



Māori Studies

BA

Bachelor of Arts major

Celebrate history, language and culture.

With a strong focus on mātauranga (traditional knowledge) and contemporary issues, you will gain a deep understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand. Through this and an understanding of performing arts in the Māori world, as well as learning te reo Māori, you will build a solid understanding of Indigenous matters and an ability to assess issues of concern to Māori and the Nation and articulate these from a Māori knowledge base. This supportive course and learning environment is open to students from all cultures.

Career possibilities

Māori Studies can prepare you for a career in teaching, translation, research, iwi development, and central and local government. While positions in television, radio and the media offer exciting career pathways for competent speakers of te reo Māori. You could also work as an iwi adviser or administrator, consultant or policy analyst.

“The kaupapa Māori research foundations that Māori Studies provided me has been my ‘bread and butter’ to this day. It gives you a solid grounding in areas like history, anthropology, ethnomusicology, media, politics, sociology, linguistics and health.

“This multidisciplinary focus provides you with a number of tools you can draw on to enhance your critical thinking. This has proven incredibly valuable in my current work in research, evaluation and policy where you are often asked to ‘unpack’ and provide innovative solutions to complex social and health issues.”



HECTOR KAIWAI

Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngai Tūhoe

Director, Awa Associates

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Anthropology
+ Māori Studies / Bachelor of Music conjoint
Master of Arts in Māori Studies

“People assume Māori Studies is exclusively about Māori, but they soon discover that knowing who you are and where you come from is one of the most important aspects of the Māori world. Māori Studies allows us to connect with Māori and the many other peoples and cultures who call this land home.”

TIOPIRA MCDOWELL

Senior Lecturer and Co-Head of the
School of Te Wānanga o Waipapa



You can choose from different courses to suit your interests and career goals. You can study Māori language, tikanga and mātauranga (customs and traditional knowledge), Māori performing arts (kapa haka), history, politics, film and health.

STAGE 1 COURSE*

MĀORI 130 – Te Ao Māori: The Māori World

Presents a specifically Māori view of how Māori see the world, Māori culture and Māori experiences. Includes the structure and nature of Māori society and leadership, European arrival, the 1835 He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī and the 1840 Tiriti o Waitangi, the impact of British settlement and colonisation on Māori society, racism, the Land Wars, the struggle for Māori rights, the Waitangi Tribunal, activism, health, and decarceration.

STAGE 2 COURSE*

MĀORI 233 – Tikanga Ancestral Ways

Examines tikanga (ancestral ways of living) and how these have changed since the arrival of Māori in Aotearoa. Beginning with topics of contemporary interest such as land use, the sea, kinship, gender relations, justice, health and economics, this course traces the patterns of ancestral life, explore historical debates and reflect upon possible futures.

STAGE 3 COURSE*

MĀORI 330 – Te Ao Hou: Contemporary Māori Issues

Examines contemporary issues Māori face as tangata whenua in a national sense and as Indigenous people in a global sense. Drawing on a critical Indigenous studies approach this course looks at issues pertaining to various aspects of Māori society, culture, politics and identity.



Get excited about your course options:



- Introduction to Written Māori
- Introduction to Spoken Māori
- Kapa Haka 1
- Te Ao Hou/Contemporary Māori Issues

*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit our website. Published June 2025.



Complementary majors include:

Māori Studies
+
History
Linguistics
Media and Screen Studies
Politics and International Relations
Sociology

“Being a student in my programme feels both empowering and thought-provoking. It’s a journey of constantly learning, unlearning, and reconnecting.

“I feel grounded; the content is deeply tied to identity, whenua, and whakapapa, and it’s uplifting to be in spaces where mātauranga Māori is valued and taught with care. It’s not just academic; it’s personal, it’s cultural, and it’s healing.”

ANTONIA TANGATAKINO-MCINTYRE

Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe, Te Whakatōhea, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāpuhi

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Māori Studies + Sociology

