

## Guide for international students applying for University of Auckland teaching programmes

The University of Auckland's teaching programmes are:

- Bachelor of Education - Teaching (Early Childhood or Primary)
- Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood, Primary or Secondary)
- Master of Teaching (Primary)

*Please note: The start date for Bachelor of Education - Teaching (Early Childhood or Primary) and Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Secondary) is Semester One only (February). Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood and Primary) has an early start date of January only. The start date for Master of Teaching (Primary) is Semester Two only (July).*

*The teaching programmes don't require an academic background in teaching. This means that students from any disciplines can apply. Also, these programmes don't require work experience as a teacher.*

### Application process

The application process for applying for a teaching programme can be completed in three steps:

#### 1. Pre-interview

- Online application
- Supplementary information
- Literacy and numeracy assessment
- School or centre visit

#### 2. Panel interview

#### 3. Post-interview

- Police checks
- Assessment to meet Vulnerable Children Act standards

#### 1. Pre-interview

##### i. Online application

The first step of the application process is to apply online. Please go to [www.apply.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.apply.auckland.ac.nz) if you are submitting your application individually or ask your agent to submit an online application on your behalf.

For admission into the University, we automatically assess your previous international academic qualification(s). However, as per the Education Council New Zealand's requirement for teacher certification, your international academic transcripts will need to be assessed by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). The NZQA report provides the Education Council with key information, including accreditation status of the training provider, authentication of your qualification and

levelling against the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). See NZQA's website for more details [www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/international-qualifications/international-qualifications-assessment/](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/international-qualifications/international-qualifications-assessment/)

##### ii. Supplementary information

Please note that all sections must be completed

##### a. English language competency

All applicants whose first language is not English will be required to provide a satisfactory IELTS score. For the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) and Graduate Diploma in Teaching we require a minimum IELTS score of level 7.0 with no band below 7.0. For the Master of Teaching we require a minimum IELTS score of 7.5 with no band below 7.0. If you do not meet the above IELTS requirement, you will need to retake the IELTS exam. No exceptions will be made. IELTS scores can be submitted after the interview.

##### b. Referees

All applicants must provide at least two referee reports to support their application. Referees should be someone who has known you for some time, and can comment on the way you interact with people. Suitable referees may include a teacher, employer, colleague, sports coach or church leader. At least one of your referees should be able to comment on your work habits and/or ability. Referee reports cannot be completed by relatives or close friends.

Download the referee report from the 'supplementary information' section of your online application.

All reports are confidential, however please note that the Faculty may contact referees to ask for further information.

We need to have received at least one referee report before we can invite you for an interview.

Referees will need to email their report directly to [education@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:education@auckland.ac.nz) or send it to the postal address on the form.

##### c. Personal statement

We urge all students to complete this section in their own words as this will indicate to the panel that they are a genuine candidate.

You will need to briefly state why you want to become a teacher and list any relevant experience you have in teaching.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.education.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz)

### APPLY NOW

[www.auckland.ac.nz/apply](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/apply)



[facebook.com/AkUniEducation](https://facebook.com/AkUniEducation)



[twitter.com/AucklandUni](https://twitter.com/AucklandUni)



[youtube.com/user/UNIOfAUCKLAND](https://youtube.com/user/UNIOfAUCKLAND)

### iii. Literacy and Numeracy Assessment

All applicants must take an online assessment of their literacy and numeracy abilities. You will receive an email containing information about the assessment a few days after you submit your application. Students are required to complete this within two weeks of receiving the email.

#### a) Literacy Assessment

All applicants for Initial Teacher Education programmes must meet New Zealand's Education Council's language requirements. The literacy assessment is completed online whereby an applicant is given an hour to read an article and then responds to a question. Applicants are assessed on content and development of ideas (that is, their understanding and reflection of the article); sentence structures; grammar; vocabulary. They do not need to write a lot but enough (at least 4-6 paragraphs) in order for all criteria to be marked accordingly.

The marker will assess whether the applicant has understood the key points of the article and is able to summarise it in a clear and cohesive way. Correct grammar is critical.

#### b) Numeracy Assessment

This is a basic mathematics and numeracy assessment involving division, multiplication, place value, etc. It is an online assessment, which takes around 30 minutes to complete and is equivalent to content taught in senior primary and intermediate schools. It is essential that teachers have a basic fundamental understanding of numeracy in order to teach students.

### iv. School or centre visit

For applicants living in New Zealand, we strongly recommend that you arrange to visit a school or an early childhood centre (depending on the programme that you are applying for) prior to attending your interview for the programme.

#### Tips for school or centre visit:

- Seek the permission of the school principal/centre manager to spend some time in a classroom/centre. Not all schools/centres may be able to arrange this for you.
- Observe the teacher working before you try to assist.
- Where possible, talk to the teacher about what you observed.
- Talk to the teacher about the nature of their work, the school's/centre's relationship with the community, and other topical education issues.
- Be prepared to talk about your visit when you attend your interview.

## 2. Panel interview

When you submit your online application and have met all other requirements, you will be asked to attend a panel interview. If you live overseas then an interview can be arranged on Skype<sup>™</sup>. You will need to be prepared for the interview. At the interview, expect to talk about why you want to become a teacher and what skills you would bring to the sector. It is important to be aware of current issues affecting education in New Zealand. Please also be prepared to share with the panel your observations when visiting a school or early childhood centre.

If you are living overseas and were not able to organise a visit to a school or an early childhood centre, you should be prepared to talk about your experience with children and classrooms. You should be able to describe what classrooms are like in your home country and what you think is good or bad about the way schools are organised and conducted.

Here is what you need to keep in mind before, during and after the interview, if interviewed in person:

#### i. Before the interview

- Dress appropriately - smart and simple that enables you to look neat and tidy. This is a professional interview.
- If an unfortunate circumstance prevents you from attending, let the University know as soon as possible.
- Get to the interview venue with at least 20 minutes to spare. This will enable you to meet the other applicants and find out about each of them. Be proactive. You may be asked to introduce another applicant.
- You may wish to prepare some of your responses before the interview.
- Keep in mind that there are many more applications than there are places. What will make you stand out?

#### ii. During the interview

- Respond relevantly to questions - be honest and succinct
- Your communication skills will be assessed. Use language that is appropriate in a professional situation.

#### iii. After the Interview

Thank and shake the hand of each of the interview panel as well as the other applicants.

Even if you live overseas and have been invited to an interview over Skype<sup>™</sup>, there will still be expectations around dressing appropriately, being available on time for the interview and displaying professional and mature behaviour. Please keep in mind that there are many more applications than there are places. What will make you stand out?

## 3. Post-interview

#### i. Police checks

You are required to provide an overseas police clearance if you have lived in any country other than New Zealand for 12 months or more within the last 10 years. This is required only if you have met all other requirements.

#### ii. Assessment to meet Vulnerable Children Act standards

The Vulnerable Children Act came into force in July 2015. Under this act, all people who work with children must be safety checked. In order to be assessed, a risk assessment is conducted. This is based on your interview, the referee reports that you would have provided, police checks and work history assessment. This is the final step of the selection process and will be undertaken once you have met all other conditions.

**If you have any questions, please email the Faculty of Education and Social Work International Manager, Samantha Cruttenden: [s.cruttenden@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.cruttenden@auckland.ac.nz).**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.education.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz)

## APPLY NOW

[www.auckland.ac.nz/apply](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/apply)



[facebook.com/AkUniEducation](https://facebook.com/AkUniEducation)



[twitter.com/AucklandUni](https://twitter.com/AucklandUni)



[youtube.com/user/UNIofAUCKLAND](https://youtube.com/user/UNIofAUCKLAND)

[www.international.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.international.auckland.ac.nz)