

# Postgraduate Diploma in Science (PGDipSc – 120 points)

These regulations must be read in conjunction with the General Regulations for the University.

## 1. Version

- (a) These Regulations came into force on 1 January 2025.
- (b) This Diploma was first offered in 1998.

## 2. Variations

In exceptional circumstances the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate may approve a personal programme of study which does not conform to these Regulations.

## 3. The structure of the qualification

- (a) To qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Science a student must have passed courses totalling 120 points selected from Schedule S to these Regulations for the chosen major.
- (b) A student may replace courses up to 60 points with 400-level courses prescribed for other subjects with the approval of the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate.

## 4. Admission to the qualification

A student for the Postgraduate Diploma in Science must have, before enrolling for the Diploma:

- (a) either:
  - i. qualified for the Degree of Bachelor of Science with at least a B- (4.0) Grade Point Average in the courses specified in Schedule S to these Regulations; or
  - ii. qualified for a bachelor's degree and if necessary passed a qualifying course; or
  - iii. been admitted with Academic Equivalent Standing; and
- (b) met the prerequisites for the chosen major as prescribed in the Schedule to these Regulations.
- (c) been approved as a student by the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate.

## 5. Subjects

The subjects for the Postgraduate Diploma in Science are listed in the Schedule to these Regulations.

## 6. Time limits

The time limit for this qualification is 60 months.

## 7. Transfers of credit, substitutions and cross-credits

This qualification adheres to the Credit Recognition and Transfer Regulations with no additional stipulations.

## 8. Progression

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University, with the following stipulations:

- (a) A student who fails more than 30 points will be withdrawn from the qualification.
- (b) Unless an exemption is granted by the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate, courses may not be repeated.

## 9. Honours, Distinction and Merit

This qualification adheres to the General Regulations for the University, with no additional stipulations.

## 10. Exit and Upgrade Pathways to other Qualifications

- (a) A student who has completed the requirements for the PGDipSc but has not yet graduated, may apply to the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate to be admitted to the Master of Science and have credits transferred.
- (b) A student who has graduated with the PGDipSc from Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury, may apply to the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate to be admitted to the Master of Science and have their Diploma subsumed in accordance with the General Regulations to the University.

- (c) A student who has completed the requirements for the PGDipSc in Computer Science with at least a B Grade Point Average in courses for the Postgraduate Diploma, and who has not yet graduated, may apply to the Amo Matua, Pūtaiao | Executive Dean of Science or delegate to be admitted to the Professional Master of Computer Science and have credits transferred.
- (d) A student who has completed the requirements for the PGDipSc in Computer Science with at least a B Grade Point Average in courses for the Postgraduate Diploma, and who has not yet graduated, may apply to the Executive Dean of Science or delegate to be admitted to the Master of Artificial Intelligence and have credits transferred.
- (e) There are no exit qualifications for this Diploma.

## Schedule S: Subject Courses for the Postgraduate Diploma in Science

For full course information, go to [courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz](http://courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz)

### Mātai Kōkōrangi | Astronomy

Either: ASTR480, ASTR422, ASTR423 or ASTR425 or ASTR426, and four other courses chosen from ASTR421–427, PHYS401–460, MDPH403, MDPH406, with a maximum of two courses from PHYS440–460;

Or: ASTR422, ASTR423 or ASTR425 or ASTR426, and six other courses chosen from ASTR421–427, ASTR430, PHYS401–460, MDPH403, MDPH406, with a maximum of three courses from PHYS440–460.

Not all courses may be offered in any one year.

With the approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School, up to two courses may be replaced by appropriate courses from another subject.

Note: The choice of courses is subject to the approval of the Tumuaki Kura, Te Kura Matū | Head of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.

P: 60 points in 300-level ASTR or PHYS courses approved by the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School.

### Mātai Matū Koiora | Biochemistry

120 points of 400-level BCHM, CHEM or BIOL coded courses as approved by the Kaihautū, Mātai Matū Koiora | Director of Biochemistry. Must include either BIOL411 and BIOL412; or CHEM430 and CHEM431.

P: BCHM305, BCHM306, BCHM338, BCHM339 and BCHM381 (or equivalent alternative lab course or research project course as approved by the Kaihautū, Mātai Matū Koiora | Director of Biochemistry); and a minimum of 15 points from other 300-level CHEM or BIOL courses.

### Mātai Pūtaiao Koiora | Biological Sciences

Courses totalling at least 120 points including BIOL411 and BIOL412. At least 60 points are to be selected from other BIOL 400-level courses. The remaining courses may be selected with the approval of Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora | School of Biological Sciences Kairuruku Tau Tuawhā | Fourth Year Coordinator.

P:

- (1) 60 points from 300-level BIOL courses, BCHM305, BCHM306; and
- (2) a minimum of 15 points from CHEM335, 337, 340, BIOL313, 330, 351 or 352.

### Biotechnology

Courses totalling at least 120 points including BIOL411, BIOL412 and BIOL496. At least 45 points to be selected from BIOL429, BIOL455–457 (BCHM455–457), BIOL459–462 (BCHM459–462), and BIOL463. The remaining courses may be selected with the approval of Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora | School of Biological Sciences Kairuruku Tau Tuawhā | Fourth Year Coordinator.

P: At least 60 points from BCHM301, BCHM305, BCHM306, BIOL313, BIOL333, BIOL334, BIOL335, BIOL351, BIOL352 or appropriate advanced level courses in biochemistry and the molecular biosciences.

## Cellular and Molecular Biology

Courses totalling at least 120 points including BIOL411 and BIOL412. At least 45 points are to be selected from BIOL455–456 (BCHM455–456), BIOL459–462 (BCHM459–462) and BIOL496. The remaining courses may be selected with the approval of Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora | School of Biological Sciences Kairuruku Tau Tuawhā | Fourth Year Coordinator.

P: At least 60 points selected from BCHM301, BCHM305, BCHM306, BIOL313, BIOL330, BIOL333, BIOL334, BIOL335, BIOL351, BIOL352.

Note: A student will normally be expected to take BIOL309.

## Mātai Matū | Chemistry

- (a) CHEM430 and CHEM431; and
- (b) 90 points from CHEM432–CHEM438.

Note: With approval from the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School, up to 30 points may be replaced by 400-level courses from another subject within Science with a total EFTS of at least the same value.

P: 300-level Required: 60 points from CHEM300-level courses, excluding CHEM329 and CHEM330, and including at least one of CHEM381 and CHEM382.

## Mātai Hinengaro o te Tamaiti, o te Whānau | Child and Family Psychology

Part I: 120 points comprising CFPY401–407, and an approved 15 point postgraduate Research Methods course, or equivalent, as approved by the Kaihautū Hōtaka | Programme Director.

- P:
- (1) A Bachelor's degree with a major in Psychology; or
  - (2) Any relevant Bachelors degree and a Graduate Diploma of Arts or Science in Psychology; and
  - (3) PSYC206 Research Design and Statistics or other research methods course deemed equivalent.

Notes:

- 1. A student will normally be expected to have at least a B- and above average in their 300-level undergraduate courses.

## Computer Science

120 points from COSC401–499 (except COSC460, COSC461, COSC470, COSC475, COSC476, COSC480, COSC486), SENG401–499 (except SENG402), DATA430–439. With the approval of the Tumuaki Tari | Head of Department, up to 30 points may be replaced by courses from another subject. Students who consider changing into the MSc in Computer Science need to take COSC469.

P: 60 points at 300-level in COSC301–399, SENG301–399, ENCE360–361, DATA301.

## Mātauranga Raraunga | Data Science

Eight courses (with the approval of the Kaihautū Akoranga | Director of Studies) from COSC (COSC401–449, COSC462–469, COSC471–474, COSC477–479), DATA (DATA420–440), MATH (MATH401–448, 450–490), STAT (STAT401–448, 450–490), and SENG (SENG401, 403–490). At least 30 points must be taken from the prescribed COSC and SENG coded courses, and a further 30 points from the prescribed MATH and STAT coded courses.

P: All the required 300-level courses for the Data Science major in the Bachelor of Data Science or the Bachelor of Science.

## Ecology

Courses totalling at least 120 points including BIOL411 and BIOL412. At least 60 points are to be selected from BIOL423–429 and BIOL438. The remaining courses may be selected with the approval of Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora | School of Biological Sciences Kairuruku Tau Tuawhā | Fourth Year Coordinator.

- P:
- (1) 60 points from BIOL370–379; and
  - (2) BIOL309 or equivalent.

## Economics

120 points from ECON601–679 with approval from the Tumuaki Tari | Head of Department.

P:

- (1) ECON206 or ECON325; and
- (2) ECON213 or STAT202 or STAT213; and
- (3) ECON203 or (ECON207 and ECON208); and
- (4) 60 points from 300-level Economics courses, including ECON321, ECON324, ECON326 (or equivalent as approved by the Tumuaki Tari | Head of Department).

Alternatively, a student may apply to enter with a Graduate Diploma in Economics or a Graduate Diploma in Science, normally including ECON321, ECON324 and ECON326.

## Mātai Pūtaiao Aronukurangi | Environmental Science

ENVR411 and ENVR415 plus 90 points of relevant courses in ANTA, BIOL, CHEM, DATA, DRRE, ENCH, ENCI, ENGE, ENVR, FORE, GEOG, GEOL, HLTH, MATH, STAT, WATR.

The selection should form a coherent thematic programme, and must be approved by the Director of Postgraduate Studies.

Note that normally all individual course prerequisites must be satisfied.

P: A B- average (4.5 GPA) at 300-level from majors in the BSc, FORE or ENCN.

## Finance

120 points from FINC601–679 with approval from the Tumuaki Tari | Head of Department.

P:

- (1) ECON202; and
- (2) ECON213 (or any 30 points from STAT 200-level courses); and
- (3) FINC205; and
- (4) FINC331.

Or: a bachelor's degree in a subject other than Finance, but including:

- (1) ECON213 (or any 30 points from STAT 200-level courses); and
- (2) FINC331; and
- (3) an additional 30 points in 300-level FINC courses.

## Geography

Courses equivalent to 120 points from GEOG401–420 and GISC403–413 and GISC416, with approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School. Enrolment in GEOG420 Research Project is recommended.

Note: Not all courses will be offered in any one year.

P: 90 points in 300-level courses approved by the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School, including GEOG309 and at least 30 other points in 300-level Geography courses, or  
120 points at 300-level, of which 60 points are in Geography and 60 points are in subjects approved by the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School.

## Mātai Aronuku | Geology

Courses equivalent to 120 points chosen from GEOL471–499 with the approval of the Tumuaki Kura, Te Kura Aronukurangi | Head of the School of Earth and Environment.

Notes:

1. With the approval of the Tumuaki Kura, Te Kura Aronukurangi | Head of the School of Earth and Environment, up to 45 points from another relevant subject may replace up to 45 points from GEOL courses.
  2. Practical and fieldwork may be required as part of any GEOL471–499 courses.
  3. Not all courses may be offered in any one year.
- P: GEOL351 and GEOL352 (or equivalent fieldwork), and 60 points from other GEOL 300-level courses, passed with a Grade Point Average that meets the approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School (the normal requirement is at least a B Grade Point Average).

## Industrial and Organisational Psychology

This subject is not open for enrolments but is an exit only pathway for students enrolled in the Master of Science (Industrial and Organisational Psychology).

P:

- (1) Courses totalling 90–105 points selected from APSY601–623.
- (2) A 15-point research statistics course (PSYC460).
- (3) Courses totalling 15–30 points from PSYC451, 464, and 473. With the approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School, one or more PSYC400-level courses may be substituted.

## Pāngarau | Mathematics

Eight courses chosen from MATH401–490 and STAT401–490 (other than MATH449 or STAT449). Normally at least six courses will be chosen from the MATH course list.

P:

- (1) 45 points from MATH201, MATH202, MATH203, MATH220 and MATH240, including MATH201 and at least one of (MATH202 or MATH203); and
- (2) 60 points from MATH301–394; and
- (3) An additional 30 points from MATH301–394 and STAT301–394 or other approved courses.

## Medical Physics

Seven courses from MDPH401–410 and one course from PHYS410–460. With the approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School, one of these courses may be replaced by an appropriate course from another subject. Note: The choice of courses is subject to the approval of the Tumuaki Kura, Te Kura Matū | Head of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.

P: 90 points at 300-level, approved by the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School.

## Microbiology

Courses totalling at least 120 points including BIOL411, BIOL412, BIOL455 (BCHM455) and BIOL456 (BCHM456). At least 30 points are to be selected from BIOL457 (BCHM457), BIOL459 (BCHM459), BIOL460 (BCHM460), BIOL463 and BIOL496. Additional courses may be selected with the approval of Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora | School of Biological Sciences Kairuruku Tau Tuawhā | Fourth Year Coordinator.

P:

- (1) BIOL313; and
- (2) At least 45 points selected from BCHM 301, BIOL330, BIOL331, BIOL333, BIOL335, BIOL351, BIOL352.

Note: A student will normally be expected to take BIOL309.

## Whakaaroaro | Philosophy

P: 60 points at 300-level in the same subject.

## Mātai Ahupūngao | Physics

Either: PHYS480 and six courses chosen from PHYS401–460, ASTR421–426, MDPH403, MDPH406, with a maximum of three courses from PHYS440–460.

Or: Eight courses chosen from PHYS401–460, ASTR421–426, MDPH403, MDPH406, with a maximum of four courses from PHYS440–460.

Not all courses may be offered in any one year.

With the approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School, up to two courses may be replaced by appropriate courses from another subject.

Note: The choice of courses is subject to the approval of the Tumuaki Kura, Te Kura Matū | Head of the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences.

P: 60 points in 300-level PHYS courses approved by the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School.

## Mātai Hinengaro | Psychology

Courses totalling 120 points selected with the approval of the Tumuaki Kura | Head of School from PSYC404–441 and PSYC451–499.

P:

- (1) PSYC105 and PSYC106; and
- (2) At least 60 points of 200-level PSYC courses, including PSYC206 (or equivalent); and
- (3) At least 75 points of 300-level PSYC, including PSYC375 or equivalent. A B grade or better in 60 points at 300-level Psychology, including a B grade or better in PSYC375 or equivalent courses is normally required.

## Tatauranga | Statistics

Eight courses chosen from STAT401–490 and MATH401–490 (other than STAT449 or MATH449). One of the eight courses must be either STAT461 or STAT464 if the student has not been credited with STAT213 or STAT314 (or equivalent) previously. Normally at least six courses will be chosen from the STAT course list.

P:

- (1) MATH103, MATH109 or MATH199; and
- (2) 45 points from STAT201–294; and
- (3) 60 points from STAT301–394; and
- (4) An additional 30 points from STAT301–394 and MATH301–394 or other approved courses.