

2024

BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS HANDBOOK

TE KURA WHATU OHO MAURI SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato



CONTENTS

Behaviour Analysis	3
Applications of Behaviour Analysis	3
Careers in Behaviour Analysis	3
Practical Experience in ABA	4
Behaviour Analysis at the University of Waikato	5
Research in Behaviour Analysis at the University of Waikato	5
Undergraduate Courses in Behaviour Analysis	6
Qualifications including Undergraduate courses in Behaviour Analysis for Graduates in subjects other than Psychology	6
Postgraduate Qualifications that can include Behaviour Analysis	7
Postgraduate Qualifications Specialising in Behaviour Analysis	7
Doctorate in Philosophy Programme (PhD) in Behaviour Analysis	8
Master of Applied Psychology in Behaviour Analysis - MAppPsy(BA)	9
Summary of MAppPsy(BA) Degree Structure	11
MAppPsy(BA) Entry Requirements	11
Post-Masters PGDip(Psych) Specialising in Behaviour Analysis	13
Applying for Entry for the MAppPsy(BA) and PGDip(Psych)	13
Postgraduate Diploma in the Practice of Psychology (Applied Behaviour analysis) - PGDipPracPsych(ABA)	14
PGDipPracPsych(ABA) Structure	14
PGDipPracPsych(ABA) Entry Requirements	16
Applying for Entry into the PGDipPracPsych(ABA)	17

Behaviour Analysis

Behaviour analysis is a scientific approach to understanding why people and animals do what they do. Studying behaviour analysis will teach you how both animal and human behaviour is affected by events in the social and physical environment and what you can do to produce behaviour change to help improve lives. Knowledge of this science of behaviour and its behaviour-change technology will assist you in a variety of careers.

As a field, behaviour analysis consists of concepts, principles, and techniques. As a student of behaviour analysis, you will learn how behaviour can be understood and changed. This includes an introduction to behaviourism, which is the philosophical underpinning of the science of behaviour and the experimental analysis of behaviour (EAB), which is the domain of basic research. Applied behaviour analysis (ABA) is concerned with the application of these foundations and in the development of a technology to improve socially important behaviours. You will learn many skills, including how to define and measure behaviour, create behaviour change programmes, and evaluate their effectiveness in courses that combine theoretical and practical learning to produce marketable skills.

Applications of Behaviour Analysis

Applied behaviour analysis (ABA) is the application of behaviour-analytic principles to improve socially important behaviours. ABA is used in many settings and with a wide range of problems. Many effective and evidence-based procedures and interventions to addressing problem behaviour, and treatments for individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are based on ABA.



ABA can be used to help people gain new skills, reduce unwanted behaviours, or prevent problem behaviour starting in the first place. ABA is useful in many domains including, for example, organisational behaviour management (OBM) and ecological interventions (e.g., reducing littering, increasing recycling behaviour, addressing climate change).

Careers in Behaviour Analysis

Some students study behaviour analysis to apply their knowledge and skills to human problems, and to do work based on behaviour principles in an applied setting or to undertake research in these areas. Others study it to work with animal behaviour; they may be interested in research or in animal problem behaviours or animal training. Some combine both research and practice and/or the study of animal and human behaviour.

For whatever reason you are considering taking courses in this area, the behavioural courses and programmes will provide you with knowledge which you can use to understand, study and work

practically with behaviour. An understanding of how and why behaviour occurs and how it can be changed for the better is of fundamental value to almost all professions. Depending on your specialty, you may work in a range of settings (including research institutions, private practice, schools, special education settings, universities, health services, business and industry, and governmental agencies), and with a range of populations (including families, people with psychological problems, children with challenging behaviours, individuals with special needs, teachers, people and their pets, and others seeking positive behaviour change).

Students who have specialised in the application of behaviour analysis to human issues and clinical problems are working in the community, in the disability sector, mental health, and in early intervention, or in educational settings with individuals with a wide range of problems and disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, conduct disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

However, it doesn't matter what type of psychology you choose to practice, or whether you end up in a field orientated to people or animals. What is important is that you gain an understanding of how and why organisms behave (i.e., what maintains and influences behaviour).

Practical Experience in ABA

Many students pursuing careers involving the application of behaviour analysis gain practical experience alongside their undergraduate and graduate studies. This can be voluntary or paid, such as support work. In addition, experience can sometimes be gained working for parents or trusts who employ students specialising in ABA to work with their children, helping to implement programmes for them.

The graduate programme includes training in the skills required to work practically, applying behaviour analytic principles to behaviour change with humans. The postgraduate programme provides supervision and training for students who are completing internships to become registered psychologists in NZ and Australia (please see the [Ahpra website](#) for further information regarding registration in Australia). It also delivers the curriculum required for the professional credential of Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA)®.



Behaviour Analysis at the University of Waikato

The undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate courses in behaviour analysis provide training in the experimental analysis of behaviour, applied behaviour analysis, and the philosophical underpinnings of behaviour analysis.

The undergraduate courses can be taken on campus in Hamilton or Tauranga. Postgraduate courses can be taken on campus in Hamilton or online as part of a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology or the Masters in Applied Psychology in Behaviour Analysis.

The Postgraduate Diploma in the Practice of Psychology in applied behaviour analysis is a post-masters or post-doctorate qualification that is designed to provide the requirements for registration as a psychologist in NZ, specialising in the application of behaviour analysis. It provides the supervised practical experience required for registration as a Psychologist in NZ.

Research in Behaviour Analysis at the University of Waikato

The University of Waikato is involved with both experimental and applied research in behaviour analysis.

This research is aimed at advancing the understanding of behaviour. It includes the application of psychological principles to behaviour problems. Many of the advances in behavioural therapies have their basis in laboratory research. Some of the research has a direct crossover between the experimental analysis of behaviour and the applied analysis of behaviour, such as in the areas of reinforcement procedures, reinforcer preference, extinction, self-control, and stimulus generalisation.

Research in behaviour analysis includes the study of learning and of the application of behaviour principles to understanding and changing human and animal problem behaviour, health-related behaviour, developing communication skills, providing behaviour support for people with disabilities, improving educational practices, and animal training. Current research includes applied research projects examining scent detection with dogs, and research on complex human behaviour, including perspective taking and problem solving. There are also ongoing projects examining the application of behavioural interventions to improve educational and developmental outcomes.

Theses have included topics related to dealing with challenging behaviour, teaching adaptive and functional communication skills to vulnerable populations, and exploring the use of technology to facilitate behaviour change and increase independence in learners.

Electronic versions of theses completed since 2006 can be found here:

<http://www.researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/handle/10289/2222>



Undergraduate Courses in Behaviour Analysis

Students who wish to study behaviour analysis at The University of Waikato at undergraduate level should complete a BA, BSc or BSocSc with a major in Psychology and should include:

PSYCH100 HAM and TGA	15pts	Brain, Behaviour and Cognition
PSYCH204 HAM and TGA	15pts	Learning and Perception
PSYCH211 HAM and TGA	15pts	Understanding Psychological Research
PSYCH307 HAM and TGA	15pts	Psychological Research Methods
PSYCH314 HAM and TGA	15pts	Behaviour analysis

Depending on the area of their interests, students should consider including:

PSYCH319 HAM and TGA	15pts	Infant and Child Development
PSYCH337 HAM and TGA	15pts	Individual Differences and Measurement
PSYCH338 HAM and TGA	15pts	Mental Health and Wellbeing

If interested in working in educational settings, then students should consider including courses related to education in their degree. A double major in Psychology and Education could be considered by students wishing to work in special education or in other educational settings.

If interested in animal behaviour, students should consider relevant papers in biological sciences in their degree. A double major in Psychology and Biological Sciences or a minor in Animal Behaviour could be considered by students wishing to work in animal behaviour.



Qualifications including undergraduate courses in Behaviour Analysis for Graduates in subjects other than Psychology

Students who already hold a bachelor's degree in a subject other than psychology may include the behaviour analysis undergraduate course and the suggested courses (outlined above) as part of a:

Diploma in Social Sciences - Dip(SocSc) in Psychology

<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/diploma>

or

a Graduate Diploma in Psychology - GradDip(Psych)

<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/graduate-diploma>

to gain entry into the postgraduate qualifications.

Postgraduate Qualifications that can include Behaviour Analysis

Graduate and postgraduate courses in behaviour analysis can be taken separately or as part of a specialist qualification. Students wishing to include some behaviour analysis courses in their postgraduate qualification may take them as part of one of the following one-year postgraduate programmes:

- [Postgraduate Certificate in Psychology - PGCert\(Psych\)](#)
- [Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology - PGDip\(Psych\)](#)
- [Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours - BSocSc\(Hons\)](#)
- [Master in Social Sciences - MSocSc](#)
- [Master of Science - MSc](#)

Or as part of a two-year programme:

- [Master of Applied Psychology in Behaviour Analysis – MAppPsy\(BA\)](#)



Postgraduate Qualifications Specialising in Behaviour Analysis

The specialist programmes in behaviour analysis are:

Masters of Applied Psychology in Behaviour Analysis - MAppPsy(BA)

This can be taken as a two-year post-bachelors or as a one-year post-honours or post-PGDip qualification, depending on the student's background.

<https://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/masters/mapppsy.html>

Postgraduate Diploma in the Practice of Psychology in Applied Behaviour Analysis - PGDipPracPsych(ABA)

This is a one-year post-masters qualification

<https://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/diplomas/pgdippracpsych.html>

Applications for the above programmes are to be submitted via MyWaikato.

Doctorate in Philosophy Programme (PhD) in Behaviour Analysis

<https://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/higher/phd.html>

<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/sgr/>

The University of Waikato offers a research-only doctoral programme leading to a Doctorate in Philosophy (PhD) degree. Students with the appropriate level of honours in their master's degree may enrol in a PhD and undertake a research topic in behaviour analysis.

There is no coursework in a research-only PhD. Students must develop a research programme which they then conduct over two to three years under supervision. This research programme and its results are then written up as a thesis that is submitted for examination. It is possible to write up components of the research and submit these to relevant journals for consideration for publication as they are completed and prior to the completion of the whole thesis.

The School of Psychology website contains some information on past and ongoing research topics and the University of Waikato website provides access to information on staff publications.

See: <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/research/publications.shtml>

If you are interested in the PhD programme, please get in contact with any of the behavioural staff to discuss potential topics and supervision.

Further Information

For further information on any of these options e-mail: behavioural.psychology@waikato.ac.nz

More information is also available through the University of Waikato website:
www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/about/psychology/research/behaviour-analysis

Master of Applied Psychology in Behaviour Analysis - MAppPsy(BA)

The **Master of Applied Psychology in behaviour analysis** at The University of Waikato provides students with:

- a sound understanding of the underlying concepts and principles associated with behaviour analysis, and of the applications of these concepts and principles.
- knowledge of the research skills required for behaviour analysis, including the ability to read, interpret and appraise published behavioural research critically, and the ability to conduct fundamental and applied research in behaviour analysis.
- an understanding of functional analyses of problem behaviour and of how to develop an appropriate programme for behaviour change in their area of specialty.
- analytic and library research skills, and skills in presenting proposals and reports in both written and oral format.

The courses provide the curriculum of the BACB Fifth Edition Task List.

MAppPsy(BA) Degree Requirements

When this degree is the student's first postgraduate qualification in psychology it normally takes two years (full time) to complete. The programme requires 240 points, 120 of the required points are taken in the first year. These points normally come from five courses in behaviour analysis and two elective courses, as outlined below. Elective courses are selected in consultation with the behaviour analysis programme staff. The second year typically involves a 120-point thesis. However, if the student requires further academic background, they may be required to complete a 90-point thesis and gain the remaining 30 points from the Year 1 courses.

Year 1 MAppPsy(BA) – Course Work

Year 1 of the MAppPsy(BA) normally comprises 120 points of courses. The four core behavioural courses (15 points each) must be included, and candidates intending to go on to professional practice with humans should also include PSYCH586 Behaviour Analysis Practicum (30pts).

The remaining 30pts come from other graduate courses, selected from the list of electives below or in discussion with programme staff. Behaviour analysis courses are offered either on campus (HAM) or online (NET).

Core Courses

PSYCH538B HAM or NET (15pts)

Applications of Behaviour Analysis

This course covers the application of behavioural principles in a variety of settings. The objective is to examine and critique recent applications of the methods and theories of behaviour analysis as they apply to a range of settings to both prevent and change problem behaviours. Practical skills are emphasised and are addressed in the practical component.

PSYCH560B HAM or NET (15pts)

Applied Behaviour Analysis: Theory and Issues

Students in this paper explore the conceptual issues around behaviour analysis, including those underlying the implementation of behavioural programmes across a wide range of applied areas. A focus is on the philosophical underpinnings but we will also learn about topics that are currently under debate. Topics covered include the scientist-practitioner model, evidence-based practice, private events (including fear and anxiety), causation of behaviour, the use of aversive strategies, and the clinical application of behaviour analysis. It will also introduce the theoretical background to some contemporary therapies, including Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.

PSYCH561A HAM or NET (15pts)

Behaviour Analysis: Concepts and Principles

This course provides an in-depth introduction to the conceptual foundations and core principles of behaviour analysis, including research and theory related to the concepts of reinforcement, extinction, stimulus control, derived stimulus relations, and motivating operations.

PSYCH577A HAM or NET (15pts)

Single Subject Research Methods

This course covers research methodologies used in the field of behaviour analysis, including collection of data, experimental design, data presentation and analysis, and interpretation and reporting of research findings.

PSYCH586D NET (30pts)

Behaviour Analysis Practicum

The Behaviour Analysis Practicum covers the assessment of verbal behaviour in a practical setting using an assessment tool called the VB-MAPP. Students will carry out this assessment in an external organisation/agency/school with a client and be given professional supervision and instruction to ensure ethical and effective practice. The course is delivered in flexi mode: content and workshops are delivered online, but students are required to attend an appropriate university approved practicum setting in person to complete the practical components.

Online (NET) Courses

The courses are available online when they have a NET extension or on campus (with a HAM extension). Where both are available, the two versions are taught synchronously. Students wishing to work online, enrol in the NET version of each course. Each course involves a two-hour class and one hour of tutorial work per week. Online (NET) students may attend classes in real time through videoconferencing. Some lectures are recorded and made available online. Tutorials involving discussions of sensitive topics are not recorded. Both NET and on-campus students complete the tutorials for these courses online at times that suit them. NET students also complete the practical work for PSYCH538 online in their own time. On-campus students may do this practical work online or on campus.

Elective Courses

PSYCH581A HAM	15pts	Psychological Assessment
PSYCH564B HAM	15pts	Developmental Psychopathology
PSYCH575A HAM	15pts	Kaupapa Māori Psychology

Other psychology courses relevant to the student's specialty may be included with approval from programme staff.

Students with biology in their undergraduate degree, in addition to their psychology major, and with an interest in applications of behaviour analysis to animal behaviour may consider taking relevant 500-level psychology courses in animal behaviour or courses in biological sciences. Students with education in their undergraduate degree, in addition to their psychology major, may include an appropriate education 500-level course.

Elective Courses for Online Students

Students who wish to take the full MAppPsy(BA) online should discuss their elective options with staff in the programme.

Year 2 MAppPsy(BA) - Thesis (or Dissertation)

Year 2 of the MAppPsy(BA) programme normally comprises a 120-point research thesis on a behavioural topic.

PSYCH594 Thesis (120 pt)

If the student requires further academic background, then they may need to take some courses in Year 2.

In this case they may enrol in a dissertation or smaller research thesis:

PSYCH593 Thesis (90 pt)

With this they would include 30 points from the Year 1 courses.

Thesis or Dissertation Time Frame:

Enrolment in a thesis or dissertation is normally 12 months full-time (or 24 months for part-time enrolment). The 12 (or 24) month period typically starts at the beginning of the academic year. The research write-up of the thesis or dissertation is due in 12 (or 24) months from that date. If the 12 (or 24) months terminates on a weekend day or a NZ public holiday the due date is brought forward to the workday prior to the weekend or holiday. A 21-day extension to this period can be applied for through the student's supervisor prior to the end of the 12 (or 24) months. If the research is not completed at the end of the 12 (or 24) months, the student may enrol in the research course for an additional period at that time.

Summary of MAppPsy(BA) Degree Structure

Year 1					
Core Courses (90pts)					Elective Courses
PSYCH538 (15pts)	PSYCH560 (15pts)	PSYCH561 (15pts)	PSYCH577 (15pts)	PSYCH586 (30pts)	(30pts)
Year 2					
Thesis (120pts) on a behavioural topic					
Or...					
Thesis (90pts) on a behavioural topic					Elective or Core Courses (30pts)

MAppPsy(BA) Entry Requirements

MAppPsy(BA) programme for the two-year degree requires:

- a Bachelor's degree with a major in psychology,
- at least a B+ average in psychology undergraduate courses,
- a pass in *PSYCH307 Psychological Research Methods* or an equivalent.

Some of the possible elective courses for the MAppPsy(BA) may have pre-requisite requirements over and above those required for the behaviour analysis courses and for entry into the programme. When possible, students should check these when selecting their third-year undergraduate papers.

Entry into Year 2 of a MAppPsy(BA) programme for the one-year degree requires:

- a completed PGDip(Psych) or a Bachelor's with Honours degree in psychology including the core 500-level courses for the programme,
- an average grade of at least a B+ averaged over their psychology graduate courses,
- agreed supervision arrangement for the thesis.

Students accepted into the programme at Year 2 may be required to take specific courses alongside their thesis or dissertation depending on the content of their PGDip(Psych) or Honours degree courses.

Using a PGDip(Psych) or a BSocSc(Hons) (with appropriate courses) as a substituted for Year 1 of the MAppPsy(BA)

Candidates from the University of Waikato whose grades do not meet the grade requirement or those who have a high enough grade average but who would prefer to do a BA(Hons) degree, may take the MAppPsy(BA) Behaviour analysis courses as part of a PGDip(Psych) or a BA(Hons).

These candidates can then apply for entry to the MAppPsy(BA) at Year 2 and can take the MAppPsy(BA) as a one-year degree once their PGDip(Psych) or BA(Hons) is complete.

If they have some but not all of the Year 1 content, then they may be required to take additional courses as part of Year 2.



Candidates from outside of the University of Waikato who have completed a PGDip or an Honours degree in psychology may apply to take a one-year MAppPsy(BA) provided they have content equivalent to that in Year 1 of the MAppPsy(BA) courses in that qualification.

If they have some but not all of the content, then they may be required to take additional courses as part of Year 2.

Post-Masters PGDip(Psych) Specialising in Behaviour Analysis

Candidates who have already completed a Master's degree in psychology and who wish to complete a postgraduate qualification in behaviour analysis that covers the entire curriculum of [the BACB 5th edition Task List](#), may complete the post-masters courses, PSYCH551 and PSYCH552, alongside four of the graduate courses in behaviour analysis. These can be taken as Individual Paper Credits (IPCs) or as a PGDip(Psych). The courses PSYCH538, PSYCH560, PSYCH561, and PSYCH577 would normally be taken prior to PSYCH551 and PSYCH552.

All six courses can be completed on campus or online.

The courses for a PGDip(Psych) specialising in behaviour analysis are:

PSYCH538B HAM or NET	15 pts	Applications of Behaviour analysis
PSYCH560B HAM or NET	15 pts	Applied Behaviour analysis: Theory and issues
PSYCH561A HAM or NET	15 pts	Behaviour analysis: Concepts and Principles
PSYCH577A HAM or NET	15 pts	Single Subject Research Methods

Classes for these may be attended in real-time on-campus or via video-conferencing. Tutorials are on-line and are completed on-line in the student's own time.

Post-masters papers include:

PSYCH551D HAM or NET	45pts	Case Study Analysis in Applied Psychology (ABA)
PSYCH552A HAM or NET	15pts	Ethical Issues in Psychology (ABA)

Participation in Psych551 requires students to have access to a clinical context where they can practice behaviour analysis. Enrolment is therefore by approval of the course convenor.

Most content for these courses is available online via Moodle, but students must attend classes for these in real time via video conferencing. Tutorials are online and are completed at any time.

Applying for Entry for the PGDip(Psych) and MAppPsy(BA)

Potential applicants should approach the School of Psychology for help in planning the most appropriate course of study for their needs and background: behavioural.psychology@waikato.ac.nz

Students who are not graduates of Waikato should also include their academic record. Details of each student's course of study must be approved by programme staff prior to the student being accepted into the programme.

Please apply via MyWaikato for the PGDip(Psych) and MAppPsy(BA) - <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/>

More information is available through the University of Waikato: <https://www.waikato.ac.nz/>



Postgraduate Diploma in the Practice of Psychology (Applied Behaviour Analysis)

- PGDipPracPsych(ABA)

The **PGDipPracPsych(ABA)** provides those with Masters or Doctorate degrees containing a substantial component of behaviour analysis with:

- a quality learning experience for making the transition from academic knowledge to professional practice;
- a pathway for registration as a Psychologist under the 'General' scope with the NZ Psychologists Board under the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act.
- a means of achieving bi-cultural competence as an important component of work as a psychologist and exhibiting a commitment to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi throughout their training and professional development.

The ABA internship at the University of Waikato [PGDipPracPsych(ABA)] provides the requirements for registration as a psychologist in New Zealand, specialising in the application of Behaviour Analysis. It equips its graduates with the knowledge and skills required to provide ethical and professional behaviour analytic services to benefit the individuals they serve and society as a whole with due regard for New Zealand's cultural diversity and in particular the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Graduates of the PGDipPracPsych(ABA) will have developed practical skills in applying behavioural principles to a range of behaviour problems in their area of specialty, including experience with functional analyses of problem behaviour, and developing and applying appropriate programmes for behaviour change. They will be able to design techniques for assessment and data collection, implement behaviour change programmes and adjust them in the light of any problems that arise. They will be competent in addressing legal, ethical, cultural (in the context of bi-culturalism consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles) and professional issues while abiding by the relevant guidelines for responsible conduct under the NZ Psychologists Board. At the end of the programme, graduates will have awareness, knowledge, and skills in positive behavioural approaches to dealing with challenging behaviour and in clinical applications of behaviour analysis.

Candidates for this qualification must enrol and follow an approved programme of study in the Division of Arts, Law, Psychology and Social Sciences for at least one year of full-time study, or not more than three years of part-time study.

The PGDipPracPsych(ABA) is accredited by the NZ Psychologists Board as providing the training required for and supervision of 1500 hours of professional experience required for students in NZ wishing to register as Psychologists in NZ under the NZ Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (www.moh.govt.nz/hpca) in NZ.

Students must have appropriate internship employment and have their field supervisor arranged to enter the programme (see entry requirements).

The University of Waikato only offers PSYCH553 to interns in practice in NZ.

PGDipPracPsych(ABA) Structure

The PGDipPracPsych(ABA) is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time postgraduate diploma worth 120 points. The programme includes three courses that are normally taken simultaneously to complete the diploma.

PSYCH551D: Case Study Analysis in Applied Psychology (45 pts)

This course teaches students to critically analyse and apply theoretical knowledge of behaviour analysis to psychological practice within a science-practitioner model, aiming to develop effective and culturally sensitive practitioners. This paper can be taken as a stand-alone paper with permission from the paper convenor. Participating in this paper requires students to have access to a practicum placement, employment, or voluntary work that provides opportunities to practice behaviour analysis.

PSYCH552A Ethical Issues in Psychology (15pts)

This course provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills concerning ethical issues in the professional practice in Psychology, specifically in applied behaviour analysis. This paper can be taken as a stand-alone paper with permission from the paper convenor.

PSYCH553X: The Practice of Psychology (60pts)

This paper is available to students enrolled in the PGDipPracPsych(ABA) programme or by special permission from the convenor only. It provides supervision for the internship. Undertaking PSYCH553 requires regular attendance at supervision meetings and regular maintenance of a professional practice log. PSYCH553 requires the student to complete 1500 hours of supervised professional practice over a year if taken full-time (part-time enrolment is also possible).

PSYCH552 runs for A trimester, PSYCH551 is taught during the D-teaching period (A and B trimesters), and PSYCH553 runs for the full 12 months of the year with a break for the summer period.

For all three papers, students are required to attend classes, workshops and (individual & group) supervision in real time. These are taught in a variety of teaching modalities that include in-person attendance at the University, videoconferencing platforms, and in-person experiences at off-campus locations such as a marae for runanga-based learning.

The programme starts at the beginning of the academic year.



PGDipPracPsych(ABA) Entry Requirements

In addition to fulfilling the requirements set out in the appropriate University of Waikato regulations, students must meet the School of Psychology requirements for entry into the programme. The School of Psychology requirements are:

- A Masters or Doctoral degree specialising in behaviour analysis.

Where a candidate has not completed a named degree in behaviour analysis, the School of Psychology will assess whether sufficient graduate-level papers and a thesis/dissertation appropriate to the specialisation have been taken to allow entry. Students may be required to take extra course work prior to or concurrently with the programme.

- Ongoing, full-time or part-time employment (either paid or unpaid) in NZ which provides the opportunity to practice behaviour analysis within an organisation that allows this work to be used as an internship.

Whether the employment requirement is met will be determined by the School of Psychology from the job description. A signed letter of agreement from the candidate's organisation/manager is also required.

- The availability of field supervision for PSYCH553.
Field supervision must be from a Registered Psychologist.
- The availability of a place in the programme.
The programme currently accepts up to 10 applicants for entry into the programme each year.

Entry is subject to the approval of the Chair of the School of Psychology.



Applying for Entry into the PGDipPracPsych(ABA)

Before applying formally for entry into this programme, candidates should contact the School of Psychology to discuss their plans, including the suitability of the employment and the availability of appropriate supervision - behavioural.psychology@waikato.ac.nz . They will be put in touch with the appropriate staff to talk about this.

Applications are called for towards the end of the year with a deadline of 1st October – see application link below for dates.

Once accepted into this programme the student must apply to the NZ Psychologists Registration Board to register as a Psychology Intern (see NZ Psychologists Board web site for fees and details of how to apply for this):

www.psychologistsboard.org.nz

Applications will require the following documentation:

- Application for qualification in MyWaikato
Once University entry criteria have been met, the School of Psychology will invite you to apply via the Internal School application which includes:
- Internal School Application
- A Statement of Purpose
- Your Curriculum Vitae
- Academic Transcript
- Thesis Abstract
- Two Letters of recommendation from referees
- An agency letter of support from an employer to confirm the employment is appropriate for the programme and details of field supervision
- An onsite supervisor's Curriculum Vitae
- Job description

There is no upper or lower age limit. All applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's previous academic and personal experience, bicultural appreciation, commitment to training, and understanding of the profession. The selection process is undertaken in a way which seeks to attract the best applicants rather than favouring one gender over another. However, given that there is a shortage of males in the profession and a shortage of Māori, if two applicants are equal in all of the aforementioned criteria, then gender and/or cultural identity may be considered in choosing an applicant. NZ is a bicultural country which also is fortunate to have peoples of many and varied cultures. We welcome applications from a wide range of cultural identities, providing the applicants are competent English communicators.

Appropriate Clients and Placements

The placement and job description must allow the intern to undertake the required amount of practice of psychology that can be classified as applied behaviour analysis. The most important aspect of employment is the opportunity to practice psychology and to learn to apply behaviour analysis principles in changing behaviour and this will be evaluated by the University prior to acceptance.

The range of clients and problems must include opportunities to undertake behavioural assessments (including functional analyses), designing, overseeing and monitoring behaviour change programmes, changing challenging behaviours (e.g., aggression, self-injurious behaviour, tantrums), skill development (such as independent living skills, communication, educational skills, health care skills

and social skills), and teaching behaviour management skills (e.g., parent, caregiver, teacher, and staff training in ABA)

More information is available through the University of Waikato website

www.waikato.ac.nz

www.waikato.ac.nz/fass/about/psychology/research/behaviour-analysis

https://www.waikato.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/764967/University-of-Waikato-Strategy-2022-2024_web-version.pdf

International students should also email international@waikato.ac.nz

For further information on any of the above contact:

Te Kura Whatu Oho Mauri School of Psychology

The University of Waikato

Private Bag 3105

Hamilton 3240

New Zealand

Email: behavioural.psychology@waikato.ac.nz

Tel: +64 7 838 4136

Toll Free: 0800 WAIKATO (800 145)

Website: www.waikato.ac.nz

Division of Arts, Law, Psychology & Social Sciences

email: alpss@waikato.ac.nz

Toll free: 0800 WAIKATO (800 145)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

KO TE TANGATA
FOR THE PEOPLE

The University of Waikato
Private Bag 3105
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

0800 WAIKATO 
0800 924 528
info@waikato.ac.nz 
waikato.ac.nz 