

UNISTART PROGRAMME 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Tē Whare Wānanga o Waikato

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Nau mai | Welcome to Unistart

Are you a secondary student wanting to get a head start in tertiary education?

The Unistart programme may be for you!
Complete university papers while you are still at school.

Not only does the programme offer a stimulating challenge, it boosts confidence and gives insight into what it takes to study at university level. There are more than 60 papers to choose from, many of which are taught online.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about Unistart or need a helping hand with the process, we're happy to help.

Visit waikato.ac.nz/study/unistart

Unistart Programme Coordinator
unistart@waikato.ac.nz

If you would like to speak to someone about how Unistart can help with your future tertiary study, please book an appointment with one of our Future Student Advisors by visiting waikato.ac.nz/study/student-advisors.





What does a Unistart paper involve?

Unistart papers are generally run over one trimester and are worth 15 points. The workload is around 10 hours per week, which can include time watching online lectures, reading online course materials, lab work, working on assignments or preparing for and sitting tests and exams.

Entry Requirements

Unistart is open to all year 12 and 13 secondary school students who:

- Have met the criteria for discretionary entrance to the University.
- Have New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.
- Have their NCEA Level 2 Certificate or above endorsed with Merit or Excellence.
- Are between 16 and 20 years old at the start of the Unistart paper.
- Have approval from their school.

Unistart Scholarship

The University of Waikato Unistart Scholarship covers the cost of up to two Unistart papers. Students will automatically be considered for this scholarship when accepted into the Unistart Programme – no additional application is required.

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

As well as meeting the entry requirements for Unistart, you will also need:

- NCEA Level 2 Certificate or above endorsed with merit or excellence; and
- New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.

Crediting Unistart papers

Most completed Unistart papers can be credited towards an undergraduate (Bachelors) degree at the University of Waikato to give you a head start in completing your qualification. If you want to transfer your Unistart credit to another University, you will need to get in touch with them to find out about their credit process.

Applying in 3 easy steps

1

Get the right advice

Your school career advisor and our Unistart Coordinator can help you select the papers that are best for you. For study advice, email unistart@waikato.ac.nz

Note: Before you can apply for Unistart, your school needs to enter into a Unistart Agreement with us. We'll organise this directly with your school so be sure to inform your school of your plans before you start this process.

2

Apply to enrol

Once you know what papers you want to study and you have received your school's approval to do Unistart, visit waikato.ac.nz/study/unistart to complete your school approval form and submit an online application to enrol.

3

Completion of enrolment

If you meet the Unistart Scholarship eligibility criteria, as well as the programme entry requirements, you will need to select your paper/s. Then you will receive an enrolment agreement. Accepting this agreement will give you access to your paper. If you are unsuccessful in meeting the Unistart Scholarship eligibility criteria, but have met the programme entry requirements, your offer will include paper fees. If this is the case, we will get in contact with you to get confirmation that you want to proceed with the enrolment, before we finalise the application.

2026 unistart papers taught Flexibly

Flexibly taught Unistart papers allow students to choose between studying fully online or on-campus.

Enjoy the flexibility of studying either online or on-campus. Students opting for online learning will primarily be taught through our Moodle platform where students can watch uploaded lectures, interact with their tutors, access paper specific resources and have forum discussions with other students. If you choose to study at our Hamilton or Tauranga campuses, you will attend lectures, tutorials, labs and workshops alongside other University of Waikato students enrolled in the paper.

If you have any questions about a specific flexibly taught paper, please get in touch with the listed contact person.



Communication

Communication Competencies

COMMS101-26B (HAM) - 15 points

From traditional face-to-face conversation to digitally mediated interactions, communication is layered with social meaning that both replicates and constitutes our identities.

Contact: Julie Barbour - julie.barbour@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

English

Telling the story

ENGLI100-26A (HAM) - 15 points

This paper examines the deep stories which are at the core of the English literary tradition and the wider Western canon, using picturebooks, fairytales, popular film, detective fiction and short stories.

Contact: Kirstine Moffat - kirstine.moffat@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Adapting Stories

Engli101-26b (ham) - 15 points

This paper explores the art of adaptation, examining the process of transformation that occurs when creative artists reimagine and retell stories in new ways and new media.

Contact: Benjamin Djain - benjamin.djain@waikato.ac.nz

Matthew Hayward - matthew.hayward@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	ENTRY	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Environmental Planning

Introduction to Environmental Planning

ENVPL100-26A (HAM) - 15 points

This paper focuses on the built and natural environments of New Zealand. What are the big environmental issues? How should our towns and cities grow? Which natural resources require protection and how? Students will be introduced to the theory and practice of planning in order to provide an overview of the nature and purpose of planning.

Contact: Christina Hanna - christina.hanna@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Future Cities

ENVPL101-26B (HAM) - 15 points

Urban areas are under increased pressure from population growth, development, natural hazards and climate change. These pressures are set to continue into the future and pose considerable challenges for both planning new urban areas and retrofitting existing ones. This paper focuses on the planning challenges for urban areas in the New Zealand context.

Contact: Silvia Serrao-Neumann - silvia.serrao-neumann@waikato.ac.nz

TEaching dates	Location	ENTRY	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

International Languages and Cultures

Global Languages and Cultures

INTLC101-26B (HAM) - 15 points

This paper introduces students to major world cultures and their languages in a comparative context. Students will gain a critical understanding of culture and diversity through examining the languages and cultures of China, France, Japan, Korea, Spain and Latin America.

Contact: Maria Galikowski - maria.galikowski@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Spanish for Beginners

SPNSH131-26B (HAM) - 15 points

Learn the basics of written and spoken Spanish including greetings, family, city life and daily routines. No previous knowledge of Spanish is needed.

Contact: Maria Ble-Herrero - maria.ble-herrero@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Intermediate Spanish 1

SPNSH231-26A (HAM) - 15 points

Extend your previous knowledge of Spanish to express past and future situations. Topics will include shopping, local places of interest, and employment.

Contact: Maria Ble-Herrero - maria.ble-herrero@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need 14 credits at Level 3 in NCEA Spanish.	20 February 2026

Intermediate Spanish 2

SPNSH232-26B (HAM) - 15 points

Students will extend their language skills, and cover topics such as travelling, eating out and wellbeing.

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need SPNSH231, or equivalent.	3 July 2026

Māori and Indigenous Studies

Kōkiri: Academic Skills for Indigenous Studies

MAORI100-26A (HAM) - 15 points

This paper introduces academic skills that are directly useful for the rest of your university studies but will also provide a foundation for critical thinking and clear communication beyond the university. We focus on academic conventions in relation to Indigenous Studies: understanding the Indigenous and colonial contexts of tertiary study; the politics and practices of reading, writing, citation and oral presentation; key critical terminology; and an introduction to Māori, Pacific and Indigenous research methods.

Contact: Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies - fmis@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

He Hinātore ki te Ao Māori: Introducing the Māori World

MAORI102-26A (HAM) - MAORI102-26B (HAM) - 15 points

An introduction to the Māori world view, social organisation, cultural concepts, including Maori astronomy, and their relevance in a contemporary society.

Contact: Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies - fmis@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Te Tiriti o Waitangi: An Introduction to the Treaty of Waitangi

MAORI150-26A (HAM) - MAORI150-26B (HAM) - 15 points

This paper seeks to provide a sound understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It reviews historical and contemporary interpretations and takes into account the interplay of contextual issues of the time.

Contact: Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies - fmis@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Music

Composition 1

MUSIC115-26B (HAM) - 15 points

The development of creative musical skills and techniques based on classical and popular idioms; song writing; melody writing; thematic development; harmonic understanding; two-part counterpoint. Computer technology will be used as a composition and publishing tool.

Contact: Michael Williams - michael.williams@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students are required to have the ability to read music.	3 July 2026

Pacific and Indigenous Studies

Introduction to Pacific Histories, Languages and Cultures

PACIS100-26A (HAM) - 15 points

This paper introduces students to foundational elements of Pacific Studies, including various histories, languages and cultures and their importance to contemporary societies, surveying a number of Pacific Nations.

Contact: Sau Lau-Young - sau.lauyoung@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Screen and Media Studies

Understanding Visual Culture

MEDIA100-26A (HAM) - 15 points

Our lives are dominated by still and moving images and visual technologies. This paper will constitute an important first step in learning to understand how images variously work to convey ideas, their impact and influence on our behaviour, thinking and culture. It draws on a broad theoretical platform from aesthetics, art history, psychology of perception, social semiotics and more to provide skills in analysis, interpretation, and construction.

Contact: Gareth Schott - gareth.schott@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus or Online	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

2026 unistart papers taught online

Online Unistart papers allow students to experience studying at the University of Waikato without needing to attend on-campus classes.

Moodle is the primary online learning environment at the University of Waikato. On Moodle, students can watch uploaded lectures, interact with their tutors, access paper specific resources and have forum discussions with other students.

If you have any questions about a specific online paper, please get in touch with the listed contact person.

Anthropology

Exploring Cultures: Aotearoa and the Pacific

ANTHY102-26B (SEC) - 15 points

Social and cultural change in Aotearoa-New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, with special emphasis on national identities, regional relations and global forces.

Contact: Bronwyn Isaacs - bronwyn.isaacs@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 July - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Arts and Social Sciences

Music, Sound and Human Communication

ARTSC112-26B (NET) - 15 points

Every day we communicate using complex linguistic and musical systems. This paper will explore the role of sound and music in human communication and the cognitive, social, and cultural processes, which underlie such communication. The paper takes a broad, interdisciplinary look at all aspects of sound and musical communication, from the semiotic function of music to its application in a variety of communication contexts.

Contact: arts_admin@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 July - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Climate Change

Introduction to Climate Change Science - Pūtaiao Huringa Āhuarangi

CLIMT101-26A (NET) - 15 points

An overview of the scientific basis of climate change with emphasis on understanding climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Contact: Marcus Wilson - marcus.wilson@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Students participating in the 2026 Climate Ambassador Programme enrol in CLIMT101-26A (SEC) with Unistart. Students will complete the paper in addition to other programme activities.



Learn more about the
Climate Ambassador
Programme here

Computer Science

Introduction to Programming

COMPX101-26A (NET) - COMPX101-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper introduces computer programming in C# - the exciting challenge of creating software and designing artificial worlds within the computer. It also covers concepts such as the internals of the home computer, the history and future of computers, cyber security, computer gaming, databases, mobile computing and current research and challenges in computer science. No prior programming knowledge is assumed.

Contact: Nilesh Kanji - nilesh.kanji@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
COMPX101-26A (NET) - A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026
COMPX101-26B (SEC) - B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Object-Oriented Programming

COMPX102-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper continues from COMPX101, expanding upon data organisation and algorithms, and introducing code contracts, computer architecture, Boolean algebra, assembly language, program analysis and object-oriented programming.

Contact: Nilesh Kanji - nilesh.kanji@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	<p>You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students are required to meet the following:</p> <p>Achieved an unrestricted pass in COMPX101, OR demonstrate sufficient programming competency and have the support of a teacher at their secondary school.</p> <p><i>Note: Students will be required to supply a support letter from a teacher listing relevant achievement standards attained.</i></p>	3 July 2026

Criminology

Criminology and Social Justice in New Zealand

CRIMN101-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper provides an introduction to criminology. It emphasizes the interrelation of crime, punishment, and the mass incarceration of Māori in New Zealand. It draws attention to social justice issues.

Contact: Darelle Howard - darelle.howard@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Crime Science

Crime Science and Prevention

CRSCI101-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper introduces the topics, theories, and approaches that make up Crime Science. The central focus is on understanding crime.

Contact: Lisa Tompson - lisa.tompson@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Data Analytics

Introduction to Statistical Methods

DATA121-26A (SEC) - 15 points

An introductory paper in statistics that uses R. Topics include the collection and presentation of data, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, regression and analysis of variance.

Contact: Han Gan - han.gan@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Design

Introduction to Communication Design Production

DSIGN125-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This paper enables students to perform basic computing operations and to operate software packages for the manipulation of visual images and text for use in print and screen-based applications. Students will be introduced to basic computing concepts and provided with software tutorials and related exercises.

Contact: Claire Timpany - claire.timpany@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Economics

Economics for Business and Management

ECONS101-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This paper offers insights into the behaviour of consumers, firms and the government within the economy, giving students skills in analysing and predicting the actions of individuals and businesses.

Contact: Michael Cameron - michael.cameron@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026



Engineering

Engineering Maths and Modelling 1A

ENGEN101-26A (SEC) - 15 points

A study of the fundamental techniques of algebra and calculus with engineering applications. This is the first of two engineering mathematics papers at first year level.

Contact: Ian Hawthorn - ian.hawthorn@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students must meet the following: 14 credits in NCEA Level 3 Calculus; or equivalent.	20 February 2026

Engineering Maths and Modelling 1B

ENGEN102-26B (SEC) - 15 points

A further study of the fundamental techniques of algebra and calculus with engineering applications. Includes an introduction to relevant statistical methods.

Contact: Ian Hawthorn - ian.hawthorn@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students must meet the following: An unrestricted pass in ENGEN101	3 July 2026

Forensic Psychology

Forensic and Criminological Psychology

FPSYC101-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This paper introduces students to forensic psychology and encompasses a wide range of topics derived from the intersection of psychology with the crime, the legal system and the criminal justice system.

Contact: Apriel Joliffe Simpson - apriel.joliffesimpson@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Gender and Sexuality Studies

Gender and Sexuality: Representations and Realities

GNSEX101-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper considers issues related to gender, sexuality, and the body including health issues, media representations, gender based violence, and forms of resistance.

Contact: Katrina Roen - katrina.roen@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Geography

Sustainable Geographies

GEOGY101-26B (NET) - 15 points

An introduction to the rich field of social and cultural geography with links to the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals. A foundation paper for second year papers on contemporary cultural geographies, health geographies, and Māori geographies.

Contact: Lynda Johnston - lynda.johnston@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Environmental Geographies

GEOGY102-26A (SEC) - 15 points

In recent decades humans have become geological agents, changing physical processes of the earth by such actions as burning fossil fuels, expanding cities, altering diets, and extinguishing species. This paper explores the human motivations and actions that find expression in the natural world. In addition to offering descriptions and explanations of contemporary geographies, students are encouraged to consider solutions to human-induced environmental crises.

Contact: Colin McLeay - colin.mcleay@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Health

Promoting Mental and Physical Health

HTHPR101-26B (NET) - 15 points

This paper explores health promotion in Aotearoa New Zealand. Students will be introduced to a range of concepts, models and perspectives on health promotion. Key aspects of mental and physical health that are a focus of health promotion are examined with opportunities to consider health promotion practice in different contexts in community, regional and national settings.

Contact: Marg Cosgriff - marg.cosgriff@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

History

Aotearoa Histories: Past and Future

HISTY107-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This introductory paper provides students with an overview of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories through hundreds of years of Māori and Iwi history and British Colonial invasions, to the present. Students explore popular overarching myths and narratives of Aotearoa NZ history, key events, peoples and leading scholarship in the field.

Contact: Charlotte Greenhalgh - charlotte.greenhalgh@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Human Development

Lifespan Development

HMDEV100-26B (NET) - 15 points

This paper focuses on understanding and enhancing human development through an exploration of biological, psychological, social and cultural factors that influence patterns of development and learning over the lifespan.

Contact: Raella Kahuroa - raella.kahuroa@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

International Languages and Cultures

Chinese for Beginners

CHINE131-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper introduces you to the Chinese writing system, pinyin, and tones. You will also learn the basics of greetings and self-introductions in Chinese. The paper is for complete beginners only.

Contact: Maria Galikowski - maria.galikowski@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Intermediate Chinese 1

CHINE231-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This paper will extend students' communication skills in Chinese across a range of everyday situations, including celebrations, seeking medical advice, arranging rental accommodation and shopping as a tourist.

Contact: Maria Galikowski - maria.galikowski@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: CHINE131, or equivalent.	20 February 2026

Intermediate Chinese 2

CHINE232-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper will enable you to improve your Chinese communication skills across a range of everyday situations by expanding your understanding of more complex grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Contact: Kathy Liang Li - kathy.liangli@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: CHINE231, or equivalent.	3 July 2026

French for Beginners

FRNCH131-26B (SEC) - 15 points

Learn the basics of written and spoken French including greetings, family, city life and daily routines. No previous knowledge of French is needed.

Contact: Nathalie Phillipe - nathalie.phillipe@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Intermediate French 1

FRNCH231-26A (SEC) - 15 points

Take your written and spoken French to the next level. This paper focuses on the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing the French language at an intermediate level.

Contact: William Jennings - william.jennings@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: FRNCH131, or equivalent.	20 February 2026

Intermediate French 2

FRNCH232-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper is the continuation of FRNCH231.

Contact: William Jennings - william.jennings@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: FRNCH231, or equivalent.	3 July 2026

Global LANGUAGES and Cultures

INTLC101-26B (NET) - 15 points

This paper introduces students to major world cultures and their languages in a comparative context. Students will gain a critical understanding of culture and diversity through examining the languages and cultures of China, France, Japan, Korea, Spain and Latin America..

Contact: Maria Galikowski - maria.galikowski@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	OnLine Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Food Practices and Cultural Journeys

INTLC222-26A (NET) - 15 points

This paper explores aspects of European and Latin American cultures, history and society. This paper is taught in English and is open to all students, including those who have no prior knowledge of French and Spanish.

Contact: Nathalie Phillipe - nathalie.phillipe@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Intermediate Spanish 2

SPNSH232-26B (SEC) - 15 points

Students will extend their language skills, and cover topics such as travelling, eating out and wellbeing.

Contact: Maria Ble-Herrero - maria.ble-herrero@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: SPNSH231, or equivalent.	3 July 2026

Japanese for Beginners

JAPAN131-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This paper assumes no previous knowledge of Japanese. It takes an integrated approach to the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Contact: Fumiko Nishimura - fumiko.nishimura@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Basic Japanese 1

JAPAN231-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This language acquisition paper is designed as a continuation from JAPAN131, a paper designed for absolute beginners. Students will acquire further basic written and spoken communication skills in Japanese language.

Contact: Fumiko Nishimura - fumiko.nishimura@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: JAPAN131, or equivalent.	20 February 2026

Basic Japanese 2

JAPAN232-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This language acquisition paper follows JAPAN231, a paper designed for learners with a rudimentary knowledge of Japanese. Students will acquire further basic written and spoken communication skills in Japanese language.

Contact: Fumiko Nishimura - fumiko.nishimura@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: JAPAN231, or equivalent.	3 July 2026

Korean Language for Beginners

KOREA131-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This language acquisition paper is designed for absolute beginners. Students will acquire basic written and spoken communication skills in Korean.

Contact: Jinah Lee - jinah.lee@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Korean Language 2

KOREA231-26B (SEC) - 15 points

This language acquisition paper is designed as a continuation from KOREA131. Students will acquire further basic written and spoken communication skills in the Korean language.

Contact: Jinah Lee - jinah.lee@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, students need the following: KOREA131, or equivalent.	3 July 2026

International Relations

International Relations of the Indo-Pacific

INTRL100-26B (NET) - 15 points

The paper introduces international relations theories and concepts related to the Indo-Pacific region. It guides students through the region's historical and geopolitical backgrounds and key challenges. This paper is both in Hamilton and online.

Contact: Tola Amusan - tola.amusan@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Introduction to International Relations

INTRL103-26A (NET) - 15 points

This paper provides an introduction to the study of international relations in an era of globalisation. It covers the historical background, key concepts and theories, case studies, and contemporary developments in the study of world politics.

Contact: Reuben Steff - reuben.steff@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Law

Introduction to New Zealand Law and Society

LEGAL105-26A (NET) - 15 points

An introduction for non lawyers to the nature and functions of law and the processes of lawmaking. The relationship between law and society will be illustrated by relevant examples.

Contact: Dee Raman - dee.raman@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Mathematics

Discrete Structures

MATHS135-26B (SEC) - 15 points

An introduction to a number of the structures of discrete mathematics with wide applicability in areas such as: computer logic, analysis of algorithms, telecommunications, networks and public key cryptography. In addition it introduces a number of fundamental concepts which are useful in Statistics, Computer Science and further studies in Mathematics. Topics covered are sets, binary relations, directed and undirected graphs; propositional and some predicate logic; permutations, combinations, and elementary probability theory; modular arithmetic.

Contact: Nicholas Cavenagh - nicholas.cavenagh@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. In addition, student must meet the following: 14 credits in NCEA Level 3 Mathematics.	3 July 2026



Amreen Virk
Rototuna Senior High School
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

As I finished year 12, I was looking to seek new challenges and opportunities for the year ahead as I was doing a pretty good job with balancing academics and sports. This is when I heard that there were Unistart papers through the University of Waikato, which I could do alongside NCEA level 3. At this point, I didn't know what I wanted to do once I had finished high school. I loved English related subjects, so I took a law paper in the first semester and a writing paper in the second

semester. By taking these, I had found that I really enjoyed law and would like to learn more about it, which influenced my decision when applying for a law degree at Waikato - which I am currently enjoying.

By doing Unistart, it gave me a taste of what university style learning feels like and it also gave me a head start for my first year. This was really helpful, as I am now able to do second year law papers and complete my degree a bit earlier.

Philosophy

Critical Thinking

PHILO103-26A (NET) - 15 points

This paper helps students to engage critically with the sorts of arguments encountered both inside and outside the University.

Contact: Stephanie Gibbons - stephanie.gibbons@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Social and Moral Philosophy

PHILO106-26A (NET) - 15 points

An investigation of contemporary moral and social issues from a practical ethics perspective. Issues may include abortion, animal welfare, discrimination, euthanasia, freedom of speech, genetic enhancement, privacy, punishment, and your online life.

Contact: Stephanie Gibbons - stephanie.gibbons@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy

PHILO150-26B (NET) - 15 points

An introduction to philosophy that investigates a range of big questions. The big questions may include: does God exist?, does my morality apply to you?, do we have free will?, what is the meaning of life?, and who am I?

Contact: Ken Perszyk - ken.perszyk@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026



Social Policy

Introduction to Social Policy

SOCPY100-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This paper examines the values behind social policy and introduces students to some of the important issues and debates in New Zealand and other democratic societies.

Contact: Gemma Piercy-Cameron - gemma.piercy-cameron@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Sociology

Introduction to Sociology

SOCIO101-26A (SEC) - 15 points

This paper prepares students for further study in a range of social science subjects. It introduces the main sociological theories, concepts and practices that enable an understanding of contemporary societies.

Contact: Belinda Wheaton - belinda.wheaton@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Sport and Human Movement

Sport, Culture and Development: Trends and Issues

SDCOA101-26B (NET) - 15 points

In this paper students will gain an introduction to sociological understandings of sport and movement cultures. They will develop new ways of critically thinking about the important role sport plays in contemporary society, including the economy, politics, tourism, the media, and our sense of identity, belonging and community. Students will be introduced to a range of sociological concepts - including history, sociology, social psychology, philosophy - from a sport development perspective, and learn how to apply these to local, national and international sporting contexts.

Contact: Holly Thorpe - holly.thorpe@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026

Teaching

An Introduction to Children's Literature

LLTED101-26A (NET) - 15 points

In this paper we examine children's literature from picturebook to novel; from author to illustrator; from history to modern times. The link between children's literature and education is a thread running through the course. Class members will develop a familiarity with a range of genres and concepts linking children's literature and society.

Contact: Nicola Daly - nicola.daly@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Writing Studies

Writing for Academic Success

WRITE100-26A (NET) - WRITE100-26B (NET) - 15 points

The paper gives opportunities for undergraduate students to develop their academic literacy skills. It begins with general academic communication and research skills and then embeds academic literacy practice within disciplines of study.

Contact: (Trimester A): Michael Rabbidge - michael.rabbidge@waikato.ac.nz

(Trimester B): Joyce Koh - joycehweeling.koh@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Entry	Online Applications close
WRITE100-26A (NET) - A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026
WRITE100-26B (NET) - B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	3 July 2026



Paulo Baldo

Cambridge High School

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours, programme in
Mechanical Engineering (BE(Hons))

I first heard about Unistart just before my final year of high school. I was worried that studying a university level paper would interfere with my schoolwork. However, I realised it would provide me with a rare opportunity. One that would allow me to undertake a unique academic challenge, while also giving me a taste of the university experience. I couldn't pass it up.

The paper I chose, Introduction to International Relations, was something I was really interested in. Instead of being an interference as I had initially

thought, the paper was a supplement to my regular studies. I was also able to advance my academic skills. Essay writing, academic resource analysis and source referencing are just some of the skills I developed through the programme.

By the time I arrived at the University of Waikato, as a student studying Mechanical Engineering, I was confident in my abilities and felt truly prepared for the next phase of my academic journey. All thanks to my Unistart experience.

2026 unistart on campus

For most of our on-campus papers, Unistart students attend lectures, tutorial, labs or workshops and complete the same assessments as other University of Waikato students enrolled in the paper.

In the case of our on-campus mathematics and science papers, elements may be taught in conjunction with a secondary school where suitable staff and facilities are available.

If you have questions about a specific on-campus paper, please get in touch with the listed contact person or our Unistart Programme Coordinator at unistart@waikato.ac.nz

Biology

Concepts of Biology - Ngā Huatau o te Koiora

BIOEB101-26A (HAM) - 15 points

An introduction to the foundations of biology, including the structure and functioning of cells, evolution, the origins and diversity of life, and a tour of the major forms of life and their defining characteristics.

Contact: Brydget Tulloch - brydget.tulloch@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart	20 February 2026

Chemistry

Chemistry: A Toolkit for Science - Mātai Matū: He taputapu taiao

CHEMY101-26A (HAM) - 15 points

A theoretical and practical course covering aspects of analytical and inorganic chemistry.

This course is required for the chemistry major.

Contact: Megan Grainger - megan.grainger@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
A Trimester (2 Mar - 26 Jun)	Hamilton campus	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. There are no formal entry requirements for CHEMY101, but we strongly recommend that you have 14 credits in NCEA Level 3 Chemistry.	20 February 2026

Chemical Foundations for Life - Orokohanga Matū mō te Oranga

CHEMY102-26B (HAM) - 15 points

A theoretical and practical course covering aspects of physical and organic chemistry.

This course is required for the chemistry major.

Contact: Martina Pietsch Brown - martina.pietschbrown@waikato.ac.nz

Teaching dates	Location	Entry	Online Applications close
B Trimester (13 Jul - 6 Nov)	Hamilton campus	You must meet the entry requirements of Unistart. There are no formal requirements for CHEMY102 but we strongly recommend a minimum of 14 credits at NCEA Level 3 Chemistry.	3 July 2026



Dana Greaves

Cambridge High School Bachelor of Computer Science (BCompSc)

The Unistart programme as a whole was a great experience. It helped me prepare for University and post high school life in so many ways.

After going through secondary school taking a range of subjects from different faculties, it was such a daunting idea that I would have to choose just one or two to focus on and make a career. So when I was approached about taking papers early to experience what it would be like to study at university, I was immediately curious. I took two computer science papers in

2021, which were a completely different experience to any of the high school classes I was taking. The amount of enthusiasm and support I got from tutors and lecturers was amazing, especially after they found out I was a high school student and said that they would love to see me back next year. That finalised my decision to go to university.

Getting to know the people, the platforms and expectations of University early really helped make the adjustment to uni life so much easier.

Paper summary

Flexibly taught

Subject	Paper Title
Communication	COMMS101-26B (HAM) Communication Competencies
English	ENGLI100-26A (HAM) Telling the Story
	ENGLI101-26B (HAM) Adapting Stories
Environmental Planning	ENVPL100-26A (HAM) Introduction to Environmental Planning
	ENVPL101-26B (HAM) Future Cities
International Languages and Cultures	INTLC101-26B (HAM) Global Languages and Cultures
	SPNSH131-26B (HAM) Spanish for Beginners
	SPNSH231-26A (HAM) Intermediate Spanish 1
	SPNSH232-26B (HAM) Intermediate Spanish 2
Māori and Indigenous Studies	MAORI100-26A (HAM) Kōkiri: Academic Skills for Indigenous Studies
	MAORI102-26A (HAM) He Hinātore ki te Ao Māori: Introducing the Māori World
	MAORI102-26B (HAM) He Hinātore ki te Ao Māori: Introducing the Māori World
	MAORI150-26A (HAM) Te Tiriti o Waitangi: An Introduction to the Treaty of Waitangi
	MAORI150-26B (HAM) Te Tiriti o Waitangi: An Introduction to the Treaty of Waitangi
Music	MUSIC115-26B (HAM) Composition 1
Pacific and Indigenous Studies	PACIS100-26A (HAM) Introduction to Pacific Histories, Languages and Cultures
Screen and Media Studies	MEDIA100-26A (HAM) Understanding Visual Culture

Online

Subject	Paper Title
Anthropology	ANTHY102-26B (SEC) Exploring Cultures: Aotearoa and the Pacific
Arts and Social Sciences	ARTSC112-26B (NET) Music, Sound and Human Communication
Climate Change	CLIMT101-26A (NET) Introduction to Climate Change Science
Computer Science	COMPX101-26A (NET) Introduction to Programming
	COMPX101-26B (SEC) Introduction to Programming
	COMPX102-26B (SEC) Object-Oriented Programming

Subject	Paper Title
Criminology	CRIMN101-26B (SEC) Criminology and Social Justice in New Zealand
	CRSCI101-26B (SEC) Crime Science and Prevention
Data Analytics	DATAX121-26A (SEC) Introduction to Statistical Methods
Design	DSIGN125-26A (SEC) Introduction to Communication Design Production
Economics	ECONS101-26A (SEC) Economics for Business and Management
Engineering	ENGEN101-26A (SEC) Engineering Maths and Modelling 1A
	ENGEN102-26B (SEC) Engineering Maths and Modelling 1B
Forensic Psychology	FPSYC101-26A (SEC) Forensic and Criminological Psychology
Gender & Sexuality Studies	GNSEX101-26B (SEC) Gender and Sexuality: Representations and Realities
Geography	GEOGY101-26B (NET) Sustainable Geographies
	GEOGY102-26A (SEC) Environmental Geographies
Health	HTHPR101-26B (NET) Promoting Mental and Physical Health
History	HISTY107-26A (SEC) Aotearoa Histories: Past and Future
Human Development	HMDEV100-26B (NET) Lifespan Development
International Languages and Cultures	CHINE131-26B (SEC) Chinese for Beginners
	CHINE231-26A (SEC) Intermediate Chinese 1
	CHINE232-26B (SEC) Intermediate Chinese 2
	FRNCH131-26B (SEC) French for Beginners
	FRNCH231-26A (SEC) Intermediate French 1
	FRNCH232-26B (SEC) Intermediate French 2
	INTLC101-26B (NET) Global Languages and Cultures
	INTLC222-26A (NET) Food Practices and Cultural Journeys
	JAPAN131-26B (SEC) Japanese for Beginners
	JAPAN231-26A (SEC) Basic Japanese 1
	JAPAN232-26B (SEC) Basic Japanese 2
	KOREA131-26A (SEC) Korean Language for Beginners 1
	KOREA231-26B (SEC) Korean Language 2
	SPNSH232-26B (SEC) Intermediate Spanish 2
International Relations	INTRL100-26B (NET) International Relations of the Indo-Pacific
	INTRL103-26A (NET) Introduction to International Relations
Law	LEGAL105-26A (NET) Introduction to New Zealand Law and Society
Mathematics	MATHS135-26B (SEC) Discrete Structures

Subject	Paper Title
Philosophy	PHILO103-26A (NET) Critical Thinking
	PHILO106-26A (NET) Social and Moral Philosophy
	PHILO150-26B (NET) The Big Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy
Social Policy	SOCPY100-26A (SEC) Introduction to Social Policy
Sociology	SOCIO101-26A (SEC) Introduction to Sociology
Sport & Human Movement	SDCOA101-26B (NET) Sport, Culture and Development: Trends and Issues
Teaching	LLTED101-26A (NET) An Introduction to Children's Literature
Writing Studies	WRITE100-26A (NET) Writing for Academic Success
	WRITE100-26B (NET) Writing for Academic Success

Hamilton Campus

Subject	Paper Title
Biology	BIOEB101-26A (HAM) Concepts of Biology - Ngā Huatau o te Koiora
Chemistry	CHEMY101-26A (HAM) Chemistry: A Toolkit for Science - Mātai Matū: He taputapu taiao
	CHEMY102-26B (HAM) Chemical Foundations for Life - Orokohanga Matū mō te Oranga
International Relations	INTRL100-26B (HAM) International Relations of the Indo-Pacific

Tauranga Campus

Subject	Paper Title
Digital Learning	DLRNG100-26A (HAM) Developing Digital Fluency

Enrolment and study information

Paper costs

To find out what each Unistart paper costs, click on the individual paper codes online at waikato.ac.nz/study/unistart. Remember if you receive the Unistart Scholarship, these costs will be fully covered. For information on how to pay, visit waikato.ac.nz/pay

Paper delivery

Unistart papers are flexibly taught, online or on-campus. Before you apply for an on-campus paper, make sure you can attend classes in person at the scheduled times.

Access to resources and student ID cards

Once your enrolment is complete, you'll get an email with your student login details and instructions to access our online learning resources.

To get your student ID card, you will need to send a passport-sized colour photo to idcards@waikato.ac.nz (include your student ID number in the email).

Your ID card gives you access to campus printers and computer labs and you also need it to collect assignments and sit exams. If you do not live near our Hamilton or Tauranga campus, you can request to have your ID posted.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about Unistart or need a helping hand with the process, we're happy to help.

Visit waikato.ac.nz/study/unistart

Unistart Programme Coordinator
unistart@waikato.ac.nz

If you would like to speak to someone about how Unistart can help with your future tertiary study, please book an appointment with one of our Future Student Advisors by visiting waikato.ac.nz/study/student-advisors





Assessments

Unistart papers often combine internal and external assessments. Check the assessment details in the paper outline.

Final exams are held at the University of Waikato Hamilton and Tauranga campuses. If you don't live near either of these locations, you can arrange to sit your exam at your school or at a local tertiary education provider. Contact the Unistart Coordinator at unistart@waikato.ac.nz to make alternative exam arrangements. You will not be required to come onto campus to complete an exam if you are taking an Online (NET) paper.

Student services

We're here to help you get the advice and support you need to make sure your Unistart experience is successful. Our student services include tutoring, mentoring, IT support and health services. For a full rundown of what we offer, visit waikato.ac.nz/student-services

Library

Get your studies off to a great start. Learn how to find quality academic material for your assignments, reference correctly, navigate your library account and more, visit waikato.ac.nz/library

Withdrawing from papers

If you need to withdraw from a Unistart paper, the best time to do this is in the first two weeks of trimester. During this time, you'll get a refund of fees (if you didn't receive the Unistart scholarship) and nothing will appear on your academic transcript. After two weeks, you won't receive a full refund and you'll get a 'withdrawn' (WD) or 'incomplete' (IC) notice on your academic transcript. To withdraw, please submit a request to the Unistart Coordinator at unistart@waikato.ac.nz explaining why you wish to do so.

Grades and transcript

You can access your final grades and request an academic transcript at my.waikato.ac.nz four weeks after the end of trimester. Simply click onto the 'Exams and ' tab to choose between viewing your grades and requesting your academic record.

Visit waikato.ac.nz/grades to see our grading scale. For other grading rules and regulations visit calendar.waikato.ac.nz.

Important dates

Event	Date
Final deadline for schools to return signed Unistart Agreement to University	31 January 2026
Last date for enrolment applications for A Trimester	20 February 2026
A and D Trimesters start	2 March 2026
Last date for fee-paying students to withdraw from A Trimester papers and get a full refund of fees	15 March 2026
Last date for fee-paying students to withdraw from D Trimester papers and get a full refund of fees	29 March 2026
Last date to withdraw from A and D Trimester papers (no refund for fee-paying students)	12 April 2026
A Trimester ends	28 June 2026
Last date for enrolment applications for B Trimester	3 July 2026
B Trimester starts	13 July 2026
Last date for fee-paying students to withdraw from B Trimester papers and get a full refund of fees	26 July 2026
Last date to withdraw from B Trimester papers (no refund for fee-paying students)	17 August 2026
B and D Trimesters end	6 November 2026



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Tē Whare Wānanga o Waikato

KO TE TANGATA
FOR THE PEOPLE

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