

Graduate Diploma in Science (GradDipSc) HA1042 for BSc Graduates leading to Registration by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand

Note: This information must be read in conjunction with registration information found at www.msccouncil.org.nz

Course Summary

The Auckland University of Technology (AUT) Graduate Diploma in Science (GradDipSc) provides a formal pathway towards registration as a **Medical Laboratory Scientist** for current medical laboratory employees who hold a Bachelor of Science degree.

Upon successful completion of the GradDipSc and acquisition of the required professional work experience within an approved area of specialisation, candidates may be eligible to apply for registration with the **Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (MSCNZ)**. Candidates undertaking full-time employment while studying part-time can typically expect to complete the GradDipSc within **two to three years**, depending on their approved course of study and individual circumstances.

Admission requirements:

Applicants seeking admission to the Graduate Diploma in Science pathway leading towards registration as a Medical Laboratory Scientist must meet the following requirements:

- Hold a **Bachelor's degree in Science**.
- Be currently employed in an **IANZ (International Accreditation New Zealand)-accredited medical laboratory** and have completed at least **two years of full-time relevant professional experience** within a New Zealand IANZ-accredited medical laboratory in their intended area of specialisation.
- Be a **New Zealand citizen or permanent resident**.
- Be currently registered with the **Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (MSCNZ)** as a **Medical Laboratory Technician** within an area of specialisation.
- Applicants who were not educated in New Zealand must provide evidence of an **Academic IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of 6.5 or above** or meet the University's approved English-language requirements.

Application process:

Applicants must complete the following steps before they can be accepted into the registration pathway:

1. Employer Support

The AUT application must be accompanied by a **letter of support from the applicant's current employer** confirming that:

- the applicant has at least two years of relevant professional experience in the specific discipline; and

- the employer will permit the applicant to undertake the necessary laboratory work required to complete the courses approved for the GradDipSc.

Employers are not reimbursed for the courses listed in **Table Two**. The required employer declaration is provided as part of the application documentation.

2. Programme Leader Approval

Applicants must meet with the **Programme Leader, Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, AUT**, to confirm their eligibility for admission to the registration pathway.

Following this meeting, the Programme Leader will approve an appropriate course of study based on the applicant's previous education, professional experience and intended area of specialisation.

3. AUT Confirmation of Enrolment

Applicants who meet the admission requirements will receive written confirmation from AUT regarding their enrolment and approved course of study.

All three steps must be completed before an applicant can be accepted into the GradDipSc pathway leading towards registration as a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

Applicants Without Employer Support

Applicants who do not have employer support may still be considered for admission to the **general Graduate Diploma in Science**. However, completion of the general GradDipSc **does not provide a pathway to registration as a Medical Laboratory Scientist**.

Required Papers

The GradDipSc course of study leading towards registration as a Medical Laboratory Scientist consists of:

- **Four 15-point papers** selected from **Table One**; and
- **One 60-point paper** selected from **Table Two**.

This comprises a total of **120 point**. At least 75 credits must be from level 7 courses.

Prerequisites

Enrolment in these papers is subject to the completion of the relevant prerequisites. Prerequisites may include:

- relevant professional experience within the discipline; and/or
- relevant tertiary-level study.

For students following the pathway towards MSCNZ registration, **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is not available for the required courses that form part of this registration pathway.**

Table One – Specialisation Courses

Important: Candidates must successfully complete the specified prerequisites, or have equivalent prior learning, before enrolling in courses listed in Table One. This could require additional study in a different qualification prior to enrolment. All candidates must complete the relevant **Level 6 prerequisite courses** for their chosen area of specialisation.

Courses must be selected from the **Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS) qualification** and must align with the candidate's approved area of specialisation.

Code	Title	Points
MELS612	Immunohematology	15
MELS603	General Pathology	15
MELS607	Medical Microbiology	15
MELS611	Clinical and Chemical Pathology	15
GENE603	Cells, Genes and Molecules	15
GENE604	Diagnostic Genetics	15
MELS722	Advanced Immunology	15
MELS723	Advanced Hematology	15
MELS725	Advanced Medical Microbiology	15
MELS726	Advanced Transfusion Science	15
MELS727	Advanced Histology and Cytology	15

Approved by programme leader.

Table Two

Note: The courses listed in Table Two may only be undertaken with the prior approval of the student's current employer to provide clinical placement. Please be advised that AUT does not offer financial remuneration to the employer for the clinical placement component.

Code	Title	Points	Pre-requisite papers
MELS711	MLS Clinical Training: Clinical Chemistry	60	MELS724, MELS611
MELS712	MLS Clinical Training: Molecular Diagnostics	60	GENE603, or GENE604
MELS714	MLS Clinical Training: Hematology	60	MELS723, MELS 612
MELS715	MLS Clinical Training: Histology	60	MELS727, MELS603
MELS716	MLS Clinical Training: Immunology	60	MELS722, MELS612
MELS717	MLS Clinical Training: Medical Microbiology	60	MELS725, MELS607
MELS718	MLS Clinical Training: Transfusion Science	60	MELS726, MELS612

For further information, or to make an appointment please contact Sharita Meharry, Programme Leader, Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, AUT.
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