

Physiotherapy



Physiotherapists rehabilitate people of all ages recovering from: general, orthopaedic and neuro surgery; trauma; injuries; chronic lung diseases; neurological diseases; childbirth; mental health problems and acute sports injuries. They work in a large number of health settings.

INDUSTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To become a physiotherapist you need to have a Bachelor of Health Science degree in physiotherapy BHSc (physio). After completing the four-year physiotherapy degree, you must register with the Physiotherapy Board of New Zealand for an Annual Practising Certificate.

HOW MUCH COULD I EARN AFTER MY DEGREE?

Pay varies for physiotherapists depending on their experience. District Health Board (DHB) — Physiotherapist graduates will start on \$44,562. Experienced and senior physiotherapists can earn up to \$91,448.

Private Practice — Salary for physiotherapist graduates can vary depending on their location. Senior physiotherapists can go onto earn over \$90,000 in the private sector, depending on their experience and the success of their business.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB?

The Physiotherapy profession is an extremely competitive industry. Physiotherapists with experience and specialist skills have greater employability. Physiotherapists are needed throughout the country and many vacancies are available in smaller communities and isolated locations.

WHAT TYPES OF EMPLOYERS CAN I WORK FOR?

Physiotherapists work in a variety of settings. They can work at:

- Hospitals
- District Health Boards
- Health organisations
- Private practice
- Rehabilitation and community centres
- Sports centres
- Workplace (ergonomic advice)
- Education and academic institutions
- In patients' homes

CAREER PROGRESSION

Physiotherapists can do postgraduate training and go on to specialise in many different fields of physiotherapy. Others move into teaching and research roles or progress into management positions. Some physiotherapists go into private practice and set up their own clinics.

Information Source: www.careers.govt.nz

"As a former New Zealand representative in rugby, league and touch, I came to the degree from the perspective of an athlete wanting to understand more about injuries and rehabilitation. Throughout the degree I had access to lecturers who were practising and had very current knowledge and who backed up their professional knowledge with strong scientific evidence. I was awarded the iti Kahurangi award for academic excellence at AUT and now I am working as a musculoskeletal physiotherapist in a private practice on the North Shore."



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