Opening up new PhD pathways-
An innovative collaboration with Pakistan

A pathway programme that enabled Pakistani PhD scholars to gain their qualification in New Zealand opens up new options for other countries to take advantage of New Zealand’s expertise at this level.

After discussion with Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission, The University of Auckland designed a PhD pathway programme to enhance educational outcomes for the students. While this implementation of the programme is tailored for Pakistan, it can be customised for groups of students from any country.

The Pakistan example
The government of Pakistan implemented an ambitious plan of human resource development including building a strong base of PhD faculty members in its universities and scientific organisations. To make this happen, they turned to The University of Auckland for a customised solution.

The programme
A selection process run jointly by Pakistan and Auckland identified students from universities, colleges and R&D organisations for one of two programmes:

• Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
• Masters programmes for bridging to PhD studies

For PhD candidates, the programme offers four years’ study in Auckland with extra dedicated support at both academic and pastoral levels.

Programme coordination and support
The University of Auckland and UniServices have developed an end-to-end model for this programme, from innovations such as video conference interviewing through to a dedicated support facilitator in the School of Graduate Studies.

The University of Auckland and UniServices have in-depth experience in coordinating and supporting groups of international scholars. At the management level, this includes:

• A single point of contact
• Management of the admission process
• Customised academic reporting

For groups of scholars, the programme offers:

• Assistance with initial accommodation selection
• Individual visa support letters to assist with immigration
• Supported group arrival including airport pick-up

International PhD candidates studying at The University of Auckland benefit directly from the University’s ranking in the world’s top 100 universities, and its emphasis on research-led teaching incorporating the latest findings and perspectives related to a student’s chosen discipline.
The University worked with Pakistan’s Higher Education Commission to deliver a Masters degree leading to a PhD.

English Language Preparation

**DURATION: 3-12 MONTHS**

Focus: English language studies and related academic skills such as academic report and essay writing.

Successful completion of the Foundation Certificate, or an IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each band, will make most scholars eligible for entry to the Pathway Leading to PhD Programme.

Pathway Leading to PhD Programme

The pathway will differ depending on each scholar’s previous study and experience:

**DURATION: 6 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR**

For scholars with a recognised Masters qualification, their programme must include a specified period of research work as advised by the University. Scholars with coursework-only Masters will not be allowed direct entry to the PhD programme.

**DURATION: 1 – 2 YEARS**

For scholars with a recognised Bachelors degree qualification, the pathway may be in the form of an Honours or Masters degree with a research component.

PhD Programme

**DURATION: APPROX 3-4 YEARS**

This programme is a research-only degree, and can be undertaken across eight faculties within the University.

Fees

The University of Auckland offers a wide range of student benefits as well as an extremely affordable tuition fee for its international PhD students. Since 2006, new international PhD students pay the same annual tuition fee as a New Zealand PhD student due a scholarship by the New Zealand Government.

A new international PhD student is defined as a foreign student enrolled for the first time after 19 April 2005 in a Doctor of Philosophy programme. To be eligible, students must reside in New Zealand for the duration of their doctoral programme. However, students may undertake research activities overseas during their doctoral programme for a cumulative total of no more than 12 months.

The University of Auckland

The University of Auckland is New Zealand’s leading university and is the only one ranked among the world’s top 200 universities by the *Times Higher Education World Rankings* of Universities. It is also the highest ranked New Zealand university in the QS World University Rankings and the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities.

The University of Auckland is an international centre of learning and academic excellence. It is New Zealand’s pre-eminent research-led institution and has key linkages with many of the world’s top research intensive universities.

Based in the heart of New Zealand’s largest and most diverse city, The University of Auckland has the most comprehensive range of courses in the country. The University’s mission is to be a research-led, international university, recognised for excellence in teaching, learning, research, creative work and administration.

The University actively seeks to work with government, other universities, research organisations, businesses and commercial consultancies in research, development and education.

Auckland UniServices Limited

Auckland UniServices Limited is the largest research and development company of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and a wholly owned company of The University of Auckland.

By connecting its clients with The University’s brightest academic minds, UniServices provides commercial organisations the innovative technologies they seek, and governments the national programmes they need. The results can mean huge strides in a company’s international competitive edge, or in a country’s health, education and welfare capability.

UniServices manages all of The University’s intellectual property and is responsible for all research-based consultancy partnerships and commercialisation.

UniServices open innovation and world-class thinking can change the world.