



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
AUCKLAND  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

# LinkNEWS

Schools Partnership Office Newsletter

MARCH  
2017

## Faculty Focus: Creative Arts and Industries

The Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries encourages students to channel creative rebellion. The faculty develops future architects, urban planners, designers, dancers, artists, musicians and entrepreneurs through programmes that push the boundaries and promote problem solving to overcome creative challenges. This philosophy extends through all courses, with students increasing their confidence, curiosity, knowledge and execution as they move into their chosen fields.

The faculty produces annual catalogues for our graduating Architecture and Elam students, showcasing their projects and research. Last year saw the launch of online catalogues, designed in consultation with students. These present students' work in a dynamic digital environment. Students are encouraged to link to their own online portfolios from these catalogues to facilitate commissions and other opportunities from industry or the public.

“ The sites have been well received since launching last November. Students have commented that they are a great bridge between their studies and industry – a great support as they embark on their creative careers. ”

Online catalogues also allow secondary school students and teachers to browse the projects, which vividly demonstrate the quality and range of media, themes and outputs that tertiary students pursue.

You can view extracts from Master of Architecture (Professional) design theses and browse work from a range of graduating Elam School of Fine Arts students at:

[www.modos.ac.nz](http://www.modos.ac.nz)

[www.elamartists.ac.nz](http://www.elamartists.ac.nz)



Primo Huang (Master of Architecture (Professional)), *Augmenting the Antarctic: Imagining a Prosthetic Territory*, 2016.

Meg Mohan, BFA, *The Laws of Manu*, 2016.



## What's Inside

Changes to the  
SPO team

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meet student demand

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# Meet the Team

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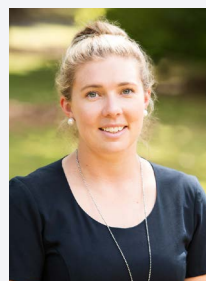
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# From the Schools Partnership Office

Tena koutou katoa,  
Ko Dennis Matene toku ingoa,  
Ko Ngapuhi me Ngati Mutunga o te motu o  
Wharekauri nga iwi, Ko Ngati Moerewa te hapu,  
Ko Mamari te waka, Ko Maata te marae,  
Ko Wairere te awa, Ko Hikurangi te maunga,  
Ko Rev Paki Matene te Tangata  
Tau hau hari (Happy New Year)



Happy New Year everyone  
It's my pleasure to introduce our fantastic team of dedicated schools liaison staff for 2017. We welcome new liaison advisers, Penelope Ireland and Mere Mansell, to the team. Both are graduates of the University of Auckland. We also acknowledge Cheryl

Martin as the new Student Recruitment Manager and Rennie Douglas as the new Senior Adviser. The updated Schools Partnership Office (SPO) leadership structure provides opportunities to develop closer working relationships with faculty recruitment teams and closer support for you.

The University of Auckland and the SPO are very proud of our endeavours to ensure we provide clear, accurate and timely information to your students so they can make informed decisions about their future studies with us. We are committed to building effective supportive relationships with you.

I look forward to working with you and hope 2017 is productive and rewarding in your schools.

Nga mihi ki a koutou

**Dennis Matene**  
Director  
Schools Partnership Office

## Service feedback

We would like to thank those who took the time to provide feedback on our services via the 2016 Careers Adviser Feedback Survey. We had 53 responses from our Auckland-based Careers Advisers and 66 responses from our regional Careers Advisers.

The information you provide is extremely valuable for our future planning, and we appreciate your perspective on the work we do. We were thrilled that the responses gave consistently above average ratings. There were some fabulous comments provided about individual SPO team members, and we thank you for this feedback. As a team we have noted any feedback that highlights areas where we can continue to improve and endeavour to work on these this year.

We look forward to another successful year working with schools and students. Please feel free to contact Cheryl if you have any feedback, comments or queries.

# Changes to the team

## Introducing our new schools advisers

We're excited to welcome two new schools advisers to the SPO team in 2017.



Kia ora, I'm Mere Mansell. I am of Ngati Porou descent and grew up in Gisborne before being whisked away to Rotorua for high school. Nearing the end of my senior year, I was conflicted about what to pursue next. It was after many long discussions with one of the schools advisers (who's still working for the SPO team) that I felt confident about enrolling at the University of Auckland. I've been working as a UniRep for the Schools Partnership Office for the last couple of years while completing a Bachelor of Science. In May of this year I'll be graduating. I'm very excited about my new role - and look forward to helping confused minds like mine once was.

Kia ora, My name is Penelope Ireland. I'm thrilled to be a schools adviser in the Schools Partnership Office. I've been a student at the University of Auckland for the past 6 years, having recently completed a Master of Arts in Politics and International Relations. So I know what it is like to be both an undergraduate and postgraduate student here. My most recent role as a tutor for a first year course provided me with an excellent opportunity to support students on their academic journeys. I am very excited about expanding on my passion for helping students and look forward to the year ahead.



Penelope and Mere will both be working with a selection of schools in Auckland, with Penelope travelling to the Wellington region and Mere visiting the Waikato and Coromandel areas.

## Upcoming changes to SPO leadership roles

From the end of April, Cheryl Martin (Student Recruitment Manager) will be taking maternity leave as she welcomes her second child. While she's away, Rennie Douglas will be our Acting Student Recruitment Manager, with Simon Crook acting as Senior Schools Adviser. Simon will be retaining his current regional visits alongside this secondment and looks forward to continuing to see you this year. We will also be hiring to cover the schools adviser vacancy and we look forward to informing you soon of the new appointment.

Our aim is to keep disruption to a minimum and to provide consistency to both you and your students where possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through these changes.

# 2017 LINK Conference

The SPO team started off the year with our annual LINK Conference held 24 February 2017. We were happy to host Wendy Kerr as our keynote speaker. We hope that you enjoyed the conference as much as we did. We look forward to welcoming teachers, parents and school students to the University's events this year. This edition of *LINK News* outlines some of our key dates for the year, including our Parent Seminars.

## LINK Conference: Keynote speaker

Wendy is the Director of the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Auckland Business School.

She is passionate about innovation and entrepreneurship and has authored two best-selling books on female-led start-ups. These augmented her web-based mentoring and training company for new business owners, where she worked with clients around the world.

She is a mentor for the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women and The Lightning Lab. She's also an active angel investor. A frequent media commentator, Wendy has been featured in BBC Radio 4, Dubai Eye Business Radio, the *Financial Times*, and *The Guardian*.



# Key dates to remember

<b>15–18 Mar</b>	ASB Polyfest (Come visit us at the Samoan stage!)
<b>29–30 Mar</b>	KATTI for Year 13 students
<b>5–6 Apr</b>	PILOT – Year 13
<b>9 May</b>	Taranaki Parent Seminar, Novotel Hotel, New Plymouth
<b>16 May</b>	Palmerston North Parent Seminar, Palmerston North Boys' High School
<b>31 May</b>	Hawke's Bay Parent Seminar, Napier Conference Centre
<b>1 Jun</b>	Rotorua Parent Seminar, Holiday Inn, Rotorua
<b>1 Jun</b>	Māori and Pacific Parents' Evening
<b>8 Jun</b>	Gisborne Parent Seminar, Emerald Hotel, Gisborne
<b>29–30 Jun</b>	KATTI for year 12 students
<b>12 Jun</b>	Dunedin Parent Seminar, Otago Boys' High School
<b>13 Jun</b>	Christchurch Parent Seminar, Addington Raceway
<b>20 Jun</b>	Nelson Parent Seminar, Village Hall, Hotel Monaco
<b>27 Jun</b>	Auckland Parent Seminar 1, University of Auckland
<b>3 Jul</b>	Wellington Parent Seminar 1, Westpac Stadium
<b>5 Jul</b>	Auckland Parent Seminar 2, University of Auckland
<b>6 Jul</b>	Auckland Parent Seminar 3, University of Auckland
<b>6 Jul</b>	Enginuity Day
<b>6 Jul</b>	International Open Day
<b>1 Aug</b>	Hamilton Parent Seminar, FMG Stadium
<b>1 Aug</b>	Accommodation Applications Open
<b>2 Aug</b>	Whangarei Parent Seminar, Toll Stadium
<b>9 Aug</b>	Wellington Parent Seminar 2, Westpac Stadium
<b>31 Aug</b>	Applications close for Music performance based majors
<b>2 Sep</b>	Courses and Careers Open Day
<b>23–24 Sep</b>	KATTI for year 11 students
<b>1 Oct</b>	Applications close of Bachelor of Fine Arts
<b>31 Oct–2 Nov</b>	KATTI for year 10 students
<b>1 Dec</b>	Applications close for Education and Social Work programmes and Bachelor of Science – Exercise Sciences
<b>8 Dec</b>	Applications close for most programmes

# Undergraduate Prospectus 2018

The *Undergraduate Prospectus 2018* is now available. Just complete the online order form. Note that copies of our prospectuses are not automatically sent to schools and that faculty prospectuses will be available for order over the next month or two. If you'd like prospectuses to be sent to your school, please visit:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/link](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/link)



## COURSES & CAREERS OPEN DAY

Your students might know exactly what they want to pursue academically – or perhaps they're yet to make up their minds. Either way, our open day is a great chance to find out what it's like to study here. Students and parents can attend lectures, talk with our staff and current students, explore our City Campus and experience the social side of the University of Auckland.

Courses and Careers Open Day 2017 will be held on Saturday 2 Sep. The full programme will be available online and in print in July.



## University Updates

### 2018 changes to entry requirements

#### Digital Technologies recognised under NCEA Table B

Digital Technologies is now included in Table B. There are 11 Level 3 achievement standards in this domain, numbered 91632 – 91642.

#### Literacy requirement for IB University Entrance

Please note the University will also accept English Language B at Higher Level, with a minimum grade of 5, as satisfying the Literacy requirement for University Entrance.

### Programme entrance requirements

#### Bachelor of Education (Teaching)

Alongside the additional requirements for the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) the University now requires a safety check. Students may also be required to sit literacy, numeracy and IELTS assessment.

#### Bachelor of Music

Students wishing to study towards the Bachelor of Music's Classical Performance or Composition majors are no longer required to provide musical qualification certificates.

#### Exercise Sciences

The rank scores for 2018 entry has increased:

- NCEA from 180 to 200
- CIE from 190 to 200
- IB from 27 to 28

# University Updates

## Programme changes: Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree – changes for 2018

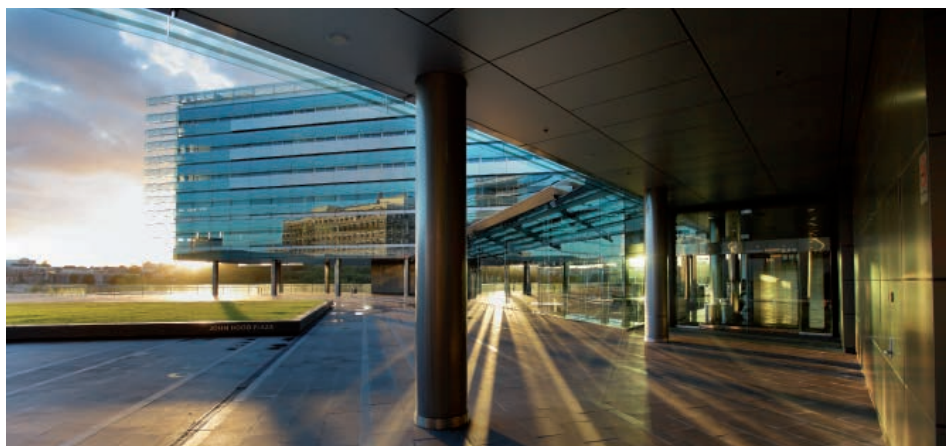
From 2018, the University is changing the structure of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree.\* Students will be required to study in two subject areas to the most advanced level. This is referred to as a double major.

This new requirement is unique among New Zealand universities and encourages students to gain broader substantial knowledge.

Students don't have to choose their two majors in their first year. Rather they can try different subjects and then make an informed decision for their second year.

Academic study will combine with a strong emphasis on developing essential skills for success in many different careers in a fast-changing, globalised economy. We will offer optional modules that focus on specific skills or knowledge to complement majors or extend skills for future employment. Students will also have exciting opportunities to enrich their degree through internships and study abroad.

*\*Please note that these changes are currently subject to CUAP approval for 2018, with final information available in August 2017.*



## Commuting grants for Māori and Pacific students at the Business School

Commuting grants are available to assist Māori and Pacific students who are enrolled in full-time undergraduate programmes at the Business School and whose studies might be threatened by the costs of commuting. The grants are awarded to the students who demonstrate the greatest financial need. They are paid through regular top-ups of students' Auckland Transport (AT) HOP cards.

## Māori and Pacific stream-within-a-stream in Stage I core courses at the Business School

In 2017 Māori and Pacific students have the opportunity to join a dedicated stream-within-a-stream, focused on achievement in a number of the Stage I core courses. The Māori and Pacific streams cover the same material as other streams in each course, but are taught by lecturers who are able to create a sense of whakawhānau (belonging), meaning, connection and engagement. The streams provide Māori and Pacific students with a welcoming learning environment focused on positive outcomes.



## Record number of school-leaver scholarships awarded for 2017

In 2017, almost 450 students will commence study at the University of Auckland supported by one of our four school-leaver scholarships. Of these, 164 will be staying in University accommodation.

Feedback has been extremely positive on both the simplified application process and the opportunities available under the new awarding structure. Applications for 2018 will open in May and close in August, so keep an eye on our website for updates.

## The Auckland Law School grows to meet student demand

For the first time in 10 years the Auckland Law School is taking more students into its Undergraduate Law programme. It is admitting 50 more students into second year law in 2017, and the possibility of a further increase after this may be considered. Up to 1,500 students enrol in first year at Auckland each year. For the last 10 years, up to 330 students have been admitted into second year Law. This is now being increased to 380 students.

We interviewed the Dean of the Auckland Law School, Professor Andrew Stockley, on the benefits of increasing student numbers.

### Why has Auckland decided to increase the number of second year law students?

This will allow more students the opportunity to study law at Auckland. Auckland's population has significantly increased, but the Law School hasn't increased its second year numbers in the last 10 years.

Auckland is uniquely placed among the New Zealand law schools to achieve the scale and impact of the very best Australian law schools. We're the only New Zealand law school ranked among the top 50 in the world, but we have fewer academic staff than the top Australian schools. Growing the Law School in a careful, considered way will enable us to compete more effectively, without compromising the quality of our students or the teaching and learning experience they receive. Having more staff as well as students means that class sizes need not be affected, but allows us the opportunity to rethink the teaching models we use and consider what works best for today's students.

We'll also be able to employ additional student advisers. They'll provide more administrative support for our co-curricular programmes, such as mooting and community placements, and for the new student well-being initiatives we have introduced.

### Will the calibre of students be compromised?

The grade point average of students being admitted into second year law for 2017 has slightly increased over 2016, despite our taking an additional 50 students. More good students seem to apply for places if they think there's a better chance of being admitted.

Even if we took 500 second-year students – and we're only increasing to 380 at present – the Auckland Law School would still be taking a lower proportion of its first year students into second year than any other New Zealand law school. We would still have a higher admission standard than anywhere else in the country.

### How will the number of Māori and Pacific students be affected?

Increasing the second year intake also allows for more places under our University Targeted Admissions Scheme (UTAS). The Auckland Law School recognises that some students face barriers. We admit some to second year law on a lower grade point average. These students include Māori and Pacific students, students with disabilities, students from refugee or low socio-economic backgrounds, and some who face particular hardship. UTAS students comprise about 15 percent of the cohort and receive additional support and mentoring. In the past, they've gone on to very successful careers in the law and other areas.

The increase in student numbers has allowed us to stipulate that, rather than having a fixed quota of places, any Māori student who meets the minimum requirement for second year law under UTAS will be admitted. We can also do a lot more for our Pacific students. The number of Pacific students admitted under targeted admissions had not been increased since 1993, despite a significant increase in the Pacific population in Auckland. We've now been able to double the number of Pacific students admitted.

The increased resources being allocated to the Law School means more Māori and Pacific students can be assisted to succeed.

### Will the Auckland Law School have enough space for the additional staff and students?

The total space allocated to the Law School is being increased by a third, providing more study, common room and office space. This will give us a lot of flexibility for the next few years.

In addition, it's just been announced that the Law School will move to the central campus in about five years' time. This is an exciting development as the School's new home will be Old Government House and the northern part of the adjacent Thomas Building. The Law School will be occupying a landmark heritage building and, together with the complete refurbishment of the Thomas Building, will have the classrooms, offices and common spaces befitting a leading law school.

### Will there be enough jobs for more law students?

Auckland Law School graduates do extremely well as lawyers in New Zealand and overseas. They become leaders in government, business and a wide variety of other sectors. I have no doubt that this will continue. Entry to second year law will still be the most competitive in the country. We'll continue to provide an outstanding teaching and learning experience, with the largest number of electives of any New Zealand Law programme; an intensive small-group legal writing, research and communication programme; and an extensive mooting, community placement, and co-curricular programme.

The increase in student numbers will give us the staff and resources to establish a much more substantial careers mentoring programme, as occurs in many North American law schools. This is already needed, and the increase in student numbers will give us the staff and resources to make it happen. We need to do more to inform students of the career pathways pursued by our graduates, including how they can do well in small firms outside of Auckland, overseas, and in other sectors.

We aim to produce outstanding lawyers who can work directly in the law and in all sorts of other fields. Ninety percent of our law graduates take conjoint degrees, and many of them find good employment outside of the law but with the benefit of the analysis, writing, and reasoning skills their law degree has taught them.

Our most recent student president is now working for Google, another is with a consulting firm. There is enormous advantage to society in having law graduates who sit in Cabinet, head major banks and business, and are chief executives of city councils, health boards, and transport authorities.

# Accommodation Update

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## Grafton Hall redevelopment

The team at Naylor Love Construction are making huge progress with the redevelopment of Grafton Hall. Demolition of Grafton tower is well and truly underway as excavators remove the final pieces. From 2019, this two-year redevelopment will enable the University to offer more beds and lifestyle options to our students.



## University Hall Towers and Apartments

While Grafton Hall is undergoing a metamorphosis, University Hall Apartments has combined with University Hall Towers to become a single first-year, catered experience. From 2017, these diverse and vibrant residences will form one “super community” where everyone shares in the Hall's spirit and lifestyle.

Residents of the apartments will have a single room in a shared “flat-style” unit. While kitchen facilities are available in the units, this is a fully-catered accommodation with meals served in the dining room in the adjacent towers building. Being a single community, apartment residents will have full access to all the facilities located in the towers. These include study rooms, a laundry, games room and music room, in addition to the games room and outdoor BBQ area that are located in the apartments.

## 55 Symonds

We're excited to offer further accommodation options to our students after their first year. Undergraduates and postgraduates can now apply for places in our brand new accommodation, 55 Symonds. This residence officially opened on Monday 9 February and offers 343 modern deluxe studios and deluxe double studios. 55 Symonds boasts generous common areas with fantastic entertaining spaces that flow out into an outdoor area with barbeque facilities that are perfect for long kiwi summers.



# Career advice for school students



## Exploring career options early

Year 12 and 13 students should start to explore their future study and career options as early as possible.

In the final two years at school, students face many competing priorities – leadership responsibilities, academic pursuits, and an ever-increasing social life. Often a focus on further study and career options is left to the last minute. Also, students might not see themselves as “career ready” or else they may be afraid of making a decision.

## Why focusing on “the job” is irrelevant

Due to technological advances, jobs are changing all the time. This means focusing purely on the outcome of getting a certain job is redundant – after all, the job might not exist post-study, or the type of skills required for it might have changed.

That means students need to focus on opportunities to develop transferable skills that allow them to be agile and able to navigate a range of industries and professions. Problem solving, financial and digital literacy, teamwork, creativity and communication are in demand. These important skills will serve graduates well in many industries.

## How to make a good decision

As early as possible, students should attend tertiary open days and talk to staff about what’s on offer. They should also explore various industries by speaking to people in a range of jobs. This is a great way to research trends and reality-test different options. A student can then choose a course of action to support their ideas, ensuring it’s as broad as possible in case their mind changes as they progress.

## Opportunities for School Students

The Business School’s Management Consulting Club (MCC) recently hosted its National Secondary Schools Competition, with over 37 schools participating. The preliminaries required each school to submit a 10-minute video presentation on the local New Zealand food producer Little Island Creamery. Following this, five high schools across the country were selected to compete in the finals. Nelson’s Waimea College and

Wellington’s Scots College joined Auckland teams Macleans College, St Kentigern College, and AIC early one Saturday morning for a chance to win not only glory, but also a paid trip to represent New Zealand in the Trans-Tasman Business Case competition.

Ultimately, Macleans College came first, with AIC in second place and St Kentigern College third. The club would like to thank all secondary schools who participated last year. We’re ecstatic at the increase in participation!

We’re also excited to announce that the Secondary Schools Case Competition will be back this year at the end of April/early May.

This is a wonderful opportunity for year 12 and 13 students to experience real business issues and help solve them for a local New Zealand company. Students will form groups of four and be given a real-life business case study, for which they’ll then complete a video and written proposal.

The finals will be held at the University of Auckland. Any finalists outside of the region will receive free flights and accommodation. Winners of the national competition will also be invited to Australia to compete. For more information, visit us online or email:

[www.schoolscasecompetition.co.nz](http://www.schoolscasecompetition.co.nz)

[contact@schoolscasecompetition.co.nz](mailto:contact@schoolscasecompetition.co.nz)

# Life on Campus

## Online Orientation

Prior to attending their Faculty Orientation Day, students have access to Online Orientation, which offers a wealth of timely and relevant information about the University experience. This interactive and informative tool was introduced to help ease students' transition to life at the University. It provides relevant information in six easy-to-digest modules.

The content is constantly being refreshed, with a particular focus on games, quizzes and videos, which students find engaging and enjoyable.

Topics include student life, stress management, money management support, assistance with enrolment, what to expect academically, time management, University support services and many more.



## Events on campus

At the University of Auckland, we want our students to have an enriching experience both inside and outside the lecture theatre. Campus Life puts on an engaging, varied events schedule throughout the year – from small pop-up events on campus to large parties, cultural days and cooking classes. Events popular in previous years include the annual first-year student Toga Party, Humans vs. Zombies (a massive game of zombie-themed tag on campus), Poetry Slam and the Great Outdoors series, which sees students get out in the fresh air and give different activities a go, including surfing, hiking and horse riding. Visit:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/whatson](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/whatson)



## Volunteer Hub

The Volunteer Hub connects students with more than 70 registered charities and volunteer organisations in the community and on campus. For their volunteering activities, students can also gain official University recognition on their academic transcripts. Visit:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/volunteer](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/volunteer)



## High Performance

Our High Performance Support Programme aims to help students with the challenges of juggling tertiary study with the commitments associated with their elite sport or activity. Support includes help balancing exams and assignments with overseas competitions or performances, access to support networks and possible financial assistance through the Sport Support Fund or Vice Chancellor's Student Support Fund. Visit:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/highperformance](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/highperformance)



# From the International Office



## Meet Elizabeth Lee-Finkelstein, International Marketing Officer

"Helping students succeed has been the most fulfilling aspect of my role with the University of Auckland. As a result of the strong relationships forged with high schools and their students, we grew our international student base by 30 percent last year. This year, I look forward to developing relationships with schools as they are very important stakeholders to the University. I hope to see you at the International Open day on 6 July! And if you'd like for me to visit your school this year, please email me."

[e.finkelstein@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:e.finkelstein@auckland.ac.nz)

*The International Office has awarded two scholarships worth \$5,000 each to students enrolled this year. More information on 2018 international scholarships will be advised later in the year.*

# Meet the new 2017 Inside Word Student Bloggers

The Inside Word Student Blog enables ten lucky first-year students to publicly reflect on their experiences here at the University of Auckland. Our bloggers come from all over New Zealand, and we have two international students joining the team. Perhaps one of the 2017 bloggers is an ex-student from your school? Check it out at [www.theinsideword.ac.nz](http://www.theinsideword.ac.nz)

**THE**

**INSIDE**

**WORD**

Student Blog

Name	Hometown	Degree	Accommodation
<b>Eunice Amante</b>	Wellington	Bachelor of Social Work	Huia Residence
<b>Rebekah Doherty</b>	Gisborne	Bachelor of Health Sciences	University Hall
<b>Reid Edmond</b>	Christchurch	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Music	University Hall
<b>Tate Fountain</b>	Tauranga	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws	O'Rorke Hall
<b>Sparsha Karingula</b>	USA	Bachelor of Science	Whitaker Hall
<b>Matthew Kereama</b>	Auckland	Bachelor of Music	Home
<b>Sonna Narayanan</b>	Auckland	Bachelor of Science	O'Rorke Hall
<b>Callum Tokorangi</b>	Wellington	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws	University Hall
<b>Charlie Winn</b>	Wellington	Bachelor of Arts	O'Rorke Hall
<b>Samantha Woon</b>	Malaysia	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)	O'Rorke Hall

# Stay up-to-date with the Equity Office

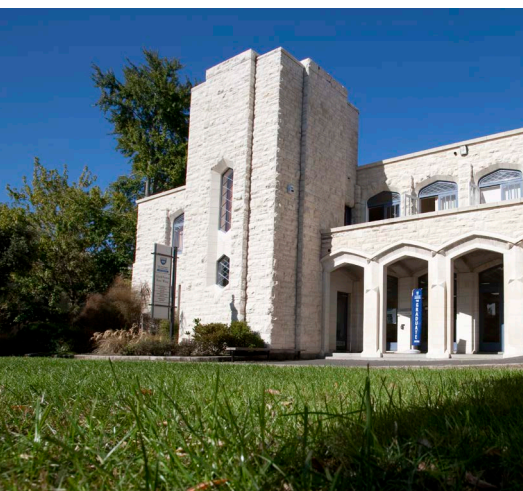
## Welcome back from the University of Auckland's Equity Office!

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing you on our campuses in 2017. The Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika leads the University's commitment to being safe, inclusive and equitable. That means:

- We value all our students and staff.
- We respect difference.
- We celebrate our diverse communities.
- Our campuses are accessible.
- We take concerns about the study and work environment seriously.
- It's OK to ask for help and support.
- It's safe to disclose issues that may affect your study or work.
- There's zero tolerance for discrimination.

Find out more about how we support Māori and equity-group students, including Pacific students, students with disabilities, LGBTI students, and those from low socio-economic or refugee backgrounds:

[www.equity.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.equity.auckland.ac.nz)



## Tuākana student journeys

Tuākana is a University-wide learning community for our Māori and Pacific students. Tuākana programmes offer small-group learning, whakawhanaungatanga, wānanga, face-to-face meetings and linkages to key services and support across the University.

### Dion Westrupp

**Rongowhakaata**  
**Completed UniBound, 2016**  
**2nd year Bachelor of Arts (BA),**  
**Māori Studies**

I came to the University of Auckland from Gisborne, a town that has about the same population as the number of students enrolled here.



What attracted me to the University wasn't the ranking, the faculties or the scholarships. It was how I saw Māori students connect through Whaia Te Pae Tawhiti. The programme shows Year 13 Māori students from outside of Auckland all that the University has to offer, as well as what it's like to live in Auckland, and who your University whānau will be when you're here. It was one of the best weeks of my life and gave me lifelong friendships.

The University offers so much support to Māori students, including staff in the Equity Office and Schools Partnership Office; members of Ngā Taura Māori (Māori Student Association); UniBound, an academic preparation programme for Māori and Pacific school leavers; and the Tuākana programme, which provides academic and pastoral support. UniBound was particularly valuable in preparing me for University life and learning.

Before I came to Auckland my Aunty Glennis sat me down and told me that from this point on, I am carrying my father, as well as my koro – his father – and all of my tipuna, on my shoulders, making them proud. These words have stuck with me and I hold them close to my heart. They remind me that I am not just here to get a piece of paper with my name on it, but to make my whānau proud.

Read more student journeys: [www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana](http://www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana)



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
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