded by a foreign government or agency. If you are not on a UoADS Scholarship, you can start in any month of the year.

You need to allow at least three months between submitting a completed application and receiving an offer of a place in the programme. Often it takes longer than three months. You can speed things up by:

- › Applying when you have completed your qualifying programme or are close to completion
- › Submitting all of the required documents in a timely fashion
- › Securing the support of a main supervisor before you begin your online application
- › Making sure that your referees submit their references as soon as possible
- › Responding promptly to any requests for additional information, including revisions to your statement of research intent.

Apply online at [auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications)

## Step 1. Check your eligibility

- › [auckland.ac.nz/doctoralentry](https://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:

- › **Find a supervisor:** [profiles.auckland.ac.nz](https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz)
- › Faculty and department websites

The support of a supervisor is strongly encouraged but it does not guarantee you a place in our programme. You should already be in touch with a proposed supervisor and have their agreement that you can name them in your application.



## Step 3. Check application closing dates

- › If you are applying for the Doctor of Clinical Psychology or Doctor of Education, see [auckland.ac.nz/pg-closing-dates](https://auckland.ac.nz/pg-closing-dates)
- › For other doctoral programmes, you can submit an Application for Admission at any time.



## Step 4. Prepare your documentation

You will need electronic copies of:

- › Undergraduate and Postgraduate academic transcripts
- › Initial Statement of Research Intent
- › Curriculum vitae (résumé)
- › English language test results
- › Evidence of your prior research experience: thesis/dissertation and/or publications



## Step 5. Apply online

[auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications](https://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 pathways

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



Foundation Certificate for Academic Purposes (FCertEAP)



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

## Application help

Follow our step-by-step guide for doctoral applications, admissions and enrolment. [auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications)

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

[auckland.ac.nz/overseasrep](https://auckland.ac.nz/overseasrep)

Get answers to your questions using our online help tool. [askauckland.ac.nz](https://askauckland.ac.nz)



Waipapa  
Taumata Rau  
**University  
of Auckland**

Email: [studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz)

[auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications](https://auckland.ac.nz/doctoralapplications)

FAQS: [AskAuckland.ac.nz](https://AskAuckland.ac.nz)