



Waipapa  
Taumata Rau  
**University**  
of Auckland

2027

# Subject Guide

For School Students



## Introduction

This guide outlines the Year 13 school subjects that are required, recommended, or useful for your future degree programme at the University of Auckland.

### Required subjects

You will need to pass all required subjects in order to gain entry to the University of Auckland. You should therefore enrol in all the required subjects listed for your future degree.

### Recommended subjects

Recommended subjects are not compulsory but will help you develop important skills and knowledge for your future degree. This knowledge and ability will help you to understand the content of your first year courses at university. Once you have enrolled in any required subjects, you should choose the majority of your other subjects from the recommended list.

### Useful subjects

Useful subjects add an extra dimension to your required and recommended subjects. Sometimes a useful subject will help you develop knowledge and skills that complement or round out those gained from your other choices. For example, a language-rich subject might be useful for developing the literacy skills you will need for a STEM degree.

### Science subjects

No subjects are formally required for a Bachelor of Science (BSc). To prepare for a BSc, you should include all the subjects that are strongly recommended. Split the remainder between recommended and useful subjects, with a stronger weighting on recommended.

## Gaining Admission

To be admitted to the University, you must:

- Have a University Entrance qualification based on NCEA, Cambridge International, IB or another recognised, equivalent qualification
- Meet the rank score and any other requirements for your chosen programme

Please note that this guide was published in January 2026. For the most up-to-date details on entry requirements, including University Entrance and selection into a programme, please refer to our website.

[auckland.ac.nz/admission](https://auckland.ac.nz/admission)

## Academic English Language Requirement (AELR)

In addition to the University Entrance Literacy standard, you must meet the Academic English Language Requirement (AELR) either through your entry qualification or within your first 12 months of study.

### This applies if you are:

- Applying for admission to an undergraduate programme and
- A domestic student, or an international student applying with:
  - A New Zealand secondary school qualification, or
  - Results from another New Zealand tertiary institution

## Meeting the requirement via school qualifications

To meet the AELR through a New Zealand secondary school qualification, you must:

### NCEA

- Achieve the University Entrance Literacy Standard requirement
- Gain at least 17 credits in English at Level 2 and/or 3\*†

### Cambridge International:

- Achieve the University Entrance Literacy Standard
- Get a minimum grade of D in an English course at AS or A Level

### International Baccalaureate (IB):

- Achieve the University Entrance Literacy Standard
- Have an overall score of 26 points or more

## Meeting the requirement in your first year

If you do not meet the requirement through your entrance qualification as outlined above, but otherwise qualify for admission, you can satisfy the AELR during your first year of study by passing an academic English language course. Visit us online for more information.

[auckland.ac.nz/aclr](https://auckland.ac.nz/aclr)

\* Does not apply to applicants who meet the University Entrance Literacy Standard in Te Reo.

† English for Academic Purposes standards US 22749, US 22750 and US 22751 will contribute to meeting the AELR.



Programme	Key Information
<b>Business and Commerce</b>	Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) <b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b> <b>Selection is based on your rank score.</b>
	Bachelor of Property (BProp) <b>Recommended subjects:</b> Statistics and/or Calculus, Mathematics <b>Useful subjects:</b> Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, English-rich subjects (Classical Studies, English, Geography, History)
<b>Education and Teaching</b>	Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies (BECSt) <b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b> <b>Selection is based on rank score, interview, police check, and referees' reports.</b>
	Bachelor of Education (Teaching) (BEd(Tchg)) <b>Recommended subjects:</b> Languages, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Technology, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira, Visual Arts
	Bachelor of Education (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) (BEd(TESOL)) <b>Other requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literacy and numeracy assessments for Bachelor of Education (Teaching)</li> <li>English test may be required</li> </ul>
<b>Fine Arts, Music and Performance</b>	Bachelor of Dance Studies (BDanceSt) <b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b> Selection is based on your CV, written statement and auditions/interviews. <b>Useful subject:</b> Dance
	Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) <b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b> <b>Useful subjects:</b> Art and Design (Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture), Technology (Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Hard Materials) If planning a Fine Arts conjoint degree, you may need specific school subjects.
	Bachelor of Music (BMus) <b>No specific subjects are required for entry. Selection for some specialisations will be based on your audition or portfolio.</b> <b>Useful subject:</b> Music If planning a Music conjoint degree, you may need specific school subjects.

Programme	Key Information
<b>Engineering, Architecture and Design</b>	<p>Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS)</p> <p><b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b></p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Technology (Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Hard Materials); Art and Design (Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture); Mathematics; Physics; English</p> <p><b>Useful subjects:</b> Art History; Social Sciences (Classical Studies, Geography, History); Te Reo Māori or Te Reo Rangatira</p>
	<p>Bachelor of Design (BDes)</p> <p><b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b></p> <p><b>Useful subjects:</b> Art and Design (Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture), Mathematics, Technology (Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Hard Materials)</p>
	<p>Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (BE(Hons))</p> <p><b>Selection is based on your rank score plus subject requirements.</b></p> <p><b>NCEA Level 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum: 11 external credits in Calculus plus 10 in Physics</li> <li>• Guaranteed: 17 credits in Calculus plus 16 in Physics</li> </ul> <p><b>Cambridge International:</b> A Level Mathematics and Physics</p> <p><b>IB requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher Level Mathematics and Physics</li> <li>• AS Level or IB Standard Level "Analysis and Approaches" may be accepted; "Applications and Interpretation" not accepted</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Biology, Chemistry, English-rich subjects (Classics, English, Geography, History, History of Art)</p>
	<p>Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours) (BUrbPlan(Hons))</p> <p><b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b></p> <p><b>Useful subjects:</b> English, Classical Studies, Geography, History, Technology (Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies)</p>





Programme	Key Information
<b>Health and Medicine</b>	<p><b>Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc)</b></p> <p><b>Selection is based on your rank score plus subject requirements.</b></p> <p><b>NCEA Level 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 credits in one science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</li> <li>18 credits in one language-rich subject (Classical Studies, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Social Studies, Te Reo Māori or Te Reo Rangatira)</li> </ul> <p><b>Cambridge International:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One full A Level in English, Geography, History, or Classical Studies</li> <li>One full A Level in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics</li> </ul> <p><b>For MBChB applicants:</b> Biology, Chemistry, and at least one English-rich subject are recommended.</p>
	<p><b>Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Honours) (BMedImag(Hons))</b></p> <p><b>You must complete required Stage One courses as part of a BSc.</b></p> <p><b>Suitable majors/specialisations:</b> Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition (Nutrition Pathway), Medicinal Chemistry</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Biology, Chemistry, Physics, one English-rich subject</p> <p><b>Useful subjects:</b> Mathematics (Calculus or Statistics)</p>
	<p><b>Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)</b></p> <p><b>You must complete the required Stage One courses for a BHSc or BSc (Biomedical Science).</b></p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Biology, Chemistry, and one English-rich subject</p> <p><b>Useful subjects:</b> Mathematics (Calculus or Statistics), Physics</p>
	<p><b>Bachelor of Nursing (BNurs)</b></p> <p><b>Selection is based on your rank score plus:</b></p> <p><b>NCEA Level 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 credits in one science (Biology, Chemistry, or Physics)</li> <li>18 credits in one humanities/English-rich subject (Classical Studies, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Social Studies, Te Reo Māori, or Te Reo Rangatira)</li> </ul> <p><b>Cambridge International:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One full A Level in English, Geography, History, or Classical Studies</li> <li>One full A Level in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom)</b></p> <p><b>Applicants must complete the required Stage One courses within a Bachelor of Science (BSc).</b></p> <p><b>Suitable majors/specialisations:</b> Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition (Nutrition Pathway), Medicinal Chemistry</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Biology, Chemistry, Physics, one English-rich subject</p>
	<p><b>Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)</b></p> <p><b>Applicants must complete the required Stage One courses as part of Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) or Bachelor of Science (BSc).</b></p> <p><b>Suitable majors/specialisations:</b> Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition (Nutrition Pathway), Medicinal Chemistry</p> <p><b>Recommended subjects:</b> Biology, Chemistry, one English-rich subject</p>

	Programme	Key Information
<b>Humanities, Society and Globalisation</b>	Bachelor of Arts (BA)	<p><b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b>  <b>Selection is based on your rank score.</b>  <b>Recommended subjects (depending on your chosen majors):</b>            Classical Studies, Drama, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Languages, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Psychology, Religious Studies, Social Studies, Statistics, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira</p>
	Bachelor of Communication (BC)	<p><b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b>  <b>Selection is based on your rank score.</b>  <b>Recommended subjects:</b> Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Drama, English, Media Studies, Social Studies  <b>Useful subjects:</b> Calculus, Classical Studies, Economics, Geography, History, History of Art, Languages, Mathematics, Music, Psychology, Religious Studies, Statistics, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira</p>
	Bachelor of Global Studies (BGlobalSt)	<p><b>Selection is based on your rank score plus a minimum of 16 credits in each of three subjects from the NCEA approved subject list.</b>  <b>Recommended subjects:</b> Languages            There are no additional requirements for Cambridge or IB.</p>
<b>Law</b>	Bachelor of Laws (LLB (Part I))	<p><b>No specific subjects are required for entry.</b>  <b>Recommended subjects:</b> Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Languages, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira            A high standard of oral and written English is important.</p>



Science and Mathematics	Chemistry	Biology	Earth and Space Science	Physics	Statistics / Mathematics	Calculus / Mathematics	English-rich
<b>BIOLOGICAL, HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES</b>							
Biological Sciences	●	●			●		●
Biomedical Science	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Exercise Sciences Applied Exercise and Sport Sciences	●	●		●	●		●
Food Science and Nutrition	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Marine Science	●	●	●		●		●
Physiology	●	●		●	● One of either		●
<b>CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES</b>							
Chemistry	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Food Science and Nutrition	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Green Chemical Science	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Medicinal Chemistry	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Pharmacology	●	●		●	● One of either		●
Physics†	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>GEOGRAPHY, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES</b>							
Earth Sciences	●		●	●	● One of either		● Geography
Environmental Science		●	●		● One of either		● Geography
Geographic Information Science			●	●	●	●	● Geography
Geography			●		●	●	● Geography
Marine Science	●	●	●		●		●
<b>HUMAN, SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES</b>							
Anthropological Science		●			●		●
Exercise Sciences Applied Exercise and Sport Sciences	●	●		●	●		●
Geography			●		●	●	● Geography
Psychology		●			●		●
<b>MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES</b>							
Computer Science				●		●	●
Data Science					● One of either		●
Geographic Information Science			●	●	●	●	● Geography
Information and Technology Management*					● One of either		● Geography*
Logic and Computation					●	●	●
Mathematics					●	●	●
Statistics					●	●	●

Digital Technologies is recommended for Science majors.

\* Accounting is also useful preparation.

† Biology is recommended for students with an interest in Medical Physics.

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### **Got Questions?**

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**[askauckland.ac.nz](https://askauckland.ac.nz)**