

# Māori in doctoral study

## Introduction

This fact sheet complements a series of fact sheets looking at Māori student participation, retention and completion by level of study, using full-year data from 2004. This sheet provides a more detailed focus on doctoral students.

Doctoral degrees provide the training ground for new researchers and entry into tertiary teaching at degree level and above.

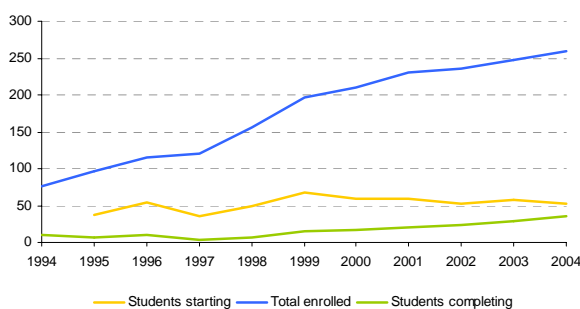
## Participation and completion

Over the last ten years, there has been a growing number of Māori students engaged in doctoral degrees, with the overall number of students enrolled nearly tripling from 77 in 1994 to 262 in 2004.

Completions of doctoral degrees by Māori students have also increased steadily from 11 in 1994 to 35 in 2004.

However, the number of new Māori students entering doctoral degrees has remained fairly constant over the last six years, indicating that much of the growth reflects the time taken to complete a doctoral degree.

### Māori students starting, enrolled in and completing doctoral degrees 1994-2004



There has been a similar growth in doctoral degree enrolments in the rest of the population. However, the proportion of Māori enrolled in doctoral degrees is slowly heading towards that of the total population. In 1994, 0.02 percent of the Māori population aged 15 and over were studying towards doctoral degrees

compared with 0.08 percent of the total population. By 2004, the proportion of the Māori population studying towards doctoral degrees had increased to 0.06 percent and the proportion of the total population to 0.13 percent.

## Attrition, retention and completion

Māori doctoral students have slightly higher first year attrition rates than all doctoral students. The average first year attrition rate for Māori doctoral students across 1997 to 2000 was 23 percent, compared with 20 percent for all students.

Retention rates over five years, however, are similar for both Māori and all students.

The area of notable difference is in the five year completion rates, where average rate for Māori who started study from 1997 to 2000 was 17 percent, eight percentage points lower than all students at 25 percent.

### Attrition, retention and completion rates for Māori and all doctoral students starting study from 1997 to 2000

		Students starting in ...				Average (1997-2000)
		1997	1998	1999	2000	
First year attrition rate	Māori	21%	27%	20%	25%	23%
	All	20%	20%	20%	21%	20%
5 year retention rate	Māori	64%	59%	56%	66%	61%
	All	61%	58%	60%	62%	60%
5 year completion rate	Māori	18%	14%	17%	20%	17%
	All	25%	25%	23%	28%	25%

These numbers indicate that for Māori doctoral students, the key issue is not so much continuation of study as being able to complete their degree in a timely fashion. Anecdotal evidence points to multiple demands on Māori doctoral students delaying completion, many of whom are staff within TEOs.

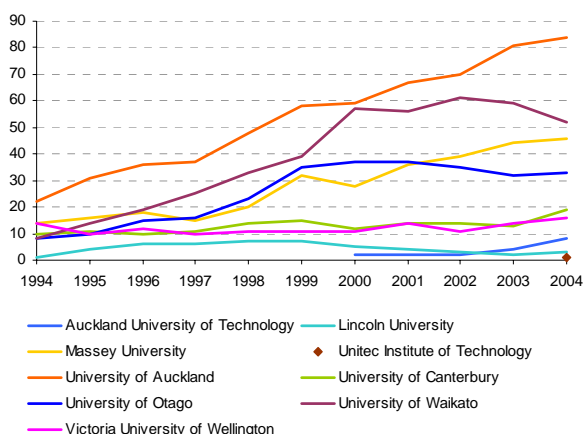
## Providers

In 2004, 32 percent of Māori doctoral students were studying at the University of Auckland and a further 20 percent at the University of Waikato. The

## Māori in doctoral study

University of Auckland and Massey University have shown steady growth in Māori doctoral students over the last five years, or more. This may reflect the strength of Māori research centres at these two institutions. At other universities, the numbers have been more static. Unitec Institute of Technology enrolled a Māori doctoral student for the first time in 2004. Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi has been approved to enrol doctoral students as of 2005.

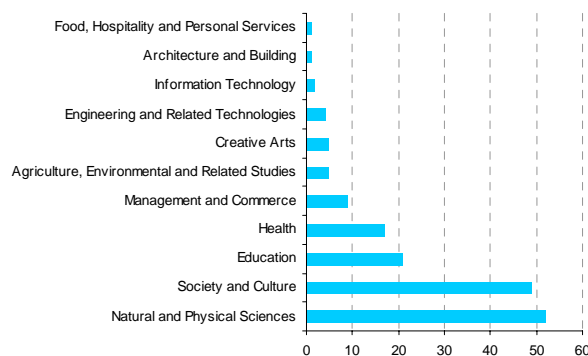
### Māori students enrolled in doctoral degrees by provider 1994-2004



### Fields of study

Of the 175 doctorates completed by Māori students from 1994 to 2004, 52 (or 30 percent) were in the field of natural and physical sciences and 49 (or 28 percent) were in the field of society and culture. The next largest numbers were in education, health and management and commerce.

### Doctorates completed by Māori over the period from 1994 to 2004 by field of study



Note: Field of study has been determined by using a combination of NZSCED and main subject codes.

Tertiary Sector Performance Analysis & Reporting,  
Tertiary Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Group – Mātauranga Tuatoru, Akoranga Mārautanga,  
Ministry of Education – Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga.

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