PhD information

School of Psychology, University of Auckland

PhD advisor: Dr. Karen Waldie: k.waldie@auckland.ac.nz
Welcome to the School of Psychology at the University of Auckland

The best part of our job is working with motivated, enthusiastic students, helping them to develop their skills so that they can answer their own questions and become psychological professionals in their own right.

If you’re thinking of studying with us in one of our postgraduate research programmes, our research interests are wide ranging, spanning many aspects of psychology from evolution to neuroscience, and from sensory science to forming lasting relationships and maintaining positive mental health.
Why study Psychology at the University of Auckland?

Our school is ranked #36 in the world

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018, the University of Auckland is among the top 50 universities worldwide for 18 of our subjects on offer.
Our PhD students come from all over the world

We have 97 PhD students currently:
42 from New Zealand
15 from Asia
10 from UK
10 from Europe
10 from the Americas
6 from the Middle East 2 from Africa
1 from Australia
We are especially proud of our Māori and Pacific Psychology research group and our School of Psychology Tuākana programme, which seeks to create an inclusive and dynamic space for Māori and Pacific students.

42 from New Zealand:
6 identify as Māori or Pasifika (15%)

In addition, we have 45 clinical doctoral students:
10 identify as Māori or Pasifika
PhD Application and Selection Processes

You may apply to register for a PhD degree at any time; there is no admission deadline.
A PhD degree at this university is a programme of supervised research that comprises advanced study and research. The results are presented in a thesis, which is a formal systematic exposition of a coherent piece of research work carried out over the period of registration. It will be an original contribution to the field of study and is required to meet internationally recognised standards. Typically this research requires **3 to 4 years of study** if you are enrolled on a full-time basis.
PhD Application and selection processes continued:

For students to be eligible to apply for a PhD in Psychology you would normally need to have completed the equivalent of either:

1) a 3-year Bachelors degree in Psychology and a Masters degree in Psychology (with a minimum of a Second Class First Division; this is a B+ average at the University of Auckland 75% and above)

OR

2) a 3-year Bachelors degree in Psychology and an Honours degree (with a minimum of a Second Class First Division)
STEPS TO APPLY FOR A PHD IN THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

1) You should fill out an Application for Admission (AFA). This is part of the University’s admission process. Here you can upload information your previous academic records etc. This can be found on the University website at www.auckland.ac.nz.

2) Around the same time you should try and find a suitable supervisor who will support your application and supervise your research. You will need to do this by contacting potential supervisors directly (typically email is best).

3) Once you have found an academic staff member that is willing to work with you on a full application, you must complete the School’s PhD Application form. This is available at www.psych.auckland.ac.nz under the link: “future postgraduates” then “Admission and Enrolment" then "application forms". This form must be completed in full consultation with your proposed supervisor. Your application will be reviewed by two members of the Academic staff of the School and by me, the PhD Advisor.

4) Once the School of Psychology has approved your proposal, your application will be assessed independently by the Faculty of Science and then the Board of Graduate Studies.
Selecting a supervisor:
In the initial stage you are advised to investigate the interests of our staff by looking at the staff listing on our website which shows staff interests and their contact details.

After identifying staff members you may be interested in working with, contact them via email providing an account of your own experience and capabilities and enquiring about potential projects that the staff member may be interested in.

We have approximately 50 academic staff who are eligible to supervise PhD students.

The following slides include a brief look at a few of our research areas, labs and programmes. This is not a complete list of what everyone is doing so please see: https://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-staff/academic-staff.html
Research groups and areas

Staff at the School of Psychology are involved in a number of research groups and projects.

**Developmental Psychology**
The Developmental Psychology Research Group investigates human development across the life-span.

**Psychology and Social Issues Group**
The Psychology and Social Issues Group conducts research in critical psychologies, feminist psychology and gender and cultural studies.

**Language and Cultural Evolution Group**
Our language research focusses on the application of computational methods to answer questions about language and human prehistory.

**The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study**
The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) is a longitudinal national probability study of social attitudes, personality and health outcomes led by Professor Chris Sibley.

**Social Research Group**
The social research group investigates topics from personal and group identities to gender and sexual issues, and environmental and sustainability issues.

**Applied Behaviour Analysis**
Applied Behaviour Analysis is a scientific approach to understanding and changing human behaviour.

**Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Research Group**
Staff and students belonging to the unit are interested in quantitative and experimental approaches to the understanding of animal and human behaviour.

**Industrial, Work and Organisational Psychology Research Group**
IW0 aims to encourage and support research in the multidisciplinary field of industrial, work and organisational psychology.

**Māori and Pacific Psychology Research Group**
The Psychology Māori and Pacific Psychology Research Group (MPPRG) is an initiative to create an inclusive and dynamic space for Māori and Pacific students in the School of Psychology to motivate, inspire and support each other through the research process.

**Cognitive Neuroscience Research Group**
The Cognitive Neuroscience Research Group aims to determine the biological bases of mental events in humans.

**Speech Science**
Staff in Speech Science research auditory processing disorders, speech and language development in monolingual and bilingual children, swallowing disorders and acquired communication disorders in adults.

**Thematic Analysis**
Thematic analysis is a method for qualitative data analysis. We provide a wide range of resources related to learning and using thematic analysis.

**The Māori Identity and Financial Attitudes Study**
The Māori Identity and Financial Attitudes Study (NIFFAS) is a longitudinal national probability study of Māori Identity, Financial Attitudes and Behaviour led by Dr. Carla Houkamau and Dr. Chris Sibley.

**Animal Minds**
The Animal Minds research group includes the New Caledonian Crow Lab, the Kea Lab and the Clever Canine Lab.
Developmental Psychology

Dr. Annette Henderson
Dr. Elizabeth Peterson
Associate Professor Karen Waldie Dr.
Christopher Erb (arriving late 2018)
With our team: Opportunities to work with longitudinal data from Growing Up in New Zealand

http://www.growingup.co.nz/en.html

Welcome to Growing Up in New Zealand

Growing Up in New Zealand is New Zealand’s contemporary longitudinal study tracking the development of approximately 7,000 New Zealand children from before birth until they are young adults. The study is designed to provide unique information about what shapes children’s early development and how interventions might be targeted at the earliest opportunity to give every New Zealand child the best start in life. Here at Growing Up we are committed to maintaining contact will all our participant families and ensuring that each one of your 7,000 voices is heard and has the opportunity to contribute to research that will help shape positive outcomes for all children growing up in 21st century New Zealand.
Annette Henderson, PhD

- **Research Topics:**
  - Cognitive and language development in early childhood
  - Infants’ understanding of and engagement in cooperative and competitive activities
  - Infants’ understanding of the conventional nature of words
  - [https://www.earlylearning.ac.nz/](https://www.earlylearning.ac.nz/)
Research Topics:

- Factors and processes that contribute to the development of successful and well-rounded children and young people.
- Development of educational beliefs, especially tolerance for failure and setbacks.
- Interest in emotion and learning and positive psychology.
Karen Waldie, PhD

Developmental Neuropsychology research topics:

• Neural bases and developmental outcomes of ADHD, dyslexia, autism and problem behaviour
• Gene-environment interactions
• Remediation: www.movincog.com
Career opportunities

- Educational psychologist
- Child-related therapy
- Youth worker
- Special needs sector
- Early childhood sector
- Museums (e.g., developing child learning activities)

- Policy analyst (e.g., Ministry of Social Development)
- Researcher (in hospitals, for private companies)
- Granting agencies (e.g., Health Research Council)
- Science writer
- University Lecturer!!

**NOTE: some of these options require further study.**
Human Language and Cultural Evolution

Religion, language, and human evolution through field work, computer modelling and evolutionary theory

Comparative Psychology

Social and physical cognition in kea (Nestor notabilis)

Tool use and mental time travel in New Caledonian crows (Corvus)

Social cognition and the evolution of domestication in domestic dogs (Canis familiaris) at The Clever Canine Lab
Psychology & Social Issues

in the School of Psychology

Psychology and Social Issues

Supports research in critical and feminist psychologies, societal & indigenous psychologies, gender & cultural studies, identity studies. Our interests relate to:

- Psychology, social justice and sustainability issues
- Critical qualitative research in social and health psychology
- Gender, ethnicities and sexuality
- Māori and Pasifika epistemologies and psychologies

Graduates in this area...

Have gone on to work in a variety of areas including research, education, health promotion, social work, advocacy, care and case management, youth work, journalism, and community development within not-for-profit community agencies, universities, government departments, district health boards, schools, local councils, and further postgraduate research, doctoral training in clinical psychology, and other professional training programmes.
Supervision-areas-for-2019

The broad areas of research for available staff are listed below - please contact the staff member(s) associated with each area to learn more:

- Youth-mental-health (Gibson)
- Human-values (Harre)
- Indigenous-psychologies (Groot, Le-Grice)
- Media-activism and sex work (Groot)
- Pacific-epistemologies, academic success & wellbeing (Manuela)
- Baka-pac, Pacific, migrant, refugee and national identities (Groot, Manuela)
- Participative, collaborative, and action research (Groot, Harre)
- Political and community activism (Harre, Groot)
- Relationship-violence & prevention (Le-Grice)
- Reproductive-decision making, reproductive rights, abortion (Le-Grice)
- Sexual health & education (Le-Grice)
- Social-justice and human rights (Groot)
- Urban-poverty & homelessness (Groot)

Psychology-and-Social-Issues-staff

Email is the best and most reliable way to get hold of us. If you really want to phone or find other contact details, they're all on the websites listed below.

Virginia-Braun
(unavailable for supervision in 2019)
y.braun@aubk.ac.nz
http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/virginia-braun/

Sue-Cowie
s.cowie@aubk.ac.nz
https://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/people/s-cowie/

Nicola-Gavey
(unavailable for supervision in 2019)
n.gavey@aubk.ac.nz
http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/nicola-gavey/

Kerry-Gibson
k.l.gibson@aubk.ac.nz
http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/kerry-gibson/

Shiloh-Groot
s.groot@aubk.ac.nz
http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/shiloh-groot/

Niki-Harre
n.harre@aubk.ac.nz
http://www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/niki-harre/

Jade-Le-Grice
j.legrice@aubk.ac.nz
https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/j-legrice/

Sam-Manuela
s.manuela@aubk.ac.nz
https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/s-manuela/

Angelo-Carr
Social-Psychology-Research-Technician:
acarr@aubk.ac.nz
https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/people/profile/a-carr/
Cognitive Neuroscience Research Group

Tony Lambert, Karen Waldie, Paul Corballis, Lynette Tippett, David Moreau, Michael Hautus, Jeff Hamm, Barry Hughes, Ian Kirk

+ collaborators throughout the Centre for Brain Research
(e.g. in SBS, Psychiatry, Anatomy & Radiology, Pharmacy, Physiology, and Exercise Science.)
Topics include

Memory
Attention
Perception
Cerebral asymmetries
Neurogenetics
Music performance
Braille reading
Ageing
Depression
Schizophrenia
Autism Spectrum
Parkinson’s
Huntington’s
ADHD
Dyslexia
Alzheimer’s

Career Paths

PhDs, Post-docs and tenured positions
Professional programmes. e.g.
SLT, Audiology
Clinical Psych - Auckland,
Massey, Otago, Melbourne
Med School – Auckland, Otago,
Melbourne, Sydney.
Techniques include:

1) Behavioural testing

2) EEG
3) fMRI

4) DTI

5) Genetics
Applied training programmes:

1. Speech Science

- Spans many disciplines
  - Psychology, Audiology, Engineering, Population Health
- Includes the study of human communication, speech disorders, language disorders, swallowing disorders, acoustic analysis and processing of speech and/or language and speech-language therapy
- Current **student research** includes dysphagia, fluency disorders, brain injury, language processing in normal ageing, acquisition of speech/language in bilingual children, the impact of acquired communication disorders, children with hearing loss
The University of Auckland Swallowing Research Laboratory

Speech Science, Psychology, Science

- Normal and abnormal swallowing physiology
- Paediatric and adults
- Neurological disease
- Rehabilitation
- Quality of life
- Health gains

- Motivated, vibrant, supportive group
- Multidisciplinary
- Well-equipped
- Strong collaborations with District Health Boards
Speech Science degrees

Clinical path
- MSLT Practice
- Masters degree leading to a qualification as a SLT
- Two years (4 semesters)
- Clinical placements in on- and off-campus clinics
- Research project

Non-clinical path
- COP
- PG Certificate
- PG Diploma in Science (Speech Science)
- MSc Speech Science
- PhD Speech Science
For more information see:
www.psych.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/our-research/research-groups/speech-science.html

Speech Science, School of Psychology, Tamaki Campus, Building 721, University of Auckland

Dr Clare McCann
School of Psychology (Speech Science)
Tamaki Campus
c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz
Applied training programmes:
(2) Doctorate in Clinical Psychology

• 11 students selected per year, they must be **NZ or Australian permanent residents or Citizens.**

• Selection after Bachelors degree into Clinical Honours. If you already have a honours or higher degree then students can complete a certificate of proficiency in the honours courses required for the Clinical programme.

• Having successfully completed the Honours year students enter the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme which is completed over three years and includes research, course work and practicum.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Work</th>
<th>Honours in Clinical Psychology</th>
<th>Doctorate Year I</th>
<th>Doctorate Year II</th>
<th>Doctorate Year III</th>
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<td>PSYCH 779 Research and</td>
<td>PSYCH801 Scientist-</td>
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<td>Practitioner Model – Part II</td>
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<td>PSYCH899 Thesis- Part II</td>
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<td>Problems: Aetiology and</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Placements</td>
<td>One 200 hr Placement</td>
<td>Two 200 hr Placement</td>
<td>1500 hr Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>One</td>
<td>Two</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>Dissertation usually supervised</td>
<td>The majority of thesis research for DClinPsy is to be completed before beginning internship.</td>
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<td>by Clin Psych staff member &amp; in an area relevant to clinical psychology or neuropsychology.</td>
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Doctorate in Clinical Psychology: Applicants and Selection

• We encourage applications from Māori and Pasifika students
• Prerequisites
  – Undergraduate degree in Psychology including a statistics/research methods course
  – NZ or Australian Permanent resident or Citizen
  – High GPA, we apply affirmative action for some groups
• Preference is given for students who have
  – Completed papers in Te Ao Māori, and PSYCH310 or equivalent
  – Relevant voluntary or paid work experience
• Further information online for prospective students
Applied training programmes: 3. APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS (ABA)

WHAT IS APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS?
It is a science that aims to understand people’s behaviour. The findings of the science are used mainly to help children and adults who have difficulty with regular learning and/or complex problem behaviours.

Behaviour analysts work in a variety of settings and with a variety of populations, including education, special education, organisational management, parent/staff training, occupational safety, sport psychology, gerontology, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, conduct disorder, people with brain injury.

Many of our graduates have specialised in working with people with intellectual disabilities and pervasive developmental disorders (e.g. autism)

HOW DO I GET INTO THE APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS?
The Auckland programme is a three-year postgraduate programme. To get in you need at least a BSc or a BA majoring in psychology.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS WILL I GET?
On completion of the full 3-year programme students will be eligible for:

- Postgraduate diploma in science or arts (PGDipSci/Arts)
- And a Masters in science or arts
- And a Postgraduate diploma specialising in applied psychology (PGDipAppSci)
- NZ Psychologist registration
- To sit an exam to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (an international qualification)
Application and Selection Processes
Applications can be made from September until the deadlines for entry Forms are available from the School website (www.psych.auckland.ac.nz). Completed forms should be lodged with the School before December 1st for Year 1 applicants or by November 1st for Year 3 applications in the preceding year. Applicants will be notified within a month of closing date.

Selection Criteria: Programme staff will consider an applicant’s academic record, work experience, career aspirations, intended programme of study, and personal qualities when selecting students for “reserved” places in compulsory ABA courses and Year 3 courses. Preference will be given to those signalling a commitment to seeking BACB certification and obtaining employment as a BCBA in New Zealand. The School’s affirmative action policy for Maori and Pacific Island students will also be applied.
Applied training programmes:

3. APPLIED BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS (ABA) continued

Further details on this programme are available at

- [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)
- [www.NZABA.org](http://www.NZABA.org)  [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org)

or by contacting:

**Dr Katrina Phillips**  +64 9 373 7599  ext 84468  [kj.phillips@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:kj.phillips@auckland.ac.nz)
Psychology Career Opportunities

Many avenues open up to graduates with training in psychology.
• Clinical Psychologists work in many aspects of mental health care, child welfare services and in the justice system.
• Postgraduate students can alternatively specialise in health or organisational psychology.
• Jobs are available in the business environment involving the use of psychological tests, statistical analyses, or survey and questionnaire development.
• Staff recruitment, personnel training and evaluation are also areas which employ psychology graduates.
• Many employers are interested in the range of analytical and spoken and written communication skills of our psychology graduates.
• Research careers can be developed in any aspect of psychology including cognitive neuroscience and social psychology.
For further information about PhD study you can also contact the University Graduate Centre: [www.auckland.ac.nz/school-of-graduate-studies](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/school-of-graduate-studies)

- For information about the NZ scholarship, please see **Student Web**: [www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz](http://www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz) or email [christine.roberts@enz.govt.nz](mailto:christine.roberts@enz.govt.nz)
- Graduates of universities overseas and/or those without New Zealand citizenship or permanent resident status should also correspond with the International Students Office: +64 9 373 7599 ext 87556
You can also contact:
PhD advisor: Dr. Karen Waldie: k.waldie@auckland.ac.nz or
Academic Services Coordinator: Sheryl Robertson, s.robertson@auckland.ac.nz
T +64 9 373 7599:x86852

Other postgraduate options:

Contact us

If you need to contact us, you can do so by phone or email. If you have questions regarding enrolment, please contact or visit the Science Student Centre. studentinfo@auckland.ac.nz

School of Psychology City Campus

School Reception
Level 2, Building 302
Science Centre
23 Symonds Street
Auckland Central

Phone: +64 9 373 7599 ext 88413
Email: psych@auckland.ac.nz

View location map