2017 Career Moves
Graduates of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Are you interested in what makes people think, human nature and the human mind? Are you creative, thoughtful and up for a challenge?

Then take a look at what’s on offer at the University of Waikato’s Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences – three schools, more than 40 subjects and five undergraduate qualifications.

With such a big and broad selection, it means you can design your study around what interests you and what you need to know to get ahead. Study should be fun, and it should be serious; and in a rapidly changing workplace, students must graduate equipped to take up and adapt to a number of different jobs.

That means understanding the mixture of societies and cultures that make up our communities at home and overseas, being able to think and argue critically, communicate and inspire.

Our graduates include politicians, filmmakers, art buyers, drama teachers, city designers, publishers, conservation officers, overseas aid workers and anthropologists.

If you’re thinking of studying with us, we have future student advisers on campus and who visit your school. They can work with you to design your own degree programme. There are scholarships available that help to reduce the costs of study.

If you pass NCEA Level 2 with Merit or Excellence (or equivalent for CIE or IB) you’ll automatically receive a scholarship – no application required. Merit endorsements receive $3,000, and Excellence endorsements receive $5,000. However, if you achieve NCEA Levels 2 and 3 with Excellence (or equivalent for CIE or IB), we’ll award you up to $7,000.

The University also offers Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarships for students who show exceptional talent in academia, leadership and sports or creative and performing arts. They receive up to $10,000 for the duration of their studies, academic support, professional development opportunities and a free gym membership.

We’re a young university, not set in our ways. We’re always testing new ideas that we think will enhance our students’ learning experiences. Part of that experience for many students is living in one of our Halls of Residence, all of which are situated on our beautiful park-like 65 hectare campus. Moving away from home is a real change, but we have support structures in place that help you adapt to living on campus. The beauty is, you never have far to walk to lectures.

If you’re thinking of studying the Arts or Social Sciences at the University of Waikato, then phone 0800 WAIKATO and talk to a future student adviser.

For more information about programmes available at the University of Waikato’s Tauranga campus visit uwt.waikato.ac.nz
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Student Accommodation: waikato.ac.nz/student-life/accommodation  

The information contained in this publication is correct at the time of printing. Our online Calendar has the most up-to-date course information: calendar.waikato.ac.nz  

Get advice  
Free advice is available at any time. Call us if you’d like help to:  
• Choose your papers  
• Find the best degree for you  
• Plan your timetable  
• Complete your application to enrol.  
To make an appointment with one of our future student advisers or arrange a tour of the campus, phone 0800 WAIKATO (0800 924 528) or 07 856 2889 or email recruitment@waikato.ac.nz  

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The Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, referred to by staff and students alike as ‘FASS’, is one of the larger faculties at the University of Waikato and is arguably the most diverse.

FASS is made up of three schools – the School of Arts, the School of Social Sciences and the School of Psychology. Across the Faculty we offer more than 40 subjects and have more than 120 academic staff members.

We offer a wide range of qualifications including bachelor degrees, graduate certificates and diplomas, postgraduate certificates and diplomas, honours and masters degrees, through to doctoral degrees.

The Faculty places emphasis on offering a comprehensive range of subjects; some that are clearly career linked, and others that can be combined in unique ways to foster students’ intellectual and employment aspirations.

**Undergraduate qualifications**

An undergraduate qualification is what’s also known as a bachelors degree. Here at FASS we offer five bachelor degrees.

If you are interested in combining several areas of study and undertaking two undergraduate degrees at the same time, a conjoint degree (also known as a double degree) will give you a great base. Popular conjoint degrees include a Bachelor of Arts with a Bachelor of Management Studies, or a Bachelor of Arts with a Bachelor of Laws.

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**Bachelor of Arts (BA)**

The BA degree has a focus on the history and the creative activities of humankind. You will learn about human nature and the human mind, revealed by the arts, the languages, the politics and cultures of the past and the present.

[waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/bachelor-of-arts](waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/bachelor-of-arts)

**Bachelor of Music (BMus)**

Study for a BMus and you will be learning from leading performers and composers with access to a world-class performing arts venue. You’ll also have the chance to share your passion and progress with the public through student recitals on campus and beyond. The BMus is a specialist degree for students with musical talent and ambition and you can choose either a performance or academic programme of study.

[waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/bachelor-of-music](waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/bachelor-of-music)

**Bachelor of Environmental Planning (BEP)**

The BEP is a specialist degree that will set you up for a career in a planning-related field. If you are interested in understanding the nature of the environment and the way in which humans interact with it, then the BEP is the degree for you. You will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be involved in planning for sustainable management of the environment. The BEP is professionally accredited with the New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI).

[waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/bachelor-of-environmental-planning](waikato.ac.nz/study/qualifications/bachelor-of-environmental-planning)
Subjects

Once you have chosen a degree, then it is time to choose a major or two to enhance your qualification. However, some people choose their subjects first, it really depends on each person, there is no right or wrong way!

• Anthropology
• Chinese
• Creative Writing
• Economics
• Education Studies
• English
• English as a Second Language
• Environmental Planning
• Ethics
• French
• Geography
• German
• History
• Human Development
• Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management (IR&HRM)
• International Languages and Cultures
• Japanese
• Labour Studies
• Linguistics
• Māori and Pacific Development
• Māori Cultural Studies/Tikanga Māori
• Mathematics
• Music
• Pacific Studies
• Philosophy
• Political Science
• Population Studies
• Psychology
• Public Policy
• Screen & Media Studies
• Social Policy
• Social Science Research
• Social Work
• Sociology
• Spanish
• Studies in Religion
• Theatre Studies
• Women’s and Gender Studies
• Writing Studies

Please note subject offerings can change, please refer to the website (waikato.ac.nz) for the most up-to-date list of subjects on offer.
Making it in LA

Shoshana’s Bachelor of Arts set her up for a career in Hollywood. For real. She works at Ghost House Productions in LA, and also does freelance work, helping Hollywood wannabes develop and write screenplays for web, television and film.

“I went straight from Sacred Heart in Hamilton to the University of Waikato, soon switched from law to arts and found my happy place. My degree introduced me to screenwriting and I realised I could and should do it for a living. I haven’t looked back.”

After Waikato and a stint of OE, Shoshana headed for the US and enrolled in a two-year Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

At Ghost House she reads screenplays, novels and short stories and assesses them for potential development, and as a screenwriter she works with clients to either adapt or write original works for film development.

Shoshana was a University of Waikato Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar, which not only meant her fees were paid while she studied, she also had opportunities to make musical videos for local bands, and short films.

“TI had some awesome lecturers at university. They believed in my talents as a writer and fostered my passion with support, advice and teaching, giving me the confidence to believe in myself.”

Part of Shoshana’s current job requires her to spend a lot of time watching television and movies so she keeps up to date with trends. “I also read a lot to improve my writing, and it’s important that I network by going to shows, premieres and galas in Hollywood and Beverley Hills.”

Shoshana has recently earned a grant from the New Zealand Writers Guild and is in the process of applying to further develop a feature film in New Zealand.

SHOSHANA SACHI
Bachelor of Arts (Screen & Media Studies and English)
Intern/Screenwriter, Ghost House Productions, Los Angeles

4 Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
**HELEN POTIKI**  
Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours (Public Policy and Political Science)  
Principal Policy Analyst, Ministry for Women, Wellington

When Helen was at high school, her teachers would ask her for her opinion a lot. “They’d encourage me to read the newspaper, watch the news and documentaries and then come to school and tell them what I thought. It wasn’t long before I was writing letters to editors and to documentary producers about policy and politics.”

So Helen went on to enrol in a Bachelor of Social Sciences majoring in Public Policy and Political Science.

“I liked that Waikato had a strong bicultural focus. I knew there was a marae on campus and a Māori Student Association so it looked like a place of learning where I would thrive.”

While studying, Helen received one of two Te Wāka Huia Scholarships, which are awarded to Māori tertiary students studying social policy. The scholarship came with a three-month internship at the Ministry of Social Development, where she spent some of her time in the office of the Minister of Social Development.

Now, as Principal Policy Analyst at the Ministry for Women, Helen leads the Government’s international reporting obligations on the status of women, including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence and Discrimination (CEDAW). This involves representing New Zealand at UN headquarters in New York.

“A typical day for me involves chipping away at complex issues by talking to others, writing policy advice and getting involved in the delivery of services to address and prevent violence against women. My degree got me a foot in the door because it was testimony to my understanding of policy, politics and the machinery of government.”

**TANIA BRYANT**  
Bachelor of Environmental Planning  
Planner, GMD Consultants, Hamilton

Born and raised by the ocean, Tania always had an interest in the coastal environment so she decided to enrol in a Bachelor of Environmental Planning at Waikato under the coastal management stream.

“I took papers in earth science including oceanography, geography and biology. I also took a law paper and a New Zealand environmental history paper.”

During her studies, Tania attended the annual NZPI Young Planners Congress conference, giving her the opportunity to meet other planners and hear from guest speakers involved in the planning field.

“I loved the wide variety of guest lecturers who taught us at Waikato and we were given the opportunity to meet planners working in the private and public sector. Exposure to people from the field helped to place what we were learning in real-life context.”

“The degree also covers important skills like report writing, understanding consents and knowing the RMA – all skills that are relevant once you get out into the work force.”

Her connections and networking established during her time at Waikato helped Tania to secure her job as a graduate planner for GMD Consultants, where her main duties involve helping the senior planners with their projects. This has taken her to Rotorua, Ngaruawahia and South Waikato. She also writes and reviews policy documents, works with resource consent applications and meets with clients.

“My degree has taught me to look at the underlying patterns of towns, cities and communities and understand how they came about and the forces that work to create them. This constantly inspires new questions about why we live the way we do.”
A stint working at the local meatpacking factory after high school convinced Puawai to broaden her horizons and apply to study at the University of Waikato.

After completing a Master of Arts, majoring in English Literature and Screen & Media Studies, she’s now Senior Curator Māori at Te Papa in Wellington.

“I was quickly convinced I didn’t want to be a labourer my whole life. So I applied to the University of Waikato and started studying in Hamilton in 1996. “I chose a whole raft of subjects in my first year to figure out what I liked doing most, and landed on English and Screen & Media.”

She says the teaching staff in the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences were “very generous” with their time and expertise, with the English Department helping her come to grips with the discipline of good writing. “I still use a lot of the writing hacks I learned there,” Puawai says.

At Te Papa, Puawai is the senior curator for the Mātauranga Māori collection. She develops exhibitions, researches and chooses materials for acquisition, works with researchers and the public to access collections and writes about museology and its future directions.

“My day is usually pretty hectic with loads of exhibition meetings, working with taonga, writing, answering lots of questions, and reading research texts.”

Puawai says completing her Masters helped her get the job at Te Papa for which she is grateful.

“My degree has given me choices in life. That is the most precious and best privilege education can give you. I want to keep studying as a lifelong journey and use those skills to develop indigenous museology in the international arena.

Photo Credit: Photographer Michael Hall, copyright Te Papa. 2015.
A fascination for how urban and rural environments are planned for and continue to function, along with a desire to work in the public sector, is what led Cosette to enrol in a Bachelor of Environmental Planning (BEP). And she chose to do it at Waikato, as it offered a planning degree accredited by the New Zealand Planning Institute.

“Completing my BEP at Waikato not only opened up basically all the doors I wanted – lifelong friends and sporting and social opportunities – it also opened the door to my dream first full-time job!”

Her field of study was Public Policy and the Environment and during her fourth year Cosette worked at a surveying consultancy in Pukekohe, gaining practical experience preparing subdivision consents and attending various site visits.

Cosette was also a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholar and excelled in Orienteering – travelling to Europe to represent New Zealand in the Junior World Orienteering Championships in 2012 and 2013. “The scholarship programme was an amazing opportunity and provided me with so much support so that I could continue to compete at the international sporting level while completing my degree.”

Upon completing, Cosette was appointed to join the Auckland Council’s two-year Planning Graduate Programme which enables her to rotate through five different planning-related departments within the Council.

“The opportunity to rotate through different departments, learning, picking up new skills and getting to help work on large, exciting and important projects, such as the Unitary Plan and the Whenuapai Structure Plan, is amazing and it makes me so excited about the future career I have ahead of me.”

“Waikato’s BEP has set me up perfectly with the skills, knowledge and the hands on experience required to do the job I am employed to do.”

Alex developed a passion for learning languages in high school while attending Western Heights in Rotorua. He chose to continue his language studies at tertiary level.

“I chose to study at Waikato because it was not too far from home and it offered the subjects that I’m very interested in, such as French and Spanish.”

Completing a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws conjoint degree, followed by a Master of Arts, was a challenging programme of study for Alex – however one which he found to be extremely rewarding.

“My degrees have provided me with a useful set of skills that I can apply to other areas of life, highlighted new interests and provided new opportunities. I’ve acquired a number of valuable skills, including time-management, public speaking, communication skills, and translation. I was able to study some mathematics, which is another area of academia that I really enjoy.”

During his undergraduate studies, Alex was fortunate to be a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Academic Excellence and a Māori Excellence Award. He also embarked on an exchange to Avignon, France. “I worked there for nine months as an English language assistant in a school. This was such an invaluable and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I’m so very grateful to have had.”

Upon returning from Avignon, Alex has taken up a tutoring position at Waikato teaching French and Spanish. “This allows me to work and share my passion for learning languages with students, from beginners to advanced learners.”
Waikato OE – Student exchange

Study and travel – get the best of both worlds

Want to study, travel and make new friends overseas while completing your FASS degree?

Travelling the world is part of the New Zealand dream. Lots of people wait until their study is complete before heading off on their big OE. But why wait? The Waikato OE is your opportunity to travel and study at the same time.

You would need to have been a student at Waikato for at least the equivalent of one year (two semesters) before applying for a student exchange – however it’s good to start thinking about it early, so that you can consider how it might fit into your programme of study.

Studying overseas adds value to your degree and helps you grow as a person. You’ll learn about global citizenship, explore new cultures, and expose yourself to new ways of learning and perceiving the world.

Check out the testimonials from some of our FASS students who have done an exchange and how the experience changed them for the better.

KATIE BABBOTT
(BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES)
University of North Carolina, Wilmington, USA

The year I spent studying abroad was a year of incredible academic and personal growth. I made incredible new friends and went on trips that I’ve wanted to make since I was a little girl. I made huge gains in confidence and I feel like I’ve come back to Hamilton a completely different person. I have zero regrets – every dollar saved and piece of paperwork signed is worth it. It’s an experience that I think everybody needs to try and have for themselves. I wish I could go back and do it all again!

AARON STEWART (BACHELOR OF ARTS)
Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka, Japan

Going on a student exchange to Japan was the best decision I have ever made! I met so many incredible people and experienced so many different things that I could not have done here in New Zealand. Some of my favourite memories include visits to temples that are hundreds of years old in Kyoto and then going shopping, partying or spending the day at Universal Studios in Osaka. During the winter break, I even went up to Tokyo and spent countless hours exploring different suburbs and going to massive car events like Tokyo Auto Salon.

Scholarships available

FASS has scholarships available for second and third year students wishing to embark on a student exchange. The FASS Exchange Scholarships are to the value of NZ $3,000 and are for domestic students enrolled in a programme of study with the Faculty.

The scholarship will typically be credited towards tuition fees, but may also be used to assist with travel and accommodation costs. The University of Waikato has exchange agreements with a huge range of universities all over the world, and the FASS Exchange Scholarship can be used towards any one of these destinations.

View the list of exchange partners online at: waikato.ac.nz/study/international/study-abroad-and-exchange/student-exchange-partners
NATALIE FOSTER (BACHELOR OF ARTS)
Maastricht University, Netherlands
I spent a Semester studying at UCM (University College Maastricht), a faculty of Maastricht University in the Netherlands. I took papers in International Relations, English Literature and History. Studying in the Netherlands gave me the opportunity to travel to many places in Europe including England, Scotland, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece. My exchange experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet new people, experience a new way of life, and see the world.

CALEB COFFEY (BACHELOR OF ARTS)
Lancaster University, England
Over six months I travelled to 15 different countries across Europe, sleeping on couches, beds, buses, trains and planes; from apartments in Stockholm to paddocks in Italy. I hitchhiked over 1,000 miles in 14 days, climbed the highest mountain in the United Kingdom and stood on the Cliffs of Moher. Studying abroad really is an unparalleled experience. It’s an opportunity to broaden your horizons and understanding of cultures; a chance to meet people and forge friendships that are unlike those you have made before.

ELOISE PIENAAR (BACHELOR OF ARTS)
International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
I was rather lucky to go to Tokyo for my exchange. It’s the centre of Japan in almost every way and as such, I never ran out of things to do. I travelled to Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost island for my first snowy Christmas. I went to a massive shrine in Harajuku during New Year. I went to Kyoto for the temples and shrines, and to Osaka for the amazing nightlife. I joined my Japanese friends for hanami (flower viewing) in Ueno Park during spring, and I went to Tokyo Disneyland on Halloween. These are the events that stood out, but every day in Japan was a new experience, and I have absolutely no regrets whatsoever about going on exchange.

MORGANA MURDOCH (BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES)
University of Hawaii – Hilo
I went to Hawaii for an exchange in A Semester. My time in Hawaii was what you’d expect from Hawaii – very relaxed, but at the same time so much fun and full of adventure. All the people are wonderful and eager to show you their favourite spot on which ever island you’ve ended up on. It’s a beautiful place that helps you get to know yourself and nature as only the expensive touristy places get the latest gear – but who wants that anyway when you can wake up to new waterfalls after a storm?

Find out more about Waikato’s student exchange programme at waikato.ac.nz/student-life/student-experience/student-exchange
Creating positive change

CHRISTINA HANNA
Bachelor of Environmental Planning
Planner, KTB Planning, Cambridge and PhD Student, University of Waikato, Hamilton

The decision to study at Waikato came easy for Cambridge High School student Christina. “It is a well-respected university, close to my hometown of Cambridge and I was offered two scholarships in my first year.”

Enrolled in a Bachelor of Environmental Planning, Christina chose to follow the Geography, Society and Politics planning stream.

Christina was fortunate to fund most of her study through scholarships including the University Entrance Excellence award, the Energy Education Trust scholarship and the Freemasons Undergraduate scholarship. She also worked part-time with the Waikato Regional Council, gaining valuable hands-on experience.

“The skills I gained from my degree are invaluable, giving me the ability and confidence to begin a career in Environmental Planning throughout and following my undergraduate studies.”

Following graduation, Christina was employed as a Planner at KTB Planning Consultants.

“My role involved processing and compiling district and regional council resource consents, policy analysis, submissions and mediation for private clients, research for long-term plan changes and subdivision and development scoping and feasibility assessments.”

Christina has recently accepted an external study award to undertake a PhD in Environmental Planning at Waikato.

“My doctorate will explore how New Zealand communities can become more resilient to natural hazards, but it will also provide further opportunities for the future and to enhance my research experience and academic skills.”

ZOE LARGE
Master of Social Sciences with First Class Honours (Psychology)
Intelligence Analyst, New Zealand Police, Hamilton

The decision to study at Waikato came easy to Bethlehem College student Zoe. “It is a well-respected university, close to my hometown of Tauranga and I was offered two scholarships in my first year.”

Zoe gained an extensive knowledge base and range of skills as she progressed from a Bachelor of Social Sciences through to a Master of Social Sciences. All of which has come in handy for her job with the New Zealand Police.

“My qualifications have been essential in gaining my current position. I have a lot of responsibility for a job straight out of University and I have a lot of opportunities for career development.”

Zoe chose to major in Psychology with a supporting major in Sociology. “I chose Psychology to learn about the influences behind people’s behaviour, and I chose Sociology to gain a deeper understanding of the way society and culture impact on people.”

As part of her studies Zoe co-authored an evaluation of the Māori and Pasifika Trade Training Programme at Wintec and also authored a thesis on women’s experiences of body image during pregnancy. She also gained six scholarships, which included the University of Waikato Masters Research Scholarship.

“I gained experience in research design, data collection, critical analysis, and report writing. My studies also developed my interpersonal skills through learning to work collaboratively and engage with a wide variety of people.”

In her role with the New Zealand Police, Zoe looks at trends and patterns in crime and offending, provides analysis of issues and offers solutions. “It is really rewarding knowing that the work I do has an influence on the community.”
Making a difference

RICHARD BROWNE
Bachelor of Arts (History and English)
National Director of Education, Holocaust Centre of New Zealand
and ‘soon-to-be’ Head of Education Waitangi Trust Grounds, Wellington

Once Richard got to Waikato, he found it difficult to leave. He did a Bachelor of Arts, Postgraduate Honours in History and then a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching.

“My time spent at University was golden. I loved learning, improving myself and knowing that one day I could pass on that mind-set to other people to better their lives.”

At the Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, Richard is involved in developing Holocaust education for teachers. “I encourage them to think about using the Holocaust as a means of extending the ideas of tolerance, anti-racism and democratic thinking with the national curriculum on a daily basis.”

The Centre is open to the public, so Richard is talking regularly to people who had family connections with World War II; he updates social media, and works on education programmes.

“My studies have been enormously useful for me in becoming an educator. My writing, communication and research skills improved during my tertiary years and my study also developed in me a keen willingness to look for the ‘avante garde’ in education.”

And while history is his subject by day, Richard says it’s important to look beyond the present and be passionate about your own future. He’s interested in using technology as more than “just” a tool, and more as a means to shift or modify learning paradigms in a positive way.

“I think the mobile learning face of education has barely been scratched. I want to be part of spearheading virtual reality and innovation in education; I’m making that initiative for change by taking up a new role as Head of Education at the Waitangi Trust Grounds.”

Supporting young people

LYNLEY TATE
Bachelor of Social Work
Community Youth Worker and Mentor, New Zealand Blue Light

Having worked as a travel agent for four years, Lynley decided to make a career change and one that would enable her to make a difference to society. So she enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work at Waikato’s Tauranga campus.

Now employed as a Youth Worker and Mentor with New Zealand Blue Light, a registered charity that works in partnership with the Police, Lynley is out there making a difference to the lives of young people and their families.

“I oversee and participate in a variety of national programmes. One is the North Island Blue Light Life Skills Camps, held in partnership with the NZ Defence Force. These camps provide students not only with the tools to be successful but also with a brief insight into what life could be like if they chose a career with the Defence Force or Police.”

Other programmes she is involved with include the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, TradeZone Kids Gone Fishing, Prime Minister’s Youth Programme and the rural farm safety programme.

Her studies prepared her well for taking on such a role. She completed a work placement in her third year of study with the Department of Corrections and one in her fourth year with Child, Youth and Family.

“Both of these placements gave me a chance to put my knowledge to the test and my placement with Child, Youth and Family helped me get the role I have now, as I was given an understanding of how to work with at risk youth and the importance of prevention.

“My degree has assisted me to get the most rewarding job you could ever ask for. For me, you don’t get a more positive career than been able to empower youth to reach their full potential.”
Kelley Tantau

Bachelor of Arts (Writing Studies)

Reporter, Fairfax Media – Hamilton Press, Hamilton

A work placement with newspaper while completing her degree set Kelley in good stead for a career in journalism.

She is now a reporter for the Hamilton Press – conducting interviews, taking photographs, managing social media content and writing articles about people, events and organisations in the local community. A job which she cherishes.

“I love my current career. Community papers are a great way to spread good news and put a smile on someone’s face. As long as I’m writing stories people want to read, I’ll be happy.”

The former Whangarei Girls’ High School student was attracted to Waikato by the writing programme. She enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Writing Studies but also had the opportunity to include papers in English, Media Studies, Communications and Creative Writing into her flexible programme of study.

“The subjects I chose were all subjects that I found interesting and knew I would enjoy doing. I also took general spelling and grammar papers because I knew it would be beneficial to have those skills and I chose papers that allowed me to hone in on my writing ability.”

Kelley was also given the necessary hands-on experience when she completed a work placement with a community newspaper in Morrinsville.

“My work placement was both an achievement and a wonderful experience. It was from my placement that I learnt how to incorporate what I learnt at University into the “real-world” and it made me realise just how much I love to meet people in the community and share their stories.

“This experience led me to get the job that I have today.”
Looking at the bigger picture

Music to his ears

RACHAEL MCMILLAN
Master of Social Sciences with First Class Honours (Demography)
Strategic Analyst, Hamilton City Council, Hamilton

Intensely curious about the world and a big-picture thinker, Rachael found studying the social sciences to be a perfect match for her. She initially completed a Bachelor of Science in Ecology under the Environmental Science and Resource Planning pathway (the precursor to the Bachelor of Environmental Planning). After raising a family, Rachael returned to complete a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Planning.

“When I came back to further my studies as an adult student I found work as a Research Assistant in the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA) – a research institute based within FASS.”

An interest in demography developed during this time and after completing her diploma she became a Research Officer in NIDEA for 15 months.

“While working for NIDEA I discovered that population studies is a fascinating subject as the changes in population and the structure of populations underpins every facet of how our societies function – health, infrastructure, housing, politics, education, sustainability – to name just a few.”

An opportunity arose for Rachael to undertake a masters in Demography alongside a Marsden-funded project on demographic change.

Rachael now works for the Hamilton City Council as a Strategic Analyst. Her role involves desk-based research, providing the Council with demographic data, consultation, surveys, project management of internal and external projects, and much more.

“My masters was a direct link to getting my current job. While I was still a student I was commissioned by the Local Authority Shared Services to write a report on my masters research. This report was commissioned as a background document for the Joint Committee of the Waikato Plan and I was hired by Hamilton City Council as a result of the work that I did for this plan.”

Nick’s postgraduate journey at Waikato has seen him travel to the USA, UK, France, Germany, Norway and Australia to present at conferences and give lectures in other universities; event manage the first inaugural Waikato International Cello Fest and take a lead role in launching Waikato’s new Songwriting course.

“It is this breadth of experience gained during my studies that has been the biggest benefit of studying at Waikato. Ultimately, gaining my postgraduate degrees has allowed me to get a fantastic teaching and research position.”

A further highlight for Nick was completing a musical analysis of British rock band Queen’s studio recordings between 1973 and 1980 for his PhD thesis. He even got to meet and interview Queen guitarist Brian May. “He gave many insights into what occurred behind the studio doors, and these provided an invaluable complement to my own analysis.”

Nick now works at Hamilton’s Wintec teaching three or four courses per semester, playing the piano as an accompanist for singing students, as well as writing and researching for upcoming conferences or publications.

“My degree involved a lot of analysis of music, which has meant developing a really strong understanding of how songs and pieces are constructed. This knowledge has helped me a lot with teaching as it means I have the skills to cover a range of courses across the Music programme at Wintec.”
Analysing crime data to provide solutions for improving communities is the job of a New Zealand Police Intelligence Analyst – a job that Waikato graduate Zoe has landed.

From a young age, Zoe knew she wanted to follow a career path with the police. She chose to study a Bachelor of Social Sciences majoring in Psychology. The flexibility of her degree also allowed her to take a supporting Sociology major, which included papers in Criminology.

"I had heard from others that Waikato had one of the best Psychology programmes in the country, and when I compared the papers that universities around New Zealand had to offer, Waikato had the most appealing."

Aside from gaining a broad foundation of knowledge, Zoe's degree also brought her the necessary practical experience which helped her land her current position.

"I completed a work placement with the New Zealand Police in Hamilton during my final semester. Getting the hands-on experience, and seeing what work with the police consisted of, made me dead-set on following this career path."

Her role as an Intelligence Analyst is to create products that address identified national and/or local priorities, such as organised crime and road policing, and to inform and support the prevention, intervention and enforcement activities relating to these identified problems.

"Without a doubt my work placement through the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences helped me get the job I have now, as it gave me the foot in the door I needed."

"If you are determined and willing to seize opportunities, then Waikato really is an ideal place to go. It has the ability to open up opportunities that will get you onto an awesome career path.”
Building a career in policy

AMY NINNES
Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology), Bachelor of Social Sciences with Honours (Public Policy) and Graduate Diploma (Screen & Media Studies)
Policy Analyst, Auckland Council, Auckland

After spending some time abroad travelling around the UK, Europe and India, Amy returned home to study. Her travels had enhanced her interest in other cultures, politics and the arts in the general – leading her to want to study these subjects at university.

Amy embarked on a well-rounded programme of study which included Anthropology, Political Science, Public Policy, Philosophy, Sociology, Religious Studies and Screen & Media Studies.

“My studies gave me a hunger for learning, empathy in understanding the position of others, appreciation for the complexity of many social and environmental issues, and a passion for making a positive difference.

“I am equipped with a range of conceptual frameworks and strategic thinking skills, analytical techniques, and skills in both qualitative and quantitative research.”

Amy now works as a Policy Analyst for the Auckland Council where she conducts research, works with relevant stakeholders (including the community), analyses risks and issues, develops policy recommendations and reports to decision-makers – a role which she attributes to her Waikato degree.

“Competition for policy roles is high, and many applicants have policy qualifications. The practical experience incorporated into the degree at Waikato meant that I could provide examples of how my policy skills were put into practice to help a real organisation.

“My degree in Anthropology, passion for film and supporting the arts, and experience working in the community gave me an extra edge in my application.”

All things media

FLORIS VAN GALEN
Bachelor of Media and Creative Technologies with Honours (Screen & Media Studies)
Self-Employed Director and Contractor for 90 Seconds

Floris lives and breathes media – and he has done so since high school. With a desire to explore a career in filmmaking, Floris decided to enrol in Screen & Media Studies at Waikato.

“I studied at Waikato because I wanted a higher level of education and to be in an environment where like-minded people came to share their passions. I wanted to hone my skills by focusing all my energies on media papers that I felt would benefit my learning.”

Floris continued on to complete Honours and was awarded a FASS Honours Postgraduate scholarship. He was also given plenty of hands-on experience and completed a paper which had him creating a short-film for a festival – this included getting Kimberley Crossman from Shortland Street and Deathgasm involved.

“My degree helped me better understand myself and my intentions which showed me that choosing to pursue independent filmmaking was a decision I knew I had to make.”

Now working in the industry as a self-employed director, Floris is putting his degree to good use and one day hopes to lead high-budget film productions.

“When I’m directing, it is essentially a juggling act. Ensuring everything is going according to plan requires a lot of dexterity. Being in charge of the entire process means continuously communicating with cast and crew members and making sure that everyone is where they should be.”

And any time he’s not making media, he is consuming it. “I think one’s imagination is only as broad as the amount of content that they’ve been exposed to. That means reading novels, watching film and viewing television programmes. It all sums up to a higher understanding of the art form.”
The world-class academics and writers made Waikato the obvious choice for Dave, who wanted to study English at tertiary level.

He completed his Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English with a specialisation in Creative Writing, and then continued on to do a Master of Arts with a thesis on food in literature during Britain’s Second World War austerity years.

“English and Creative Writing go hand in hand; studying these together means I can explore the creative and academic sides of writing and think about what makes writing really tick. The amazing English programme has really nurtured me throughout my Arts degree and into postgraduate study – they’re always there to support and encourage you to do your best.”

Over the summer of 2014/2015, Dave had the opportunity to participate in a summer research scholarship for the English programme, gaining research experience by working in his chosen field.

His postgraduate study has opened many doors to copy editing and publication, including paid work for website and poetry editing. He is the Deputy Editor for the University of Waikato’s Mayhem Literary Journal and gets to see some incredible creative writing from students and staff from Waikato and beyond.

“Thanks to the skills honed during my Master of Arts, I’m now working on a manuscript for publication and submitting to literary journals across New Zealand.

“I would love to copy edit for a publishing house one day while also working on my own writing, or teach creative writing and (hopefully) inspiring another generation of readers and writers.”

Dave’s advice for those considering study at Waikato – “Try everything. Waikato offers flexible programmes, so you can take papers from across the campus and specialise in nearly anything. And take some English papers, because a little skill in reading and writing goes a long way.”
Employers are on the look-out for graduates with a strong set of transferrable skills.

Whether it’s harnessing your creative skills with Screen & Media Studies, stimulating your curiosity with Psychology, or making a difference with Environmental Planning or Social Work, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has a range of flexible study options that will set you up for future success.

Find out more about our online and on-campus study options at waikato.ac.nz/go/fass