

Guide for international students applying for University of Auckland professional social work programmes

The University of Auckland's social work programmes are:

- Bachelor of Social Work
- Professional social work programmes

Students who have completed the third year of the four-year BSW programme with a high GPA are eligible for entry into the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours).

Applicants to the Master of Social Work (Professional) should hold a bachelors degree with study in a relevant discipline such as social science, sociology, psychology or health science.

Application process

The application process for applying for a professional social work programme can be completed as below:

1. Pre-interview

- Online application
- Supplementary information
- Literacy assessment

2. Panel interview

3. Post-interview

- Police checks
- Assessment to meet Vulnerable Children Act standards

3. Driver's licence

- Please note that this does not affect your application for admission to the programme

1. Pre-interview

i. Online application

The first step of the application process is to apply online. Please go to www.apply.auckland.ac.nz if you are submitting your application individually or ask your agent to submit an online application on your behalf.

ii. Supplementary information

Please note that all sections must be completed

a. English language competency

All applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide a satisfactory IELTS score (or approved equivalent). For the Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work (Professional) we require a minimum IELTS score of level 7.0 with no band below 7.0. If you do not meet the IELTS requirement, you will need to retake the IELTS exam. No exceptions will be made. IELTS scores can be submitted after the interview.

b. Referees

All applicants must provide at least two referee reports to support their application. Referees should be someone who has known you for some time, and can comment on the way you interact with people. Suitable referees may include a teacher, employer, colleague, sports coach or church leader. At least one of your referees should be able to comment on your work habits and/or ability. Referee reports cannot be completed by relatives or close friends.

Download the referee report from the 'supplementary information' section of your online application.

All reports are confidential, however please note that the Faculty may contact referees to ask for further information.

We need to have received at least one referee report before we can invite you for an interview.

Referees will need to email their report directly to education@auckland.ac.nz or send it to the postal address on the form.

c. Personal statement

We urge all students to complete this section in their own words as this will indicate to the panel that they are a genuine candidate.

You will need to briefly state why you want to become a social worker and list any relevant experience you have in this area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.education.auckland.ac.nz

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iii. Literacy Assessment

All applicants must take an online assessment of their literacy abilities. You will receive an email containing information about the assessment a few days after you submit your application. Students are required to complete this within two weeks of receiving the email.

All applicants for social work must meet the Faculty of Education and Social Work's language requirements. The literacy assessment is completed online whereby an applicant is given an hour to read an article and then responds to a question. Applicants are assessed on content and development of ideas (that is, their understanding and reflection of the article); sentence structures; grammar; vocabulary. They do not need to write a lot but enough (at least 4-6 paragraphs) in order for all criteria to be marked accordingly.

The marker will assess whether the applicant has understood the key points of the article and is able to summarise it in a clear and cohesive way. Correct grammar is critical.

2. Panel interview

When you submit your online application and have met all other requirements, you may be asked to attend a panel interview. If you live overseas then an interview can be arranged on SkypeTM. You will need to be prepared for the interview. At the interview, expect to talk about yourself, why you want to become a social worker and what skills you would bring to the sector. It is important to be aware of current issues affecting social work in New Zealand.

Here is what you need to keep in mind before, during and after the interview, if interviewed in person:

i. Before the interview

- Dress appropriately - smart and simple that enables you to look neat and tidy. This is a professional interview.
- If an unfortunate circumstance prevents you from attending, let the University know as soon as possible.
- You should prepare some of your responses before the interview.
- Keep in mind that there are many more applications than there are places. What will make you stand out?

ii. During the interview

- Respond relevantly to questions – be honest and succinct.
- Your communication skills will be assessed. Use language that is appropriate in a professional situation.

iii. After the Interview

Thank and shake the hand of each of the interview panel.

Even if you live overseas and have been invited to an interview over SkypeTM, there will still be expectations around dressing appropriately, being available on time for the interview and displaying professional and mature behaviour.

3. Post-interview

i. Police checks

You are required to provide an overseas police clearance if you have lived in any country other than New Zealand for 12 months or more within the last 10 years. This is required only if you have met all other requirements.

ii. Assessment to meet Vulnerable Children Act standards

The Vulnerable Children Act came into force in July 2015. Under this act, all people who work with children must be safety checked. In order to be assessed, a risk assessment is conducted. This is based on your interview, the referee reports that you would have provided, police checks and work history assessment. This is the final step of the selection process and will be undertaken once you have met all other conditions.

iii. Driver's licence

For Bachelor of Social Work students, you will need to hold a full NZ driver's licence by the end of year 2 in order to go on your year 3 practicum.

For Master of Social Work Professional students, you will need to hold a full NZ driver's licence by the time of the first practicum.

Please note that this does not affect your application for admission to the programme.

**If you have any questions, please email:
Faculty of Education and Social Work
International Manager
Samantha Cruttenden
s.crudden@auckland.ac.nz.**

FURTHER INFORMATION

www.education.auckland.ac.nz

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