

Auckland and New Zealand

The largest city in New Zealand, Auckland is famous for its beautiful location, relaxed and easy-going lifestyle, and great facilities. It is also vibrant, exciting, and multicultural - with sizeable communities of people from many different countries, and is frequently listed as one of the most liveable cities in the world.

Sitting astride an isthmus, it has harbours which open to both the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean, many beaches in and around the city, and easy access to the islands and stunning landscapes of the surrounding area. Auckland is known as the "City of Sails" and is renowned for water sports and outdoor activities.

New Zealand's relatively small size means that it is easy to get out and explore the huge variety of geographies and scenery for which it is famous. Adventure activities of all types (eg, hiking, skiing, fishing, sailing and many more) are a speciality and are very accessible.



Auckland, third most liveable city in the world.*

*Mercer Quality of Living Survey 2012

University of Auckland

The University of Auckland is New Zealand's leading and largest university. It is ranked in the top 100 of the QS World University Rankings and is the highest ranked New Zealand university in the Times Higher Education and Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities. The University of Auckland is an international centre of learning and academic excellence. It is New Zealand's pre-eminent research-led institution and has key linkages with many of the world's top research-intensive universities.

The University of Auckland has the most comprehensive range of courses in New Zealand. The University's mission is to be a research-led, international university, recognised for excellence in teaching, learning, research, creative work and administration.



The Clock Tower, University of Auckland

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Master of Disaster Management



Introduction

Disaster management is becoming an increasingly important issue.

This highly relevant programme is designed to prepare people for careers and leadership roles in disaster management.

- Risks from natural and man-made hazards are increasing for a number of reasons; population shifts and urban intensification, interdependencies of production and supply, pressures on infrastructure – all these create new societal vulnerabilities.
- The unexpected magnitude and frequency of hazards, as well as the uncertainties created by the effects of climate change and global warming, lead to an increased need to find new ways to protect societies.
- Managing and recovering from a disaster is a complex and demanding process that requires skills and expertise.
- Recent disasters have generated a need to gain expert and specialist knowledge for many professionals, including engineers, policy planners, urban designers, development experts, project managers, economists, scientists, health and social professionals.

Why apply for this programme?

This degree aims to provide graduates with the multidisciplinary knowledge and skills required to underpin successful approaches to addressing the management of disasters. It concentrates on key issues such as disaster resilience and risk management.

The Faculty of Engineering has a proven track record in research and teaching related to disaster management. The programme will also draw on the considerable expertise across other faculties, schools and departments within the University of Auckland. For instance, within Development Studies, Science, Population Health, Environmental Law, Architecture and Planning.

New Zealand is an excellent place to study disaster management. The country sits astride two tectonic plates and has significant volcanic and earthquake activity. This has kept disaster management at the forefront of government policy and of key interest to both public and corporate institutions.

New Zealand is a recognised leader in disaster management. It is world renowned for its holistic management policy and planning framework focused on resilience to disasters. Recent events have provided the international and local research community and experts with an opportunity to test and improve best practice. The University of Auckland has been at the forefront of research in this area.

Where will it take you?

This programme aims to equip graduates with a mix of technical, social, economic, and regulatory knowledge required to implement comprehensive, holistic approaches to managing disasters and emergencies. This programme has been set up as there is a demand for professional expert knowledge as identified in the aftermath of the latest global disasters.

The programme aims to help graduates acquire the following attributes and skills:

- An understanding of aspects of disaster and emergency management
- An understanding of processes related to disaster and emergency management situations, so that they can relate different approaches and disciplines to the holistic framework promoted in the programme
- An ability to apply knowledge of disaster and emergency management to complex urban environments and other situations
- High levels of critical analysis and problem solving
- Synthesis of knowledge
- Willingness to learn and continue to learn throughout life
- Organisation and time management skills
- Independent judgement
- Effective oral and communication skills
- An understanding and ability to find solutions for problems involving highly complex, interdependent and dynamic environments
- Ability to work in a team.

Who should take this programme?

Anybody with a suitable undergraduate degree can apply. The programme is interested in recruiting people currently responsible for the disaster management response of their organisation, anyone who wishes to pursue a career in the disaster management area or anyone who wants to learn more about disasters and their effects and how to manage these effects.

Outline

Depending on your background, you can enter two streams:

- A 120-point programme – suitable for those who have completed a four-year undergraduate degree (or a three-year degree and with appropriate work experience)
- A 180-point programme – suitable for those with a three-year undergraduate degree

In either case, students undertake three core courses (each worth 15 points): Disaster Risk Management, Disaster Management and Resilience, Project Management; and a research project (worth 45 points).

Students may then choose from a variety of elective courses:

- Infrastructure Asset Management
- Sustainability Engineering
- Construction Logistics Engineering
- Natural Resources Law
- Resource Management Law
- Selected Issues in International Law
- Human Rights Litigation
- Global Environmental Governance
- Global Public Health
- Case Studies in Global Health
- Principles of Public Health
- Development Practice
- Contemporary Theories of International Development
- Early Theories of International Development
- Gender and Development
- Geohazards
- Or other approved 700 level courses.

Students completing the 120-point option would take two of the above while those completing the 180-point option would take six.

Duration

The 120-point option can be completed in 12 months full time or up to four years part time.

The 180-point option can be completed in 18 months full time or up to four years part time.

International students

The University of Auckland welcomes students from all over the world. We currently have 5000 international students from over 90 countries. The University has a dedicated team of International Student Support staff to assist your transition into life in Auckland and New Zealand. We also provide ongoing English-language support for those whose first language is not English.