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
  - Discovery Profiles
    https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz
  - Find a supervisor
    auckland.ac.nz/findasupervisor

Step 3. Prepare your documentation
- You will need electronic copies of:
  - Undergraduate and Postgraduate academic transcripts
  - Initial Statement of Research Intent (complete this with your proposed supervisor)
  - 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.

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

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.
About the PhD
A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a globally recognised postgraduate research degree and the highest academic degree you can achieve. As a doctoral candidate, you will undertake three to four years of research. 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-ranked university in the country¹ 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.² 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. Members of our thriving doctoral community regularly publish papers, attend international conferences and make significant contributions to global research.

Enriching environment
Discover our rich local culture, unique landscape and the reason our city’s exceptional standard of living is among the best in the world.

New Zealand’s borders are open and all international student visas are being processed as normal. Detailed instructions on how to apply for your student visa can be found on our website: auckland.ac.nz/visa-information

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.

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 explore our 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. Once enrolled, the School of Graduate Studies answers questions about your programme. Before that, please contact us at www.auckland.ac.nz/postgraduate

Preparing to apply
Entry requirements
Acceptance on to the programme is subject to sufficient availability for supervision, and appropriate qualifications. You must demonstrate an ability to research independently and possess a high level of theoretical understanding of your subject area. 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. 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/doctorsentry

Find a supervisor
We recommend that you engage with a prospective supervisor before you begin your online application.

Search Discovery Profiles, our online database of researchers and experts, to find detailed information about potential supervisors. https://profiles.auckland.ac.nz

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/findasupervisor

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

Cover attributes:
*Times Higher Education 2022 and QS World Rankings 2022 **Times Higher Education university Impact Ranking 2020-22 Dr Minaeizaein was studying his PhD in Bioengineering at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) when he developed a device to make the chest physiotherapy exercises for children with lung disorders a fun thing to do. Dr Hamed Minaeizaein started his PhD in Bioengineering at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) when he developed a device to make the chest physiotherapy exercises for children with lung disorders a fun thing to do.