SUPERVISOR/S: Annika Hinze and Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai
PROJECT TITLE: A place and its people: co-designing a location-based app for the University
FIELD: Information Systems / interdisciplinary / history & culture
DIVISION/SCHOOL: HECS - School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences
PROJECT LOCATION: Hamilton

PROJECT ABSTRACT:
The project will produce a location-based app that will tell the story about the history of the university, the land and its people. It will provide staff with information about the history of the place through a collection of stories and narratives, which can be explored by walking the university grounds.

The app supports people who wish to attend Marae events but are unfamiliar with the protocols. It will teach its users how to sing the university waiata, and a number of simpler waiata that will come handy when attending events that follow Māori protocols. Throughout the project, these ideas will be developed further.

The app will be co-designed with Māori colleagues. It will combine and extend technology from previously developed apps (such as the Waiata app co-designed with Whakatōhea iwi, and an app co-designed with Manawanui Development Ltd Partnership and Te Kotahi Research Institute).

The main work for the student will be the collection of data and stories for the app, and the location-based tagging of the narratives. The student does not need to know how to create software, but rather engage with the collection, geo-tagging and presentation of the material.

STUDENT SKILLS:
• Curiosity about people, communities, and their history, willingness to work with diverse stakeholders and communities
• Creativity and storytelling ability, and interest to learn how to set up and co-design an app
• Experience or interest in user exploration and interaction design
• People skills, open mind, critical thinking
• Knowledge of Te Reo not essential but could be helpful

PROJECT TASKS:
• Co-design of app interactions with relevant community stakeholders
• Researching university history and stories, and their relation to the places and locations of the university grounds
• GPS-based location tagging of stories (e.g. via using Google My Map)
• Collecting and recording a selection of waiata (e.g., to be sung by members of the the university’s Kapa Haka group)
• Compiling of information to support staff attending Powhiri and other Māori-led events (eg protocol and waiata)
• Planning and carrying of user evaluation of user experience of app

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:
• Student’s Research Poster (as per clause 6 of the Scholarship regulations)
• Functional app for Waikato staff (and possibly students) suitable for iOS and Android
• A collection of stories, waiata and other resources relating to the University grounds, including location tagging
• User feedback on app
• Project report