

**Audience:** PhD Applicants

Dear prospective student

A PhD degree at the University of Auckland is a programme of supervised research. It comprises advanced study and research, the results of which are presented in a thesis. The thesis is a formal systematic exposition of a coherent piece of research work carried out over the period of registration. It must be an original contribution to the field of study and is required to meet internationally recognised standards for such work. Typically this research requires 3 to 4 years of study if you are enrolled on a full-time basis.

To be eligible for entry to our PhD programme you must hold an appropriate postgraduate qualification **and** be able to show evidence of research experience. 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**
- 2) a 2-year Masters degree in Psychology (with a minimum of Second Class First Division; this is a B+ average at the University of Auckland; 75% and above)

**OR**

- 1) a 3-year Bachelors degree in Psychology  
**and**
- 2) an Honours degree (with a minimum of Second Class First Division)

***You must also identify at least one member of our academic staff who is willing to supervise your research.***

Here, in the School of Psychology at the University of Auckland, it is necessary for you to negotiate supervision with a staff member who is willing to support your application. This is best done prior to application. You will need to do this by contacting potential supervisors directly.

In this initial stage, you are advised to investigate the interests of our staff by looking at the staff listing on our website (<http://bit.ly/1VMf6V6>) which shows staff interests and their contact details. Note that if you click on a staff member's name you will find more detailed information about their interests.

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. Take care in preparing your communications as you need to convince the staff member of your competence both in the areas of research and communication. You need to demonstrate your capabilities and negotiate a topic of interest to both you and your potential supervisor. We suggest that you do not propose a topic without thorough consultation, as the topic you present may not be of interest to the staff member, and they may therefore be reluctant to supervise you.

## **Steps to Apply for Entry into the PhD Programme School Of Psychology, The University Of Auckland**

1) First try and find a suitable supervisor who will support your application. Pay particular attention to the paragraphs above detailing the negotiation of a topic with a potential supervisor.

2) At the same time, start to fill out an Application for Admission (AfA). This is part of the University of Auckland's admission process. Here you can upload information; your previous academic records, etc. This can be found on the University website at <http://bit.ly/ZnoXak>.

3) Once you have found a supervisor who is willing to supervise your project please email Sheryl Robertson ([s.robertson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.robertson@auckland.ac.nz)) and let her know. Please cc the supervisor on this email.

4) Once you have found a potential supervisor willing to work with you on a full application, you must complete the School's PhD Application form, available at <http://bit.ly/ihhUJi>. This form must be completed in full consultation with your proposed supervisor. When completed, an electronic copy signed by you and your supervisor should be sent to the PhD Admissions Administrator of the School of Psychology; Sheryl Robertson ([s.robertson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.robertson@auckland.ac.nz)). A sub-committee of the Postgraduate Committee in the School of Psychology will review your application. Once you attain approval, your application will be assessed independently outside the School of Psychology.

5) First the Faculty of Science and then a subcommittee of the Board of Graduate Studies will assess your application. Acceptance of your application at every stage is necessary for enrolment, not just approval by the School of Psychology.

Please note that you may apply to register for a PhD degree at any time; there is no admission deadline. There is also no fixed commencement date for a PhD. The date you propose to start your PhD study is nominated in the application process.

For further information about PhD study you can visit the website of the School of Graduate Studies (<http://bit.ly/1QRuFek>), email them with an enquiry ([postgradinfo@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:postgradinfo@auckland.ac.nz)) or visit them at:

Graduate Centre  
East Wing of the ClockTower Building  
22 Princes St  
Auckland City Campus

Open:

Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Telephone +64 9 373 7599 Ext. 86899  
Fax. (+64 9) 373 7610  
Internal Fax. 84310

Postal Address: Graduate Centre  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92019  
Auckland  
New Zealand

Additionally, if you are an international student you can request an international information pack from [international@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:international@auckland.ac.nz).

Thank you for expressing an interest in undertaking a PhD with the School of Psychology at the University of Auckland.

**PhD Advisor and Postgraduate Committee**  
2016