



# **NURSE PRACTITIONER TRAINING PROGRAMME (NPTP)**

## **THE FACTS**

Whilst many great nurses in New Zealand have completed the required preparation for a clinical Master's degree, relatively few have progressed to NP registration. To address this situation, The University of Auckland and Massey University have been awarded funding for the Nurse Practitioner Training Programme by Health Workforce directorate to be continued for 2020. This training programme seeks to increase coordination between potential NPs, their employers, tertiary education providers, and New Zealand Nursing Council. The aim is to align and promote NP preparation, registration and employment into a seamless pathway.

### MN pathway for NP applicants

- This NP pathway is embedded in the MN programme already approved by CUAP and the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ)
- The entry point to the final step of the pathway is the relevant pre-requisite study and grades (see entry criteria) and the completion point is a Master of Nursing (MN)
- This pathway will be delivered over 1 year part-time

### Objectives

- Prepare advanced practice nurses for NP roles and NP registration
- Provide a pathway within the approved MN programme that is specifically designed for prospective NPs
- Support 500 hours of closely supervised supernumerary clinical time to practice the advanced nursing skills needed for NP registration, such as prescribing
- Align New Zealand Nursing Council NP registration processes with NP education and subsequent employment
- Employer commitment to hire NP once registered following successful completion of training programme

### Entry criteria

Applicants for the NP Training Programme funding must:

- a) Applicants must have completed a minimum of three years' equivalent full-time practice within the last five years, with at least one of the three years in full-time practice in New Zealand and within the area of practice that the NP will register.
- b) Have already completed the pre-requisite courses that include pathophysiology, pharmacology and advanced health assessment with a B grade average or above (including any required grades for specific courses).
- c) Be a New Zealand citizen or hold a Permanent New Zealand residency.
- d) Applicants must be a registered nurse with a current New Zealand practicing certificate and be in good standing with the Council.
- e) Have identified and have access to **two areas of clinical practice** in which to develop the advanced skills and knowledge required for nurse practitioner practice. One area should be relevant to her/his intended area of prescribing practice and the other area should broaden her/his clinical practice. One experience must be with a clinical mentor who is also a Nurse Practitioner.
- f) Enrol full-time or part-time in 2020 depending on the study already completed.
- g) Provide their employer's signed declaration of support on letterhead to allow clinical release time and study days and hire them into an NP role once registered.

## Prerequisites

The final nurse practitioner practicum course(s) have three pre-requisite courses which must be completed prior to enrolling in the final NP MN year:

- Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology

## Curriculum

The NP pathway is embedded in the postgraduate nursing courses that already exist within those delivered in University of Auckland and Massey Schools of Nursing. Therefore, the pathway is constructed from courses already developed and successfully taught and in a sequence that systematically builds the competencies required for NPs by the Nursing Council of New Zealand (2017).

The requirements for the entire MN are made up of three consecutive qualifications:

**Postgraduate Certificate**      →      **Postgraduate Diploma**      →      **Master of Nursing**

- Students should complete the postgraduate certificate and postgraduate diploma (which includes advanced assessment, advanced pathophysiology and, advanced pharmacology).
- They apply for acceptance in the Master of Nursing NP Training course. This programme includes two days a week of clinical practice for 10 months (500 hours of practice) within two areas of clinical practice, one of which has committed to hiring the NP upon registration.
- To successfully complete the NP training programme, the student is required to complete a NP portfolio and submit it New Zealand Nursing Council for NP registration
- Nurses may transfer credits from another university either at a *completed* post-graduate Certificate or Diploma level.
- Students on the NP pathway will complete a maximum of 120 points to complete the final step – the MN. However, preference will be given to students who have only the practicum to complete (60 credits).
- Individual academic advice is essential for these nurses using transfer credit to ensure they receive case-by-case guidance for enrolment into the appropriate courses to meet equivalent learning outcomes of the courses named above.

## Courses within each step NP Pathway (or variation depending on University regulations)

Nurses on the NP pathway must have already completed the following course content:

- Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
- Advanced Pathophysiology
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Evidence Based Practice & Implementation (or variation)
- Clinical Project(Masters research requirements)

*University of Auckland:* Plus **two clinical practicums** - taken in the final year of study consecutively

- Advanced Nursing Practicum – advanced diagnostic reasoning and treatment planning (250 hours clinical practicum component) – 30 points
- Prescribing in Advanced Nursing Practice (250 hours clinical practicum component) – 30 points

*Massey University:* Plus **one 60 credit practicum**

- Prescribing for Nurse Practitioner practice (500 hours clinical practicum component) - 60 points

## Clinical practice requirements

- Students enrolled in the training programme must have commitment from employers to support them during the programme and also commit to hiring them at the conclusion of the programme. This can either be through the student's existing workplace, or through other employers indicating an identified need for an NP position.
- Each student will have access to **two areas of clinical practice** in which to develop the advanced skills and knowledge required for nurse practitioner practice. One area should be relevant to her/his intended area of prescribing practice and the other area should broaden her/his clinical practice. One experience must be with a clinical mentor who is also a Nurse Practitioner.
- Each student will be required to commit to supervised (by a current prescriber) clinical practice time of a minimum of 16 hours per week (500 hours total) over the year. This time must be outside (supernumerary) of the student's non-prescribing work hours.
- The employer who has committed to hire the student upon NP registration is reimbursed through Health Workforce New Zealand to fund the NP training student's clinical time.
- Employers will allow 500 hours (16 hours per week) clinical release time from non-prescribing work hours plus attendance at university study days. Clinical experience can be through the nurse's existing workplace, and/or with other employers.

Access to supervised clinical time must be negotiated by the student with their employer before acceptance into the pathway and written agreement from their current employer must be provided. The pathway coordinator will assist students to organise this with their employers.

## Clinical supervision

- Each student will be supervised in the practicum courses by an appropriately qualified prescribing health professional. At least one experience must be with a clinical mentor who is also a nurse practitioner.
- The appointment of a clinical supervisor must be negotiated with partner NP employers prior to enrolment in the practicum.
- The student must negotiate with their current employer prior to acceptance in the pathway with the support of the NP pathway coordinator.

For more information on the NP Training Programme, please contact the following representatives:



**The University of Auckland**  
Nurse Practitioner Training Programme  
Project Coordinator

Anna Šale  
Email: [a.sale@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.sale@auckland.ac.nz)



**Massey University**  
Nurse Practitioner Training Programme  
Project Administrator

Catherine Haslem  
Email: [C.L.Haslem@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.L.Haslem@massey.ac.nz)