

ADMISSION

Masters in Physiotherapy Practice (MPhysioPrac) degree programme **commences in February**. The application process is closing on the **1st of November**. There are **no** mid-year intakes. The limit is **20 places**. **No** online learning is available due to the nature of the programme. The students must arrive to Auckland by February.

To be admitted to this degree a student must have completed a relevant bachelor's degree with a Grade Point Average of 5.0 or higher in 75 points above Stage II. A relevant degree may include one of health sciences or science. Whether a degree is considered relevant will also depend on the courses taken. Relevant areas may include exercise sciences, health sciences, physiology, and psychology.

Prerequisite knowledge

Applicants for the Master of Physiotherapy course must have extensive pre-existing knowledge and be able to demonstrate the completion of university level courses completed within the last 10 years in four essential areas:

- Neuroscience
- Exercise Physiology
- Human Anatomy with a focus on musculoskeletal anatomy
- Human Physiology

In addition, courses relating to psychology, exercise prescription and biomechanics would provide important content that would be of considerable benefit in the MPhysioPrac and so should be listed on the attached Master of Physiotherapy Practice Assumed Knowledge Self-Assessment Form.

Neuroscience

- Study of the anatomy and physiology of neural structures as well as fundamental concepts of nervous system functioning.
- It is assumed that the anatomy of the human brain and spinal cord have been studied.
- It is assumed that applicants have also studied the structure of the nervous system and neurons as well as the basic electrical concepts underlying neural signals including signal transmission and communication.
- It is assumed that the following systems/pathways have been studied:
 - spinal reflexes,
 - somatosensory system (including receptors and pathways for sensations such as touch, temperature, proprioception, and pain),
 - autonomic nervous system (including the sympathetic and parasympathetic pathways),

- the descending motor pathways (including the pyramidal and extrapyramidal systems).

Exercise Physiology

- Study of the systemic responses to exercise and exercise training.
- It is assumed that applicants have studied the responses of the human muscular and cardiorespiratory systems to acute exercise and to exercise training.
- It is assumed that applicants have studied the acute changes in endocrine and acid-base (renal and respiratory) regulation during exercise.
- Adaptations to exercise training have been studied.

Human Anatomy

- Study of human anatomy, particularly of the musculoskeletal, nervous, cardiovascular,
- respiratory and renal systems.
- It is assumed that the following areas of the human body have been studied:
 - 1) bones,
 - 2) joints,
 - 3) ligaments,
 - 4) muscles,
 - 5) nerves of the:
 - i) upper limb
 - ii) lower limb
 - iii) vertebral column
 - iv) thorax
 - v) pelvis
- It is assumed that the anatomy of the cardiovascular, respiratory, and renal system has been studied. This anatomy may be covered in physiology, exercise physiology or neuroscience units of study.

Human Physiology

- Study of the physiology and histology of the main systems of the human body.
- It is assumed that the physiology of the following systems of the human body have been studied (cardiovascular, respiratory, and renal physiology may be studied in exercise physiology units of study):
 - cardiovascular,
 - respiratory,
 - endocrine,
 - renal.

In addition to the University of Auckland's standard admission process students applying for the MPhysioPrac degree programme must **provide the following**:

- Two references. Please ask your two referees to complete the attached Confidential Letter of Reference and email it to pgadvice-es@auckland.ac.nz. We recommend you arrange one tertiary academic and one work (including volunteering) reference e.g., a research supervisor, undergraduate/postgraduate course Coordinator, a line manager etc. It is your responsibility to check with your referees that these have been sent in time to meet the 1st of November 2021 closing date – this is not a task undertaken by the University. Letters of Reference received after this date may not be considered.
- A Police Vetting Consent Form. More details are available below.
- Evidence of Identity. More details are available below.
- Confirmation of immunisation. The University of Auckland requires all students involved in contact with patients, children, or other members of the public to complete the same infectious disease screening procedures as required by District Health Boards. The purpose of this screening/immunisation procedure is to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission between staff, students, and patients, specifically those involved in direct patient contact. Please see the Immunisation Programme.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications and references will be reviewed to check the academic grades, relevant courses, work experience, career aspirations, personal qualities.

The Selection Committee will invite for **interview** a group of applicants from those who meet the criteria specified. Selection for interviewing will be based on the information in the Supplementary Application Form and Confidential Letters of Reference. The dates for the interviews are to be set for November and will allow the Selection Committee to judge more accurately the suitability of applicants for the programme. It is not possible to interview applicants outside of the specified dates. Interviews may take place in person or via Zoom.

Other criteria used:

- Communication Skills: the ability to communicate with a wide range of people in a non-judgmental, accepting, and genuine manner. This includes good listening skills as well as being able to express yourself clearly.
- Compassion: able to be warm, supportive, and patient, and for this to be sufficiently overt for it to be perceived by clients and colleagues.
- Self-awareness/reflexivity: awareness of your own values, motivations, issues, and limitations.
- Cultural Sensitivity: have experience with and level of sensitivity towards people from different cultural backgrounds.

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi: We are looking for your behavioural commitments to the Treaty of Waitangi and how they have informed your identity.
- Ability to Contribute: ability to contribute to a group (staff team, student class), including willingness to offer ideas, skills and knowledge, assertiveness, ability to be cooperative and supportive of others.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

International applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of English proficiency. English is considered the first language of citizens of Canada, Ireland, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Domestic applicants whose first language is not English may be asked to provide evidence of competence in written and spoken English. See link for more information

<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/study/applications-and-admissions/entry-requirements/postgraduate-entry-requirements/postgraduate-english-language-requirements.html>

Applicants who receive an offer of place conditional on English, may wish to consider applying for entry to a pathway English language course at the University's English Language Academy. <https://www.ela.auckland.ac.nz/epps>

Applicants who have English as an additional language are required to have an International English Language Test System (IELTS) overall score of 7.0 and no grade less than 6.5 in each band.

CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND SAFETY CHECKS

Applicants will be required to consent to a disclosure of criminal convictions and safety checks required by the Children's Act 2015 to ensure they meet the requirements of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

The process involves:

- Identity verification that includes sighting the originals of primary and secondary identity document,
- New Zealand/Australia police vetting service,
- Reference check,
- Interview face-to-face,
- Self-Report form.

Evidence of Identity

The purpose of this section is to confirm the identity of the applicant to ensure the correct person is being vetted to a standard accepted by New Zealand Police for vetting purposes. This is based on identity confirmation requirements set out in the Vulnerable Children Act Regulations 2015. It states that a NZ Birth Certificate may only be used as a Primary identity

document if issued on or after the 1st of January 1998 and carrying a unique identification number.

To confirm the identity of the applicant, two forms of ID must be sighted, one primary and one secondary, one of which must be photographic.

Primary IDs
include:

- Passport (NZ or Overseas)
- NZ Firearms Licence
- NZ Full Birth Certificate (issued on or after 1998)
- NZ Citizenship Certificate
- NZ Refugee Travel Document
- NZ Emergency Travel Document
- NZ Certificate of Identity

Secondary IDs
include:

- NZ Driver Licence
- 18+ card
- NZ Full Birth Certificate (issued before 1998)
- Community Services card
- SuperGold Card
- NZ Employee Photo Identification Card
- NZ Student Photo Identification Card
- Inland Revenue number
- NZ issued utility bill (issued not more than six months earlier)
- NZ Teachers Registration certificate
- NZ Electoral Roll Record
- International Driving Permit
- Steps to Freedom Form

Evidence of a
name change

If the two identity documents have different names (e.g., a birth certificate contains the applicant's maiden name, and a driver licence contains their married name) evidence of a name change must be sighted such as a marriage certificate or statutory declaration.