Join our Tuākana community

Nau mai, hono mai ki te whānau ako o Tuākana.

Becoming part of Tuākana is the first step towards academic success for our Māori and Pacific students.

Most of the University’s Māori and Pacific students engage with Tuākana.

Our faculties have their own Tuākana staff and meeting spaces and develop their own programme to complement the teaching and learning environment.

Tuākana helps connect our Māori and Pacific students with senior Māori and Pacific students (tuākana), academic teaching staff, and key people across the University through tutoring, mentoring and workshops.

Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika

www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana
What is Tuākana?

Tuākana is a University-wide learning community for our Māori and Pacific students.

Research shows our students who engage with Tuākana are more likely to not only maintain their grades, but improve them.

Tuākana programmes offer small-group learning, whakawhanaungatanga, wānanga, fonotaga, face-to-face meetings and linkages to key services and support across the University.

Everyone involved with Tuākana works hard to ensure a safe, supportive and stimulating learning environment for all our Māori and Pacific students.

Tuākana in the faculties

Tuākana programmes are run by the faculties across the University.

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<th>Tuākana Coordinators</th>
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Hēmi Enright
Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Ruanui
5th year, MBChB

As a clinical student, I have seen the need our people have for more Māori health professionals. Within the University’s Tuākana learning environment I have made awesome friends and am supported in my studies to achieve my best. Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

Adelaide Julia Hamill Turnbull
Ovea, Bau, Tailevu, Fiji
4th year Bachelor of Arts (BA), majoring in Pacific Studies and Political Studies

I was a young high school leaver who believed studying at such a prestigious institution was far out of reach. But the on-going support from the Faculty of Arts Tuākana programme has helped me immensely with my studies. My academic journey proves that, through hard work and commitment, you can achieve anything.

The tuākana-teina relationship

The tuākana-teina relationship is integral to Māori society. It provides a model for buddy systems, in which an older or more experienced tuākana (brother, sister or cousin) helps and guides a younger or less experienced teina (originally, a younger sibling or cousin of the same gender).

In a learning environment the tuākana-teina roles may be reversed at any time. For example, the biology student who yesterday was the expert on ecosystems may today need to learn from her classmate about cell division.