



# LinkNEWS

MARCH  
2021

Schools Partnership Office Newsletter  
[www.auckland.ac.nz/careersadvisers](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/careersadvisers)



# Summer Start

January 2021 saw the launch of Summer Start. This new programme supports the enrolment of school leavers by allowing them, for the first time, to access Summer School courses.

COVID-19 impacted heavily on New Zealand secondary school students, both domestic and international, and in many cases disrupted their study plans for 2021.

Prompted by feedback from our secondary school partners, education transition specialists at the University made a case to allow secondary school leavers to enrol in one summer school course from a selected list of 22. To support them, a programme was created that would offer academic, pastoral, and social support. That support aimed to maximise student achievement and ensure that this first-time cohort would be best positioned to succeed in the shorter, fast-moving environment of Summer School.

The benefits of Summer Start include additional preparation for entry to the University and the acquisition of increased academic, learning, and self-management skills. Additionally, an early assimilation into the university environment boosts students' confidence.

In total, 307 students enrolled in Summer Start. Sixty of them took up offers for fully funded university accommodation (domestic students) or partially subsidised university accommodation (international students).

After being welcomed onto campus with a pōwhiri and orientation event, each student was assigned to a group led by one of fifteen Summer Start Leaders. These leaders were current students in the latter period of their degrees. They did a great job running study groups, group outings, and inter-group sports competitions. The participants gained academic skills as well as forging long-lasting and confidence-boosting connections. A common-room style space (featuring arcade machines, foosball table, and snacks) provided a home-base on campus.

In addition, our Summer Start Student Experience Adviser, Eleanor Almeida, organised on- and off-campus events to give students a break from study, and to highlight the attractions of Tamaki Makaurau. These included a trip to Waiheke Island, sailing on a waka hourua vessel, guided walk-the-whenua hiking trips, and more. Participants also received free University gym memberships for the duration of the programme, as well as Auckland Transport HOP Cards pre-loaded with \$200 for use on local buses, trains, and ferries.

Academic support included special tutorials run by academic staff, and drop-in centres operated

by current students. Participants were offered support with assignments and exam preparation. Our Summer Start Student Support Adviser, Mei Ye, also tracked grades for in-course work in order to offer targeted support for individuals and course cohorts.

Importantly, all academic and pastoral support offered through Summer Start was drawn from existing University resources. And so participants will be able to access the same level of support when they start their mainstream degree programmes.

Summer Start exams ended on Friday 19 February, grades are still being returned at the time of writing, but early indications are very encouraging. Many courses reported a 100% pass rate. One in particular – ENGSCI111 (Engineering – Introduction to Mathematical Modelling) returned a fantastic result, with 20 of the 22 students gaining an A Grade. An important note about Summer Start grades: passes can count towards the students' degree programme, but courses failed in Summer Start will not appear on degree transcripts. This greatly reduces potentially negative impacts arising from the programme's intensity.

The University is currently reviewing feedback about the programme from staff and students, and a decision on whether Summer Start will be repeated in the future is expected shortly.

 **Chris McClymont,**  
Summer Start Manager

# Meet the Team

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# From the Schools Partnership Office

Tau Hau Hari

Nau mai haere mai ki Waipapa Taumata Rau

It is with pleasure that I formally introduce our new name for the University of Auckland, *Waipapa Taumata Rau*, which has been gifted to us by te mana whenua o Tamaki Makaurau, Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei. “Te take” (reason) for this new name was the need for: an overarching Māori narrative; He takoha nō Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, the enhancement of Mana, a resetting of the narrative; and He mihi.

## He whakamārama (Explanation)

- “Ko Kāwharu he toa taumata rau.” *“The fame of Kāwharu has many resting places.”*
- Waipapa is the great landing place of waka from many destinations, and later of ships from many parts of the world.

- It is a place of exchange: of philosophies and theologies, of methodologies, of resources and of people.
- Taumata is an exhortation to achievement and excellence.
- All is under the authority of the te ahi kāroa, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.

The Schools Partnership Office and the University of Auckland continue to be challenged with issues surrounding a provision of service to our key stakeholders, schools.

Sadly, last year’s upheavals, which are likely to echo on through this year, have been significant for SPO’s core business, especially regional recruitment. To adapt to these changes we will continue to utilise the successful online platforms piloted last year. We’re excited

to connect with schools online for overview presentations, Expo’s, Future Student Evenings and course advice. We will also try our very best to be in the regions at Expo’s to support your students with face-to-face contact.

As always we appreciate your understanding and are happy to receive your feedback



Ngā mihi

Dennis

Mauri ora ki a koutou!

## Changes to the Team

### Introducing our new advisers



#### Ella Lyon

He uri ahau nō Taranaki maunga.

I have recently been appointed as the new Māori school’s advisor. Born and raised in a small Taranaki town, Waitara, I later ventured to boarding school at Turakina Māori Girls College. My journey at the University of Auckland started six years ago as a high school leaver. Having lived the experience of a small-town regional student, I’m all about encouraging other students to pursue higher education and supporting them through their journey. I bring experience working in first-year halls and also as the Māori Academic Adviser in the Business School, so I’m super familiar with all the pressing issues our taura (students) may face.



#### Max Murray

Kia ora.

My name is Max, and I will be supporting you and your students in Whangārei, Taranaki, and Auckland. I was born in the UK and grew up in Auckland. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Ancient History and English. I originally intended to become a secondary school teacher. During my studies I found a strong passion for the transitional journey from secondary school to University, due to my experience in the Tertiary Foundation Course. Having previously worked for the University of Auckland as a Student Contact and Support Representative, I’m looking forward to playing a more active role in assisting future students in planning both their academic and professional careers.



#### Atamarie Houpapa

We are excited to announce that Ata has rejoined the SPO team, now that she has completed her Master of Education. Ata comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience, having worked in the education sector for almost 8 years.

### Haere rā Courtney Black and Lynn Su’a

We’re sadly waving farewell to two of our SPO advisers, Courtney Black and Lynn Su’a, as they move on to new challenges in 2021. They’ve been an integral part of our team successes, and have always gone above and beyond for our students. We’re so thankful for that. We’ll miss working with both Courtney and Lynn very much and wish them all the best for their future!



# SPO Updates



## 2021 LINK Conference

Sadly, we have had to postpone our annual Link Conference this year. It had been scheduled for 18 and 19 February. Following guidance from the University and the Government, we felt that postponement was the right choice to make to ensure the safety of our guests and staff.

We had an exciting line-up of presenters for our guests, including Dr Ashley Bloomfield, our keynote speaker. Other sessions were to have covered topics such as the revitalisation of Te Reo Māori in the University, Summer Start, programmes in the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries, and more. A tour of the Engineering facilities in our Newmarket Campus, as well as our newest student residence, Waipārūrū Hall, were also in the mix. At this stage, we hope to reschedule LINK Conference closer to our Open Day in August or else provide an online alternative. We will keep you updated and look forward to hosting you soon.



### Keynote speaker: Dr Ashley Bloomfield

A recent fixture in popular culture, University of Auckland alumnus Dr Ashley Bloomfield is no stranger to Kiwis for his cool, calm and collected leadership during lockdowns and broader responses to the ongoing pandemic. Dr Bloomfield qualified in Medicine at the University of Auckland in 1990 and after several years of clinical work, specialised in public health medicine. His particular area of professional interest is non-communicable disease prevention and control, and he spent 2011 at the World Health Organisation in Geneva working on this topic at a global level. Dr Bloomfield is currently the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Health and the country's Director-General of Health.

## Ordering Prospectuses

The *Undergraduate Prospectus 2022* is now available. If you would like to order these for your school, please fill in the order form available via our website: [www.auckland.ac.nz/link](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/link)



# OPEN DAY 2021

Online Tuesday 29 June  
On Campus Saturday 28 August

# University Updates

## Career Development and Employability Services (CDES)

### From Summer Start; to future smart – CDES work with school leavers.

Our team has been busy gearing up for the start of the semester. This year the University introduced the new Summer Start programme, designed for school leavers who want to earn credits towards their degree. Participants were also able to grab a taste of campus life and get started on their academic journey.

CDES Manager Catherine Stephens and Senior Career Development Consultant Sarah Moyne jumped on board to deliver several interactive sessions as part of the programme. These fun sessions encouraged school leavers to consider how their study can link to future work options and why it's never too early to think about your career. Catherine Stephens says, "It's ok not to know where you want to take your degree – but it's important to start thinking about it as early as possible, so you have plenty of time to start building your connections and your confidence."

Not stopping there, Catherine and our Māori and Pacific Employability Lead, Pepe Afeaki, delivered sessions at the UniBound programme for Pacific school leavers. Through UniBound, students study PACIFIC 100 and get an introduction to life as a university student. Our sessions focused on introducing students to our services and helping them make informed choices when it comes to study and work.

In addition to our Career Kickstart programme for Science and Arts first years, our team have also created "train the trainer" career sessions. These are for Resident Advisers in first-year halls of residence. We also offer new career programmes for specific groups around the University, such as high-performing athletes, and a workplace insights programme for international students.

### Who are we?

At CDES, we support students to find their career direction and navigate the world of work.

We assist University of Auckland students (as well as graduates up to three years after graduation) with their career development through:

- Face to face appointments
- Career workshops with career consultants and guest employers
- CV and cover letter checks
- Large scale career expos
- Recruitment events
- An online career management system, MyCDES
- Much more!

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



create your future  
*kei ōu ringaringa te ao*

165

Employers on campus



40

Employer recruitment events

3

Large-scale Career Expos



22,445

Students who accessed our range of services



Voted 2020's Best Careers Service

*New Zealand Association of Graduate Employers Awards*

QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020



#59

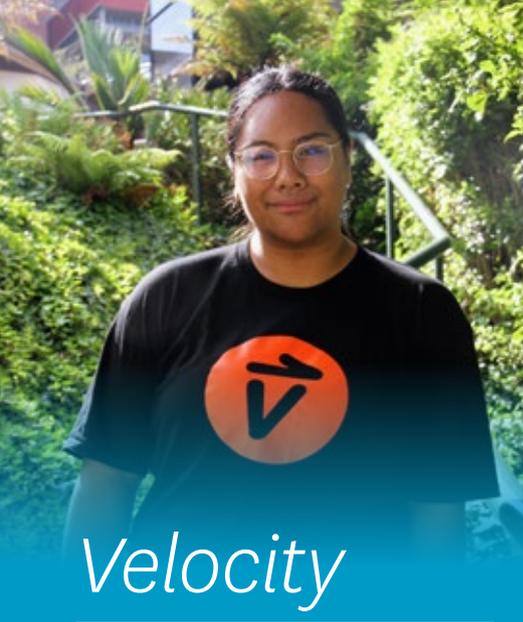
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Career Development Consultants to support you



Pizzas eaten at our events

250



# Velocity

Wellingtonian Maina Fuimaono arrived at the University of Auckland never having heard of innovation and entrepreneurship. Now, in the final year of her Bachelor of Commerce, she recommends that every student includes it in their university experience.

Maina is a member of the student team at Velocity. This is the University’s student-led entrepreneurship development programme, run with the support of the Business School’s Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She is also the Public Relations Officer at the Tongan Students’ Association and was previously Social Affairs Officer at Commerce ‘o Pasifika.

Fellows there introduced her to the programme and inspired her to get involved. Her flatmate also happened to be on the team, and “never failed to remind me of Velocity’s events and competitions. That, paired with the free ice-blocks during O-week, and people in bright orange morph suits – it was hard to ignore.”

Maina sees Velocity as a valuable way of spreading the entrepreneurial spirit and developing innovative capability. “When I first joined, Velocity wasn’t something that was known amongst the Pacific community, and those who’d heard of it had reservations around whether they could be involved. I want to change that. Velocity has done so well in building a community, creating opportunities, and giving back. And I’m excited to take it even further.”

Thinking about the future, Maina is looking forward to reaping the benefits of the practical skills she gained through Velocity, such as time management and how to work in a team. She plans a career in the stock market or economic analysis.

“I see Velocity as a valuable programme for all students – regardless of whether they go on to start a venture. Everyone will need to be a problem solver at some point in their lives, and you gain a ton of transferable skills and experience from working on the team, entering a competition, or attending an event. Velocity is for anyone who wants to jump-start a professional career after graduation.”

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

# Scholarships Update

In 2021 the University of Auckland has awarded over 250 scholarships to Māori and Pacific students enrolling in their first year of study.

We have dedicated webpages outlining scholarships for Māori students and for Pacific students. These include scholarships for all levels of study offered at the University. There’s also a selection of externally funded scholarships.

[www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships-maori](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships-maori)

[www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships-pacific](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships-pacific)

Here are a few of our scholarships that are available to Māori and Pacific students enrolling in their first year of university study in 2022.

The **AUEA Māori Engineering Pathway Award** and the **AUEA Pacific Pathway Award** are available to support first year Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) students of Māori or Pacific descent. The Awards of \$2,500–\$10,000 are on offer each year.

Māori or Pacific students interested in pursuing a career in Architecture are encouraged to apply for the **Jasmax Scholarship for Māori and Pacific Students**. The Scholarship is available to students enrolling in a Bachelor of Architectural Studies and has a value of \$5,000 per year for up to five years of study. Read about the first recipient of the scholarship, Jessika Varney:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/jasmax-article](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/jasmax-article)

The **Kool Family Nursing Award** provides support to Bachelor of Nursing students of Pacific descent who are experiencing financial hardship.

The three year **Toi Uru Roa: Paul Kelly Māori Undergraduate Scholarship** supports undergraduate students in the Business School who are of Māori descent. Each Scholarship has an annual value of up to \$8,000.

Māori and Pacific students planning to enrol in a Bachelor of Science in either Biological Sciences, Biomedical Science, Ecology or Marine Science may apply for the **Frances Barkley Scholarship**, which will assist with tuition fees for up to three years.

Women students of Cook Island descent are welcome to apply for **The Jackson Family Foundation Scholarship**, which as a value of up to \$11,000 per year for study in any year of an undergraduate or postgraduate degree at the University of Auckland.

Students enrolling in a Bachelor of Design can apply for the **Bachelor of Design Award for Māori Students** or the **Bachelor of Design Award for Pacific Students**. Each award has a value of up to \$5,000.

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



# Tōia ki Waipapa – UniBound Māori

Tōia ki Waipapa – UniBound Māori is the newly established Māori stream of UniBound. The decision to split the Māori and Pacific cohort means that we’re able to offer a tailored Māori programme to all taura (students) who may be considering a tertiary pathway. This is a full-time programme that takes place during Summer School and allows taura the opportunity to take a course that can go towards their degree, while getting an on-campus experience that delivers appropriate learning support in preparation for University. Students also have the opportunity to be a part of a number

of activities both on and off campus. This year we had a small group of students take part in Tōia ki Waipapa. Their weeks consisted of academic and learning support workshops led by Te Tumu Herenga – Libraries and Learning Services. There were also a number of haerenga (field trips), which included visits to significant places and complemented what they were learning in their lectures. If you have any students interested or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mereana Toki

[m.toki@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.toki@auckland.ac.nz)



# Creative Arts and Industries

## Why Music Studies is a great option for Computer Science and Maths fans

### You don't need to be a big shot at the bassoon to enrol in a Bachelor of Music

Today's music industry relies on more than just performers and composers to keep the sector moving. Technicians, programmers, producers and sound engineers are all in demand. So, if your students are mathematically or scientifically inclined, they could find themselves with a skill set that opens doors in the music industry.

Music is both an art and a science – as well as a hothouse of scientific and mathematical principles. Perhaps your students' strengths are in maths, science and computer science, but their study choices aren't totally satisfying. In that case a degree in Music Studies could actually be the solution they've been seeking.

The Music Studies specialisation at the School of Music covers a broad line-up of sub-disciplines, including music production, music education, musicology and music technology. These include topics such as pre-production, recording and audio engineering techniques, professional mixing and mastering, music theory, history and industry studies, live sound and sound design for film.

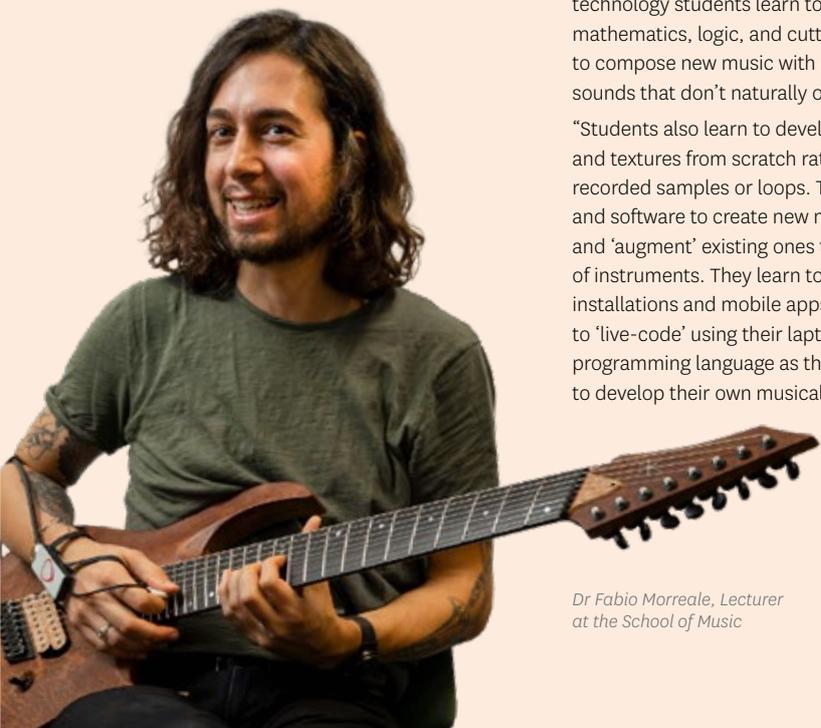
The intersection of technology and music is a growing area of research and teaching at the University of Auckland's School of Music.

### But what exactly is Music Technology?

Here's Dr Fabio Morreale's take. "Fun fact: despite being the Coordinator of Music Technology at the University of Auckland, even I find this hard to answer. It's composing with computers... but not quite. It's creating electronically-generated sounds... but not quite. It's learning to be a DJ... no, it's definitely not that!

"It's probably easier to describe what music technology students learn to do. They learn to use mathematics, logic, and cutting-edge AI techniques to compose new music with code and to craft new sounds that don't naturally occur.

"Students also learn to develop their own sounds and textures from scratch rather than using pre-recorded samples or loops. They design hardware and software to create new musical instruments and 'augment' existing ones to control the sounds of instruments. They learn to develop audiovisual installations and mobile apps, and they learn to 'live-code' using their laptop and favourite programming language as their musical instrument to develop their own musical vocabulary."



*Dr Fabio Morreale, Lecturer at the School of Music*



## Welcoming Kate Ricketts to Creative Arts and Industries

### High School Outreach and Engagement

Kia ora koutou

With over ten years' experience in high school engagement for the University of Auckland, I'm now delighted to work specifically with students considering study at the Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries (CAI).

My masters background is in career development and organisational psychology, so I'd love the chance to share my perspectives with fellow career professionals. Do feel free to get in touch.

I'm deeply passionate about students being able to combine multiple interests across technology, the sciences and the arts in their tertiary study. I believe that CAI, and its strong industry links, provides the perfect setting to make this happen.

Outside of work, I enjoy raising guide dog puppies in training and am currently guardian to Odell. She's a two-year-old breeding guide dog about to have her second litter of puppies in training. She is a very popular member of our team!

*To arrange a campus visit or to find out more about studying Architecture, Dance, Design, Fine Arts, Music, Urban Planning or Urban Design, contact [kate.ricketts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:kate.ricketts@auckland.ac.nz)*

Fabio completed a Master of Science in Computer Science at the University of Verona, Italy. He then combined computer science and his guitar-playing interests by completing a PhD in Human-Computer Interaction as applied to Music Technology. Fabio also invented the "Magpick", a hi-tech guitar pick!

Popular streaming platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music and music software giants like Ableton and Logic Pro all depend on music technology experts to advance their products and provide a great user experience.

Fortunately, all the necessary skills can be acquired through the Music Studies specialisation at the School of Music, on top of traditional music theory and production techniques. This mixed knowledge will allow students to create and ultimately to become involved in shaping the future direction of music.

So if your students are keen to jazz up their study options; add their science and maths skills to a creative mix; and progress to an exciting career in music, then opting for a Bachelor of Music at the University of Auckland could be the solution to their equation!

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

# Education and Social Work

## Scholarships

### TeachNZ Scholarship applications – open 22 March

Do you know a student interested in teaching? A TeachNZ Scholarship could support their study journey by covering their course fees and providing an allowance while they study. Bachelor of Education (Teaching) applicants are eligible, across all settings: Early Childhood, Primary and Māori Medium.

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



Tomai Ihaia,  
TeachNZ Scholarship recipient



### Student profile

#### Eunice Amante

##### Student: Bachelor of Social Work

"I'm passionate about people, and I want to support them to work through challenging situations in a practical way – that's what led me to social work.

"I chose the Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Auckland because I knew it would give me a foundation around bicultural social work that I wouldn't be able to get back home in the USA.

"The programme has taught me so much, professionally and personally. It opens up many pathways beyond traditional social work, such as community work, probation, youth work and research. I've enjoyed working alongside the same cohort throughout the degree, and my classmates have been a really great support system.

"I've loved the balance of lectures and real-life practical placements. I completed a practicum at Stand Tu Maia, a community social work and residential service for children who have experienced trauma. Once I'd completed the placement, I managed to secure a job there as Therapeutic Care Worker.

"I love building relationships with the kids at the residence and seeing their growth over time. Our kids have been through a lot in their lives. Being able to walk alongside them through the highs and lows and holding their stories has been such an honour.

"Communities are what surround families and their children, so we must strengthen communities to support families in a sustainable way. Once I graduate, I'd like to work for a grassroots organisation that involves the community in identifying families' needs and provides caregivers with tools to create safe and loving homes for their children." [www.auckland.ac.nz/bsw](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/bsw)



### Graduate profile

#### Nikita Larissa Lucritia Ting

##### Graduate: Tertiary Foundation Certificate, Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Primary)

"I chose the Tertiary Foundation Certificate because it was a great opportunity to get into the University of Auckland and explore the range of courses offered.

"I decided to become a teacher after studying children's development, and discovering how teachers can support children in defeating limiting beliefs and growing their self-efficacy.

"Now I work as an early childhood educator at The Tree House, Middlemore Hospital. I enjoy building relationships with the children and exploring their interests with them. As a teacher, I can guide children, while also learning alongside them. I can find creative ways to extend their learning within their interests. I can also develop my knowledge of certain topics I hadn't explored before.

"The most rewarding thing about my job is being a part of a child's growth and development, especially in the areas they find challenging – from making friends or regulating their emotions, to comprehending a new topic.

"To anyone who isn't sure if they want to study, my advice would be to enrol in the Tertiary Foundation Certificate. That way you can get a sense of where your interests and strengths lie, and what your area of study may be!"

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



### Employer profile

#### Barbara Ala'alatoa, ONZM

##### Principal, Sylvia Park School

##### Alumna: University of Auckland (Advanced Diploma of Teaching)

"During my time at Sylvia Park School, we've developed a strong partnership with the University of Auckland and hired more graduates than we can count.

"This successful partnership has given us confidence that when we hire Faculty of Education and Social Work graduates, we know they're going to be high-quality and add value to our school – because we have a shared belief about what good teaching and learning looks like.

"Students from both the Huarahi Māori and Primary specialisations join our school on practicum each year. Practicum is the ultimate ten-week interview. It's a chance for the students to show their teaching skills, and their ability to continue learning from both their colleagues and students. Many of these students go on to work here once they've graduated. Te Puna Waiora, the Māori-medium pathway within our school, is currently fully staffed with fabulous Huarahi Māori graduates.

"To anyone considering a teaching career, I'd say this: people often afford a great deal of kudos to professions like medicine and law, and they are indeed wonderful professions – but, done well, teaching is also a wonderful profession. It changes lives and through this has potential to make the world a better place for all."

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

# Education and Social Work



Image caption: Anaru Kaiwai, Ngāroimata Morgan and Mauri Marino

## Scholarship recipients paving foundations for te reo Māori

Sonny and Mona Riini Memorial Scholarship recipients Anaru Kaiwai, Ngāroimata Morgan and Mauri Marino all share three goals: inspiring tamariki to succeed, sharing their culture and language, and giving back to their communities through te reo Māori.

The three students were awarded Sonny and Mona Riini Memorial Scholarships worth \$4,500. They are all beginning their final year of the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Huarahi Māori programme, preparing to teach in Māori immersion, kura kaupapa and bilingual primary and intermediate schools in 2022.

Ngāroimata was working as a kapa haka tutor in Kaipara when she enrolled in the programme two

years ago. She couldn't write anything in te reo Māori back then, but she had seen a gap in her community that she wanted to help fill.

"I came to realise that my community was lacking te reo Māori speakers, educators and performers," Ngāroimata says. "I wanted to help fill that void, and fuel within others a passion, fire and pride to be Māori. When I was in school, I didn't feel like it was 'cool' to be Māori, but it is! I want to be a positive role model, share our language and encourage future generations to embrace our culture."

Mauri began his teaching journey to give students the tools they need to succeed in an evolving world, while maintaining their cultural identities.

"I love teaching in Māori medium classrooms because I believe that the philosophies, cultural practices and lessons embedded in Māoridom

serve as a positive social foundation for all ethnicities," Mauri says.

"My goal as a teacher is to break negative stereotypical cycles that continue to impact society. I believe that through education I can equip students and families with tools to identify, address and break these inter-generational traumas. I want to help create a generation of critical thinkers, with the hope of a trickle-down effect for future generations – a generation of students who are taught how to think, not what to think."

Based at Tai Tokerau Campus in Whangārei, Anaru chose a teaching career because he loves building relationships with tamariki.

"I think with the right approaches to teaching and learning, education can be a positive way for tamariki to succeed. I enjoy exploring different subjects and using mātauranga I have previously learnt, and continue to learn, to develop my own teaching practices for the better."

Winning a Sonny and Mona Riini Memorial Scholarship is an honour that means a lot to the three students.

"At first, I think I wanted the mana of winning the scholarship," Ngāroimata says. "But now I just think about how I get to bring the scholarship and knowledge back to my community and show people that you can go out and explore education, and bring it to your home again."

"When I finish my studies, I'd love to teach at the kura kaupapa back in Kaipara, the area that I loved growing up in. I think the most important thing is to normalise te reo Māori in our community, add to the knowledge of the area and develop strong Māori foundations as we grow alongside the rest of the community."



# Science Student Profiles

## Mena Welford

### Programme: Bachelor of Science, specialising in Biological Sciences and Marine Sciences

Mena swapped to Biological Sciences and Marine Science after realising those subjects were where her interests lay.

“Originally, I came to university planning to go to med school (through a biomed degree), with ambitions of becoming a surgeon. However, the papers I genuinely enjoyed and felt were ‘me’ were BIOSCI 101 and 107. So, by Semester Two I had switched into a Biological Sciences specialisation.

“I took a Marine Science paper in my third year on a whim and fell in love with its interdisciplinary

aspects, compatibility with Biological Sciences and global relevance. So I added a secondary specialisation in Marine Science.

“During my Marine Science research project, we chose a biological aspect of the Whangārei Heads rocky shore environment to investigate. We collected, processed, and interpreted data, then wrote up a scientific report relaying our findings.

“The calibre of teaching is remarkable. In both specialisations, the lecturers show tireless enthusiasm, passion and dedication to enabling student success. My ultimate goal is to become a scientist and an academic. Short-term, this means a Postgraduate Diploma in Science (Marine Science) and then a Master of Science. Depending on how I fare, hopefully a PhD follows.”



## Melanie Mayall-Nahi

### Ngāti Whātua and Te Rarawa, raised in Tāmaki Makaurau

### Programme: Master of Science in Environmental Management

Melanie is particularly interested in Māori and indigenous ways of caring for the environment and has been able to land her dream role as a Māori Graduate Intern at NIWA.

“My university journey began in Psychology. I needed to choose an elective and ended up going with a Geography paper. That class introduced me to the space and place nature of privilege, race, and many other topics that I did not realise were recognised as Geography. Once I completed the course, I decided I wanted to major in Geography. A year after that I enrolled in an Honours in Geography, and in that programme I further developed my interest in Māori ways of caring for Te Taiao. The next step was a Masters and I chose to major in Environmental Management. I chose to pursue this qualification because I know that the skills that I can learn and further develop from this experience will be of significant importance to my whānau and hapū aspirations for caring for our rohe.

“My mum and my cousin both chose to go to the University of Auckland. I knew that I wanted to follow in their steps, so by the time it was my turn to decide what university I wanted to attend, I chose the University of Auckland. Five and a half years later and I’m still here!

“My research focuses on understanding marae-based enterprise, the articulation and embodiment of Māori values through river restoration, and the contribution of mātauranga to support cultural and environmental wellbeing. Aspects of my research look at place-based Mātauranga and how this Mātauranga influences the ways in which

kaitiaki engage with their awa. Te Reo and Tikanga specific to the rohe my research is based in have also shown the importance of transmission of intergenerational knowledge.

“The area of study that I am following is Environmental Management. In particular, I am interested in Māori and indigenous ways of caring for the environment. However, in the field of Environmental Management it is clear that its foundations are based upon mainstream Western ideologies of management, conservation, and governance. My intent to study Environmental Management is to contribute to identifying and highlighting Māori and indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being in relation to the environment.

“Throughout my programme I have had many opportunities to engage with other researchers in the field both nationally and internationally. Interacting with other indigenous scholars has

helped me realise the significance of my mahi and why I need to continue my journey in the field as a Māori researcher.

“I am very privileged in that I have landed myself a dream role as a Māori Graduate Intern in Te Kūwaha, the Māori Environmental Research Group at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). This role will allow me to explore real-world outcomes of Māori environmental research and also provide a space for me to grow as a Māori researcher.

“Tuākana and Te Fale Pouāwhina have played a fundamental role in my university experience. Both have supported me academically, and have given me the opportunity to teach other Māori and Pacific learners. Throughout my time in these programmes I have met many amazing people who I am lucky to call my friends. These individuals have also played an important part in my university journey.”



## Our Women in Engineering gear up for 2021

Te Herenga Mātai Pūkaha, the Faculty of Engineering's Women in Engineering team, is dedicated to building connections and confidence for wahine who are studying with us. We also run outreach events to showcase what's possible in the world of engineering. The following are upcoming events specifically for high school students.

Please note that all our events are open to any student who identifies as female.

## WiE Autumn Camp

Following the success of last year's camp, we're re-hosting this three-day overnight event. It promises to be full of discovery around the possibilities that Engineering offers – from career opportunities to real-world applications of maths and physics.

This camp is free of charge for all successful applicants, and the schedule is packed with Engineering activities. Last year's included building an electric car, printing 3D food, and designing wind turbines. It was all guided by experts and industry role models.

If you know a Year 12 student who's interested in STEM subjects, creativity, and problem solving, and she isn't already considering Engineering, please tell her about our Autumn Camp. To register and find out more, visit [www.womeninengineering.auckland.ac.nz/autumn-camp](http://www.womeninengineering.auckland.ac.nz/autumn-camp)

## Buddy programme

We're also offering a buddy programme for Year 12 and 13 students – six events will be held throughout the year. Each one focuses on a different theme, with our University Buddies guiding participants through social activities and discussions with industry experts. This is a great opportunity for school students to make new friends and be a part of a community of other young women looking to make a difference in the world.

## Our WiE events calendar

Event	Date
Autumn Camp (for Year 12)	20–22 April
Buddy Event 1: Diversity	12 May
Buddy Event 2: Engineer Her Student Experience	8 June
Enginuity Day (for Year 13)	15 July
Buddy Event 3: Robotics Day	21 July
Buddy Event 4: Engineering Start-ups	18 August
Buddy Event 5: WEN Alumni	22 September
WEN Presents 6: Space	13 October

Sign up to hear about upcoming WiE events: <https://response.auckland.ac.nz/WIEUpdates>

## Welcome back!

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing you on our campuses in 2021. 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 is okay to ask for help and support
- It is safe to disclose issues that may affect study or work

Please find out more about how the University supports Māori and equity group students, including Pacific students, students with disabilities, LGBTQITakatāpui+ students, those from low socio-economic and refugee backgrounds, and men and women in areas where they are currently under-represented.

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

## Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services is part of the Equity Office Te Ara Tautika and offers a range of services to make studying at the University an accessible and positive experience.

We provide ongoing tailored support through our dedicated team of advisers, from general advice and mental health support to scholarship and employment advice for students with disabilities.

If you live with an impairment that impacts your studies or have had special conditions for exams at school, contact Student Disability Services via the website. We'd be happy to organise a confidential chat about how we can help you at the University. Make an appointment now online or by email.

[www.disability.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.disability.auckland.ac.nz)  
[disability@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:disability@auckland.ac.nz)

## Equity-group scholarships

If you're from an equity group, there are many scholarships and other forms of assistance available. For details, please visit

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



## Student profile

### Neihana Waitai

Neihana Waitai, 21, moved to Auckland from Nelson after a year of world travel, having spent his savings and not knowing anyone in Auckland. Despite the additional challenges of being queer and Māori, Neihana soon settled into University life, studying Science.

"It's a big community and there's a lot of diversity around, and some people won't understand. But, for every one of those, there are a hundred people who do. You can make your own community and family."

The University's Queer Space has helped with social support, offering a welcoming place and fun activities. "There's also Tuākana [study support] for Māori and Pacific kids. There are lots of spaces where you can go and meet people."

Visits to Māori Studies helped Neihana gain knowledge about his own and Aotearoa's cultural history.

This year, Neihana takes up a role as a graduate policy adviser with MBIE in scientific innovation and policy.

The Equity Office Te Ara Tautika facilitates the University's Rainbow Network. We promote support for LGBTQITakatāpui+ students, including trans and gender-diverse students. For example, we provide support for gender transition, gender-neutral toilets, and faculty Rainbow groups and contacts.

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



# SPOTlight!

Welcome to the first profile in this new *LinkNews* feature! In each edition this year we'll SPOTlight one of our SPO Schools Advisers.

## Mere Mansell

*Tēnā koutou*

*Ko Hikurangi te maunga*

*Ko Waiaapu te awa*

*Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi*

*Ko Rangitūkia te takiwā*

*Ko Hinepare te marae*

*Ko MereArihia tōku ingoa*

*Kia ora tātou katoa.*

Kia ora everyone.

I'm Mere, one of the Schools Advisers here in the Schools Partnership Office. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and let everyone know that in 2021 I'll be based again in Wellington.

I was raised in Gisborne before my whānau moved to Rotorua, where I attended high school.

I still remember when two University of Auckland Schools Advisers visited my high school, Western Heights. That was the start of my journey with the University of Auckland. After finishing school, I decided that Auckland would be the place for me, so I moved up to the big smoke to enrol in a Bachelor of Science, with a double major in Biological Sciences and Geography.

In my first year of University I worked part time as a student blogger for The Inside Word, writing about my first-year experiences. (The Inside Word is an SPO blogsite aimed at helping school leavers get an insight into university life.) This eventually led to more part-time work as a UniRep, where I got to attend different school events alongside the SPO team at the time.

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

For me, deciding to attend university was quite a nerve-racking experience, so being able to work with students who were facing similar concerns and worries was really rewarding. When the opportunity to work for SPO full time came up, I jumped at the chance. It was really a no brainer.

I joined the SPO team in February of 2017 and graduated with my Bachelor of Science in March of 2017. For the last four years I've been very fortunate to work with many different schools, from the top of the North Island right down to the bottom of the South Island. This role has allowed me to travel to new places and meet really awesome students across the country. I have worked closely with schools in Auckland, Waikato, Coromandel, Canterbury, Dunedin, Southland and Central Otago, as well as helping out at events in other parts of New Zealand.

At the beginning of 2020 our team were really excited to trial having an adviser based in Wellington. In March of 2020, I packed up my bags and made the move down to our capital, eager to launch something new and excited to work with a new region. And then COVID hit.

Fortunately, 2021 has given us a fresh start and another chance to kick start a Wellington-based role, which is great because I'm still getting used to the Wellington weather. The University of Auckland office is based in the city on Waring Taylor Street. I am always happy to meet up for a coffee and a catch up, so please let me know if you're in town! I am excited for what 2021 has to bring and am really looking forward to working more closely with schools in the wider Wellington region.



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

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