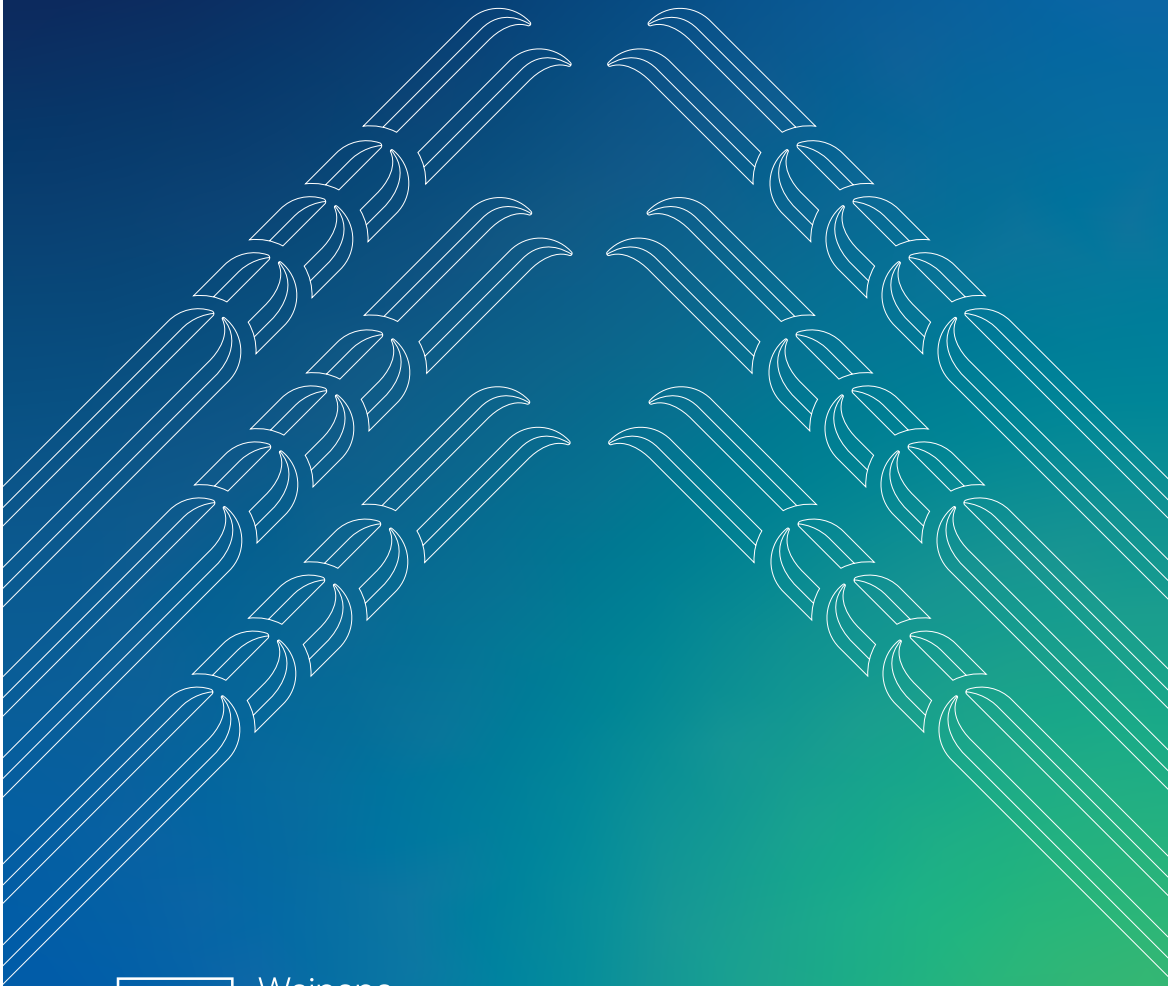
The New Zealand Economics Competition

2026 Awards Presentation Ceremony



Waipapa Taumata Rau
University of Auckland

Friday, 16 October 2026
The University of Auckland
Business School
Department of Economics

New Zealand Economics Competition 2026

Welcome to the New Zealand Economics Competition 2026 Awards presentation ceremony.

The New Zealand Economics Competition has grown in size and reputation since its inception in 1997 and has been administered by the Department of Economics at The University of Auckland Business School since 2008.

The Competition is the largest and most prestigious one of its kind for secondary school students. The fifty-minute examination paper contains fifty multiple-choice questions that test both classroom theory and general knowledge of current economic issues.

This year more than 2500 students from 69 schools throughout New Zealand entered the Competition. Tonight is an opportunity to recognise some of the students who have achieved outstanding performances.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the teachers and principals, without whose contribution the Competition would not be possible.

The 2026 New Zealand Economics Competition is sponsored by The University of Auckland Business School and is aimed not only at providing motivation to secondary school students to study economics, but also encouraging the pursuit of tertiary studies in economics.

For more information about the New Zealand Economics Competition:

visit our webpage

or email us:

econcomp@auckland.ac.nz

Programme outline

6pm Arrival & Refreshments

7pm Ceremony Commences -
Opening Remarks
Professor of Experimental
Economics Ananish Chaudhuri,
Competition Coordinator

7.05pm Welcome Address
Professor Prasanna Gai
Head of Department of Economics

7.15pm Acknowledging Academic
Excellence
Andrew Patterson
Pro Vice-Chancellor
Student Success and Experience

7.20pm Te Ūnga Kairuruku - Greetings
Natalie Wilson
Schools & Community Recruitment
Adviser

7.30pm Awards announced

High Distinction Awards
for Top 10% and Notable Students

7.50pm Guest Address
Rhema Vaithianathan
Professor of Health Economics
Auckland University of Technology
& Centre for Social Data Analytics

8.10pm Awards Presentation: Cash Prize
Winners

Presentation of High Distinction
Awards with cash prizes for
meritorious academic performance

8.25pm Awards Presentation:
National Winners

Celebrating our national award
winners with formal trophy
presentations

8.30pm Joint Presentation by MADE &
Economics Society

8.35pm Closing of ceremony
Associate Professor
Steffen Lippert
Deputy Head of Department

New Zealand Economics Competition Award Presentation Ceremony

Guest speaker



RHEMA VAITHIANATHAN *PhD*
Professor of Health Economics,
Auckland University of Technology

Co-director, Centre for Social Data Analytics

Professor Rhema Vaithianathan is Professor of Health Economics at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) and Co-Director of the Centre for Social Data Analytics. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Auckland and has held academic appointments at the Australian National University, the University of Auckland, and AUT. A recipient of the prestigious Harkness Fellowship, she conducted research at Harvard Medical School and has also served as Director of the Singapore Life Panel at Singapore Management University. Her research has been published in leading journals, including the Journal of Development Economics and the Journal of Health Economics. She is internationally recognised for her pioneering work in predictive risk modelling for child welfare, with tools developed by her research team used to support decision-making in multiple US jurisdictions.

University of Auckland Staff



ANDREW PATTERSON
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Success and Experience, University of Auckland

Andrew Patterson is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student Success and Experience in the Education Office and a Professional Teaching Fellow in Management & International Business. His specialist areas are negotiation, conflict-resolution, and teaching & learning. He has 20 years of experience and is the recipient of five UABS excellence awards and a Wharton-QS Reimagine Education award. He has shared his work and participated in forums abroad, including at Wharton Business School and the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, represented the university at international conferences, and delivered classes in several places including Renmin University of China, Beijing, HEC Lausanne and University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. He also engages in external strategic negotiation consulting.



PRASANNA GAI *MPhil, DPhil*
Professor | Head of Department

Prasanna is Head of Department and Professor of Macroeconomics at the University of Auckland. His research applies network and game theory to financial crises, with publications in The Review of Financial Studies, Economic Journal, Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of International Economics, and Proceedings of the Royal Society (A). He has authored two Oxford University Press books on crises and systemic risk. Holding degrees from Oxford and ANU, he is a member of New Zealand's Monetary Policy Committee and FMA Board. His past roles include positions at the Bank of England, ANU, Bank of Canada, and European Systemic Risk Board.



STEFFEN LIPPERT *Diplom-Volkswirt, PhD*
Associate Professor | Deputy Head

Steffen is an Associate Professor and Deputy Head of the Department of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Auckland. He studied Economics at Mannheim, Berkeley, and Toulouse, and received his PhD in Economics jointly from the Toulouse School of Economics and the University of Mannheim. Prior to joining the University of Auckland, he held academic positions at the University of Otago and Massey University and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Stockholm. His research interests include Industrial Economics, the Economics of Innovation, and the Economics of Social Interaction and Networks, with current work spanning climate cooperation, collective decision-making, firm learning and competition.



ANANISH CHAUDHURI *PhD*
Professor | Competition Coordinator

Ananish is Professor of Experimental Economics at the University of Auckland, where he served as Chair of the Department of Economics from 2013 to 2019. He is the author of several critically acclaimed books, including Nudged into Lockdown? Behavioural Economics, Uncertainty and Covid-19 (Edward Elgar), Behavioural Economics and Experiments (Routledge), and Experiments in Economics: Playing Fair with Money (Routledge), the latter two of which has also been translated into Chinese.

Ananish has published extensively in top-tier academic journals, including Nature Human Behaviour, Review of Economic Studies, American Journal of Political Science, Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics, Experimental Economics, and Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization.

He is Senior Editor of Oxford Open Economics, published by Oxford University Press and a member of the Regulatory Standards Board.



YUZHANG ZHANG *BA (H), MSc*
Doctoral Candidate | Competition Administrator

Yuzhang Zhang is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Auckland. Her research focuses on empirical labour economics and policy evaluation, with particular interests in how education and social policies affect individuals' human-capital investment and labour-market outcomes. She has teaching experience across several economics and business courses at the University of Auckland. Prior to her PhD, she completed an internship at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Germany, contributing to macroeconomic and labour-market forecasting. She holds a MSc in Economics from Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany.



HANNIE HUANG *BA (H), MSc*
Doctoral Candidate | Competition Administrator

Hannie is a PhD candidate in Economics at the University of Auckland. Hannie's research interests are in the fields of macroeconomics, economic growth, and innovation, with a specific focus on the use of data in the digital economy. Her current research explores the relationship between privacy concerns and economic growth through the data channel. She also serves as a graduate teaching assistant for several economics and management courses. Previously, she worked as a research assistant at the New Zealand Asia Institute at the University of Auckland and the Social Development and Public Policy Research Centre at Shenzhen University. Hannie holds a MSc in Economics from the University of Macau.



NATALIE WILSON

Te Ūnga Kairuruku | Schools & Community Recruitment Adviser, University of Auckland

Natalie is part of the Schools and Community Engagement Team at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland, where she helps students open new doors and discover what uni life could look like. A UoA grad herself, she now works in marketing and communications and delights in showing young people just how many directions one subject — like economics — can lead you. University helped Natalie unlock her potential and find her passion for connecting people with new opportunities — much like economics, it opened her eyes to how one choice can lead to many paths.





High Distinction Awards

Name	School	Year
Alex Yang	ACG Parnell College	13
Claire Shen	ACG Parnell College	13
Harrison Xing	ACG Parnell College	13
Jaeryeong Kim	ACG Parnell College	13
Mark Liu	ACG Parnell College	13
Zoe Huang	ACG Parnell College	13
Aaron Chen	ACG Parnell College	12
Ai Jia Li	ACG Parnell College	12
Amy Gao	ACG Parnell College	12
Eliza Wang	ACG Parnell College	12
John Jiacheng Liu	ACG Parnell College	12
Lucas Xia	ACG Parnell College	12
Bonnie Wan	ACG Parnell College	11
Donny Du	ACG Parnell College	11
Edwin Li	ACG Parnell College	11
Jack Harker	ACG Parnell College	11
Vincent Si	ACG Strathallan College	12
Eli Banbury	Aquinas College	13
Felix Carter	Aquinas College	13
Aarush Kumar	Auckland Grammar School	13
Benjamin Liu	Auckland Grammar School	13
Dominik Henry Slusarski	Auckland Grammar School	13
Eric Zhao	Auckland Grammar School	13
Henry Wong	Auckland Grammar School	13
Jonathan Hu	Auckland Grammar School	13
Joseph Grant	Auckland Grammar School	13
Joshua Rex Rowbotham	Auckland Grammar School	13
Jesse Savidan	Auckland Grammar School	12
Louie Jay Aerts	Auckland Grammar School	12
Wu Cheng Xi	Auckland Grammar School	12

Isabelle Lee	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	13
Poppy Monk	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	13
April Ong	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	13
Hannah Saunders	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	13
Zoe Huang	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	13
Harper Crane	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	12
Tessa Gray	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	12
Alexandra Irvine	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	12
Andy Yang	Botany Downs Secondary College	13
Baljot Singh	Botany Downs Secondary College	13
Ronald Touch	Botany Downs Secondary College	13
Aakash Lal	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Alex Sun	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Chanoudom Kay	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Coco Ke	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Ivan Ru	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Johnny Tran	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Khanh Nguyen	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Konnor Zhu	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Max Flanagan	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Morgan Reynolds	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Nishan Patel	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Rajveer Gupta	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Adam Tai	Burnside High School	13
Ben Gorman	Burnside High School	13
Arthur Norman	Cashmere High school	13
Raunaq Choudhary	Epsom Girls Grammar School	12
Liam Coates	Glendowie College	12
Hamish Dowd	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
John Huang	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Joseph Guo	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Marcus Ridge	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Nathan Carney	Hamilton Boys' High School	13

Orlando Hardie	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Jayden Buntting	Hamilton Boys' High School	12
Kanu Millward	Hamilton Boys' High School	12
Jackson Bo	Hamilton Boys' High School	11
Andres Torres Orellana	Hillcrest High School	13
Sudip Devkota	Hillcrest High School	13
Cassandra Lu	King's College	13
Jai Sohal	King's College	13
Sam Zhou	King's College	13
Thomas Nand	King's College	13
Ian Chen	King's College	12
Junyi Guo	Kristin School	13
Sabrina Liu	Kristin School	13
Chloe Lou	Kristin School	12
Josh Li	Kristin School	12
Kendrick Zhang	Kristin School	12
Tony Guo	Kristin School	12
Noah Hemmingsen	Lindisfarne College	13
Angus Lovell	Lindisfarne College	12
Hunter Thow	Lindisfarne College	12
Mackinnon Fan-Robertson	Lindisfarne College	12
Sam Harrison	Lindisfarne College	12
Sebastian Mitchell	Lindisfarne College	12
Sidney Plummer	Lindisfarne College	11
Vinzent MacGregor	Lindisfarne College	11
Steven Wu	Long Bay College	13
Darren Dai	Macleans College	12
Iaroslav Sidorenko	Mt Albert Grammar School	13
Levi Stark	Mt Albert Grammar School	13
Oliver Jull	New Plymouth Boys' High School	13
Aayush Sharma	Ormiston Senior College	13
Jamie Driver	Palmerston North Boys' High School	13
Leejun Kim	Palmerston North Boys' High School	13

Bao-Minh Phan	Palmerston North Boys' High School	12
Kevin Qiu	Pinehurst School	13
Rahul Gupta	Pinehurst School	13
Daniel Yu	Pinehurst School	12
Joel Jansen	Pinehurst School	12
Mac Cao	Pinehurst School	12
Anthony Huang	Pinehurst School	11
Gina Xiang	Pinehurst School	11
Isaac Sun	Pinehurst School	11
Austin Picard	Rangitoto College	13
Dianchen Li	Rangitoto College	13
Joshua Wang	Rangitoto College	13
Kyunghoon Tac	Rangitoto College	13
Yizhou Tang	Rangitoto College	13
Ben Xiong	Rangitoto College	12
Chris Kumala	Rangitoto College	12
Finn McLuckie	Rangitoto College	12
Ilya Bondin	Rangitoto College	12
Saad Abdullah	Rangitoto College	12
Sasha Odintsov	Rangitoto College	12
Sean Burke	Rangitoto College	12
Aidan Kassai	Rosmini College	13
Alex Knight	Rosmini College	13
Cohan Crawford	Rosmini College	13
Daniel Volkov	Rosmini College	13
Emmett Brinsdon	Rosmini College	13
James Mcindoe	Rosmini College	13
Laine Dominey	Rosmini College	13
Mason Beecher	Rosmini College	13
Ryan Soo-Jones	Rosmini College	13
Ryder Booth	Rosmini College	13
Tate Gibson	Rosmini College	13
Yanula Silva	Rosmini College	13

Cooper Henderson	Rosmini College	12
David Edhouse	Rosmini College	12
Dominic Chan	Rosmini College	12
Jackson Henry	Rosmini College	12
Marko Zaknich	Rosmini College	12
Ralph Placibe	Rosmini College	12
Sam Yee Sum	Sacred Heart College	13
Tim Bacchus	Saint Kentigern College	13
Yujie Shen	Saint Kentigern College	13
James Wang	Saint Kentigern College	12
Amber Chan	Sancta Maria College	13
Janne Lopez	Sancta Maria College	13
Richter Velasco	Sancta Maria College	12
Si Yuan Cheng	Sancta Maria College	12
Jiayuan Zhang	Scots College	13
Ke Xu	Scots College	12
David McKay-Smith	Southland Boys' High School	13
Ethan Tamariki	Southland Boys' High School	13
Isaac Lowe-McPherson	Southland Boys' High School	13
Lee Herrick	Southland Boys' High School	13
Levi Te Amo	Southland Boys' High School	13
Noah Kuresa	Southland Boys' High School	13
Rylan Lawson	Southland Boys' High School	13
Alex Gwynne	Southland Boys' High School	12
Carter Witheford	Southland Boys' High School	12
Ollie Keast	Southland Boys' High School	12
Shiv Chopra	Southland Boys' High School	12
Cerisa Gu	St Cuthbert's College	12
Cleo Huang	St Cuthbert's College	12
Daini Yue	St Cuthbert's College	12
Lorraine Wong	St Cuthbert's College	12
Lillian Schaumkel	St Mary's College (Auckland)	12
Keeley Stewart	St Oran's College	13

Reuben Hassell	St Paul's Collegiate School	13
Troy Poole	St Paul's Collegiate School	13
Tianyi Lu	St Paul's Collegiate School	12
Benjamin Mitchell	St. Peter's College Auckland	13
Louis Prichard	St. Peter's College Auckland	13
Zachary Leach	St. Peter's College Auckland	13
Gregory Alofa	St. Peter's College Auckland	12
Harrison Latimer	St. Peter's College Auckland	12
Rico McWilliams	St. Peter's College Auckland	12
Olive Patterson	Taupo nui-a-Tia College	12
Vanessa Huy	Taupo nui-a-Tia College	12
Blessing La Mai	Tawa College	13
Ray Xiao	Tawa College	12
Sophie Thurgood	Waikato Diocesan School for Girls'	12
Eric Liu	Wentworth College	13
David Zhang	Wentworth College	12
Gavin Gao	Wentworth College	12
Jeremy Kim	Westlake Boys High School	13
Roman Yanchyn	Westlake Boys High School	12
Isla McHarg	Westlake Girls High School	13
Aiza Batool	Westlake Girls High School	12
Emily Nguyen	Westlake Girls High School	12

Merit list

National winners: $200 prize and trophy

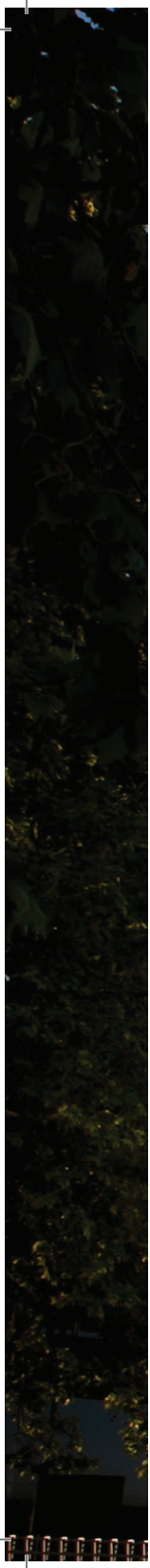
Name	School	Year
Eli Banbury	Aquinas College	13
Jonathan Hu	Auckland Grammar School	13
Joseph Guo	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Junyi Guo	Kristin School	13
Sabrina Liu	Kristin School	13
Tessa Gray	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	12
Max Flanagan	Botany Downs Secondary College	12
Ben Xiong	Rangitoto College	12

High Distinction: $100 prize

Name	School	Year
John Huang	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Jamie Driver	Palmerston North Boys' High School	13
Joshua Wang	Rangitoto College	13
Tim Bacchus	Saint Kentigern College	13
Ethan Tamariki	Southland Boys' High School	13
James Wang	Saint Kentigern College	12
Ke Xu	Scots College	12
Edwin Li	ACG Parnell College	11

High Distinction: $50 prize

Name	School	Year
Mark Liu	ACG Parnell College	13
Eric Zhao	Auckland Grammar School	13
Isabelle Lee	Baradene College of the Sacred Heart	13
Marcus Ridge	Hamilton Boys' High School	13
Thomas Nand	King's College	13
Jai Sohal	King's College	13
Noah Hemmingsen	Lindisfarne College	13
Aayush Sharma	Ormiston Senior College	13
Aidan Kassai	Rosmini College	13
Tate Gibson	Rosmini College	13
Sam Yee Sum	Sacred Heart College	13
Isaac Lowe-McPherson	Southland Boys' High School	13
Rajveer Gupta	Botany Downs Secondary College	12



Congratulations on your excellent performance

It has been our pleasure to acknowledge the students' outstanding performance in this national competition. We look forward to meeting and talking with you after the presentations.

This year's Competition is powered by:

Inspera

We thank the Inspera team, the university-authorised exam facilitators, for delivering a secured online test for this year's Competition. Inspera is a best-in-breed and cloud-based specialist examinations platform that provides a consistent, user-friendly examination experience for both onshore and offshore students.

Web: remotelearning.auckland.ac.nz/assessments/inspera/

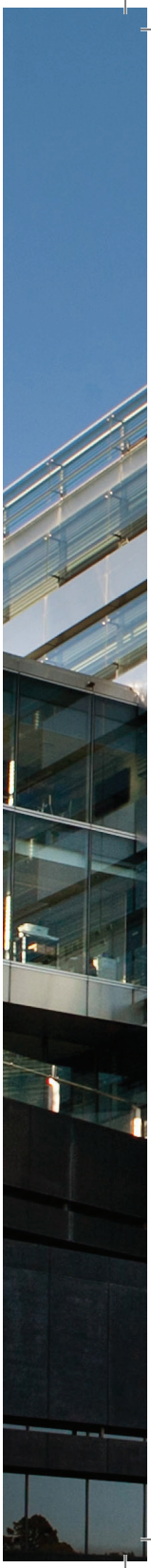
Email: inspera@auckland.ac.nz

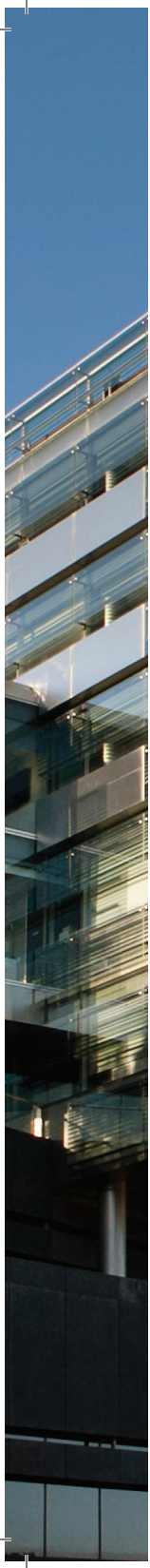
Schools and Community Engagement

The Schools and Community Engagement team works with secondary school students, their parents, guardians, school careers advisers, and the wider community. They share key information on university study options and entry requirements, and connect with communities both online and in person through whānau information evenings and school careers events across New Zealand. They also provide on-campus or virtual appointments for parents and students, which can include guided tours of the campus and halls of residence.

Web: auckland.ac.nz/en/study/study-options/undergraduate-study-options/information-for-parents/meet-our-team.html

Email: scet@auckland.ac.nz





MADE
Make A Difference with Economics

Meet the students from MADE - Make A Difference with Economics. MADE is a network of senior students and recent graduates from the Department of Economics. They use economics to make positive changes in society and policy. Chat with them and learn how they apply their academic knowledge to real world issues.

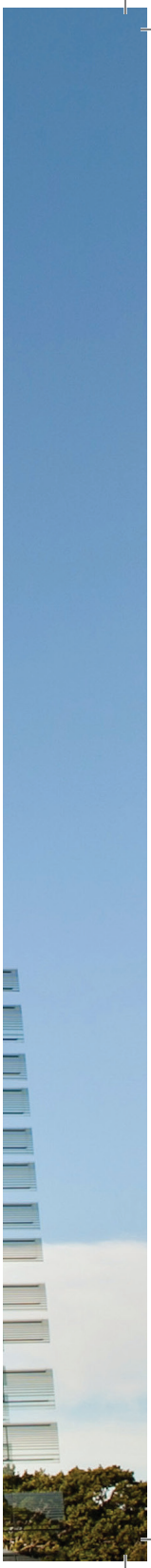
Web: facebook.com/madeuoa/

Email: made.aucklanduni@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Est. 2010
ECONOMICS SOCIETY

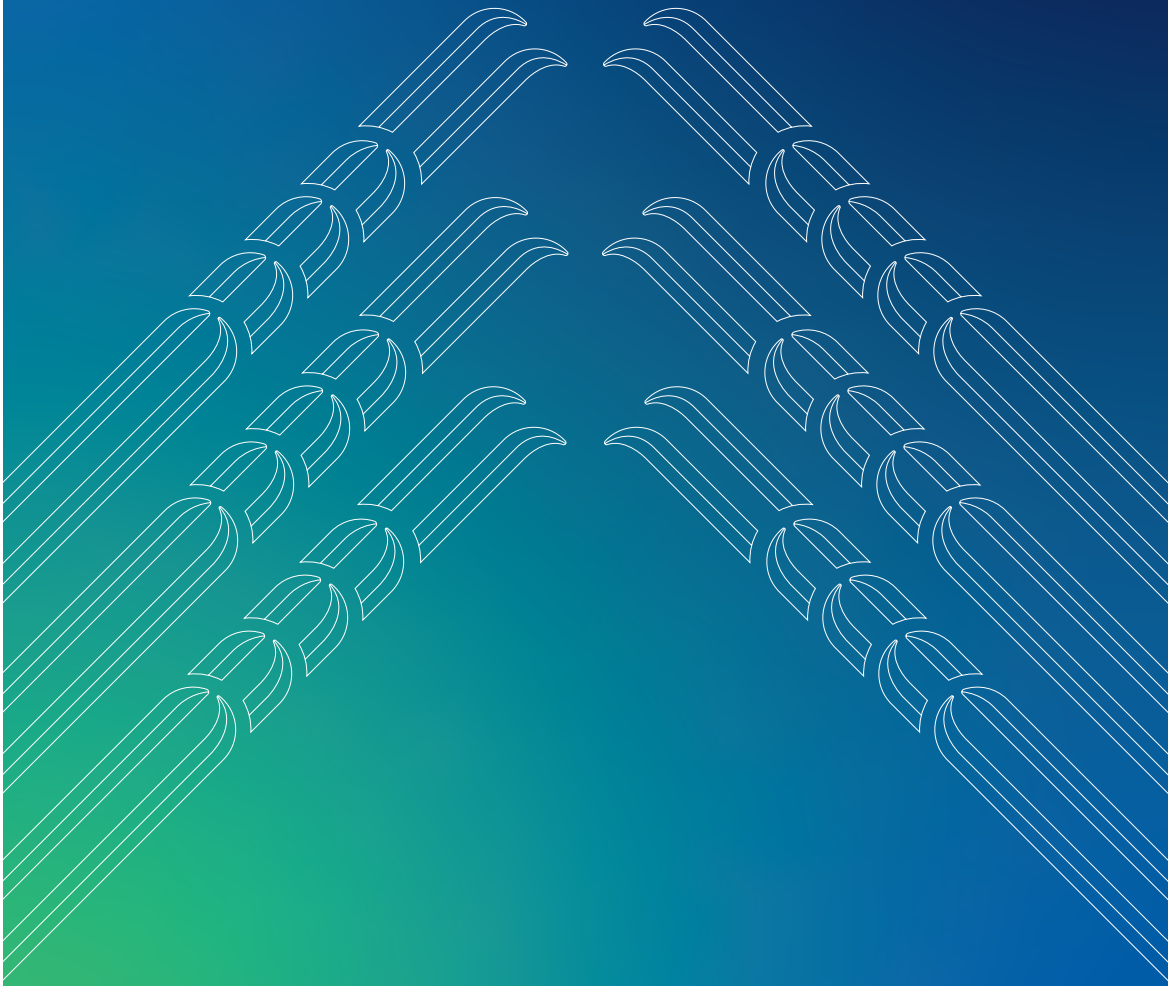
The University of Auckland Economics Society is an independent university club that seeks to foster connections between students passionate about economics at the university, regardless of whether you study it. We facilitate a range of professional and social events, including: speaker series, competitions, career events on the professional side, and pub quizzes, social mixers and study rooms on the social side. If you have an interest in economics, sign up for the UoA Economics Society at the link on our Facebook page, and be sure to follow us to keep updated on all of the fantastic events we run!

Web: https://www.facebook.com/uoaeconomicssociety/



Waipapa
Taumata Rau
University of Auckland

Sir Owen G Glenn Building
12 Grafton Road, Auckland
Phone: 923 7186 (within Auckland)
Phone: 0800 61 62 63 (outside Auckland)
Email: comenquiry@auckland.ac.nz



auckland.ac.nz/business