

The logo for AUT (Auckland University of Technology) is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters within a black rectangular box. The background of the entire page is a vibrant green, featuring a pattern of stylized, overlapping geometric shapes that resemble arrows or chevrons pointing in various directions. In the lower half of the page, there are several concentric, irregular white outlines that form a maze-like pattern, creating a sense of depth and complexity.

AUT

Doctor of
Health Science

The Doctor of Health Science (DHSc) provides health professionals with an opportunity to develop broader professional competency, alongside an area of specialisation and professional expertise.

CLEAR FOCUS ON RESEARCH IN PRACTICE

The purpose of research within this degree is to inform and impact on practice. You're encouraged to build collaborative relationships with health system managers, policy makers and practice experts and engage in dialogue throughout the planning, enacting and dissemination phases of your research project.

INTERPROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

The DHSc programme gathers an interprofessional community of scholars who work with both academic and practice colleagues towards building a strong and responsive health system in New Zealand. Looking, hearing, reading, thinking, and dialoguing engage this community in the scholarship of practice.

DESIGNED FOR PROFESSIONALS IN PRACTICE

This programme is suitable for all health professionals including but not limited to allied health professionals in senior management in district health boards, government departments, non-government departments, private practices, and university and polytechnic teaching academics.

Differences between the DHSc and a PhD

- The DHSc offers a strong emphasis on the role of leadership in informing, changing and potentially developing new practice within healthcare in New Zealand.
- The programme structure includes three taught papers that culminate in a thesis proposal, and once approved, the thesis itself. The courses aim to provide you with background philosophies in the wider field of health science and to offer a framework for defining a research question. The teaching in these courses is facilitated learning and fosters interprofessional interaction in a collegial and supportive framework.



PAPERS



Health Systems Analysis

This course aims to critically analyse the New Zealand health and disability system, policy developments, reforms and relevant, health law in relation to research focus. Considers the possibilities and tensions that arise out of difference in place, scope, profession and time. Strategises the nature of change possible within your ongoing research project, and the socio-political challenges of leading such change.

40pts



Practice and Philosophies

This course clarifies the research focus towards initiating research that impacts constructive change in healthcare practice-education, identifying complex influences and possibilities. Examines possible research approaches. Begins project management plan for completion of DHSc. Reflects on self-as-leader.

40pts



Research Practice and Methodology

This course aims to synthesise knowledge and designs research in a specific area of practice. Shows potential for originality in development of new knowledge. Demonstrates project planning in action.

40pts



DHSc Thesis

The culmination of the courses above is the presentation of the PGR9 and then moving onto the thesis.

240pts

PREPARING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL



The three courses in the Doctor of Health Science are designed to help you prepare the research proposal for your thesis. For admission we simply require an idea of your likely area of interest, and leanings towards which research approach. This enables us to link you with a suitable supervisor. Students within the Doctor of Health Science often change and refine their thinking once in the programme.

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS AND GRADUATES

“The programme is full of people from all areas of health, which is a wonderful way to connect and relate and be reminded that actually working together like this is such a great idea. The programme co-ordinators and leaders are incredible – the support is second to none and the kindness, care and genuine interest from them is what makes doing the programme all the more possible.”



Marcelle Nader-Turner

School Counsellor, Teacher and DHSc student

“I saw an opportunity to develop a way of working with and for Māori that could overcome some of the inequalities Māori experience in the health system. The Doctor of Health Science degree presented an opportunity for me to study, analyse and critique the way in which health professionals practice when engaging with Māori.”



Dr Brian Thomas Ruakere

DHSc Graduate

HOW TO APPLY

1. Meet with the Programme Leader about the suitability of the programme and to organise a supervisor.
2. Apply to gain entry to the programme (refer to the minimum entry requirements below) and provide a current CV and transcripts, showing evidence of postgraduate qualifications and research capability (eg publications). This will be assessed to ascertain eligibility for entry to this doctoral programme.
3. Link with your supervisor to work on and gain approval of your research proposal.
4. Once the research proposal, qualifications and practice experience have been approved by the faculty, this will be sent to the Graduate Research School for approval and to issue an Offer of Place.

Applications are welcome at all times during the year.

Acceptance is subject to:

- The availability of staff for supervision
- Prior research preparation
- Appropriate facilities

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You must have completed the following in a specialisation appropriate to the proposed research:

- Master's degree with honours OR
- Bachelor's degree with honours (equivalent to four years of study)

The degree must have a standard equivalent to first class or second class (first division) honours.

The degree should include advanced learning in research, execution of a research project and a written report on the research.

AND

A minimum of five years' professional experience in the specific area of study.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS (Academic) 6.5 overall with 7.0 in Writing and no band less than 6.0

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Visit aut.ac.nz/int/pgentryrequirements

CONTACT US:

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