

16 August 2021

The Auckland University of Technology (AUT) and the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (MSC) provide the following important communicate in respect to the prescribed qualification for Anaesthetic Technicians.

AUT submitted a proposal to the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) to deliver a new major in Perioperative Practice, within the Bachelor of Health Science framework. Comprehensive consultation has taken place with the sector over a period of several years. This has included the establishment of an AUT Programme Advisory Committee which has representation from prospective employers, professional organisations, and medical groups. We are delighted to announce that this proposal has been approved. The naming of the qualification is a **Bachelor of Health Science in Perioperative Practice**.

The programme of study is a level seven qualification of 360-points [three years full-time]. Subject to accreditation by the MSC, on successful receipt of the academic award graduates will be eligible to apply for registration as an Anaesthetic Technician (AT). Further details may be found [here](#).

AUT has a proud record of producing safe and competent graduates within the health sector. The intent of the programme is to enable safe and competent graduates to fulfil the current gazetted scope of practice for the AT cohort detailed by the MSC. The transitional phase between the existing pathways and the proposed BHS in Perioperative Practice pathway presents an opportunity to elevate the level of graduate to the sector, with a broader range of skills and attributes for life-long learning and careers, including learning opportunities within existing expanded scopes of practice.

The Department of Perioperative Practice will be based at AUT South, Manukau. The qualification may be completed on-campus, or with distance learning opportunities. Clinical placements will be offered both within, and outside of, Auckland. Clinical placements will occur in block format throughout all semesters from semester two (Year One), through to semester six (Year Three). Students will be

supernumerary throughout their clinical placement. AUT projects an increase in graduating numbers from this programme. Further details will be communicated in the coming months.

AUT is the only accredited provider of education enabling graduates to apply for registration as an AT. The existing qualifications are the Anaesthetic Technician pathway within the:

- Diploma in Applied Science (120-point, level five qualification)
- Graduate Certificate in Science (60-point, level seven qualification)

The Graduate Certificate in Science will enroll one further cohort in semester 2, 2022. No further enrollments into these programmes will be accepted and these pathways will be withdrawn.

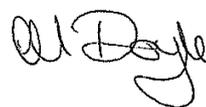
The BHSc in Perioperative Practice will commence enrolment in 2022, with the first cohort of graduates entering the workplace in 2024. AUT anticipates to offer a one-year fulltime, 120-point level seven qualification, namely the Graduate Diploma in Health Science, to enable registered health professionals within nursing or paramedicine to be eligible to apply for registration as an AT.

This is an exciting time for the profession, and presents an opportunity for an emerging health profession to champion the future of health profession education with the development of a new curriculum within the Bachelor of Health Science framework. AUT is the largest health science faculty within New Zealand and is enthusiastic to be a part of graduating a new generation of clinically competent and safe health professionals.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', is positioned above the name Mike Smith.

Mike Smith  
Programme Leader  
School of Clinical Sciences  
Auckland University of Technology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Doyle', is positioned above the name Mary Doyle.

Mary Doyle  
Chief Executive  
Medical Sciences Council