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Disclaimer
The information in this publication is correct at the time of publication. The University reserves the right to make alterations to the information contained in the publication without prior notice. Information is subject to change. For more information visit waikato.ac.nz/students/graduation
The University of Waikato story

The University of Waikato owes its existence to a handful of Hamilton locals who fought loudly for eight years, on behalf of the people of Waikato, to establish their own university.

It seemed reasonable. New Zealand already had four universities in the main centres. Why not the Waikato? Since then we’ve never been afraid to do things differently.

After several rebuffs the University of South Auckland Society was formed. The Society’s first founder was Douglas Seymour, a barrister and solicitor reminiscent of Rumpole, who sprinkled his speech with Greek and Latin quotes. Seymour set out to “kill to establish something [he] believed in”. Thankfully, it never came to that, but his passion was never in question.

In 1964 the University of Waikato was officially opened by then Governor-General Sir Bernard Fergusson (later Lord Ballantrae).

Local iwi supported the proposal as well. King Korokī invited the University’s founding Chancellor to Tūrangawaewae marae and presented the fledgling institution with a carved Pouwhenua. The Pouwhenua still serves as the official mace of the University Council and takes pride of place during the marae graduation. The University sits on Waikato-Tainui land, and was the first university to have a dedicated programme in Māori Studies.

Our Hamilton campus now covers 65 hectares and is a far cry from its modest beginnings in 1964 on what was largely farmland, with a handful of temporary buildings and a few staff.

Today the University of Waikato is home to more than 12,000 students and has continued to be a nurturing environment for independent thought and progressive learning. In 1989 (with a little help from NASA) we connected New Zealand to the Internet before going on to become the first university in New Zealand to have cyber-graduates, completing their teaching degrees online.

In 1998 we took a major initiative into Tauranga and formed an alliance with the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic to facilitate teaching in the Western Bay of Plenty. For the first time university courses became available here, taught completely face-to-face in a city outside of Hamilton. In 2001 the first students from the University of Waikato at Tauranga graduated at a ceremony held in Tauranga.

In 2019, the University opened its new University-led campus in the heart of Tauranga city, giving students in the region even greater study options. The new campus has allowed the University to increase the range of qualification and study options available to students in the Bay of Plenty.
Graduation through the ages

University graduation ceremonies have been tradition for more than 800 years. They began in Europe back in the 12th century, when universities were first established and Latin was the language of scholarship.

Origin of the word 'university'

A universitas was a guild or union of masters (MAs) who had a licence to teach. Both "degree" and "graduate" come from gradus, meaning step; the first step was admission to a bachelors degree, followed by the second masters step which won the graduate admission to the universitas.
Academic dress

Academic gowns represent a tradition that originates from the Middle Ages. At that time they were a common form of dress and were retained by the clergy when the laity adopted more modern styles. The early European universities were founded by the church; the students, being clerics, were obliged to wear the prescribed gown at all times. It is often suggested that gowns and hoods were the simplest most effective method of staying warm in the unheated stone buildings which housed medieval scholars. Caps, originally rounded, are now square mortarboards; hoods, originally cowled, were attached to the gown and could be slipped over the head for warmth.

New Zealand universities have a system of academic dress, worn by graduates to indicate their degree.

If you graduate in person, you must wear the appropriate academic dress for your qualification – ie Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate. Academic dress is ceremonial and worn over reasonably formal clothes at your graduation ceremony.

If you are receiving a diploma or certificate, and you already have a degree, you should wear the appropriate academic dress for that degree. If you are not a graduate, you should wear an undergraduate gown without a hood or mortarboard.

Please note that you will be required to go up on stage to receive your certificate. Appropriate clothing and footwear should therefore be a consideration.

You need to organise your academic dress in advance of your graduation ceremony.

Details on how to hire your regalia, where to collect it, and how to wear your gown, hood and mortarboard are available on the academic dress website academicdress.co.nz
General information

Graduand Registration
The smooth running of the ceremony is dependent upon the venue registration process which confirms your arrival at the venue. Please ensure you arrive one hour before your ceremony is scheduled to start.

Claudelands – please go to the Exhibition Hall to register.
Te Kohinga Mārama Marae – please go to the marae ātea to register.

Tickets
Graduands do not require a ticket for themselves.

- For Claudelands Graduation, graduands are entitled to two complimentary tickets for friends or family. These can be printed from the Ticketek website using a promo code that will be sent to you by the Graduation Office at least two weeks before your graduation ceremony. Additional tickets can also be purchased through Ticketek. Visit premier.ticketek.co.nz
- Tickets are not required for Te Kohinga Mārama Marae Graduation.
Graduation photography

Official graduation photography
The official University of Waikato photographer is Global-Pix.com

They will photograph each graduate on stage and offer formal studio sittings after each ceremony. If you would like a formal studio photo, we recommend you book a sitting in the Global-Pix studio prior to your graduation.

Bookings for portrait sittings can be made by phoning 0800 526 496 or online at global-pix.com/bookings/Waikato

All graduation photos will be available to view and order online at Global-Pix.com one working day after your graduation.

Branded sign on campus
As part of celebrating graduation, the University will have a branded sign on the Hamilton campus for graduates who want to take photos with their family and friends. The sign will be situated on the lawn by the Student Centre and the Aurei sculpture on the graduation ceremony days.

There will also be branded signs for photos at the Tauranga campus and Te Kohinga Mārama Marae on the day of graduation.
Te Kohinga Mārama Marae Graduation

The Marae graduation ceremony is open to all University of Waikato graduands and is underpinned by tikanga Māori. It is a culturally unique way to celebrate success with your whānau / family, friends and staff.

Address
Te Kohinga Mārama Marae
Hamilton campus, Gate 4 Hillcrest Road, Hamilton

Parking
Please note there is no parking available in Gate 4 of the University; however, parking is available in University car parks within walking distance of the Marae.

Ceremony times
Details of graduation ceremony dates and times are available on the Graduation Ceremonies webpage waikato.ac.nz/students/graduation/ceremonies

Proceedings
• Please arrive in your regalia 60 minutes before your ceremony is due to start. It is important that you arrive early, otherwise you will miss the registration process for your ceremony.
• Leave any personal belongings with your guests. You need to have your hands free when you go up on to the mahau and may not be seated in the same seat after presentation of your qualification.

Pōwhiri
• The ceremony begins with a formal pōwhiri (welcome). Graduands come onto the marae before the pōwhiri commences, while whānau assemble at Gate 4 on Hillcrest Road to be called onto the marae.
• When the karanga (call) commences, whānau and friends will ascend onto the marae; staff will guide them towards the correct seating area.
• Whaikōrero (speeches of welcome) and waiata (song) will follow in accordance with Tainui tikanga (protocol).
• After the formal speeches, the harirū (shaking of hands and hongi) will signal the conclusion of that part of the process.
• After the pōwhiri, University Council members, senior staff and graduands move back up the hill to prepare for the Procession. The gathering will stand and be called onto the marae.
• A marshal will lead each row of graduands to stand beside the seats to the right of Te Ao Hurihuri (the meeting house). Please stay in your line order.
Te Kohinga Mārama Marae Graduation (continued)

Receiving your qualification on the mahau

Graduands are often acknowledged with one waiata or haka. Whānau and friends should be appropriately prepared if they wish to support in this manner, but there is no compulsion to do so. Please remind your whānau to be respectful of the other people in attendance by keeping the waiata or haka to an appropriate length.

• When your name is called out, walk across the marae ātea and up onto the mahau to the Chancellor. Your whānau will be able to accompany you to a designated point on the marae ātea if they wish to. Only graduands may go onto the mahau.
• If you are receiving a certificate or diploma, and have already been conferred with a degree, wear your mortarboard to walk onstage. The Chancellor will shake your hand.
• If you are receiving a degree, hold your mortarboard in your left hand as you walk on stage. Pass the mortarboard to the Chancellor; he will place it on your head and shake your hand.
• Walk across the mahau to the Vice-Chancellor or Dean, who will hand you your certificate and shake your hand while your official photograph is taken. Whānau can take photos of you receiving your award from their seats or from the designated point on the marae ātea. Please note that selfies are not permitted on stage.
• Leave the mahau and return to your seat. Your whānau and friends will also be guided to return to their seats.

There will be a dedicated space for whānau to take photos with their graduands at the conclusion of the ceremony. Please respect your fellow graduands by staying until the end.

Refreshments

All graduating students and their whānau are invited to an informal social gathering after the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served and you can mingle with academic staff and other graduates. Graduands are advised to make city dining arrangements early to secure a booking.
Claudelands Graduation

Address
Claudelands Events Centre, Corner of Brooklyn Road and Heaphy Terrace, Claudelands, Hamilton.

Parking
Public parking is through gates 2 and 3 only. A fee of $5.00 applies.

Parade
Please join the procession, together with family and friends, on the day of your graduation.

Parades will be held on Tuesday 10 December and Wednesday 11 December. You are requested to arrive, in full academic dress, by 12:30 for the City Welcome. The procession will leave Garden Place at 12.45pm to arrive at Claudelands Events Centre by 1.15pm.

There may be a cancellation due to rain. Please check waikato.ac.nz/students/graduation/city-processions for more information.

Ceremony times
Details of graduation ceremony dates and times are available on the Graduation Ceremonies webpage waikato.ac.nz/students/graduation/ceremonies

Proceedings
Please arrive in your regalia 60 minutes before your ceremony is due to start. It is important that you arrive early, otherwise you will miss the registration process for your ceremony.

• Leave any personal belongings with your guests. You need to have your hands free when you go up on to the stage and may not be seated in the same seat after presentation of your qualification
• Go to the marshalling area (your guests should move into the arena to be seated)
• Look for your name on the marshalling boards – names are listed alphabetically under the qualification you are receiving
• Take note of your registration number (a letter and number combination) and line up in order of that number – marshals are there to assist you
• Five minutes before your ceremony you will be led to the arena; please stay in your lines
• Once the processional music begins, a marshal will lead you into the arena
• Marshals will guide you to your seating row
• Remain standing until all members of the procession have reached their seats
• After the ceremony, you will assemble in the Heaphy Rooms where you will be met by your family and guests.
Claudelands Graduation (continued)

Light refreshments
All graduating students and their guests are invited to join University staff after each ceremony for complimentary light refreshments. Graduands are advised to make city dining arrangements early to secure a booking.

Please note that food and drink will not be available for purchase from Claudelands before or during the graduation ceremony.

Information for guests

- Doors open 45 minutes before each graduation ceremony.
- Please ensure you are seated 10 minutes prior to ceremony commencement and remain seated outside of announced breaks.
- If you are late to the ceremony, a lock-out will apply for the first 20 minutes of each graduation ceremony. Talk to a staff member who will direct you to your seat once the ceremony opening formalities have finished.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the auditorium, and mobile phones must be switched off during the formal graduation ceremony.
- If you have any cultural requirements that may impact ceremony proceedings or if any of your guests require assistance, please let us know by emailing graduation@waikato.ac.nz prior to the event.
- After the ceremony, you can meet your graduate in the Heaphy Rooms.
Beyond Graduation

While graduation may mark the beginning of a new chapter, it does not mean the end of your connection with Waikato.

Waikato Alumni Community

After graduating, you are automatically part of the alumni community of the University of Waikato. As alumni, you will receive quarterly newsletters, exclusive offers and benefits, and invitations to alumni events in New Zealand and around the world.

For more information visit alumni.waikato.ac.nz

Stay Connected

Stay connected and continue a rewarding relationship with your University and fellow Waikato alumni. Our Alumni Relations team coordinates continuing connection with alumni, to keep you updated on what’s new to the University, and other relevant information.

Keep up to date

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#WaikatoAlumni
WHERE THE WORLD IS GOING
TE AHUNGA O TE AO