

Doctor of Health Sciences

The University of Canterbury now offers a doctoral degree in Health Sciences. This doctoral qualification is perfect for healthcare professionals who want to develop research that informs their profession whilst enabling them to complete doctoral level study.

If you are passionate about health and have the aspiration to complete a doctorate, the Doctor of Health Sciences is the perfect programme for you.



Influencing the future of health through research

The Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc) programme provides an opportunity for you to evaluate an area of health that you are passionate about. That could include evaluating health innovations and initiatives that are designed to reduce disparities in health outcomes, generating evidence for improved practice and service delivery, or conducting research into population health needs.

How the DHSc is delivered

The DHSc is designed primarily for health care professionals who wish to study part time while continuing in paid employment. Part I of the programme (first two years of part-time study) is built around a cohort model.

This means that you will be joining a group of likeminded professionals who are on their doctoral journey too. You all begin at the same time and provide support, collegiality and critique for each other.

During Part I (Research Portfolio), students work on themed projects (one per semester) relating to their study topic, including their research proposal. These projects are submitted for formal feedback from a programme coordinator and your doctoral supervisor.

Part I includes 2-3 one or two-day face-to-face workshops during each of the first two years. These workshops provide students with opportunities to engage with academic leaders who will discuss key research-related topics, provide presentations and receive formative feedback.

At a glance

- Starts February
- Part I Research Portfolio (120 points) completed part-time over 2 years
- Part II Thesis (240 points) completed either part-time or full-time. If full-time, the maximum period of enrolment is 36 months

In Part II (Thesis), students continue with their thesis project in much the same way as a PhD student would.

This will be supported by a minimum of two supervisors responsible for mentoring and advising the student. Continued interaction with the cohort is strongly encouraged, as the support and collegiality is likely to remain beneficial.

Courses	Points
Part I	
HLTH796 Research Portfolio	120
Part II	
HLTH 795 Thesis	240

Structure

The DHSc comprises two parts.

Part I: Research Portfolio (120 points) includes:

- A comprehensive critical review of the literature relevant to the student's proposed research questions(s);
- An analytical paper on policy and/or practice in the student's field of research;
- A project on research methodology;
- A Portfolio including a full thesis proposal; and
- Presentation at an assessment colloquium.

Part II: Thesis (240 points):

- Includes original research that makes a significant contribution to knowledge;
- Places the research in the broader framework of the discipline;
- Is undertaken under qualified supervision;
- Meets recognised international standards;
- Is submitted in English or te reo Māori; and
- Does not exceed 80,000 words, excluding appendices.

Duration

Part I - Part I is completed part-time over 24 months.

Part II can be completed either part-time or full-time. If studying full-time, the maximum period of enrolment is 36 months unless an exemption is granted by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research.

Admission to the qualification

A student, before enrolling for the degree, must:

- a. Be approved by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research (or delegate) as having the qualifications, research and professional experience, and the ability to pursue the proposed course.

- b. Have satisfied the Admission Regulations for the University to be admitted to this qualification.

- c. For Part I have:

- i. Either
 - qualified for an Aotearoa New Zealand equivalent of a bachelor's degree with First or Second Class (Division I) Honours, or a master's degree with Distinction or Merit; or
 - been admitted with a degree of equivalent standing to those in Regulation 4(c)(i).
 - in special circumstances, the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may approve the enrolment of a graduate who does not hold one of the qualifications under Regulation 4(b), but who has produced satisfactory evidence of adequate research experience, training and ability to pursue the degree.

- ii. A minimum of five years' experience in a relevant professional role.

- d. For Part II, must have:

- i. Met the requirements for Part I with a 'pass' grade.
- ii. An approved topic and agreed supervision for the thesis.

Enrolment information

To enrol in this degree please visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/enrol/doctoral/

For programme support and advice please email: studyhealth@canterbury.ac.nz

AT A GLANCE

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury

- QS ranked 258
- Specialist clinics including the Pukemanu Centre
- Home to Schools, research institutes and centres including: School of Health Sciences; Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery and Research; The Psychology Centre; Child Language Research Group; New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour; Speech-Language Neuroscience Lab | Te Puna Pūtaiao Ioio
- State-of-the-art facilities including on-campus laboratories
- Dedicated career support unit

Join a vibrant research community

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury offers diverse research programmes that are multi-disciplinary and focused on informing policy and practice to improve people's lives.

Our research hubs and facilities specialise in areas such as health assessment, epidemiology, complementary and alternative medicine, exercise, sports science, and public health.

As a doctoral candidate you will encounter a multitude of views, expertise and insight that will help you build your specialist area.

Contact

Faculty of Health

Te Kaupeka Oranga

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