TE KURA WHATU
OHO MAURI

School of
Psychology
Welcome Nau Mai

Psychology is one of the most important and critical topics in modern society, and the most versatile degree at Waikato.

It can be mixed and matched with other interests to create a truly bespoke degree to precisely target specific interests, with minors possible in any area of Science, Social Science or Arts. You can also study from a range of subjects within Psychology, or combine Psychology with another area of study (such as Biology or Law) to complete a double major.

Psychology at the University of Waikato is modern, contemporary and focuses on the cornerstones of Psychology (Cognitive, Developmental, Brain, Behaviour, Perception and Social Psychology). We ensure Psychology is scientific and accountable, producing world-leading research in a friendly and welcoming environment. Our lecture sizes are typically more intimate than other Psychology degrees leading to a more personal learning experience. We care about the welfare of our students, and we take a Kaupapa Māori approach to laboratories for Māori students.

We have a nationally and internationally recognised research profile, which means you are learning from researchers at the forefront of psychology research. The need for clinical psychologists is acute in New Zealand, and the University of Waikato contributes a greater proportion of Māori and Pacific clinical psychologists than any other university in the country.

There are support services and facilities available to our students on both the Hamilton and Tauranga campuses. In Hamilton, our Student Advisors are located in the IJK Block reception area. In Tauranga, you will find the Student Services team at our brand new and award-winning Tauranga campus on Durham Street. Alternatively you can also contact them on 07 838 4080 or alpss@waikato.ac.nz. Our student services team will be able to help you with programme advice, degree planning, re-entry and be your first port of call for any questions you may have regarding your studies.

We also have dedicated Māori, Pacific and International mentoring units available for our students - their main function is to provide our students with academic support and pastoral care. In addition, there are also various student led associations across our Division that you can join to meet like minded students - they will become your home away from home.
DID YOU KNOW?

• We have a broad coverage of the entire discipline of Psychology, from social science to neuroscience.
• Our areas of specialisation are the most critical where psychology can make a difference to society (Māori and community psychology, Clinical psychology, Behavioural psychology, Cognitive psychology).
• We have world leaders in research for areas as diverse as cognitive, developmental, environmental, and forensic psychology.
• Study advising support is provided to all first-year students.

Career Options

Students who have gained a graduate qualification in Psychology are now working as:

• Clinical and Community Psychologists – Private Practice
• Community Development Officer – Meningitis Trust
• Neuropsychological Assessor – ACC
• Disabilities Instructor – Wintec
• Research Manager Behavioural Sciences – Opus International
• Youth Co-ordinator – Māori Youth and Suicide Intervention Programme
APPLIED COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Applied cognitive psychology has a long history of studying how humans use memory, language, attention and other mental processes in everyday life. Since the earliest days of psychology, the study of these mental processes has been applied to advertising, skilled work performance, eyewitness memory and accident investigations.

The study of applied cognitive psychology also includes human-computer interaction, artificial intelligence, aviation and road safety, competitive sports, information technology, ergonomics and many other areas.

Research

New Zealand’s most advanced driving simulator is located in our Applied Cognitive Psychology laboratory.

BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS

Behaviour analysis involves a scientific understanding of the behaviour of people and animals, how animal and human behaviour is affected by events in the social and physical environment, and what you can do to help produce behaviour change to improve lives. Knowledge of behaviour-change technology can assist you in a variety of careers.

Research

Our staff are leading researchers in Applied (Human) Behaviour Analysis and have extensive experience working with children and adults for positive behaviour change, including the design and assessment of a range of behaviour modification programmes for children with autism and other special needs.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

Clinical psychology is the application of scientific psychological principles to the understanding, assessment and treatment of people with mental health needs. Clinical psychologists use principles of learning, cognition, development and personality to assist people from diverse cultures with social, emotional, behavioural and developmental difficulties. Clinical psychologists also play an important role in assessing people and advising authorities in relation to matters such as the placement of children following parental separation, rehabilitation of accident victims and the sentencing and parole of offenders.
Research
Recent research includes studies of children (childhood obesity), adolescents (eating disorders), adults (emotional intelligence) and older adults (coping strategies in dementia), and also studies addressing mood disorders (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression), family issues (custody and access, coping with deafness), social issues (drug and alcohol addiction, gambling), and health related concerns (sexual health, breast cancer).

COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY
The prevention of social problems requires more than simply changing the behaviour of individuals. It requires the analysis of, and intervention in, the broader social, political, economic and cultural systems in which we live. In short, it requires the pursuit of social justice. Community psychology is characterised by an ecological approach in which social problems are seen as arising from the interaction of people and their environments.

Community psychologists pay particular attention to the conditions which give rise to social problems, including oppression. They apply their understanding of people in their social worlds to tackle issues such as violence, poverty, racism, homelessness, accidents on the road and in the home, ill health of various kinds, homophobia, school failure and substance abuse.

Research
Current research projects include public attitudes towards sex offenders, educating Pākehā about Te Tiriti o Waitangi, homelessness in Auckland and consumer participation in the delivery of mental health care.

CRIME SCIENCE, FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY AND THE LAW
Here in the School of Psychology, a group of world-leading experts work to understand crime and to answer crucial questions: Who commits crimes? What situations make crimes more likely to happen? How can we obtain information from eyewitnesses without contaminating their memories?

In Forensic psychology, we focus on all the ways in which psychology can help us to understand what causes crime and how to prevent it.

Our key areas of interest currently include:
- Psychopathy and the rehabilitation of offenders with psychopathy
- Criminal gangs
- Family violence perpetrators and services that help
- Cybersecurity and hacker profiling
- Methamphetamine use and offending

In Psychology and the law, we start with the idea that the legal system must treat the memories of eyewitnesses and victims the same way they treat conventional physical evidence: blood, hairs, fibres, fingerprints. So, "memory" evidence must be collected quickly and completely, without contamination.

We work to aid police, judges and lawyers understand what procedures help and what procedures hurt. The School of Psychology is linked to the New Zealand Institute of Security and Crime Science (NZISCS). Psychology graduates can enrol in the new multidisciplinary Masters degree in Security and Crime Science.
KAUPAPA MĀORI PSYCHOLOGY

Kaupapa Māori psychology has two major features. The first involves applying psychological knowledge to problems that confront Māori at the individual or group level, as well as supporting Māori to achieve their aspirations. The second approach emerges from within the Māori world and involves growing a Māori-specific psychology that addresses issues of concern to Māori in uniquely Māori ways. Underlying these two approaches is a psychological understanding of Māori cultural concepts, culture change and resilience.

Research
The Māori and Psychology Research Unit in the School of Psychology has an excellent reputation for facilitating research that holds Māori as central to the issue under investigation. With the involvement of students, research projects include the study of Tangihanga, media representations of Māori, mental health and recovery, the recruitment and retention of Māori in tertiary institutions, Māori cultural change, Moko – Māori skin art, energy conservation, Pacific health and Māori migration.

ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Organisational psychology is the scientific study of people’s attitudes and behaviour at work, and of the psycho-social processes underlying the functioning of organisations. Major topics taught in organisational psychology at the University of Waikato include: staff selection and training, performance appraisal and management, work attitudes and motivation, leadership, organisational culture and climate, job stress and burnout, and human factors at work.

Research
Organisational psychology focuses on a wide array of research topics. Some examples include: job analyses and personnel selection procedures; analysis of training needs in organisations; shift-work and fatigue in call centres; organisational change and development; factors affecting job stress and well-being at work; work-related attitudes, goals and motivation; and predictors of retirement decision making.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Understanding people requires understanding them as social beings – as members of groups such as families, whānau/hapu/iwi, workplaces, crowds, communities, cultural and ethnic groups, unions, churches and gangs. Social psychology is the study of the nature and causes of human social behaviour, with an emphasis on how people think, feel and act towards each other. Social psychologists are interested in questions such as: What makes other people attractive to us? How does racism arise and what can be done about it? and What influence does the media have on our attitudes?

Research
Current projects in social psychology include understanding climate change, how and why we recycle, how we coped with Covid-19, media representation of Pasifika peoples, the mental health of Somali women and refugees in New Zealand, and Māori and epilepsy.
Degree structures (also known as degree planners) show you the papers you need to complete for a particular degree (e.g. BA) and major subject (e.g. English). Most degree structures include specific papers that you have to complete, and papers that give you a choice.

**SINGLE MAJOR**

Each box represents a paper. Each paper is worth a set number of points – normally 15 points per paper.

### Y1
- 120 points
- 100 Level
- 100 Level
- 100 Level
- 100 Level
- 100 Level
- 100 Level

### Y2
- 120 points
- 200 Level
- 200 Level
- 200 Level
- 200 Level
- 200 Level
- 200 Level
- 100 Level or above

### Y3
- 120 points
- 300 Level
- 300 Level
- 300 Level
- 300 Level
- 300 Level
- 200 Level or above
- 200 Level or above
- 200 Level or above

The number of points a student will achieve if they pass all of their papers each year. A typical full-time workload is 120 points a year.

To graduate with a major in a subject, you need to have completed a certain number of points in that subject at various levels, i.e. at 100-, 200- and 300-level for a three-year degree.

- **Major OR Stream**
  - A major or stream is the main subject of your degree.

- **Elective papers**
  - You may have room in your degree to take papers that aren’t part of your major or compulsory for your degree. These are called elective papers. Electives can be from almost any subject offered by the University.

- **Minor (optional)**
  - Minors can be taken by completing four papers in the same field of study in place of elective papers. Degrees without electives may not have the option of completing a minor.

- **Compulsory papers**
  - All of these papers must be taken as part of your degree.

For more information or entry requirements scan the QR code or visit [waikato.ac.nz](http://waikato.ac.nz).

**CONTACT US:**

Any questions? Reach out to us at:

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- alpss@waikato.ac.nz