



Link NEWS

MAY 2021

Schools Partnership Office Newsletter
www.auckland.ac.nz/careersadvisers



Connected Experiences: Connecting people and technology for a better experience

Virtual Campus

In late 2020 we launched the Virtual Desktop experience as an innovative response to Covid-19 challenges. This reflects the University's commitment to explore new ways to support our students. We aim to highlight our faculties and campus culture, as well as bringing Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa to the fore. The Desktop has proven to be an invaluable tool for connecting with prospective students.

It can be personalised in many ways, including 3D items for a tailored desktop, which appear after a user answers a few questions. The items are tailored to reflect students' interests. For example, if the system detects that a student is international, it elevates information that's most relevant to them. The Desktop also includes videos featuring a wide range of students telling their stories.

Exploration, collaboration and creativity are important elements of our ongoing kaupapa. Māori and Pasifika students' viewpoints have been integral to the project, with collaboration from inception.



Your World Your way

We're excited to announce the next phase of the digital experience: Your World Your Way (YWYW). This is an expansion of the now familiar Virtual Desktop, offering a fully immersive, interactive map of Tāmaki Makaurau.

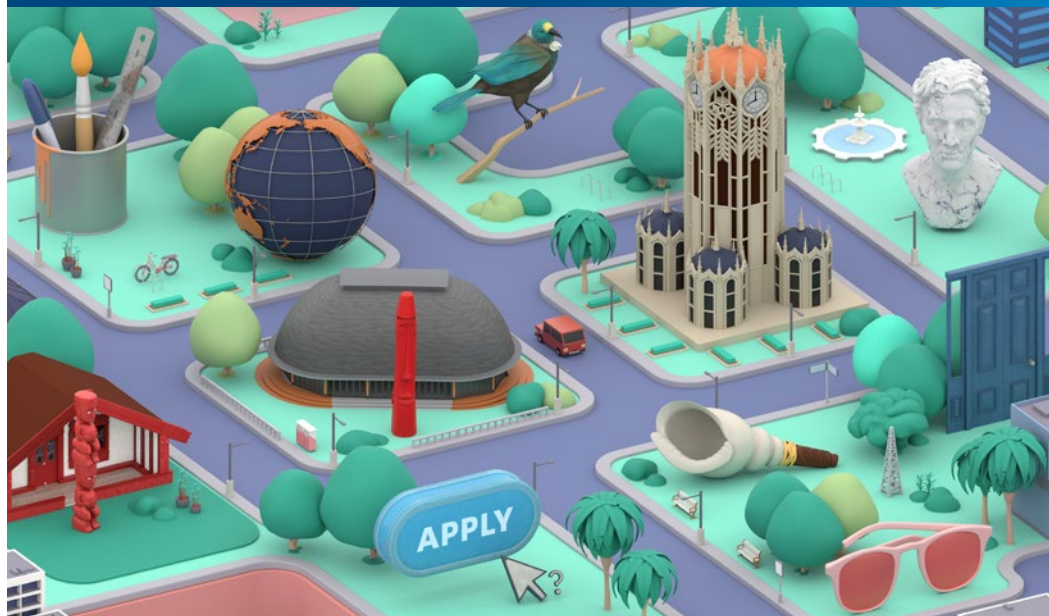
<http://yourworld.auckland.ac.nz>

Your World Your Way product owner Jason Tutara says, "It's essential that Your World Your Way engages the potential students of today, rather

than presenting a nostalgic view of campus life. The experience needs to be fun, clear and intuitive, with the ability to get to the right information quickly. There is a genuine need to provide something personal for each visitor – the parts of campus and city life that would appeal to them the most."

YWYW is also part of a bigger collaboration project designed to create more robust engagement with students at every stage of the journey – prospective, current, and alumni. It will also be built for growth, evolving to create an even richer online experience.

Watch this space!



Meet the Team



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From the Schools Partnership Office



Kia ora koutou

Welcome back from the school holidays! We hope you've had some time to rest, relax and connect with your whānau over a well-deserved break.

As we embark on what looks to be a very busy Term 2, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of the SPO. Our team have been in schools throughout the country, presenting the overview and most importantly reconnecting with you and your students. That experience was something we really missed in 2020. This year the team have

commented on the enthusiasm and energy from schools. We're looking forward to all the upcoming Careers Expos!

I would like to thank my team, superbly led by Cheryl and Teri, for their professionalism and continued passion for the job.

We look forward to Term 2 with renewed eagerness and anticipation.

Ngā mihi
Dennis

OPEN DAY

2021

In 2021 we're bringing you an exceptional dual-option format for Open Day. There's nothing like being here, so we'd love to meet you in person at **Open Day on Campus, Saturday 28 August**. This is a great opportunity to explore our City and Grafton Campuses and enjoy a huge variety of information sessions, fun activities and entertainment.

There will also be lots of stands and displays, where you can chat not only with staff but also with current students. And for those who can't make it in person, or who want to explore their options before their on-campus experience, we offer **Open Day Online, Tuesday 29 June**.



Open Day Online Tuesday 29 June
Open Day On Campus Saturday 28 August



REGISTER NOW
OPENDAY.AC.NZ

Scholarships update



Why should your students apply for a scholarship?

Scholarships and awards are a great way to kick-start tertiary education and can lessen costs. That could mean a reduced student loan or remove the need for a part-time job. In some cases, a scholarship might actually make the difference between being able to study at university or not.

Who can apply for scholarships?

Scholarships are not only available for high academic achievers. We also have scholarships and awards for students with demonstrated financial need, students from a low-decile secondary school or kura, Māori or Pacific students, students who are the first in their family to attend university, students from a refugee background, students with disabilities, and students from rural areas.

Why stay in University accommodation?

Many scholarships include University accommodation. Our Halls of Residence provide an environment that promotes academic achievement. Recent research shows that students in University accommodation have achieved higher grades than those living privately.

The Halls allow students to live in the central city in a safe location, with student services on hand. Residents have a wonderful opportunity

to build lasting friendships and develop their interests with like-minded peers. Residents also enjoy free gym membership at the University Recreation facilities on our City Campus.

What do scholarships include and what can they be spent on?

We have scholarships that include accommodation, tuition fees, fortnightly payments, and lump sum payments. Scholarship payments may be used for tuition fees, accommodation and living costs, books for study, travel to and from University, and equipment required for study (including laptops and similar devices).

How do students apply?

Before accessing any of our online scholarship application forms, students must already have applied for admission to the University. Each scholarship has a webpage that contains the regulations for the scholarship, and a link to the application form.

Applications for the 2022 School Leaver Scholarships open in May. Keep an eye on our website for any news on applications for 2022, and our updated e-book, which contains timelines and FAQs.

www.auckland.ac.nz/schoolleaverscholarships

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



Creative Arts and Industries

Dance: Move your body, your thinking and your career in the right direction

Many people are surprised at what students get from a degree in Dance Studies – beyond exceptional professional dance tuition. Our students are able to combine their love of performing and choreography with the development of arts administration, marketing, business and management skills.

Third-year Bachelor of Dance Studies student Maisie Dunning explains. “The Dance Studies programme ensures that by the end of the degree, you will have the knowledge and resources to start up your own dance business

and launch your career – whether that be in dance education (studio or school), movement therapy programmes, or other creative directing or producing roles. Grads are also ready for freelance dance and choreography, and many other business avenues outside of dance.

“You learn how to promote yourself and your personal brand and how to create business plans, contracts and applications for funding and grants.”

Students also develop transferable skills that are valued by all kinds of employers. These include presentation and communication skills, teamwork and collaboration, original thinking, time-management and organisational skills, self-discipline, creativity and flexibility, as well as analytical, critical and research skills. The programme also builds confidence and resilience.

Many graduates go on to work as dance teachers in early childhood centres or schools or as production assistants in creative fields. Others go on to build successful careers as artistic directors, arts administrators, community dance practitioners, research assistants, choreographers and of course

professional dancers. They also set up dance and event management companies.

“Studying dance, I’ve learned to overcome a lack of confidence. Dance Studies has been such a huge expressive release and lets me discover my identity and security in my own body. This is an ongoing journey and is something that I’m developing through my studies.

“The lecturers and supervisors are full of experience, passion and understanding in their field of dance. They’re warm and welcoming and genuinely interested in creating relationships with their students. Their expertise is so diverse. They’re some of the kindest and most encouraging people I know – and a huge reason why I love the Dance Studies programme.”

So if your energetic, entrepreneurial students are in a spin about what steps to take next, it might be worth suggesting that they apply for a place on this dynamic programme.

www.dance.auckland.ac.nz



Introducing the Bachelor of Communication

Communication is more important than ever in today's world. The University of Auckland's new Bachelor of Communication programme* is designed to give students an advanced understanding of the significant role communication plays in our world.

Students will be able to choose from three majors:

- **Communication and Social Change** explores messaging directed towards social change in areas such as health, sustainability and the environment.

- **Communication and Technology** investigates the connection between humans, society and machines via social media, and examines how machine-generated data impacts communication.
- **Communication in Leadership** provides knowledge and practice in leadership roles across different organisational contexts.

The programme develops skills for communications professionals in careers such as marketing communications, advertising, public relations, digital technologies, media and more.

Find out more about the Bachelor of Communication: www.auckland.ac.nz/bc

**This programme is in the process of final regulatory approval and is therefore subject to change.*





The Ako Arts programme: Finding a new place to stand together

Mātauranga Māori and Pacific knowledge are being incorporated into both course content and the class environment in the University of Auckland's Faculty of Arts. First piloted in a 2018 history course, the incorporation of Ako Arts was extended to four courses in the first semester of 2019 and four in semester two.

The new Ako Arts programme takes many forms, from rethinking the whole way a course is being delivered to inviting an expert to give a Māori or Pacific perspective on a course-related topic. It might even be something like learning and singing a class waiata or writing and saying a pepeha (personal introduction) in te reo.

"It's not about replacing one body of knowledge with another," says Dr Hirini Kaa, the faculty Kaiārahi (Mentor) who is leading the change with the full support of the Dean, Professor Robert Greenberg, and other faculty leadership.

"This is a true partnership: the reinsertion of mātauranga Māori alongside a global body of knowledge."

Dr Kaa says getting out of the lecture room is also an important part of the process for any kind of mindset shift. "For example, we took three of the academics involved in Ako Arts to Polyfest, a big South Auckland event. In that way, they could experience the vibrancy and passion of Pacific life first-hand, because this is not only a whiteboard exercise, it's a heart exercise.

"The Pacific perspective sits very naturally in the mix. Mātauranga Māori came from the Pacific over a 5,000-year journey. All those ancestors down in the whareniui at Waipapa Marae on City Campus are Pacific ancestors. We have a lot in common, we

share a lot of values, and our engagement with the Pacific deepens our engagement with mātauranga Māori rather than challenging it."

He believes the faculty has been willing to make the change for a while but until recently has lacked the driver or "external push" it's getting now from things like changes in the research funding environment and broader social developments.

"Each academic course leader was paired with a Kaiako, an embedded mentor who supported them in areas like ako (reciprocal learning, as opposed to treating students as 'empty vessels'), manaakitanga and tauhi vā (connections between people)."

One of those courses was an introduction to classics, which mainly features Greek and Roman mythology. The challenge for the lecturer, says Dr Kaa, was to work with the Ako Arts team to rethink the Eurocentric foundation of the course by using the concept of tūrangawaewae ('a place to stand').

"Where does the course stand and speak from? How do we 'do' classics in Aotearoa New Zealand in the Pacific in the 21st Century? Whose knowledge gets privileged? How can Greek and Roman mythology be read through a Māori or Pacific lens? How could that work in assessment?"

He says that far from excluding Pākehā, Asian and students of other backgrounds, this reframing worked well for them as they became interested in thinking about the Greeks and Romans in a different way. The new approach has also engaged academics in terms of their personal research.

"You see some of our top non-Māori researchers get really excited by the possibilities and potential of this in their work. The brilliant part for Māori is it only works if it's a partnership – Pākehā can't do this on their own. There are risks and downsides, change is not always comfortable, but it's got so many advantages that make it worth pursuing as a faculty and an institution."



"I was able to get an education while remaining rooted in my culture, in our stories of belonging."

Grab your copy of Arts' Tuitui: Māori and Pacific student stories

Tuitui shares some of our Māori and Pacific student journeys in the Faculty of Arts. We share these stories to show that this is a place where Māori and Pacific students not only survive, but thrive. We also want them to know that their whānau and aiga are welcome here too.

Find out how Jasmine, Faith, Kiharoa and Salome decided what they wanted to study, how they chose to navigate their way through university, and where they're headed.

Download *Tuitui* today:

www.auckland.ac.nz/tuitui-2021

Education and Social Work

Experience Days: Epsom, South Auckland and Tai Tokerau

Our upcoming Experience Days are a great opportunity for school leavers to find out more about their study options at our various campuses. They'll not only learn about the range of courses on offer, but also get a taste of campus life.

Epsom Experience Day Tuesday 3 August 2021

Tai Tokerau Experience Day Wednesday 4 August 2021

Tai Tonga Experience Day Thursday 5 August 2021

Find out more: www.education.auckland.ac.nz/info-sessions



Raymond Kaumoana, graduate: Bachelor of Education (Teaching) in Early Childhood Education

Graduate profile

Raymond Kaumoana, Early Childhood Teacher

"My teaching journey began when I went for an overseas experience to China, to teach English to young children. I really enjoyed it, but I felt that there was something missing in my teaching. I wanted to find out how children learn best at a young age, so I came back to New Zealand to study Early Childhood Education to improve the quality of my classes.

"It was really important to me that I had a recognisable degree for my CV. I chose the University of Auckland for its reputation for high-quality teaching, which is recognised around the world. The programme covers a variety of topics, and there was a good balance between theory and practical application."

"I've been a full-time teacher for almost two years now. I'm currently teaching the 2-3 year olds at Pasifika Early Learning - Le Malelega a le To'elau in Māngere. I enjoy the love that I get from the children every day. As soon as I step foot in the room, they always come and give me a big hug, and that makes my day. Watching them grow and learn makes my job worthwhile."



Stay connected

The Faculty of Education and Social Work has recently launched an Instagram account. It's a great way for high school students to connect with the faculty, get a glimpse of student life and stay up-to-date with events.

Connect with us: [@edswuoa](https://www.instagram.com/edswuoa)

Engineering

Engineering campus tours

Our Engineering students are hosting tours of the Faculty of Engineering, City Campus. It's a great opportunity to ask them questions about their favourite study spots, check out our labs and communal spaces, and get a glimpse of what first-year Engineering might look like.

www.auckland.ac.nz/engineering-tours

Engineering Info Evenings

Our popular annual Engineering Futures Evenings are back – in more locations than ever. So encourage your senior students to come and discover what it's like to study with us.

• Auckland

Wednesday 19 May, University of Auckland City Campus

Tuesday 25 May, University of Auckland City Campus

• Tauranga

Thursday 20 May, Waverly on Waiora

• Hamilton

Monday 24 May, FMG Stadium/H3

• Whangārei

Tuesday 25 May, University of Auckland Tai Tokerau Campus

• Wellington

Wednesday 26 May, Engineering NZ HQ, Level 6, 40 Taranaki Street

• Napier

Thursday 27 May, The Crown Hotel

Registrations and more details will be released soon, so keep an eye out.

www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz/efe



Graduate profile

Lara Collier

Graduate: Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Engineering Science and Bachelor of Science in Psychology

“My family always encouraged me to look up at the stars and question what might be out there, and I was always the kid who watched all the space documentaries. My passion sort of grew from that at a really young age.

“Engineering was pretty much a no-brainer, but I had no idea what I really wanted to do. I just knew that it had to be in space! I chose Engineering Science because I enjoyed the software aspects and wanted a mix of things. I hoped it would translate into space research but it was still hard to imagine at the time.

“I interned with Rocket Lab over the summer of 2019–2020, and I'm now a junior software engineer for their operational data team. I work on post-launch, building solutions for data processing and reporting. My team and I talk to key stakeholders from different engineering teams around the business so that their data can be seamless to interpret. My code has been in reports that inform decisions we make to improve launch, which is pretty cool!

“Degrees in Aerospace Engineering weren't really a thing in New Zealand when I started uni, so I chose Engineering Science because I thought it would still equip me with the skills to enter the industry. It's amazing that Rocket Lab's success has now led to the creation of New Zealand's own Space Agency. For me it would have been feasible to go overseas, but now I can enjoy an aerospace career here. And Kiwi kids now have a tangible option for them that's close to home. (Just imagine being in the small East Coast town of Mahia near Gisborne and seeing a Rocket Lab launch!)

“Space is still just so unknown, and I want to be on the frontier. I want to find out more about space and develop ideas for improving life here on Earth. Thankfully, Rocket Lab is doing just that, and I'm incredibly lucky to be taking my Engineering degree with me into this career.”





We all know that science is integral to our daily lives, but we don't often think about how important it is for us to understand scientific facts and ways of thinking. The Covid-19 pandemic and recent discussions around vaccines have shown us the value of scientific literacy, even if we don't all end up in scientific careers.

We often meet people who think they're not "clever enough" for science or that science isn't for them. We're keen to change this perception. Science is for everyone and we're particularly excited about getting school-aged children on board, who can share their enthusiasm for science with their whānau and across generations. Our academic staff have come up with lots of innovative experiences to connect young people with science and have been showcasing them at events around Auckland in the past few months.

Rotary National Science and Technology Forum

Year 12 students from all over Aotearoa were selected to attend this forum, where they got a taste of courses including Biological Sciences, Bioengineering, Psychology and Chemistry. Associate Professors Chris Squire and Jane Allison led the Biological Science activities, which involved

a species scavenger hunt and virtually shrinking students to the size of a cell to learn about molecular scale.

The aim of the forum is to give students a better understanding of the tertiary courses available, an appreciation of the place of science and technology in the wider community, and motivation to succeed. According to Chris, "We want people to not be scared of science, but to understand that science provides us with so many opportunities to make our lives better."

Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) STEM Fair

We're proud to have contributed over 10 activities to the MOTAT STEM Fair this year. Children and their families could have a go at extracting DNA from strawberries, painting their own portrait with colourful chromatography, exploring how and where precious minerals are made in the universe, and playing with mirror cabinets, all under the guidance of our expert academic staff and students.

The fair is an annual, family-friendly event held at the museum in April. Kids are encouraged to be curious, get stuck in and have a go with a variety of activities, including citizen science and research. They're also able to engage with some of New Zealand's leading scientists and technologists.

DiscoveryCamp and NanoCamp

Academic staff from the School of Chemical Sciences led activities for the MacDiarmid Institute's DiscoveryCamp and NanoCamp in January. Both camps are free residential opportunities for Year 12 and 13 students across Aotearoa, aiming to enhance interest in science and inspire a love of discovery. The camps help students to understand what it's like to be a scientist. They also guide students who wish to become one.

We were delighted to host 48 students and share our passion for science through a variety of activities. These included visits to nanoscience laboratories, hands-on activities in the fields of biosensors and microfluidics, video production, and an excursion to Tiritiri Matangi Island.

You don't need to attend one of our camps to access incredible resources from the University. Encourage your science teaching staff and all your students to visit our website.

www.science.auckland.ac.nz/teachers

The Equity Office Te Ara Tautika



Advocating for accessibility: Meet Emma

Difficulty accessing lecture and study spaces is one of the reasons students with disabilities are vulnerable to feeling marginalised on campuses.

University of Auckland student Emma Cooper-Williams has experienced these challenges first-hand. This made her the perfect person to work with Student Disability Services to help develop the University's Wayfinding app. You can download it at: www.auckland.ac.nz/wayfinding

Part of the wider Virtual Campus project, the new browser-based app allows users to view digitised maps of the University and navigate between locations.

Emma, who uses a wheelchair, helped the University project team to plot accessible routes around the

City Campus. "I learnt a lot during this process and thought about how I'd like to advocate for further initiatives where accessibility is a priority for the University."

Emma graduated in History and Social Science for Public Health in 2020 and is now studying towards an honours degree in Politics and International Relations. She's writing a dissertation about the effects of New Zealand's End of Life Choice legislation on people with disabilities, a topic that has been under-researched.

Her passion for social justice and equity will continue to drive her future endeavours, with enrolment in a masters on the horizon.

She's also been elected AUSA Postgraduate Officer for 2021. Her role is to ensure that postgraduate student perspectives are included in University decision-making.

Removing barriers to University

The University of Auckland is committed to removing barriers for staff and students who are Māori or from equity groups. This is part of our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and equitable environment for work and study.

www.equity.auckland.ac.nz

Māori and our equity groups

Māori have distinct status as tangata whenua. The University supports and provides resources for Māori.

www.auckland.ac.nz/maori

Our equity groups include:

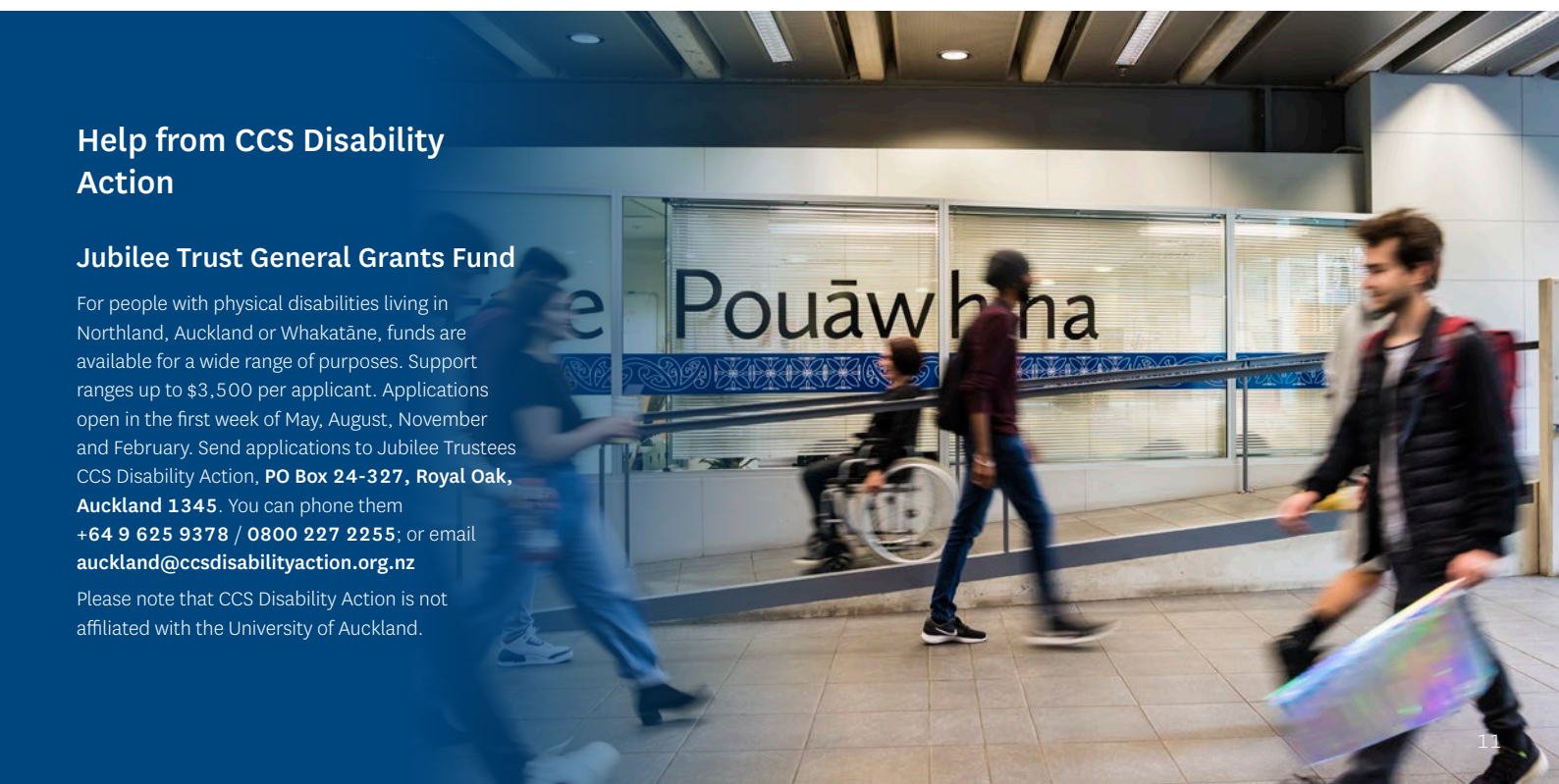
- Pacific Students: www.auckland.ac.nz/pacific
- Students with disabilities: www.disability.auckland.ac.nz
- Rainbow students (LGBTQITakatāpui+): www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/rainbow
- Students from refugee backgrounds: www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/ssrb
- Low socio-economic students: www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/lowseb

Help from CCS Disability Action

Jubilee Trust General Grants Fund

For people with physical disabilities living in Northland, Auckland or Whakatāne, funds are available for a wide range of purposes. Support ranges up to \$3,500 per applicant. Applications open in the first week of May, August, November and February. Send applications to Jubilee Trustees CCS Disability Action, **PO Box 24-327, Royal Oak, Auckland 1345**. You can phone them **+64 9 625 9378 / 0800 227 2255**; or email auckland@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz

Please note that CCS Disability Action is not affiliated with the University of Auckland.



SPOTlight!



Kia ora, Bula Vinaka, Nei Ho and Warm Greetings to everyone!

My name is Teri Fong and I'm the Senior Schools Adviser at the Schools Partnership Office.

I was 16 when I realised my passion for intersectional feminism while interning with the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. Having grown up in Fiji as a young Asian woman, it was a field that excited/inspired/fascinated/angered and moved me. I decided to leave home in Fiji to pursue a quality tertiary education. By the time I was 17, I knew that I wanted that to be at the University of Auckland.

At the time I hadn't even set foot in New Zealand, let alone the university. For me what was extremely important was ranking. A high ranking meant that my degree was going to be internationally recognised; that I would have access to state-of-the-art facilities and quality teaching; and that I'd gain the opportunity to establish important career connections. I was also excited about the prospect of living in a big city!

In 2018, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, International Relations and Gender Studies. The truth is I love that I graduated with a BA, which has prepared me to contribute to our contemporary global world. The subjects I've taken span multiple disciplines. This has helped

me to develop an understanding of the complex socio-cultural constructions of gender, race, and class – and the ways in which these play a role in democracy, human rights and peace building.

I was then appointed as a Schools Adviser here at SPO – and stepped into the senior role in the middle of the Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020. I'm so proud to work for an institution that strongly emphasises inclusive, equitable education and gender equality, not to mention the University's encouragement of innovation.

I love my role so much! Not only do I support my colleagues as a senior adviser, but I also look after a number of schools in Auckland and all the schools in the Waikato and Coromandel regions. It's such a privilege to engage with teachers and careers advisers and to build meaningful connections with young people. I aim to break barriers and misconceptions about University. I want to encourage students to think about what interests them, what drives them. The question is not where is this degree going to take them, but where will they take their degree. How can young people contribute positively to their communities? How can they become active citizens with a voice in the decisions that affect them?

One thing I pick up from students is the importance of meaningful connections with their teachers. Without that connection, learning lacks meaning. And without meaning, students often struggle to find the motivation and the energy needed for the hard work of learning. I've seen how students blossom when teachers celebrate their success. It's so motivating to know that a teacher really cares about them.



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

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