

## International context of Nurse Practitioners

Nurse Practitioner Education Standards							
Country/ Jurisdiction*	Level of Qualification	Defined Area of Practice	Length of Study	Entry Requirements	Programme Content	Clinical Hours	Assessment
<b>Aotearoa New Zealand</b>	Masters	No	2 years full-time study  2400 hours 240 credits - 40+ at level 9	<p>For master's programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN with current APC and be in good standing</li> <li>• Minimum of 4 years of equivalent full-time practice in the last 5 years</li> </ul> <p>For practicum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 years equivalent full-time practice in area of practice where they intend to practice as a NP</li> <li>• Collaborative relationship with interprofessional team and support from NP or medical practitioner</li> <li>• Undertake practicum in an organisation that supports nurse prescribing</li> <li>• Access to two areas of clinical practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathophysiology</li> <li>• Pharmacology assessment</li> <li>• Diagnostic reasoning- clinical management</li> <li>• Prescribing for long-term and common conditions in NZ</li> <li>• High level of clinical proficiency</li> <li>• Practice across healthcare context</li> <li>• Critical thinking</li> <li>• Clinical reasoning</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Interpersonal communication</li> <li>• Collaboration in interprofessional teams</li> <li>• Professional development</li> <li>• Use of current technology</li> <li>• Critique health policies from a population health perspective</li> <li>• Understanding of NP related legislation</li> <li>• Includes Māori, Pacific and older health consumers</li> </ul>	300-500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio of learning</li> <li>• OSCE</li> <li>• Viva voce clinical assessment</li> <li>• Assessment of practice by a clinical mentor</li> </ul>
<b>Australia</b>	Masters	No	2 years full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN registration</li> <li>• Minimum of 2 years of equivalent full-time practice in ANP</li> <li>• Post-grad qualification at Level 8 in a clinical field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sciences that underpin all elements of NP practice</li> <li>• Advanced holistic assessment and diagnostics</li> <li>• Clinical research and practice improvement methodologies</li> <li>• Therapeutic practice</li> <li>• Socio-economic, geographical and political factors that</li> </ul>	300-500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio of learning and integrated professional practice</li> <li>• Contextualised, scenario-based assessment strategies</li> <li>• Viva voce clinical assessment</li> <li>• Observation in integrated professional practice settings</li> </ul>

					<p>influence NP service models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural safety</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories, health, wellness and culture</li> <li>• Health needs of people with geographically, culturally, socially and linguistically diverse backgrounds</li> <li>• Health informatics and health technology</li> <li>• Patient centred care within a range of health care contexts</li> <li>• Incorporation of national and regional health priorities, research, policy and reform</li> </ul>		
<b>United States of America- MScN*</b>	Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatric-Mental Health</li> <li>• Women's health</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Adult-Gerontology Acute Care</li> <li>• Adult-Gerontology Primary Care</li> <li>• Paediatric</li> </ul>	2-3 years full-time study	<p>NP faculty has input into admission criteria so there is variation. A brief scan of MScN education providers identified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most require the completion of a BScN</li> <li>• Most require RN registration</li> <li>• Some require 1-2 years of experience</li> <li>• Some are direct-entry but require the completion of prerequisite courses in health science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad-based comprehensive graduate educational preparation for the NP</li> <li>• At least one population focused area of study</li> <li>• Courses in advanced health assessment, physiology/pathophysiology and pharmacology</li> <li>• Interprofessional education experiences</li> <li>• Advanced patient centred care</li> </ul>	518-1280	<p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPs are required to pass a national certification prior to registration based on their specialisation</li> </ul>
<b>United States of America- DNP*</b>	Doctorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatric-Mental Health</li> <li>• Women's health</li> <li>• Family</li> <li>• Adult-Gerontology Acute Care</li> <li>• Adult-Gerontology Primary Care</li> <li>• Paediatric</li> </ul>	2-4 years full-time study	<p>NP faculty has input into admission criteria so there is variation. A brief scan of DNP education providers identified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most require the completion of a BScN or MScN</li> <li>• Most require RN registration</li> <li>• Some require 1 year of experience for particular clinical streams</li> <li>• Some are direct-entry but require the completion of prerequisite courses in health science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad-based comprehensive graduate educational preparation for the NP</li> <li>• At least one population focused area of study</li> <li>• Courses in advanced health assessment, physiology/pathophysiology and pharmacology</li> <li>• Interprofessional education experiences</li> <li>• Advanced patient centred</li> </ul>	540-1180	<p>Not specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPs are required to pass a national certification prior to registration based on their specialisation</li> </ul>

					care • Genetics • Health informatics		
<b>Ireland</b>	Masters	No	2 years full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN registration</li> <li>• 3 years of recent clinical practice with the equivalent of 1-year full-time experience in the specific area of practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflects current evidence-based theory, healthcare policy and APN</li> <li>• Dynamic and flexible to allow for changes in APN and healthcare delivery</li> <li>• The development of evidence based professional advanced practice in response to educational, health, social, cultural and economic change</li> <li>• Programme focused on the safety of the person and protection of the public</li> </ul>	500-596	Clinical competence assessment
<b>Canada</b>	Master's degree or post-master's certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family/ All Ages within a Primary Health Care focus</li> <li>• Adult with or without specialisation</li> <li>• Paediatric with or without a clinical area of specialisation</li> <li>• Neonatal</li> <li>• Anaesthesia</li> </ul>	2 years full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN registration</li> <li>• Minimum of 2 years full-time equivalent practice as a RN in the last 5 years</li> <li>• Successful completion of undergraduate courses in pathophysiology, pharmacology, research, statistics and health assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional role, responsibility and accountability</li> <li>• Health assessment and diagnosis</li> <li>• Therapeutic management</li> <li>• Health promotion and prevention of illness and injury</li> </ul>	Not standardised • 730-794	Not specified
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General</li> <li>• Mental health</li> </ul>	2-3 years 120 credits • 80 practical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN registration</li> <li>• 2 years of clinical experience</li> <li>• A work study agreement with employer of 32 hours per week</li> </ul>	Training aimed at obtaining competencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical expertise</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Organisation</li> <li>• Health promotion</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Professionalism</li> </ul>	2000	Not specified
<b>United Kingdom**</b>	Masters (some programmes offer exit at a post-grad	Most programmes do not but one provider offers the following specialisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult</li> </ul>	2-3 years	There is variation, a brief scan of APN programmes identified that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All require RN registration</li> <li>• Most require 2-3 years of experience</li> <li>• Some require an employer</li> </ul>	Four pillars of practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical practice</li> <li>• Leadership and management</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Research</li> </ul>	Not standardised • 122-600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSCE</li> <li>• Practice assessment documents</li> <li>• Essays</li> </ul>

	certificate or diploma level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child</li> <li>• Learning disabilities</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> </ul>		recommendation, a workplace supervisor and contracted working arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One required applicants to be an advanced clinical practitioner trainee or to be working as an advanced practitioner</li> <li>• One required applicants to have completed a mentor preparation programme</li> <li>• Northern Ireland: non-medical prescribing</li> </ul>	Prescribing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio</li> <li>• Practical examination</li> </ul>
<b>Finland ***</b>	Masters	No	1.5-2 years full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RN registration</li> <li>• 3 years of clinical experience, more if the applicant will be a prescriber</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Advanced clinical nursing</li> <li>• Physical health assessment</li> <li>• Pharmacology</li> <li>• Pathophysiology</li> </ul>	Clinical hours vary according to provider and degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis</li> <li>• Practical examination</li> </ul>

\*NP education programmes are not standardised due to state/province-based regulation, information taken from the guidance set out by national organisations (NONPF & CASN) and an article by Elvidge, et. al (2024)

\*\* NP role is not regulated so there is variation within the aspects of NP education. Information is taken from 2023 Nullfield Trust Independent Report on the regulation of advanced practice in nursing and midwifery and the Royal College of Nursing Advanced Practice Handbook

\*\*\* NP role is not regulated and there is no guidance for NP education programme standards. Information is taken from schools providing Masters in APN and article by Wheeler, et. al