Doctor of Philosophy
PhD | 2021

No.1 Global Impact Ranking
No.1 New Zealand University
Top 50 in the world for 13 subjects
About the PhD

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

As a doctoral candidate, you will undertake three to four years of research in your area of interest. 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 universities globally. We are the highest-ranked¹ and most innovative² University in the country, 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.³ Members of our thriving doctoral community regularly publish papers, attend international conferences and make significant contributions to global research.

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.

1 QS World University Rankings 2021

2 Reuters Top 75: Asia Pacific’s Most Innovative Universities 2019

3 Performance Based Research Fund: Improving Research Quality: The results of the PBRF 2018 Quality Evaluation

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND KEY STATISTICS

RANKED #1

The University of Auckland is the highest ranked university in New Zealand in Times Higher Education and QS rankings for 2020.

Each year the University awards

200 new University of Auckland Doctoral Scholarships

On average during their studies, doctoral candidates attend

3 international conferences and publish 3 papers

Auckland is ranked 3rd in the world for quality of living by the Mercer Quality of Living Rankings 2019.

More than 3000 doctoral candidates; around 50% international

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

English language development
Our English language pathway helps anyone with a conditional offer to meet our language requirements. Once in the programme, you can take advantage of diverse 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. The School of Graduate Studies answers questions about your programme, from application to examination.

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. 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.
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/doctoralentry

Find a supervisor
You can apply to the PhD programme without first finding a supervisor, but having a supervisor may speed up your application.
Search FindaThesis, our online database, to discover detailed information about current doctoral projects and potential supervisors.
www.findathesis.auckland.ac.nz
You can also browse the University’s staff directory to find potential supervisors who do research in your area of interest.
unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz

*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.
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
- FindaThesis
  www.findathesis.auckland.ac.nz
- University directory
  unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz

Note: You may nominate a supervisor in your application, but it is not necessary.

---

**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

---

**Step 3. Prepare your documentation**

You will need electronic copies of:

- Academic transcripts
- Initial Statement of Research Intent
- 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.

---

**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.

---