

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

AUT University has offered postgraduate study in musculoskeletal physiotherapy since 1994. The programme has produced high quality postgraduate clinicians, who are leaders in their field.

The musculoskeletal physiotherapy paper (588675) is open to any physiotherapist registered to practice in New Zealand who has at least one year of relevant clinical experience. The other papers in this pathway (see details below) do not require this prior clinical experience.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Science in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Paper	Points
588675 Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy	40
588631 Quantitative Research Methods	20
588641 Biomechanics	20
588642 Pain: Mechanisms and Management	20
AND	
588623 Professional Practice	20
OR	
588644 Practice Reality	20
Total points	120

NB: Within this subject area other relevant papers may be substituted with the approval of the Associate Dean Postgraduate

Master of Health Practice in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Paper	Points
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Science in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy	120
AND	
588600 Practice Project	60
OR	
Optional clinical papers	60
Total points	180

Master of Health Science

Paper	Points
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Science in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy	120
AND	
588950 Thesis part-time 2 years	120
Total points	240

Papers

588675 Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy encompasses advanced study in the assessment of musculoskeletal dysfunction and manual, sports and manipulative physiotherapy rehabilitation methods. Current knowledge and practices of musculoskeletal therapy, integration of the scientific and clinical research foundation and alternative areas for clinical and scientific research are evaluated. Students will become competent and effective clinicians in advanced musculoskeletal diagnostic procedures and treatment techniques.

This paper is taught in five, one week blocks; three in the first semester and two in the second semester. There is also a requirement to complete 150 hours of supervised clinical work. This can also be done in blocks or in smaller sessions over the duration of the course. Assessment of the paper involves both a written and a practical component.

588642 Pain: Mechanisms and Management

- **Semester 2 only**

Applies neurophysiologic mechanisms of musculoskeletal pain to clinical practice. Develops an understanding of the clinical recognition and physical therapy management of simple to

complex musculoskeletal pain syndromes. Includes exploration of complementary interventions such as pharmacological and psychological therapies for musculoskeletal pain management.

588641 Biomechanics

- **On-campus Semester 1 only**

Fosters the advanced study of mechanical principles and their association with the musculoskeletal system. The content includes muscle architecture, electromyography, viscoelasticity and the effect of internal and external forces on body tissues. The emphasis is placed on biomechanical factors that influence damage to tissues and the treatment of dysfunction.

Research Paper

588631 Quantitative Research Methods

- **Offered on-line and on campus**

An overview of research methodologies appropriate to the conduct of research in a variety of health disciplines and applied contexts, with an emphasis on quantitative methods and statistical analysis. To equip students with the knowledge and skills required to enable them to carry out their own quantitative research and critically evaluate the research of others. This includes familiarising students with the use of computers and statistical packages.

Professional Papers

Complete one of the following

588644 Practice Reality

- Offered on-line and on-campus

Critically analyse the impact of the practice reality on the experience of the client and the health professional. Its approach involves the student in bringing a variety of philosophical paradigms to the analysis of practice situations.

588623 Professional Practice

- Semester 2 only

Examine, critique and integrate theoretical understandings of professional practice occurring in health related contexts in New Zealand. Social, political, cultural, bicultural, economic and organisational opportunities and constraints that influence professional practice will be critiqued.

Research Project

Complete one of the following

589600 Project Practice

Affords an opportunity to investigate an issue of practice, instigate a change to practice, or develop an innovative strategy for practice. The project is grounded in the real world of practice. The aim of the project is to invest back into practice. While written commentary accompanies the project, the thrust of the activity is 'doing' rather than 'talking about'.

Paper 588950 Thesis

Demonstrate application of research methodology and methods with respect to design, developing critical analysis and critique, and completing a research report in a scholarly manner.

For further assistance, please contact:

Course Information Centre
0800 AUT UNI (0800 288 864)
courseinfo@aut.ac.nz

The information on this brochure was correct when it was printed MUSCULOSKELETAL-200-DEC06

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Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Postgraduate Programmes



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