

# FUTURE FOCUS

**CAREERS FOR ARTS GRADUATES**



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

**ARTS**

# B A

*creative thinker  
changemaker  
community leader  
sustainability advocate  
problem solver*



***“Technology is changing all the time and it brings with it new fields for graduates to go on to. Critical thinking and literacy are the trademarks of an Arts degree and they are incredibly adaptable to all kinds of different areas. An Arts degree preps you for a changing world where things never stand still.”***

BA graduate and Content Marketing Strategist Beth Owens never thought about content marketing as an area of interest when she was at school, as it was a such a new industry back then.



# Own your future with an Arts degree

Digital disruption and globalisation has transformed the world of work as we know it. New opportunities and industries have emerged while others have been replaced by technology and automation.

As an Arts graduate you will be prepared for the future of work because you will be equipped with the ‘human’ skills that employers will always need and that technology can’t replace.

Take the opportunity to develop and enhance these future-focused skills through Arts study.

- **Creative and critical thinking**

You will become practised at testing and structuring your ideas and those of others, continually questioning things and pushing ideas further.

These are the thinking skills that organisations need in order to improve and innovate.

- **Communication**

You will prepare materials to make compelling arguments including reports that present a clear and concise analysis of facts.

Strong communication skills are critical for workplace success. Professionals are expected to be able to communicate effectively with clients and senior management, write proposals, reports and business cases, contribute to meetings and give presentations.

- **Problem-solving**

You can examine real-world problems and be challenged to formulate and offer solutions to them.

Businesses value employees who can think critically and analytically and present effective solutions.

- **Adaptability**

You are encouraged to explore and propose different but equally valid viewpoints. This develops open-ended thinking and the ability to revisit, adapt and refine ideas.

Flexible thinking, openness to new ideas and adaptability are essential to thrive and progress in the fast-moving world of work.

**Our graduates have taken their skills and knowledge into many different careers in a wide range of sectors – read on to discover their stories.**

***“The focus of employers is shifting. Employers are placing more value on those skills that go beyond technical ability. In a business landscape that is constantly changing, the individual’s ability to analyse issues deeply and exercise critical thinking will enable the organisation to adapt faster. Employers are looking for people with those skills combined with the willingness to learn in a new environment.”***

PONCHO RIVERA-PAVON  
GENERAL MANAGER, NXTSTEP



# Bringing ideas to life

***“There’s something genuinely thrilling about seeing your work appear in the real world.”***

WILLIAM SIDNAM

“I’m a copywriter at an advertising agency called FCB New Zealand. My job involves coming up with ideas for advertising campaigns for a range of local and international brands, and then bringing the ads to life.

“I like the fact I can use creativity in my daily life. It’s a really fun, unconventional job that encourages out-of-the-box thinking.

“I’ve had the opportunity to refresh Mainland Cheese’s ‘Good Things Take Time’ campaign, make a music video with the offspring of Neil Finn and Jimmy Barnes to promote trade apprenticeships, and work on Pak’nSave’s long-running Stickman ad campaign. I also made a Huggies print ad celebrating the birth of Jacinda Ardern’s baby girl, which won a Bronze Axis at New Zealand’s biggest advertising awards show earlier this year.

“As a copywriter, being able to communicate my thoughts is a pretty requisite trick of the trade, and in my personal experience the only way to get better at writing is by doing lots of it. And boy, do you do a lot of writing in an Arts degree!

“Pursuing an Arts degree helped me to improve my communication, critical thinking and understanding of people – skills critical to my line of work. My job requires you to know what people are interested in, because for an ad to be compelling, it usually needs to contain an insight into human behaviour – and literature is a great place to find them.

“Italian language and literature courses I took enabled me to be comfortable with exploring new ideas and empathising with people from walks of life vastly different from my own.

“A lot of people seem to think the Arts are a waste of time and that they won’t help you with finding a promising career; but nothing could be further from the truth. You can learn so much about yourself that you wouldn’t learn elsewhere, while also gaining invaluable skills, which automatons won’t be capable of performing any time soon.”





Copywriter – FCB New Zealand

**William Sidnam**

*Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce, Italian + Marketing + International Business.*

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), European Studies.*



# Shining a spotlight on sustainability



Content Marketing Strategist – noissue

**Beth Owens**

*Bachelor of Arts, Media, Film and Television  
+ Politics and International Relations.*

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Media, Film and Television.*

“I chose the University of Auckland because of the city’s diversity and the range of subjects offered by the Arts faculty. The city is the epicentre of the media industry with more opportunities for work experience and networking.

“I work as the Content Marketing Strategist for noissue, an eco-friendly packaging company based in Auckland. This was a niche industry just a few years ago but it’s now growing rapidly as sustainable practices, so become more in demand by consumers. We are seeing a much greater collective effort to support brands with eco-friendly practices - so this means offering more innovative solutions to packaging waste and plastic pollution.

“My role involves writing and coordinating our brand’s content. This includes our onsite blog, social media copy, case studies and blog posts for our partners. I’m also in charge of guiding our overall SEO and editorial strategy.

“It’s not unusual for my workload in a given week to be one-third writing, two-thirds research. I often get thrown a topic to write on, even though I may only have a surface-level knowledge about it. I’m expected to be the expert for the duration of a blog post or ebook. In this sense, it isn’t a whole lot different from being assigned an essay at university. It becomes your job to do the digging and find out what information is most relevant, and to present it in the most enlightening way possible.

“The 360 International programme was also a massive drawcard for me. I actually went to an information session before I even started at uni! Spending a very cold semester in 2017 at the University of Calgary in Canada was a highlight of my university experience.

“An Arts degree has allowed me to hone my research skills and feel confident diving into all kinds of different topics. I knew literally nothing about packaging when I first started my job – now I’m routinely writing 2000 word-plus articles about it!

“I could never have pinpointed content marketing as an area of interest when I was at school as the industry was in its infancy. Technology is changing all the time, creating new opportunities for graduates. Broad skills like critical thinking and literacy are the trademarks of an Arts degree, and they are incredibly adaptable to all kinds of different areas. It preps you for a changing world where things never stand still.”

# ADVERTISING AND MARKETING



Senior Digital Manager –  
Darkhorse

**Jaimee Brooking**

*Bachelor of Arts, Sociology + Media,  
Film and Television.*

“I work as a senior digital manager for Darkhorse, a full-service boutique agency focusing on digital, PR, activations and events.

“My role is a unique balancing act of delivering on my clients’ needs and expectations, while maintaining the integrity of the ideas produced from our creative department. Day-to-day I work with creatives, designers, strategists and developers, which makes for a dynamic and very entertaining workplace.

“The key to success in my role is understanding what problems I need to solve for my clients, and then delivering clever digital solutions that will help them to achieve awesome results.

“I decided to study a Bachelor of Arts because it was so versatile, and I knew it would stimulate my learning. It fuelled my creativity and gave me a greater understanding of people and their behaviour.

“The biggest piece of advice I could give to someone thinking of studying Arts is to study what you’re interested in and what you love to do. The information you’ll learn will be valuable and applicable to many different career paths.

“I found studying Arts left my options open, which gave me plenty of room to try new things and find out where I thrive best.

“Pick your courses wisely but be open to trying subjects outside of your comfort zone. A good challenge every now and then will set you up for the future.”



Digital Content Producer –  
Bauer Media

**Harriet Keown**

*Bachelor of Arts, French + Media,  
Film and Television.*

“I love how flexible an Arts degree is. I was able to pick courses in history, marketing, politics and international relations. Everything I studied contributed to an enriching and enlightening education. I was also interested in studying abroad for a semester, so the 360 International exchange programme was a huge factor in choosing to study here.

“I am now Digital Content Producer for foodtolove.co.nz at Bauer Media, where I manage the online food content from a range of our print magazines. My role mainly involves uploading website content and running social media and email marketing campaigns.

“I love discovering and telling the stories of New Zealanders with small businesses. This year I started a series profiling cafes around New Zealand, shining a light on local, sustainable and ethical businesses. It’s always a highlight being able to meet inspiring, entrepreneurial people and help tell their stories to our readers.

“Majoring in Media, Film and Television gave me invaluable skills for understanding different forms of media and thinking critically about the messages they portray. The lecturers’ passion for teaching in this field really cemented my love for the subject.

“I am a huge believer that studying a Bachelor of Arts sets you up for a career of critical thinking and creativity. I was taught to see the world through many different lenses and to always approach things with an open, creative mindset.”

**Our graduates work in roles such as:**

- Account Manager
- Advertising Traffic Executive
- Content and Advertising Manager
- Digital Content Marketer
- Sales and Marketing Executive

**Match your majors for a career in advertising or marketing:**

- Communication
- English
- Media, Film and Television
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Sociology

**“I look to hire graduates with an Arts degree because they have been taught how to think outside the box to solve problems and have the critical thinking skills to adapt to 21st century demands.”**

AARON DUS  
VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGY AND  
ANALYTICS, IGNITED – LOS ANGELES



# ARCHAEOLOGY

## Our graduates work in roles such as:

- Archaeologist and Heritage Manager
- Heritage Consultant and Anthropologist
- Heritage Information Adviser
- Specialist Archaeologist
- Technical Adviser Historic and Cultural Heritage

## Match your majors for a career in archaeology:

Anthropology (specialising in Archaeology) +

- Classical Studies and Ancient History
- Geography
- History
- Māori Studies
- Pacific Studies

## Postgraduate study:

- Master of Arts in Anthropology.

***“I have always wanted to be an archaeologist. My Arts degree allowed me to pursue my passion while also exploring other interests in Geography and Environmental Science, which all complemented my studies in Anthropology.”***

REBECCA RAMSAY  
SPECIALIST ARCHAEOLOGIST  
AUCKLAND COUNCIL HERITAGE UNIT



## Archaeologist – Clough & Associates

### Ben Jones

*Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology +  
Criminology.*

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Anthropology.  
Master of Arts, Anthropology.*

“I am an archaeologist working as a consultant for Clough & Associates. This involves working with archaeological remains – the remnants of New Zealand’s history. I am constantly looking into the past and getting paid for it.

“My main area is monitoring and survey, where I investigate in old documents, in the field or on construction sites for the possibility of material remains left by people in the past.

“The more enjoyable parts of my job involve working in the different rohe of iwi/tangata whenua. My latest archaeological excavation involved working with Patuharakeke. The knowledge they provided helped inform the archaeological work being done.

“In these ways, I am very much grounded in the present, as consultation work is 30 percent archaeology and 70 percent working with people across a diverse group of professions, agencies, iwi and tangata whenua, who are all interested in how to deal with the remains of the past.

“The ability to question and understand a large quantity of information in a short period of time is the most important skill I have gained from my Arts study. Being able to scrutinise information, evaluate it and reconvert it into useful knowledge is a skill I use almost every day with my clients.

“Arts study also teaches you to break down whatever you are looking at and consider it from every angle. Arts graduates always look to innovate and find a better way of doing things.”







# Don't wait for a roadmap, make one

"I am a Senior Specialist in Māori Heritage at Auckland Council. My job is to work with the hapū and iwi of Tāmaki Makaurau on identifying and managing their immovable cultural heritage and to provide advice to Council. I also provide private consulting services.

"Working with hapū and iwi brings a holistic and flexible approach to a wide range of issues related to Indigenous rights, social justice, culture, economics and environmental sustainability, viewed through the lens of heritage management. This often clashes with the traditionally reductionist approach of Western institutions and values. My job allows me to develop cross-cultural tools and processes to help protect and effectively manage Auckland's Māori heritage.

"Anthropology gave me a grounding in the study of culture first and foremost, the ability to think critically and laterally about my own society and culture and to ask questions and examine evidence about others. It also gave me a broad education in areas including culture, philosophy, geography, art history, heritage, history and others.

"The critical and lateral thinking skills and flexible skill set gained from my degrees have helped me develop my career from working on the Stonehenge World Heritage Site to working with the coroner and police on human remains to working with the west Auckland iwi Te Kawerau a Maki and now in my role with Council.

"Don't wait for someone to give you a roadmap to this career – make one. It is a broad sector which you can base on lifestyle, interest, or income if you are prepared to follow your curiosity, work hard, and make yourself indispensable wherever you end up. Never forget that heritage requires people to value it – make sure your work is value-aligned and outcome focused.

"Pursue what you are passionate about, what drives your curiosity or enables you to express yourself. Drive, innovation, dedication and capability are what employers want, and with an increasingly non-traditional, emerging job market, the skill set an Arts degree can give will be put to good use."

Senior Specialist, Māori Heritage –  
Auckland Council

**Edward Ashby**

*Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology + Art History.  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Anthropology.  
Master of Arts, Anthropology.*



## Thriving in the information age

"I am one of the Directors of Awa Associates. We support businesses and organisations to develop systems and tools to improve their services and programmes. We help organisations across the public, private, philanthropic and non-governmental organisation (NGO) sectors. My work is specifically focussed on supporting social/cultural innovation and proving social impact through research and evaluation.

"I am also an Associate (Research and Evaluation) at Wai Research, a community-based research group based in West Auckland. I often get to see my work implemented into practice and policy, as well as the difference it can make.

"I've worked alongside businesses like Kiwi Property to build their cultural capacity. One particularly memorable moment was being able to support the CEO and Board Chair (who was a Pākehā from Australia) from Kiwi Property to deliver a mihi to the executive team and Board of Tainui Group Holdings.

"More recently, I've been involved in a number of large research and evaluation projects with the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency. It's given me the opportunity to work closely with whānau and local communities around the country. A recent independent review found that Whānau Ora was working for whānau. It's good to know that your work, in a very small way, can make a difference to people's lives.

"Other highlights have included being commissioned by the Waitangi Tribunal to conduct research around the Wai 2575, working alongside organisations like JustSpeak – a network of young people who want to see change in Aotearoa's criminal justice system, and Garden to Table – a school-based programme that works with children to build their growing, healthy eating knowledge and environmental responsibility.

"Being able to think on your feet, be agile, flexible and provide pragmatic yet robust solutions are essential skills in the social enterprise, innovation and impact space. If you prefer stability and predictability, this is probably not the job for you!

"Despite what you might hear, doing an Arts degree really helps to keep your career options open. The flexibility that an Arts degree offers meant I was able to develop a broad range of skills and versatility that is vital in today's job market.

"I believe having a broad range of skills and versatility is vital in today's job market. Things like the internet and advancements in technology have really changed the way in which we process, learn and receive information. Some may even argue that we live in a world of information overload. However, the skills and discipline I learnt during my years of study have given me a number of paradigms and frameworks in which to process and interpret information. This ability has really helped me to take advantage of the information age."

Director – Awa Associates

**Hector Kaiwai**

Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngai Tūhoe  
*Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Music, Māori Studies.*  
*Master of Arts, Māori Studies.*





**Community Initiatives  
Coordinator –  
The Warehouse Group**

**Alexander Kuch**  
*Bachelor of Arts, Politics and  
International Relations + Sociology.*

“I’m the Community Initiatives Coordinator at The Warehouse Group and work in the sustainability team. My role involves collaborating with internal and external stakeholders as well as driving campaigns.

“I am able to contribute to some of New Zealand’s most ambitious sustainability projects, working for a company that’s recognised as a leader in this area.

“A personal highlight was working on a collaboration with the Plunket Trust to help provide 1400 baby boxes for families from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

“I chose to major in Politics and International Relations because of my personal background and interest in global affairs.

“I’m originally from Romania. I was adopted at two years old by a German family and we moved to New Zealand 13 years ago.

“In 2018 I received a grant from the Vice-Chancellor’s Student Support Fund to co-present as one of the youngest speakers at ICAR6, the world’s largest adoption research conference, in Montreal.

“The opportunities university provided really helped me grow professionally and personally. I learnt transferable skills like how to manage projects and effectively navigate competing interests.

“I’d advise students to take all possible opportunities and don’t be afraid to step outside your comfort zone.”



**Retail Lead – Google**

**Celeste McCormick**  
*Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce,  
Politics and International Relations,  
Marketing + International Business.*

“As a teenager I was really interested in three great forces that influence our modern world: the media, the government and big business. I started out studying Communications at AUT before transferring to the University of Auckland to study Politics and International Relations. In my second year I picked up a conjoint Bachelor of Commerce to complete the study of my three fields of interest!

“My current job is a relationship management and strategy role at Google helping Kiwi retailers to succeed in the digital space. There are a lot of international retailers entering the New Zealand market and it is quite rewarding helping Kiwi businesses adapt to changing consumer behaviour to meet new demands.

“Google attracts a very diverse group of lively individuals from all over the world, who tend to aim high but enjoy life. We are lucky enough to travel too. Last year I had an amazing role for eight months that allowed me to live and work three weeks in Auckland and one week in Sydney every month.

“I have found that large technology companies love hiring people from different backgrounds and areas of study, so having a background in Politics and International Relations as well as Commerce is a huge advantage for me. I learned to think critically and communicate well across many mediums through my Arts degree, which has been very useful in my working life.”

## **Our graduates work in roles such as:**

- Business Development Manager
- Cloud Solutions Manager
- Customer Interaction Coordinator
- Fundraising Manager
- Project Manager
- Research Manager

## **Match your majors for a career in business or management:**

- Communication
- Economics
- Employment Relations and Organisation Studies
- History
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Sociology

**“Arts gives you a greater  
perspective on the  
world. Not only is it  
interesting but it helps  
to build relevant skills  
that can be applied  
anywhere.”**

JAMES DAVID (NGĀPUHI)  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS MANAGER  
SALES – AUCKLAND DATACOM

# COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

## Our graduates work in roles such as:

- Account Manager
- Communications Specialist
- Content Writer and Coordinator
- Digital Specialist
- Multiplatform Journalist
- Presentation Director
- Publicity Assistant
- Senior Content Producer

## Match your majors for a career in communications or publicity:

- Communication
- English
- Media, Film and Television
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Sociology

**“The vast background knowledge of media and political history I gained in my Arts degree helps me daily in my job.”**

JOHN-MICHAEL SWANNIX  
MULTIPLATFORM JOURNALIST  
NEWSHUB



**Head of Communications –  
NZEI Te Riu Roa**

**Hayden Eastmond-Mein**  
*Bachelor of Arts, Media, Film and  
Television + Politics and International  
Relations.*

“I’m Head of Communications at NZEI Te Riu Roa, Aotearoa’s largest education union representing a wide range of education sector workers. I work with a communications team of seven to champion our members’ interests, engage with them around our campaigns, and grow their numbers.

“I’ve been lucky enough to spend almost all my career working for causes I believe in and care about, and this job is no different.

“Education is one of the most important things for a society to invest in, but unfortunately in this country we’ve severely undervalued many of the people working in the sector for a long period of time. The most enjoyable thing for me is knowing that the work we do has a real impact on thousands of people’s lives and livelihoods.

“I studied Media, Film and Television and Politics and International Relations, and I think the combination of both has really helped. It’s critical to have an understanding of the political landscape, a keen awareness of how your messages will fit into the wider discourse, and an ability to respond to changes and challenges on the fly. It’s also really important to know the historical context when you’re fighting for change.

“It’s a cliché but figure out what you really care about or believe in, and then see if you can find a communications job in that area.”



**Publicist – South Pacific Pictures**

**Kristina Hard**  
*Bachelor of Arts, English + Drama.*

“I’m a Publicist at South Pacific Pictures (SPP), New Zealand’s largest drama production house. We make award-winning NZ film and TV and my job is to promote our content and talent to the media. I organise and facilitate radio interviews, magazine features, newspaper stories and online media for our actors.

“I also coordinate principal photography and behind the scenes video material, which is called an EPK (electronic press kit). I manage social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter as well as live-tweeting our shows.

“No day is the same when you’re working in TV! I love that I get to work across a wide variety of projects with a diverse pool of creative and talented people.

“Studying for a Bachelor of Arts gave me the freedom to choose lots of different subjects and the time to decide what I wanted to do for a career. I knew I loved English but I didn’t plan on studying Drama. I joined the University drama club and promoted their shows. From there I pursued a career as a theatre publicist and then started at SPP as a TV publicist.

“Essays seemed really frustrating at the time but not only did they give me persuasive writing skills (so useful in so many situations) but also critical thinking skills (also helpful!) and most important the ability to work to a deadline.

“If your passion lies in the Arts then be proactive and get involved as much as you can, even it’s on a volunteer basis. Get in touch with people you admire and ask for advice and opportunities.

“There’s so much to learn and discover. Taking subjects you enjoy can lead to all sorts of sustainable career paths.”





## Mobilising goodwill in communities

“I went to high school in Auckland and loved media, history, drama and sociology. My passion for politics and international relations developed from there.

“After graduating, I worked in both non-profit and government sectors. I recently returned to the non-profit sector for social enterprise, Be Collective. Based in Melbourne, the role involves working with businesses and volunteer-involving organisations to mobilise goodwill and connect people with volunteering opportunities.

“Working with organisations who are making a tangible difference to their communities is genuinely rewarding. The value I add in my role comes from connecting businesses with organisations in their community. It’s amazing seeing business values transform through corporate volunteering.

“Try to diversify the subjects you take in your first semester so you can find what you are passionate about before you commit to a major.

“Keep an eye out for internships and part-time jobs that can give you a foot in the door. Find role models and mentors to look up to and talk to your lecturers! I promise you’ll learn so much from those interactions.”

Community Development Manager –  
Be Collective

**Emma McIlroy**

*Bachelor of Arts, Media, Film and Television +  
Politics and International Relations.*

**“Focus on your strengths and what you find fascinating. Allow yourself time to figure things out along the way.”**

EMMA MCILROY

# Making a difference

***“The most memorable moments are when people share the hardship of losing everything and enduring unimaginable conditions, and seeing how the respect shown to them when they receive assistance makes them feel visible and dignified again.”***

CARL ADAMS

“I’m currently Country Director for Swiss-based humanitarian relief and recovery agency, Medair. I’m based in Bangladesh to support the response to Rohingya refugees who now form the world’s largest refugee camp on the Bangladesh/Myanmar border, after fleeing violence and persecution in their homeland.

“My average work day involves coordinating meetings with UN agencies, other NGOs, and local authorities; overseeing a team of national and expat staff who are running health, nutrition and shelter programmes in the refugee camps; and general operations for the organisation.

“I find my work incredibly dynamic, since no two days are the same, working in often-unpredictable contexts in response to human or natural disasters and conflict.

“The most memorable moments are when people share the hardship of losing everything and enduring unimaginable conditions, and seeing how the respect shown to them when they receive assistance makes them feel visible and dignified again.

“A lot of my undergraduate study was in global politics, history of the global South, and law. I was attracted to Development Studies as it brings these different fields together in an attempt to understand issues such as sustainability, gender, governance, poverty, vulnerability and exclusion. Through my thesis, I learned discipline, self-motivation, critical thinking and how to make sense of large volumes of information.

“The experience of the staff in Development Studies and the international recognition of the University appealed to me. I also valued the diversity of the student body in Development Studies, people from different countries and backgrounds, which created a great environment to share and learn.”

Country Director – Medair

**Carl Adams**

*Bachelor of Arts.*

*Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies.*

*Master of Arts, Development Studies.*









# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## **Our graduates work in roles such as:**

- Educational Consultant
- Development Officer
- Diplomat
- International Consultant
- International Relations Coordinator
- Programme, Policy and Partnerships Manager

## **Match your majors for a career in international development:**

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Geography
- Politics and International Relations
- Sociology

## **Postgraduate study:**

- Master of Arts in Development Studies
- Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies
- Master of Public Policy

**“Learning how to discuss and argue complex development issues with specialists and experts through my studies has prepared me well for an international career in development.”**

ESTHER JENS  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE



**Senior Policy Officer –  
New Zealand Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs and Trade**

**Graci Kim Cribbens**  
*Bachelor of Arts, Spanish + French.  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Spanish.*

“I am responsible for helping shape New Zealand’s policies around women’s and Indigenous economic empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region.

“Working on women’s and Indigenous economic empowerment issues is particularly rewarding because I feel I am contributing to the reintegration of historically marginalised communities into the economy. Some particular highlights have included doing two years of full-time language training in Taipei, spending three years being posted at the NZ Embassy in Beijing, negotiating wine trade agreements with the World Wine Trade Group, and being part of the emergency response team after the Christchurch earthquakes.

“I decided I wanted to pursue a career that involved travel, new languages, new cultures, and ideally, something that still kept me grounded to New Zealand. Diplomacy seemed to tick all those boxes, which is how I decided to apply for a job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

“I enjoy working for MFAT because I know that I am representing New Zealand and furthering the interests of my fellow country folk.

“In addition to the studies themselves, I think the interaction I had with the students and staff of the University and getting involved in clubs, were some of the most useful learnings I’ve taken into my working life. Professional life is all about social interactions and interpersonal relationships, and university life was a great

microcosm for this. I also think working under pressure and managing my time under competing interests are two of the crucial life skills I learnt during my time at university.

**“I would encourage current students to get involved in all aspects of student life. Employers are looking for well-rounded and holistic students that enter the working sphere with strong interpersonal and people management skills, as well as life skills. The more diverse experiences you can amass during university will help to provide the case studies to draw on at future job interviews.”**

“If Arts subjects interest you, then pursue your interests, stay curious, get stuck in, and have fun. Technology, especially artificial intelligence, is going to increasingly automate many of the jobs we currently do. As technology advances and integrates itself more firmly into our daily lives, human creativity will be the unique skill set that will not be able to be automated or replaced. Studying Arts, in my opinion, is a great way to build those skills that will be increasingly valuable in our society’s future.”



## Making sense of conflict

“The world is a big and complicated place, especially when it comes to conflict. I studied for a Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies (MCTS) to make conflict more explicable. With its compelling emphasis on the causes, dynamics and consequences of violence, the MCTS has filled a critical gap in my imagination about how we might make the world a more secure place.

“I’m now a Foreign Policy Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Through my work I’ve had the opportunity to participate in global discussions on peace, security and human rights, as well as help lead New Zealand’s response to major emergencies offshore.

“Going back to the Faculty of Arts as a postgraduate student was one of the best decisions I ever made. It was great to be back in an environment where critical thinking about the way that things are (and the way that they should be) is always encouraged.

“Postgraduate study has been an invaluable foundation for the career (and life!) that I want, and I encourage anyone with burning questions about the world to seriously consider studying the MCTS.”

Foreign Policy Officer – New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Laura Eaton**

*Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, English.  
Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies.*





# Building safer communities

***“A good day for me is when I know I’ve actively contributed towards keeping people safe within my community.”***

ELOISE SIMS

“My role is to analyse ongoing trends within crime in Auckland to identify emerging risks or patterns. The New Zealand Police take a Prevention First approach towards crime, and my job is to embody this approach by identifying issues within crime before they fully emerge. I then present this analysis to senior decision-makers within the Police in order to inform the choices they have to make.

“New Zealand Police are aiming to have 10,000 fewer serious crime victimisations by 2021, and I find my job most fulfilling when I know I’m helping to achieve that goal.

“During my BA, I became particularly interested in understanding wider theories of conflict, peace, and terrorism within political science. I was also really enthusiastic about the prospect of working in a public service environment once I graduated. Both of these interests led me to study for a Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies.

“My BA taught me so many skills I use every day in my role as an Intelligence Analyst – from clear and concise communication skills, to analytical research skills, to the ability to think critically about things that might be taken for granted.

“My masters helped to cement these skills while giving me practical experience in my field – as several classes within the MCTS feature report writing and data analysis on topics such as humanitarian intervention or radicalisation. In addition, doing my masters gave me the confidence to apply for my role with the Police.

“Don’t underestimate the value that a BA has for employers. The things that a Bachelor of Arts can give you – critical and creative thinking skills, communication skills, and time management skills – are exactly what many employers are looking for.”

Intelligence Analyst – New Zealand Police

**Eloise Sims**

*Bachelor of Arts, History + Politics and International Relations.*

*Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies.*





## Progressing international trade partnerships

“I am a Foreign Policy Officer working with our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). I work in the Trade and Economic Group with its Trade Negotiations Division. MFAT is responsible for a number of significant trade agreements with our international partners. I work with a number of these Free Trade Agreements, making sure they happen from end to end.

“The role requires you to understand foreign politics, society and cultures. Interacting with people from other countries and cultures constantly stretches my knowledge and ability. What’s more, the role requires a great deal of travel and training that focuses on building this skill set. Developing a greater appreciation for the many people on this earth is always a highlight in the role.

“Having a background in Sociology and Media, Film and Television makes you versatile in this role. Sociology develops a socio-political perspective that’s key in assessing risk and gauging reception. Having a media background has more oblique benefits. Policy Officers engage various stakeholders about trade policies and existing trade agreements. Understanding media, especially digital media, allows you to better engage stakeholders and optimise your reach, messaging and data analysis.

“Communication is key as a Policy Officer. You must be able to communicate with public officials, international ambassadors and subject-matter experts. An Arts degree, when properly exhausted, can put you in front of a cross-section of subjects and discourse.

“While course material and assignments are important, extracurricular activities like publishing work, volunteering your time with the faculty’s various student organisations and offering assistance to social enterprise groups all help to build that communication skill set. While the course work can teach us things, application is key. Applying my Arts degree set me up for a strong start as a professional communicator.”

Foreign Policy Officer – New Zealand  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**George Tereapii Greig**

*Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, Sociology + Media,  
Film and Television.*



Senior Local Board Adviser –  
Auckland Council

**Christie McFadyen**

Ngāti Maniapoto

*Bachelor of Arts, Sociology + History.*

“My job is to provide project leadership, management and strategic advice on projects that involve all 21 local boards.

“One of the most enjoyable things about my job is being able to work on governance projects that help shape our local communities and city. I also enjoy working on projects as they have a tangible outcome and you get to see months of work come to life.

“Key skills that I gained from studying Arts, and use in my job, are research and analysis. Part of my role is to be able to find information, analyse it and make an appropriate recommendation for the situation.

“Writing and reviewing are also key skills I use in my job. I’m frequently writing a variety of documentation, or reviewing other people’s work, so being able to write articulately and with clarity enables me to provide good advice, direction and guidance through my own work, but also when giving feedback to others.

“The knowledge I gained from majoring in History and Sociology also enabled me to understand and appreciate how societies change over time, and how individuals relate to society. As an adviser working with 21 local boards, this helps me to understand the make-up and needs of each different local board area and provide suitable recommendations.

“By studying Arts I was able to take a variety of subjects, which enabled me to find my interest and passion in History and Sociology, and become more well-rounded with the skills and knowledge I could bring to the workplace.”



Senior Advisor Voter  
Participation – Auckland Council

**Eddie Tuiavii**

*Bachelor of Arts, Sociology +*

*Politics and International Relations.*

*Postgraduate Diploma in Arts,*

*Politics and International Relations.*

*Master of Public Policy.*

“I lead the development and implementation of the Voter Participation Initiative, which aims to increase voter participation in local elections.

“In this role I provide expert advice on programming, partnerships and innovative initiatives across my team, department, organisation and within the community, in an effort to boost civic participation and normalise positive voter behaviour.

“The Master of Public Policy gave me a firm foundation in the core principles, concepts and methods of public policy research and analysis and developed my potential for leadership in local and national government.

“It also provided lots of great opportunities for collaboration on research projects, exposure to workplace settings and nuances through external internships, and for leadership development through interaction with politicians, leaders and international networks. Having since worked for organisations with thousands of employees, I’ve engaged each role confidently with all the skills necessary to fulfil the role!”

## **Our graduates work in roles such as:**

- Development Manager
- Diplomat
- Policy Adviser
- Strategic Policy Analyst
- Treaty Settlements Historian

## **Match your majors for a career in policy or government:**

- Communication
- Criminology
- Economics
- Māori Studies
- Pacific Studies
- Politics and International Relations
- Psychology
- Sociology

## **Postgraduate study:**

- Master of Arts
- Master of Conflict and Terrorism Studies
- Master of Public Policy

**“An Arts degree will prepare you for a fast-paced and changing world by future-proofing your skills.”**

EDDIE TUIAVII  
SENIOR ADVISOR VOTER PARTICIPATION  
AUCKLAND COUNCIL



## Our graduates work in roles such as:

- Assistant Editor
- Commercial Director
- Director's Assistant
- Film Director and Producer
- Game Designer
- Production Manager
- Radio Production Journalist

## Match your majors for a career in media:

- Communication
- English
- Logic and Computation
- Media, Film and Television
- Politics and International Relations

**“It’s an amazing degree because you can be creative and forward-thinking and practical all at the same time! A BA can take you wherever you want it to.”**

TAYLA MARLOW  
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR  
WARNER BROTHERS



**Production Coordinator – Warner Brothers**

### Tayla Marlow

*Bachelor of Arts, Media, Film and Television + Sociology.  
Bachelor of Arts (Honours),  
Screen Production.*

“TV and journalism were always things I’d been interested in. The BA programme stood out as an internationally recognised degree, offering specialised courses in fields like TV journalism.

“I’m currently working as a Production Coordinator for Warner Brothers. First I worked on season eight of *The Block* and now I’m working on season three of *Married at First Sight*. I’m a huge reality TV fan so this is basically my dream job. My role is to coordinate movements of cast and crew on day-to-day shoots. I also get to be involved in the pre-production process, scout locations and communicate with our cast.

“My study helped immensely for so many reasons. It taught me valuable and practical skills in the field, which I now use on a daily basis. It also grew my network, which is a crucial part of working as a freelancer. Finally, it helped me discover my passion. TV production was something I knew absolutely nothing about before my BA and it turned out it was something I really enjoy!

“A BA is a degree that is super flexible and can change with you throughout your study.”



**User Experience Lead – Wunderman Thompson**

### Zak Wash

*Bachelor of Arts, Media, Film and Television + English.*

“I’m the User Experience Lead at Wunderman Thompson; a creative, data and technology agency. We specialise in designing and building websites and other digital products.

“My team is responsible for a lot of the strategic thinking, business insights, and user research that goes into our projects. We also drive the initial creative work – helping the wider project team understand what our clients are trying to achieve and what user need we’re trying to meet.

“Over the past five years I’ve worked for a wide variety of New Zealand organisations, big and small, public and private. The biggest highlight to date has been working on Drive.govt.nz, a NZTA-ACC joint project that we built to help young people learn to become better, safer drivers. It was the perfect combination of an interesting creative problem to solve and a good cause behind it.

“Because I studied such a broad range of topics, I was constantly picking up new concepts and then using what I’d learnt to form concise arguments. That’s pretty much exactly what I do now.

“Don’t limit yourself to one particular niche or skill set. Don’t stress about finding your dream job straight away. Keep working and learning and you’ll find something that’s meaningful to you.”



# Preventing cybercrime in Japan's digital landscape

"My journey with the Japanese language began in high-school where study of a second language was compulsory. Soon it became my favourite subject in high-school. My other interest in computers more naturally seemed to lead toward a preferred career path. However, at the time it would have been fair to say that my passion for Japanese was stronger and therefore continuing with it at university was a given. To accomplish both, a conjoint degree was the perfect option for me.

"Making good on my plan of studying abroad, I spent two semesters on exchange at Keio University in Tokyo through the 360 International exchange programme. There I was able to further my Japanese education and get a real taste of life in Japan. This consolidated my desire to work in Japan after graduating.

"I currently work as a Cybersecurity Analyst in Tokyo, conducting vulnerability assessments of websites and of an ever-growing number of 'connected' devices. This entails assessing the website or physical device from the point of view of an attacker trying to carry out malicious actions against users or against the system itself, thereby resulting in an outage, loss of sensitive information or other harm to the customer.

"Customers come to us from an incredibly wide range of fields, meaning that although the basics of securing a website, or Internet of Things (IoT) device are similar, the various systems have all been designed differently and are for differing needs. As a result, each job is a new challenge that requires me to apply my problem solving skills and the ability to view the system from the 'attacker's' point of view to identify weaknesses in the system.

"My study of Japanese, both at the University of Auckland and as an exchange student enabled me to achieve the fluency I require for

my current job where everything is done in Japanese, from emailing customers, attending meetings, writing up and presenting our findings, to everyday conversations with co-workers. My time on exchange gave me the confidence to know that I could go out into the world – a foreign and very different world – communicate with people, live independently, and achieve my goals.

"To anyone considering study, where their options seem split into a more logical career-oriented option, and another more personally interesting option, or merely between two equally interesting options, I would recommend trying to follow a path which allows you to do both. Doing so will expand your world and vastly increase the possibilities that lie ahead of you as you connect both areas of interest.

"It is there perhaps, where you have the greatest chance of finding a career which suits who you are as a person, and the goals you have for your future. So, recognise that the hard work during university and the sacrifices made are an investment in a 'future-you', where the rewards will be many and varied."

## Cybersecurity Analyst

### Jason Swanevelder

*Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science, Japanese + Computer Science.*



# TRANSLATION AND EDUCATION

## **Our graduates work in roles such as:**

- Community College Lecturer
- English Language Teacher
- Medical Interpreter
- Professional Teaching Fellow
- Translation Manager and In-house Translator
- Translator and Education Consultant

## **Match your majors for a career in translation or education:**

- Education
- Languages
- Linguistics
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

## **Postgraduate study:**

- Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (MTESOL)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Translation
- Postgraduate Diploma in Translation Studies
- Master of Translation

**“In the public sector, the translations we work on have a clear and direct effect on people’s lives. There are many opportunities to conceive, plan and instigate projects that have a positive impact on society.”**

QUINTIN RIDGEWAY  
CHIEF TRANSLATOR AND MANAGER  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



**Chief Translator and Manager –  
Department of Internal Affairs**

**Quintin Ridgeway**  
*Master of Professional Studies,  
Translation Studies.*

“My main role as manager of the Translation Service involves advising government agencies on the best use of language to communicate with New Zealand’s ethnic communities and assisting them in developing language strategies. My role as Chief Translator also involves overseeing the translation process and working on improving our translator’s use of technologies such as translation memory, machine translation and artificial intelligence automation to help with the growing demand.

“Studying translation not only taught me the technical skills required to carry out effective translations using current technologies, it also taught me a lot about how language works and how we think. Many words or phrases have become so familiar to us that we think we understand what they mean, but we’ve never really thought that much about their meaning or the choice of words. Translation skills develop this awareness of meaning, shades of meaning and the motivations behind words. I believe this is a crucial skill for engaging with people and media that often uses word selection and rhetoric to cloud meaning or mislead rather than to be clear and upfront.

“There is nothing more important today than a broad and insightful understanding of the world and why it is the way it is. An Arts degree gives you the flexibility to study a topic in depth that you are truly passionate about. The soft skills and insight that you will gain through pursuing a subject with enthusiasm lays the groundwork for a meaningful life and a meaningful career.”

**“We have to have the skill to speak up and, more importantly, the openness to listen. In my roles my assumptions are challenged every day. It’s from my Arts study that I first learned how to sit with cognitive discomfort and embrace ideas across lines of difference.”**

HANNAH LEES



## Empowering Aotearoa's future leaders

"In my final year of high school I was pretty set on an engineering pathway. I was taking physics, chemistry and calculus and engaging in the national Future Problem Solving programme. However, taking an English course in Year 13 at the University of Auckland through the Young Scholars Programme changed my mind. I knew then that English was for me and here I am – still studying and advocating for English and the Arts.

"I am currently Kairapu Manager at the educational non-profit Ako Mātātupu. Our vision is to work with and for young people in Aotearoa so that they may realise their full potential, particularly in education settings.

"My role is in serving and connecting the alumni and allies of our flagship teaching and leadership programme as they seek to disrupt inequities both in education and in society. I write and curate editorial content for our network of teachers and leaders, set up kaupapa events, manage applications for funding or other forms of support for projects, and have a hand in the strategic direction of our community of changemakers.

"Crafting meaningful questions of inquiry and being truly open to hearing and analysing a variety of responses is essential in building a social change movement. We cannot get anywhere by timidly towing a cliched line.

"Studying English at undergraduate level established my eligibility to train as a secondary school English teacher. It wasn't just my direct experience as a teacher but also my analytical and critical experience as an Arts scholar that paved the way for the role I'm in now.

"Let Arts be your Plan A! Be confident that the Arts experience will be of immense utility value in terms of skills, but also make sure to do it for its own sake."

Kairapu Manager – Ako Mātātupu: Teach First NZ

### Hannah Lees

*Bachelor of Arts, English + Philosophy.*

*Bachelor of Arts (Honours), English.*

*Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching.*

*Master of Arts, English.*





## Illuminating stories from the Pacific

"I care for and provide access to the Pacific ethnology collection using museum best practices. The role itself is wide-ranging and entails processing acquisitions, creating packing units, tracking objects, facilitating external visits and much more.

"I delight in caring for and learning about the collection and its tāonga. Knowing that the collection I care for has connections to my own ancestors gives me personal joy and makes for a more intimate work experience.

"From a young age, I have always been fascinated by cultural heritage and the stories they hold. I was intrigued by the concepts of objects and their capacity to carry the stories of the past.

"I knew I wanted a career in cultural heritage and so I began my tertiary studies in Archaeology. The years following led me to consider a potential future in museums as a place to carry out my aspirations. I approached postgraduate studies accordingly and have never looked back.

"Postgraduate study has helped me to develop skills that are advantageous in the museum sector such as research skills, current conversations, confidence in object handling and a deepened

appreciation for cultural heritage. My studies also challenged me to reach out and establish relationships with museum professionals.

"Understanding Indigenous perspectives has shaped my thinking and worldview. This continues to be challenged, reshaped and strengthened as I work in the sector. I gather all my learnings to help inform my work practices."

**Collection Manager, Pacific, in Human History  
– Auckland War Memorial Museum**

### **Ruby Satele**

*Bachelor of Arts, Art History + Pacific Studies.*

*Postgraduate Diploma in Arts, Museums and Cultural Heritage.*

*Master of Arts, Museums and Cultural Heritage.*

# MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Photograph: Karim Ben Khelifa



**Producer of Artist in Residence and Public Programs – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST).**

**Katherine Higgins**  
*PhD, Art History.*

“In my current role, I develop and facilitate collaborative projects between MIT faculty and visiting artists, as well as producing performances, exhibitions, workshops, symposia, and courses for the Center for Art, Science & Technology.

“I am constantly learning from researchers and students at MIT. My projects have ranged from investigating new ultra-lightweight materials and artificial intelligence-based models for virtual reality to a hybrid opera performed in Anglo-Saxon, and a puppet play using comedy to address political discourse and the dilemmas of artificial intelligence and late capitalism.

“I was drawn to the distinguished and vibrant Indigenous arts community in Aotearoa as well as the impressive academics. Dr Caroline Vercoe graciously welcomed me to the University of Auckland where I found a supportive academic home with other doctoral candidates in Art History.

“Having supportive supervisors paved the way to my current position. I was able to meet with founders and participants of residencies and researched infrastructures, mechanisms, and perceived achievements and deficiencies of artist residency programmes. Having these opportunities exposed me to their nuances and possibilities.

“I’d advise students and graduates interested in arts management to take advantage of internships and volunteer or part-time positions while studying, whenever possible.”



**Head of Human History – Auckland War Memorial Museum**

**Elizabeth Cotton**  
*Bachelor of Arts, Ancient History.*  
*Master of Arts, Ancient History.*

“After finishing my MA, I went to live in the United Kingdom for seven years and ended up working at the British Museum as an executive administrator. During all that time I had toyed with the idea of doing a PhD in Egyptology and then thought about a material culture conservation qualification. In the end I really wanted to come back to New Zealand. So I came home, did a Postgraduate Diploma in Museum Studies and ended up working in collection management in New Zealand museums.

“Jobs in the museum sector are quite rare, especially permanent ones. So go for the contract roles, volunteer if you have to and get to know people. Do all the work you have to do to reach your goal, whether it is further study or internships. It’s important to persevere and remember that it is okay to do the not-so-flash jobs that set you up for the better jobs in the long run.

“I would encourage students considering studying to think really hard about what you want to do and tailor your study accordingly. Don’t be shy about changing what you want to do early in your studies and then sticking to it. I did it after my first year and never regretted it. And never underestimate the value of a good research degree, those are skills you can’t learn anywhere else.”

## **Our graduates work in roles such as:**

- Cultural Heritage Consultant
- Curator Pictorial
- Head of Human History
- Museum Director
- Programme Strategist

## **Match your majors for a career in museums and cultural heritage:**

- Classical Studies
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Geography
- History
- Māori Studies
- Pacific Studies

## **Postgraduate study:**

- Master of Arts in Museums and Cultural Heritage
- Master of Heritage Conservation

**“My interests are in Pacific, Māori, Indigenous and local history so that was a deciding factor for my choice to study at the University of Auckland.”**

RUBY SATELE  
COLLECTION MANAGER, PACIFIC IN  
HUMAN HISTORY  
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM



*Own your future with an  
Arts degree from New Zealand's  
leading University.\**



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

\*Times Higher Education and QS World University Rankings 2020.