

Join our Tuākana community

Nau mai, hono mai ki te whānau ako o Tuākana.

Becoming part of Tuākana is the first step towards academic success for our Māori and Pacific students.

Most of the University's Māori and Pacific students engage with Tuākana.

Our faculties have their own Tuākana staff and meeting spaces, and they develop their own programmes to complement the teaching and learning environment.

Tuākana helps connect our Māori and Pacific students with senior Māori and Pacific students (tuākana), academic teaching staff, and key people across the University through tutoring, mentoring and workshops.



TUĀKANA

Celebrating 25 years in 2015

A learning community enhancing the academic success of our Māori and Pacific students



Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika
www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana

What is Tuākana?

Tuākana is a University-wide learning community for our Māori and Pacific students.

Research shows students who engage with Tuākana are more likely to not only maintain their grades, but improve them.

Tuākana programmes offer small-group learning, whakawhanaungatanga, wānanga, face-to-face meetings, and linkages to key services and support across the University.

Everyone involved with Tuākana works hard to ensure a safe, inclusive and equitable learning environment for all our Māori and Pacific students.

The tuākana-teina relationship

The tuākana-teina relationship is integral to Māori society. It provides a model for buddy systems, in which an older or more experienced tuākana (brother, sister or cousin) helps and guides a younger or less experienced teina (originally, a younger sibling or cousin of the same gender).

In a learning environment the tuākana-teina roles may be reversed at any time. For example, the biology student who yesterday was the expert on ecosystems may today need to learn from her classmate about cell division.

Tuākana in the faculties

Tuākana Coordinators	
Faculty	Email
Arts	tuakana.arts@auckland.ac.nz
Business	tuakana.business@auckland.ac.nz
Education and Social Work	tuakana.education@auckland.ac.nz
Engineering	tuakana.engineering@auckland.ac.nz
Law	tuakana.law@auckland.ac.nz
Medical and Health Sciences	tuakana.fmhs@auckland.ac.nz
NICAI	tuakana.nicai@auckland.ac.nz
Science	tuakana.science@auckland.ac.nz



Tamoko O Te Rangī Taipari Ormsby (Ngāti Mahuta, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngai Te Rangī, Ngāti Ranginui), BE(Hons) in Engineering Science

Master of Energy student, Faculty of Engineering

“There’s heaps of support for Māori and Pacific students here, especially in the form of Tuākana mentoring, tutoring and advice. Plus, there are plenty of munchies and barbeques! The University has given me some of the coolest years of my life.”



Aroha, Hana and Talei Siilata (Ngāti Raukawa, Tuhourangi, Samoan, Fijian)

During their time at the University, sisters Aroha (left), Hana (centre) and Talei Siilata (right) have received numerous awards and scholarships and participated in many of the academic programmes and cultural groups on offer here. They credit Tuākana for helping to build the skills and confidence needed to succeed as a doctor, lawyer and musician, respectively.

The Strategic Plan 2013-2020

Tuākana supports key equity objectives from the University’s Strategic Plan:

- **Objective 1:**
A work environment characterised by a commitment to clear expectations, development of potential, inclusiveness, high achievement and rewarding performance
- **Objective 7:**
A high quality learning environment that maximises the opportunity for all our students to succeed and provides them with an inclusive, intellectually challenging and transformative educational experience
- **Objective 11:**
Partnerships in which the University and Māori work together to achieve their shared aspirations