

Practice note 6 – How a forged Auckland University degree hoodwinked the NHS

The above title is the heading of a news story in the Sunday Star Times on February 26, 2023.

The forger (found guilty by a jury at the Manchester Crown Court) had legitimately obtained a degree in human biology from the University of Auckland, but on the forgery she had replaced “Bachelor of Human Biology” with “Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery”. The forger had altered the wording of the previously legitimate degree parchment using a technique known as “dry transfer lettering”). Also forged was a letter of verification purporting to be from the faculty registrar.

A quick and simple way to check what degree was actually awarded in New Zealand, is to google “XXXX University Roll of Graduates” This will show the name of the graduate, the degree(s) in which they graduated, and the graduation dates.

Checking the authenticity of a verification letter must be done directly with the signatory.

For formal verification of degrees and academic transcripts, use the my eEquals process at <https://www.myequals.ac.nz>