Auckland University of Technology
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Postgraduate Study in Mental Health & Addictions at AUT

General Information

Semester start dates

- Semester 1: 1 February
- Semester 2: 29 June

These early dates reflect the early start of core mental health and addiction courses (e.g., MENH814, MENH810 semester 1 and MENH812 semester 2).

What postgraduate study options does AUT offer in Mental Health & Addictions?

Postgraduate Certificate in Health Science (PGCert MH&A) – 60 points

- Delivered part-time only, over one year.
- Semester one enrolments close 1 February for:
    - MENH810 and MENH811 (addictions focus) or
    - MENH814 (mental health focus)
- Semester two enrolments close 15 June for:
    - MENH812 and MENH813 (addictions focus) or
    - MENH802 (mental health focus)
- All courses are delivered in block courses at AUT's North campus.
- Two focus options:
    - Mental Health: MENH814 and MENH802 (30 points each)
        - Entry is limited to only those in current mental health and addiction practice.
        - Also forms the Te Pou funded New Entry to Specialist Practice (NESP) programme. Most of the students in these classes will be doing the NESP programme. Contact nesp@aut.ac.nz for further information and to apply for funding.

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- Addictions: MENH810, MENH811, MENH812, MENH813
  - Can lead toward dapaanz registration.
- Fees: Refer to Domestic student fees – AUT.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Science (PGDip MH&A) – 120 points

- May be taken after the PGCert.
- Can be completed full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years).
- If taken full-time, enrolments close 1 February for semester one or 15 June for semester two due to early semester starts for core mental health and addiction courses.
- Builds advanced theoretical knowledge and preparation for research.
- Fees: Refer to Domestic student fees – AUT.

Master of Health Practice (MHealPrac MH&A) – 180 points

- Designed for clinicians with 3+ years of mental health and addiction practice.
- If taken full-time, enrolments close 1 February for semester one or 15 June for semester two due to early semester starts for core mental health and addiction courses.
- Commonly taken part-time.
- Includes a small-scale dissertation:
  - 1 semester full-time, or
  - 2 semesters part-time (recommended).
- Project topics are usually service improvement or literature based because ethics applications are difficult to achieve within the timeframes.
- Fees: Refer to Domestic student fees – AUT.

Master of Health Science – 240 points

- This programme does not have a named mental health and addiction specialism, but students can take the mental health and addiction courses within this master's programme.
- There is no requirement of practice experience for entry to the programme.
- Includes a research thesis:
  - 2 semesters full-time, or

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- 4 semesters part-time

- Full master's research topics can be explored, including ethics applications.
- Fees: Refer to Domestic student fees – AUT.

What are the entry requirements?

PGCert in Health Science (Mental Health & Addictions)

- Bachelor of Health Science, Graduate Diploma in Health Science, or equivalent professional experience (minimum 3 years mental health and addiction professional practice as determined by the Programme Leader).
- Entry to the addiction focus courses (MENH810, MENH811, MENH812 and MENH813) can be done through completion of the Graduate Certificate in Health Science Lived Experience or Addiction pathway if a B grade average is achieved across the programme, and with approval from the Programme Leader, at their discretion.
- Entry to the mental health focus courses (MENH814 and MENH802) requires evidence of current mental health and addiction clinical practice and approval from the Programme Leader. Most students in these courses will be doing the NESP programme.
- Not suitable for most international students due to part-time only delivery.

PGDip in Health Science

- Usually follows the PGCert.
- Entry requirements align with PGCert rules.
- Entry to mental health courses (MENH814 and MENH802) require evidence of concurrent mental health and addiction practice in Aotearoa NZ, limiting suitability for international students not practicing in Aotearoa NZ.

Master of Health Practice

- Relevant bachelor's degree, graduate diploma, or health related professional qualification.
- Minimum 3 years of mental health and addiction clinical experience.

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What clinical practice requirements exist?

- **PGCert (Mental Health focus):** Entry to the mental health courses (MENH814 and MENH802) requires evidence of current mental health and addiction clinical practice. There is no practicum component provided by AUT, all students are expected to already be employed in mental health and addiction roles before entry.
- **PGCert (Addictions focus):** No practicum hours are required by AUT.
- **PGDip:** Same requirements as PGCert - concurrent practice is needed for mental health courses.
- **Master of Health Practice:** Students must already be practising clinicians.

Note: for dapaanz registration, Aotearoa NZ–based clinical experience is required. AUT does not make dapaanz registration decisions.

Are these programmes suitable for dapaanz registration?

Students who want to be considered for dapaanz registration need to complete MENH810, MENH811, MENH812 and MENH813. We recommend you contact or check the dapaanz website for the latest information including up to date registration requirements.

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Can I credit the PGCert toward further postgraduate study?

Yes. Up to 60 points from the PGCert may be credited towards:

- PGDip Health Science
- Master of Health Science
- Master of Health Practice

Progression to a Masters degree usually requires a minimum B grade average.

How long do the programmes take?

- **PGCert:** Part-time only (typically one year).
- **PGDip:** 1 year full-time, or 2 years part-time.
- **Master of Health Practice:** 18 months full-time, but part-time is recommended, particularly for the dissertation.
- **Master of Health Science:** Thesis completed in 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time (after completing the PGDip).