

What may be required

Working as an audiologist you may be required to:

- Examine patients who have hearing, balance, or related ear problems
- Use audiometers and audiograms to show the softest sounds that patients can hear at different frequencies and pitches
- Determine the extent of hearing damage, and identify the underlying cause
- Treat hearing loss with hearing aids and other assisted-listening devices
- Prescribe, fit, repair and check hearing aids
- Examine patients who have complex hearing, balance, or related ear problems
- Research hearing problems
- Assess and manage problems processing sound
- Do workplace and classroom assessments of sound levels
- Adjust a client's cochlear implants
- Collaborate with ear, nose and throat surgeons

Personal Qualities

- Be patient
- Be caring and supportive
- Be understanding
- Have excellent communication skills
- Be good at research
- Have problem-solving skills
- Have good practical skills to deal with hearing aids and cochlear implants



Where to go for more information:

www.audiology.org.nz

www.careers.govt.nz

www.kiaorahauora.co.nz

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November 2019

Audiologist



What do they do?

Audiology involves the measurement, diagnosis and management of hearing and balance problems.

Audiologists

- Measure, diagnose and manage hearing loss at all ages
- Work with rehabilitation of hearing loss in adults, possibly due to stroke, age degeneration, or industrial effects
- Support the management of tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
- Assess the area of the ear responsible for balance and motion
- Diagnose and manage auditory processing disorders (APD). APD is a problem with processing auditory information in the brain.
- Work with children referred from special education service where hearing loss causes learning difficulties
- Work with patients who have hearing loss due to a head injury
- Supervise the training of audiometrists

Qualifications

You can study Audiology at University of Auckland or University of Canterbury. It takes 5 years of study to complete an undergraduate degree and a Master of Audiology degree. This is followed by a year of supervised clinical practice to gain a Certificate of Competence provided by the NZ Audiological Society. Check the University of Auckland and University of Canterbury's websites as entry requirements differ somewhat.

Here are University of Auckland entry requirements into the Masters programme:

You will be selected according to your Grade Point Average (GPA) and performance in an interview.

You must have completed a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Science (Honours). Your Grade Point Average for Physiology, Psychology, Chemistry, Biology or Zoology, Physics or Acoustics will be taken into account.

You will be asked to provide a brief statement of your reasons for wishing to take the programme. A letter of support from an academic referee is also required.

Where they work

Public hospitals
Private practice
Hearing aid companies

Working conditions

Job prospects are good as there is a shortage of audiologists.

Audiology is a satisfying profession that improves the quality of people's lives. It also provides an exciting opportunity to work with state-of-the-art technology.

