# Māori and Pacific student stories



ARTS

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Kia ora, Tālofa lava, Ni sa bula vinaka, Kia orana, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālō e lelei, Fakatālofa lahi atu, Malo ni, Mauri, and warm Māori and Pacific greetings to you all.

As Dean of this outstanding faculty I would like to welcome you. Located in the heart of Auckland, Tamaki Mākaurau, we are enriched by the presence of Ngāti Whātua Orākei, the people of this place on whose land we stand.

We are a faculty that stands tall among our international peers and are consistently ranked among the world's top arts faculties by the QS World University Rankings. We take great pride in our comprehensive study offerings, the excellence of our research, and the inclusive environment we provide for our diverse community of students and staff.

We strongly believe in the value of Māori and Pacific knowledges and identities, and are equally proud of the global range of topics that our scholars study. We appreciate the qualities and values each student brings to us during their time here. Our students can succeed here as themselves, being true to their values and beliefs, within our welcoming and supportive environment.

Thank you for exploring the opportunities we can offer you. I very much look forward to welcoming you as a student to our faculty.

Professor Robert Greenberg DEAN OF ARTS





Tui, tui, tui tuia. Tuia i runga Tuia raro Tuia i waho Tuia i roto Tuia i te here tangata.

Bind, bind, bind us together. May it be woven above, Enmeshed below, Entwined outside. And within our very beings, Interlaced by threads of human love.

Welcome to TUITUI! Tuitui contains stories of our successful Māori and Pacific students. We share these stories to show that you as Māori and Pacific students and your whānau and ainga are welcome here. This is a place where Māori and Pacific students not only survive, but thrive. As our ancestors showed their courage and skill as they journeyed across Te Moananui-a-Kiwa / The Pacific, so we welcome you here as you continue on your educational journey.

We offer a wide range of support for you as a Māori or Pacific student as you study and excel with us. This ranges from Tuākana community of learning through to Arts+ peer support through to Unibound to support you as you transition into university life and study. We also provide various forms of financial support.

We recognise that we are in Aotearoa and the Pacific in 2021. As such, we are committed to embedding Māori and Pacific values into the entire life of our faculty. This means that the gifts and knowledge and strengths that you bring as Māori and Pacific students into the classroom and into our faculty life are welcomed and incorporated, alongside the highest levels of global knowledge that our academics excel in.

And when you graduate, you will be in demand. A Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Auckland will enable you to engage with a rapidly changing society, equipping you with a range of global skills and knowledge that are in high demand from employers. From central and local government through to private enterprise, from media companies through to iwi and community organisations, all want what our graduates have to offer. You can build a career, and serve your people.

Tuitui means to bind together. So come, be bound together with knowledge and skill and strength. Tui, tui, tui tuia!

Dr Hirini Kaa KAIĀRAHI, FACULTY OF ARTS





### Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei

Seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain

# Faith Tuiloma

Tēnā koutou katoa and Talofa lava. My name is Faith Tuiloma and I am the first in my family to attend university. I am proud to be Māori (Ngā Puhi, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Porou) and Samoan (Sapunaoa Falealili, Vailu'utai) as I get to experience the best of both worlds. I'm still on a journey of finding my identity and the University has played a part in doing so. Here's a little insight on my educational journey so far.

### "I transitioned from a small,

local intermediate in South Auckland to a very large college – Epsom Girls Grammar School – near the city. It was a big change but I made good friends, got used to my new routine and was on my way. I am grateful for going through that season of change as it prepared me for the transition into university.

### "I was never certain of what I wanted to study. It was

difficult for me to connect the things that I was good at with the things that I was passionate about. I was always fascinated by Criminology and Law, and so I decided to study them. Having Māori identity encouraged me to further engage with my culture and study the language.

### "I enjoy listening and

engaging in conversations with my lecturers, tutors, mentors and peers about all sorts of issues and events. My subjects have given me a new pair of critical glasses to wear when looking at different issues around the world.

### "Education is a value that

has been instilled in my siblings and me. Studying at the University of Auckland will open doors that my family were never able to walk through, and I am proud to be the first to not only step foot through those doors but also hold them open for my whānau.

### **"Family is an extremely important value** to me. The sense of family itself encompasses many

values such as aroha, whanaungatanga, ambition and motivation. I will always remember and appreciate my family making the most of the little that we had. My grandparents pushed my parents to become more than they thought they could be, and my parents did the same for me. A common theme in my upbringing would be to surpass the generations before you without leaving them behind. It is because of them, I am where I am today. to benefit the community? Success does not even have to stay within the sphere of education itself. Any level of knowledge, skill or resource can amount to success.

"In high school, I always thought I had to have a set plan before entering university - boy was I wrong! It may take time to settle into your new classes, you may even need to switch your whole degree



Faith (third from left) with her whānau.

### "There are many support

**systems** within the university for Māori and Pasifika students. The Tuākana programme in Arts and Māori Academic Programme (MAP) and Pacific Academic Strategies for Success (PASS) in Law have been a huge help and I would highly recommend them to others.

### "Success can typically be

seen as the attainment of an education, but I think true success comes in its application. What is the use in achieving high standards and not using that knowledge around, but that is okay! Think of it as a road trip, with pit stops and detours, and the destination will be worth the journey."

Faith is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws in Māori Studies and Criminology.

# Kiharoa Eli Kiowa Iversen

Ko Mauao tōku maunga Ko Mātaatua tōku waka Ko Waitoa tōku awa Ko Tahuwhakatiki tōku marae Ko Nga Potiki tōku hapū Ko Ngāi te Rangi tōku iwi Ko Ngongotaha tōku maunga Ko Te Arawa tōku waka Ko Utuhina tōku awa Ko Paratehoata tōku marae Ko Tunohopu tōku hapū Ko Ngāti Whakaue tōku iwi

"I am lucky enough to have Māori and Pākehā tupuna. My Pākehā tupuna voyaged to Aotearoa from England, Scotland and Norway. My immediate whānau is made up of my older brother, Herewini, my twin brother Taimana and our Mum. Whānau is definitely my main support system.

"Some of my whānau have had great success in education. My maternal grandmother has a PhD and my mother is still chipping away at her masters. Both my brothers are currently at the University of Auckland. Herewini is studying towards a Doctor of Clinical Psychology and Taimana is in his final semester of a Bachelor of Arts in Māori Studies and History.

"I attended Rosmini College from year 7 to 13. Rosmini is a great school offering opportunities for individuals to shine academically, culturally, in sport or the arts. I studied a broad range of subjects including Biology, Statistics, History, Māori Studies, Geography and Academic Physical Education. I represented the school at 1st 11 level in both hockey and football. I was also involved in mentoring other Māori students through the Tuākana Tēina Programme.

"A group of old friends from school and new friends at university play in social football and basketball teams at the University Rec Centre. I also represented the University at last year's National Tertiary Championships in Hockey. Outside of university I play in the ABC premier men's team and at the National Māori Hockey Tournament for Tāmaki Makaurau. I am lucky enough to play in both of these teams with my brothers.

"I have enjoyed all of my subjects so far. It's interesting to see how you start off thinking you know a bit about something and then your knowledge grows even more. You gain the skills to critically examine information and make decisions about its relevance.

"Studying Education and History gives me a wellrounded degree. It enables me to incorporate other areas of interest including Māori Studies and Geography.

"I am particularly interested in Māori and Indigenous education. Next year I am interested in continuing on to a Master of Arts in Education. I think a Postgraduate Diploma of Secondary Teaching will follow that, which will enable me to become a History teacher.

"The term 'Māori achieving success as Māori' is

something I often hear. But what does this actually mean? For each of us it probably means something different. For me, success is: achieving my full potential, enjoying what I am doing and being able to help others work towards whatever they deem to be their success. **"For those who are new** to the University of Auckland, ask lots of questions, don't be whakamā. If you don't want to ask in front of a class, contact the lecturer or tutor privately. Seek out Tuākana tutors that might be available and anytime you see another Māori on campus give us the 'sup nod and a quick kia ora.

### Kia kotahi te hoe o te waka kia whaia mātauranga Towards knowledge and excellence we paddle as one

### "The whakataukī (above) is important to my whānau.

It's telling us that whatever pathway we choose, we must strive for excellence and that along the way our whānau will always be there to tautoko and whakatītina us."

Kiharoa is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Education and History.



E fofo lava le alamea, ile alamea

Resolutions are formulated within people

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## Sabrina Salome Wright-Fanua

Talofa Lava, malo le soifua maua ma le lagi e mama. O lo'u igoa o Sabrina Salome Wright-Fanua ma ou te sau mai nu'u o Luatuanu'u, Leusoali'I, Salelologa, Gataivai and Tufutafoe. E 24 o'u tausaga ma o lo'o o'u aoga nei I le Iunivesite o Aukilani.

### "I spent most of my early school years until the

beginning of high school in Samoa. Moving to New Zealand in pursuit of a better education, I went to Mangere College and received a scholarship for the University of Auckland.

### "Education was always

something deeply connected within our family. In the early 2000's my mother and I would catch the bus together to go to primary school. She would pick me up after work and we would catch another bus to the university where she attended evening classes, completing her undergraduate degree. She was also the main breadwinner in the family, looking after her parents and raising six kids under the age of 10. It is her example that I held on to when moving to New Zealand.

#### "I always knew that I wanted

to study and understand people and cultures of the world. Through my BA, I was able to study Anthropology and Pacific Studies, which offered courses about different communities of people in the world and more specifically my own Pacific people.

"Studying here was important to my family and me because of how Pacific the University, and Auckland in particular, had become. I was able to get an education while remaining rooted in my culture, in our stories of belonging, as well as being surrounded by my family and friends.

### "The most important value

in my Samoan culture that I proudly carry and uphold in my life is the value of tautua (service). This concept is the amalgamation of all other values of alofa (love), fa'aaloalo (respect) and fa'amaoni (integrity). At university, I get to experience Samoan culture through service within cultural groups and as a Tuākana mentor for first-year Anthropology students.

- "I continue to serve as a Mangere College alumna by being a guest speaker, mentor, and exam supervisor. I am also part of Every Nation Church Southside where I serve in the kids' ministry.
- **"My support systems include** my family: my mother, my late father, my seven siblings – and my friends. At university I have had wonderful mentors, including: Associate Professor Damon Salesa, Sili Mireta Pita, Naomi Fuamatu, Fuimaono Dylan Asafo, Dr Jemaima Tiatia-Seath and Dr Marcia Leenen-Young.
- "Success to me is being able to meet and serve the needs of different communities in New Zealand especially the marginalised and most importantly, Pacific communities. It's being able to serve my family through upholding cultural values in every sphere of life I am a part of. I hope I can ultimately help affect change in New Zealand especially in Pacific communities."

Salome completed a Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws in Anthropology and Pacific Studies, a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Pacific Studies, and is now studying for a Master of Arts in Pacific Studies.

# Jasmine Lauaki

Malo e lelei, ko hoku hingoa ko Jasmine Lauaki pea ko 'eku lele mai mei Ma'ufanga, Vaini, Vava'u mo Lapaha, Tongatapu.

### "I went to St Joseph's

**primary** school in Onehunga and Marcellin College, both Catholic schools. They helped me to implement my belief in God into my education, valuing the opportunity to learn. However, diasporic New Zealand Pacific histories weren't taught in the mainstream curriculum and I wanted to further my understanding in that area.

### "Growing up, my parents believed that any offered opportunity to learn must be taken. They believed it was important for their children to develop their own thinking

and that having an education was a success itself. My sister was the first to graduate in my family, with a BA in Psychology and Pacific Studies and I wanted to carry on that legacy.

"Within my Tongan culture, the value of faka'apa'apa is a huge guiding principle. Faka'apa'apa (most highest respect) helped me to honour the elderly in my family, appreciate what I have and be thankful for education. It also helped me to be humble with what my parents had to offer and value the simple things in life.

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### Fofola 'ae fala kae talanoa 'ae kainga Let us voice our Māori and Pacific-ness through our education

"My parents are my main support system. They support me in every possible way. My cousins, who study alongside me, also offer great support towards getting my degree. Outside of my family, I play the important role of secretary for my Lataki youth within my church community.

### "Within Pacific Studies, I

**enjoy** learning about my own histories, which I was unaware of. It's refreshing to learn how our Pacific ancestors fought against dominant forces to help Pacific youth be where they are today.

"In my first year, guidance groups such as Tuākana for Pacific and Māori students have been a huge support along with the teaching staff in Pacific Studies. They offer a lot of workshops and extra hours in helping us to understand our assignments.

"My Drama lecturer Rina Kim has also been a huge help! Rina goes above and beyond to make sure her students feel secure in her teaching space. Without these individuals, I would not be able to be where I am today. They have pushed me towards achieving my degree. "In the future, I hope to work with Pacific youth in any helpful way. I want to guide them towards considering university after high school and help them to be in control of their future.

"Success for me is seeing Pacific individuals succeed in whatever endeavour they pursue. I want to contribute towards overriding the typical perceptions and stereotypes people have about Pacific youth. Personally, I think my BA is important in leading our future generation in the right direction.

"Don't be afraid to further your knowledge; just go for it! With the time and effort you put into your studies, you end up with new experiences, friends and a wider understanding of the world around you."

Jasmine is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Pacific Studies and Drama.





### Arts+

Arts+ connects you with a mentor within your Arts courses, from Orientation right through to your exams. Arts+ will be there for you from day one to help you transition into university and to support you in your studies. Your mentor will be at your first tutorial to help you get to know each other. www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/artsplus

### Scholarships

Getting a scholarship doesn't need to be difficult. Every year the University of Auckland gives out scholarships and prizes worth over \$50 million to thousands of students just like you. Scholarships are amounts of money given to you to help with university education and you don't always need high grades to get one. Categories for school-leavers include academic excellence, Māori and Pacific students and anyone who has the ability to succeed but is experiencing financial hardship.

www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ scholarships

### Tuākana Arts

Tuākana Arts is the Māori and Pacific academic community in the Faculty of Arts. We're here to help you through your journey at university, and to achieve your full academic potential. We offer wānanga, workshops, mentoring, and many other services for our teina. The principles of kanohi ki te kanohi and whakawhanaungatanga are vital to everything we do. www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ tuakana

### UniBound

If you are a Māori or Pacific school leaver, UniBound can prepare you for study at the University of Auckland. www.unibound.ac.nz

### Tertiary Foundation Certificate (TFC)

The TFC programme supports the University's belief that anyone capable of studying at tertiary level should be given that opportunity. The major factors for your success in this programme are regular attendance, motivation and determination to maintain the necessary effort.

www.tfc.ac.nz

### Useful web addresses

Te Kura Tangata Faculty of Arts www.arts.auckland.ac.nz

Arts degrees www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ programmes

Māori students at the University www.auckland.ac.nz/maori

Pacific students at the University www.auckland.ac.nz/pacific

Entry requirements www.auckland.ac.nz/admission

How to apply for admission www.auckland.ac.nz/applynow

Fees and finances www.auckland.ac.nz/fees www.auckland.ac.nz/ studentloansandallowances

Scholarships www.auckland.ac.nz/ scholarships

Accommodation www.auckland.ac.nz/ accommodation

For frequently asked questions www.auckland.ac.nz/ askauckland

Arts graduate careers www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/ graduates

#### Privacy

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#### Disclaimer

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### NAMING MYSELF

### "Tusitala"

teller of tales that I never heard till yesterday born away for another life

Today

the tale I tell is my own theirs yours a way of seeking some more of Sāmoa of my sacred centre

The tale I tell will book its way through tongued histories timeless mysteries sanctioned violence spaces of silence telling lives

"tala tusi" tell the book worded spirit of brown in theory creativity our sound made renown

Associate Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh, Faculty of Arts, University of Auckland

www.arts.auckland.ac.nz