

Frequently asked questions about Postgraduate Rehabilitation Psychology study

What are the entry criteria into the various postgraduate programmes in Rehabilitation Psychology?

In order to be admitted to the Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) degree, an applicant must have completed a Bachelor of Health Science degree with a major in psychology (or equivalent, e.g. Bachelor of Arts or Graduate Diploma in Health Science) with a B+ grade average or higher in psychology papers at Level 7 (third year). After completing the Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) degree, students can apply for the Master of Health Science in Psychology

What is covered in the Rehabilitation Psychology Pathway?

Students will be equipped to develop their knowledge and skills in the following areas;

- Psychological theories of living with an injury or chronic health condition
- Introduction to psychological Interventions
- Working with people affected by an injury/illness and their families in a rehabilitation context
- Assessment of people with physical illness and disability
- Evaluation of evidence about the effectiveness of rehabilitation
- Conducting research in a rehabilitation psychology area

How is the Rehabilitation Psychology programme structured?

This pathway consists of the BHSc (Hons) in Psychology, the MHSc in Psychology (Rehabilitation Psychology) and the PgDip in Rehabilitation Psychology. The BHSc (Hons) is the first year of the two year masters programme.

Will I be able to apply for registration with the Psychologists Board?

The programme has currently been granted provisional accreditation with the Psychologists Board, so following completion of the PgDip in Rehabilitation Psychology, students can apply for registration under the generic scope of practice. The programme is currently being reviewed by the Psychologists Board for consideration for full approval.

What can rehabilitation psychologists go on to do?

Graduates can go on to work as psychologists in a variety of settings including private practice/consultancy, hospitals and rehabilitation centres, community support agencies, prisons, sports centres and injury clinics, disability advocacy, health care management, planning and policy.

What study Rehabilitation Psychology at AUT?

AUT has an international reputation for high quality research and teaching in rehabilitation. This course will draw on our staffs' expertise across vocational rehabilitation, neuropsychology, psychology, sports injury and working with people and their families to provide a solid foundation in rehabilitation psychology.

Can I study part-time or via distance?

The Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) and Master of Health Science in Psychology degrees can be taken on a part-time basis, but are not offered as distance education options due to a high practical component (e.g. practising therapeutic techniques). The PgDip Rehabilitation Psychology option can only be taken full- time.

What if I have an undergraduate qualification in a related field, but not psychology, and wish to pursue postgraduate psychology study?

You may choose to enroll in a Graduate Diploma in Health Science, in which you will need to complete some Level-6 (Year 2) and Level-7 (Year 3) Psychology papers. You will need to maintain a B+ average in order to be selected for the Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) programme in psychology. Please contact the undergraduate programme leader, Charmaine Bright (cbright@aut.ac.nz) for more information on the Graduate Diploma.

Can I finish my studies after the Master Health Science in Psychology (Rehabilitation)

Yes you can. Some students go on to pursue further study in other areas of psychology (such as clinical, counselling or health psychology). Graduates with a masters can find work in a variety of settings including community support agencies, disability advocacy, health care management and leadership, planning and policy.

What if I have postgraduate qualifications in psychology from another university or country?

Students from other universities/programmes

This needs to be considered on an individual level. As the honours qualification is the first year of the masters qualification, students may often find that they need to complete the Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) programme at AUT prior to being able to apply for the Master of Health Science in Psychology. In order for the Postgraduate team to make an assessment of your eligibility to apply for our programmes, please send a full academic transcript of papers you have taken, the grades obtained, as well as an outline of the course content for each of these papers.

What if I wish to pursue psychology postgraduate studies but not in rehabilitation psychology?

The Master of Health Science in Psychology can also be completed by choosing papers with a focus on:

- Counselling Psychology (contact Dr Kirsten van Kessel – Kirsten.vankessel@aut.ac.nz).

AUT also offers psychotherapy qualifications available through the Department of Psychotherapy www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/health-sciences/psychotherapy

For further information on the postgraduate rehabilitation psychology programme please contact: Dr Claire O'Donovan, claire.odonovan@aut.ac.nz