

AUDIOLOGIST

ALEHANDREA RAIHA MANUEL

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Kia Ora **Hauora**
Supporting Māori into Health

WHAT IS AN AUDIOLOGIST?

Audiologists are experts in preventing, diagnosing and treating hearing and balance disorders for people of all ages. They work across health services with health professionals to treat patients who experience:

- Middle ear issues
- Balance issues
- Hearing loss
- Tinnitus
- Communication or auditory processing difficulties

There are a range of roles that audiologists play such as:

- Prescribing and fitting hearing aids and assistive technology
- Specializing in implantable devices such as cochlear implants
- Hearing screening and testing, evaluating and treating balance problems
- Advising people about how to treat and cope with tinnitus

WHERE DO AUDIOLOGISTS WORK?

Most Audiologists work for public and private audiology clinics or hospitals. They may also work for:

- Hearing-aid manufacturers
- Universities doing research and teaching
- Education centres for people who are deaf or hearing-impaired
- The North Island or Southern Cochlear Implant Programme
- Government organisations, such as the Ministry of Health
- Non-profit centres and foundations such as the National Foundation for the Deaf

WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

- Master of Audiology Degree
- Certificate of Clinical Competence

To become an audiologist in New Zealand you need to complete a Master of Audiology Degree and a Certificate of Clinical Competence. This involves relevant undergraduate training, two years of postgraduate training and a further year of supervised clinical practice. In general, the year of supervised clinical practice is paid.

The Masters in Audiology programmes are only offered at:

- The University of Auckland
- The University of Canterbury

Graduates of the programmes are accepted as provisional members of the New Zealand Audiological Society with Full membership granted on successful completion of a minimum of 11 months of supervised clinical practice and a clinical exam.

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance are needed to enter further training. Useful subjects include:

- Biology
- Physics
- Te Reo Māori
- Maths and English