

# New Zealand Audiological Society Inc

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## Information for Overseas Applicants/Enquiries

Below we set out details of Membership in the New Zealand Audiological Society (NZAS) and information on Audiology in New Zealand in general.

### Membership Requirements:

**1)** We require a **two year Masters degree in Audiology** deemed to be equivalent to the Master of Audiology degree in New Zealand. The equivalency of the degrees will initially be assessed by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA). Please note that degree equivalency does not GUARANTEE acceptance to the Society and the Executive Council has sole discretion on this process.

A Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts or a one year Masters or Diploma course in audiology is **not** considered sufficient for practising audiology in New Zealand. We have found that the scope of audiological practice in New Zealand is very different and much broader than that in countries where otolaryngologists are also required to be audiologists. If you fall into any of these categories further study would be required.

**2)** A **Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)** is also required for Full Membership. In New Zealand, the CCC entails the graduates of the Master of Audiology course undertaking a minimum of a year's supervised work before they are eligible to sit the CCC exam.

If you have a two year Masters degree in audiology deemed to be equivalent to a New Zealand Masters of Audiology and you have a current ASA-CCP, BAA –CAC or ASHA-CCCA, you could be accepted as a Provisional Member and be required to complete a Paediatric Hearing Aid and an ABR secondment and then pass a Clinical Exam (covering topics such as New Zealand specific services) in order to be eligible to apply for full membership.

If you have an equivalent two year Masters degree in audiology but don't have an accepted Certificate of Clinical Competence you could be accepted as a Provisional Member of the Society. In this case **you would need to undergo a Clinical Year** under the supervision of a Full Member of the Society (MNZAS, CCC). The Clinical Year culminates with an oral and clinical exam.

### The University of Auckland Master's Course

If you are interested the University of Auckland has a two year Master of Audiology programme. The Head of the Audiology Section at the University is Dr Peter Thorne. The Audiology Section is in the School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, Phone 64-9-373 7536, Fax 64-9-373 7496 E-Mail pr.thorne@auckland.ac.nz.

### The University of Canterbury Master's Course

In 2005 the University of Canterbury also started a Master's Course. For information contact Michael Robb, Ph.D. Professor & Department Head, Department of Communication Disorders, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand Phone 64-3-364-2401

## **Working as an Audiologist in New Zealand:**

### **Salaries, Employers and Work Settings**

Audiology salaries are now typically negotiable but some hospitals still use the Government scale which ranges from NZ\$40,000 to \$55,000 for a qualified experienced (staff) audiologist, depending on years of experience. The charge audiologist's scale ranges from \$55,000 to \$80,000, but once again this is negotiable.

Audiologists in New Zealand currently work in public hospitals and in private practice. All the major hospitals and most of the smaller hospitals currently have an audiology service. There are relatively few private hospitals (but this may change with the ongoing changes in health sector), and none have audiologists on staff. Auckland has a number of private audiology practices one of which is affiliated with a group of otolaryngologists, but typically audiologists have their own independent businesses in the private sector throughout New Zealand. Several audiologists work as marketing/sales people for hearing aid companies. Approximately half of the New Zealand Audiological Society's full members work full or part time in the private sector.

Audiologists do not typically make school visits. The Advisors on Deaf Children of the Special Education Service coordinate services for children and their families and work in conjunction with Vision Hearing Testers (VHT's) who have a qualification recognised through the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

There are three "educational audiologists" in NZ employed by the two schools for deaf children (North and South Islands). These audiologists receive government funding via the Department of Education rather than the Department of Health. Educational audiologists are based at the schools for deaf and are involved primarily in managing hearing aids etc for children who are deaf and hearing impaired.

### **Audiometrists/Technicians**

Audiometrists or audiological technicians typically work under the direction of an audiologist, some in public hospitals and others in private practice. These individuals typically are involved in basic audiometric testing. Some are involved in hearing aid fitting. Some audiometrists/technicians have successfully decided to pursue the Master of Audiology course. If you are interested contact Dr Peter Thorne at the above address.

### **Third Party Funding in New Zealand**

In New Zealand Full Membership of NZAS (MNZAS, CCC) enables one to provide services to individuals who are beneficiaries of the Accident Rehabilitation & Compensation Corporation (ACC), War Pensions (WP) and the Accredited Assessor's Scheme of the Ministry of Health. Although there are currently no licensing requirements in New Zealand, nearly all employers require the CCC. The Society is currently seeking registration of the profession. If this is approved NZAS membership will be required to practise audiology in New Zealand. The NZ Audiological Society's CCC is recognised in other countries such as Australia and Great Britain. Within New Zealand the letters "MNZAS" (Member of New Zealand Audiological Society) after one's name are expected by more and more of the public seeking audiology services.

Some medical insurance companies now reimburse for audiology consultations. There is no government contribution towards the cost of audiology consultations unless the individual is eligible for ACC or WP funding for a noise induced or accident related hearing loss. Hearing instruments are completely or partially funded under these government schemes for those who qualify.

Individuals who need amplification for work, study or for basic caregiving are covered in part by another government scheme managed by the Ministry of Health. Children's amplification requirements are fully covered by the Ministry of Health Special Aid Fund.

**How to apply to become a New Zealand Audiological Society (NZAS) member:**

Please see our flow chart which outlines the steps involved in becoming a member of NZAS.

**1) Approach NZQA to assess the equivalency of your qualifications.** We suggest that you approach an independent authority such as the New Zealand Qualifications Authority ([www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)) to have your degree assessed. We need to know if it is equivalent to a NZ Masters. (Remember, equivalency does not guarantee membership. Final acceptance is determined by the NZAS executive council). You will need to provide original transcripts and degree documents. Also provide them with proof of your clinical hours (if available).

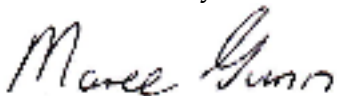
**2) Proof of at least 200 clinical hours** (if applicable). Submit any documents proving your clinical expertise (eg. CCC award diploma). You must also have done at least 200 certified clinical hours (actual "hands-on" hours) during your degree (for it to be deemed equivalent) and you must provide evidence of these clinical hours to the NZAS Membership and Supervision Sub Committee.

**3) Submit all materials to NZAS** including the NZQA information. **The New Zealand Audiological Society requires copies of your course transcripts, course descriptions, degree etc** the society can then make a more informed decision as to whether you are eligible to apply for Provisional membership.

**\*\*Don't forget that the final decision is determined by the NZAS. Degree equivalency as determined by the NZQA does NOT guarantee membership, the NZAS must have copies of all documents in order to make a fully informed decision.**

We wish you luck and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely



MAREE GUNN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER