



## Uni: Is it Different to High School?



Excerpt from blog by Mikayla Dempsey, first year BA/LLB. Originally from Auckland Girls' Grammar School.

I'm finding university quite different to high school. Not a bad different - just different. For any of you reading who are trying to work out whether university is for you, I thought I'd write a little bit about the differences between uni and school that I have picked up on so far.

The first thing is: there are no teachers. You have lecturers - but they are responsible for hundreds (or even thousands) of students. All of my lecturers are amazing and encourage us to send them any questions - but at the same time you can't rely on them as much as you could with your

teachers. You just have to be a bit more independent. If you don't fully understand a topic - do some additional readings or ask someone. Your education is your own responsibility! And while that can be scary, I think there's an element of freedom in that.

Also: an hour of lecture is a completely different experience to an hour of class at high school. Whereas in high school, you'd do independent exercises in class - extra work to consolidate the new information you've just learnt - in a lecture you just learn new information. The whole hour is content packed. You never feel like you've wasted time in a lecture. I remember last year at school I would sit in a class and think 'We haven't covered anything new. There is no point in me being here.' Lectures are the opposite - you always feel productive and like you really needed to be there. I enjoy this new aspect of Uni life; I know whenever I go onto campus my time is being well spent!

At high school you spend at least six hours (probably more) at school a day. At Uni I have about three hours worth of lectures and tutorials a day (but obviously it depends on your degree). A side effect of this is that you have a lot more free time. I was so excited by this when I started uni. But while it gives you a lot more control over the structure of your day, it isn't really free time. For every hour of lecture you have, you're expected to do two hours of independent work - be that readings, assignments, or revision.

**Read the full blog and more from Mikayla and other first-year Uni students at The Inside Word**

[www.auckland.ac.nz/theinsideword](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/theinsideword)



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# Our team



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# From the SPO team



The new Academic English Language Requirement (AELR) is a key area of communication for our team as we visit your schools. We want to emphasise that this requirement will not prevent a student from gaining an offer of place into their degree. Students who do not meet the AELR can take an English Language course during their first 12 months of study, in place of their General Education course.

Our records show that approximately 90% of students who enrolled in 2015 would have met the AELR, even though the requirement was not part of admission or enrolment in 2015. With students fully aware of the requirement and with your support we are

confident that a large proportion of students will not be required to do an English Language course. Information about the courses required at the University for students who do not meet the AELR at school can be found at [www.auckland.ac.nz/en/for/current-students/cs-academic-information/aelr.html](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/for/current-students/cs-academic-information/aelr.html)

Our Parent Information Evenings are happening across Auckland and throughout the country during May-August. Please promote these Evenings in your school newsletters or any way you can. The evenings are designed to give parents the opportunity to learn about university programmes, accommodation, student support, financial matters and campus life and to ask questions with our team of advisers. At the Auckland based evenings, we will be incorporating both a seminar and an expo with faculty advisers to answer questions.

A new Scholarships e-book is available with information about available scholarships and guidance for students making applications. The Scholarships Office sent a message about the e-book to all schools and has distributed print copies to each school Careers Department.

All 2016 Faculty Prospectuses are now available for order online. There are some changes to the colours for our faculties. Look out for our green **Education and Social Work** Prospectus and the fuschia coloured **Business School** Prospectus. If you have any feedback on the content in the prospectuses please contact us at [spo@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:spo@auckland.ac.nz)

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# Campus Life

## Revamped Orientation attracts record numbers

New students were welcomed to the University of Auckland in a fresh format this year, resulting in a huge increase in attendance and a higher level of engagement.

What was formerly Orientation Week, a multi-day format requiring students to be on campus for several days, has been split into Faculty Orientation Days. This more student-focused, one-day\* experience covers key information about studying at the University, including a campus tour and the opportunity to complete DELNA (Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment) screening.

New students were welcomed onto Waipapa Marae each morning with a Pōwhiri and welcome from their Faculty Dean, before meeting their UniGuides who will be their mentors for the bulk of the first semester.

Nearly 2,500 students packed out Queen's Wharf's Shed 10 for the Orientation Concert which was headlined by English drum and bass duo Sigma.

The Midsummer Night's Toga Party for first-year students was also hugely popular with 1,100 first-year students attending – check out the videos on the University's YouTube channel! [youtube.com/UniofAuckland](https://www.youtube.com/UniofAuckland)

Halls residents also attended an entertaining evening with UniSmart, a highly engaging and empowering programme designed to give students tools to thrive in the university environment.

*\*1.5 days for international, Māori and Pacific Island students.*



## Clubs and societies

A wide array of the University's 200 clubs and societies were showcased at the week-long Clubs Expo held at the City Campus recently. More than 150 clubs attended, ranging from sports to politics, religion to academic, arts and culture to social responsibility and everything in between. This event occurs twice-yearly, allowing students to interact with the wide range of clubs on offer. [www.auckland.ac.nz/clubs](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/clubs)



## Volunteer Expo and discussion

The University's recent Volunteer Expo gave students exposure to 16 volunteer agencies on campus. Held over one day, students had the chance to discuss volunteering opportunities with representatives from large charitable organisations such as SPCA, Girl Guides, St John Ambulance and Coastguard as well as lesser-known ones, such as Gutter Kitties.

A discussion forum around how to turn a volunteering experience into permanent employment was well-attended and both events prompted a wave of signups to the Volunteer Hub, where students can view and apply for a wide range of volunteering opportunities.

[www.auckland.ac.nz/volunteer](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/volunteer)

# Events for school students

## University of Auckland Parent Information Evenings

School students and parents are invited to attend an information evening to explore study options, entry requirements, costs, accommodation, and student life at the University of Auckland.

For more information and to register for Parent Evenings see the events section at [www.auckland.ac.nz/parents](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/parents)

## Upcoming Parents Seminars

Whangarei	2 July
North Shore, Auckland	15 June
Central Auckland	16 June
East Auckland	17 June
South Auckland	23 June
Hamilton	23 June
Tauranga	12 August
Rotorua	11 June
Gisborne	23 July
Hawkes Bay	10 June
Taranaki	1 July
Palmerston North	6 May
Wellington	18 June
Nelson	17 June
Christchurch	11 May
Dunedin	8 June

## Engineering Events

### Enginuity Day

A day for Year 13 female students to visit campus and experience what engineering really is.

2 July 2015, University of Auckland City Campus

For more information contact Amanda Clinton  
[a.clinton@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:a.clinton@auckland.ac.nz)

### Engineering Futures Evening

If Maths and Physics are your passion and making a real difference in the world is your dream; then chose a career in Engineering.

Come along to our Engineering Futures Evenings in Auckland and Wellington and hear everything you need to know about studying at the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Auckland.

- **Auckland Engineering Futures Evenings**  
Thursday 23 July and Thursday 30 July, 6.30 – 8pm.  
Venue: University of Auckland City Campus, Fisher and Paykel Auditorium, OGGB, 12 Grafton Road
- **Wellington Engineering Futures Evening**  
Friday 14 August, 6.30 – 8pm. Venue TBC

For more information and to register your interest visit:  
[www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz/engineering-futures](http://www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz/engineering-futures)

## 2016 Prospectuses

View online or order copies of the latest Prospectuses  
[www.auckland.ac.nz/prospectus](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/prospectus)



## Music workshops

Come and join these inspiring workshop sessions tailored specifically for secondary school students, and led by staff and guests of the School of Music.

**Jazz Combo Series (June and July)**

**Songwriter workshop day (25 June)**

**Brass workshop day (8 August)**

**Voice workshop day (5 September)**

[www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/musicworkshops](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/musicworkshops)

## Creative Arts tours and portfolio workshops

Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI)

### Elam School of Fine Arts (May - October)

Tours of Elam are available for prospective students, teachers and parents. You will be able to chat about our programmes and visit our studios, library, gallery spaces, workshops (wood, metal, print), spray booth, state-of-the-art HD suite, digital hub and dark rooms.



### School of Architecture and Planning (May - October)

Tours of the School of Architecture and Planning will take prospective students, teachers and parents through our design studios, digital design workshops, wood, metal, laser cutting and 3D modelling workshops, an anechoic chamber, the large format printing hub and the Architecture and Planning library, where you will also have the chance to view a selection of successful portfolios. At the end of the tour you will be able to chat and ask questions about architecture and urban planning programmes, facilities, applications and enrolment.

### School of Music (May - October)

School of Music tours coincide with weekly performances by our current students. As well as visiting the quality practise, recording and performance facilities, and our specialist music library, you can experience the standard of performers within the School.

### Portfolio Workshops (September)

An important part of the application process for Elam and the School of Architecture and Planning is the submission of a portfolio of work. NICAI runs workshops for prospective students to learn how to collate and submit a portfolio to supplement their application. These workshops are strongly recommended for students interested in Fine Arts, Architecture or Urban Planning.

### Interested in a tour or workshop?

Please visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/tours](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/tours) to register for a tour and read more about upcoming portfolio workshops.

## Education and Social Work events

### Experience Day – get a taste of life as a university student

Experience day is a practical and engaging way for secondary school students who have an interest in teaching, physical education, social work or human services to get a taste of life as a university student at the Faculty of Education and Social Work and learn about what we offer at each of our three locations – Epsom, Tai Tokerau (Whangarei) and Manukau (Otago).

#### Tai Tokerau (Whangarei) Campus:

Primary Teaching

Date: Thursday 23 July 2015

**Epsom (Auckland) Campus:** Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Teaching, Physical Education, Social Work and Human Services

Date: Tuesday 28 July 2015

**Manukau Campus:** Primary Teaching

Date: Monday 3 August 2015

For more information and to register your interest visit:

[www.education.auckland.ac.nz/info-sessions](http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz/info-sessions)



### Regional Information sessions

School students and parents are invited to hear more about the University of Auckland's programmes in teaching education, social work, human services and counselling at its campuses in Manukau and Epsom in Auckland as well as a range of flexi-courses that you can study from a distance.

#### Whangarei

Date: Wednesday 13 May 2015, 4 - 6pm

Location: M block Tai Tokerau Campus, 13 Alexander Street, Whangarei, Northland

#### Tauranga

Date: Tuesday 11 August 2015, 5:30 - 7pm

Location: Hotel Armitage, 9 Willow St, Tauranga

#### Hamilton

Date: Wednesday 12 August 2015, 5:30 - 7pm

Location: Novotel Tainui Hotel, 7 Alma Street, Hamilton

For more information and to register your interest visit:

[www.education.auckland.ac.nz/info-sessions](http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz/info-sessions)



# Anthropology students' uncover rare find



A group of Anthropology students from the Faculty of Arts, travelled to Great Mercury Island, off the coast of the Coromandel Peninsula, to excavate an area of ancient sand dune. During their research they uncovered 13,000 objects including stone artefacts and bones.

"We excavated a big area and we uncovered some amazing material," reflects Professor Simon Holdaway, one of the accompanying academics on the trip.

"It is a site that's almost certainly very early because it's got moa bones in place in ovens. The significance is that the moa must have been alive shortly before it was eaten."

Because of this rare find, Professor Holdaway

estimates the site to be over 600 years old.

"It indicates that it must be a very early site in our history, not just for the North Island but for the whole country.

"We also found significant quantities of obsidian, which doesn't originate on the island and therefore must have been brought in by the people inhabiting Great Mercury, likely from nearby Mayor Island."

Great Mercury Island is just one of a number of sites worked on by the University's Anthropology students, which also includes locations in Australia and Egypt. Anthropology field trips give students a unique opportunity to apply their learning to a real world situation,

as well as actively contribute to the scholarship in their area.

"I went on the first field school trip to Great Mercury Island as an undergraduate student in 2013," Zach McIvor, one of the students who accompanied Professor Holdaway to Great Mercury Island comments.

"I fell in love with the island and decided to carry out my BA(Hons) and MA research on the archaeological remains found there. As a student and researcher, I have been very lucky to have worked in a place where archaeological remains are everywhere!

"The findings of this project will be significant in not only understanding the past of Great Mercury Island but also of Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to have the experience of working with the great team of staff and fellow students from the Faculty of Arts on this important archaeological site."

Find out more about the exciting range of subjects offered at the Faculty of Arts [www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/subjects-courses](http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/subjects-courses)

## UniGuides

Many new students find university life daunting, whether it's the thought of finding their way to classes, learning about campus resources or meeting new friends.

The University of Auckland's UniGuide programme is a free service designed to make students' first semester easier by connecting them with a student mentor to show them the ropes. UniGuides keep in touch with their groups throughout the semester, arranging regular group 'hangouts' and making themselves contactable for any questions their new students may have about student life.

More than 4,000 students signed up for the UniGuide programme during this year's Orientation, a huge increase from the 2,500 who signed up in 2014.

[www.auckland.ac.nz/uniguides](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uniguides)



# Business competition tests real world skills

Ever wondered about the opportunities to practise the skills you are learning at University? The University of Auckland Business School holds an international business case competition called the Champions Trophy, sponsored by Fonterra. Students exercise their skills and knowledge on a “real world” business case and develop the best solution to a problem posed by New Zealand companies.

The University of Auckland’s team competed over four intense days with 12 other teams from the USA, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, and the Netherlands. The teams got a taste of Kiwi culture with a beach day, an international food night and an adventure afternoon jet boat ride and bungee jump off the Harbour Bridge in Auckland. The competition concluded with a gala dinner at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron where the winners were announced and all teams could celebrate their successful participation in the competition.

The competition is held in high regard internationally and a huge part of this is due to the calibre of industry representatives who assist us in judging. This year was no different with the CEO of Vector, former CFO of Fonterra and a range of executives from some of New Zealand’s largest and most well-known companies participating in the judging panel.



## What’s in a name?

### Faculty of Education and Social Work

On 1 April 2015 the Faculty of Education officially changed its name to the Faculty of Education and Social Work. The name better reflects the aim of the faculty to be an active voice for, and contributor to, a more socially just and equal society.

This change also makes more visible the two main areas of expertise the faculty engages with and provides qualifications for:

- Education – including Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Pasifika Education, Primary and Secondary teaching and Physical Education as well as Education as a subject in the Arts.
- Social Work – including Social Work, Human Services and Counselling.

The change reflects a long history of more than 20 years association of social work with education on the Epsom campus, and the significant recent growth in social work and related programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. [www.education.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.education.auckland.ac.nz)

## Applications now open for Scholarships

Applications for the University of Auckland’s first-year scholarships are opening earlier than usual this year.

From 13 May 2015 students will be able to apply for the four main scholarships:

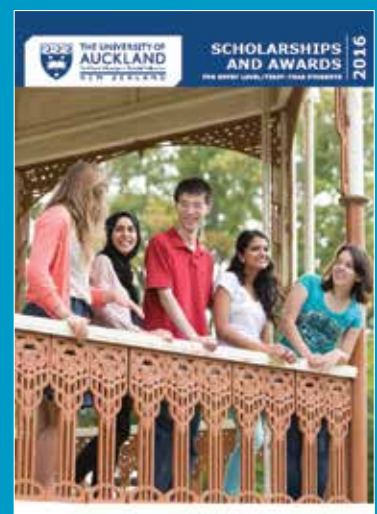
- The University of Auckland Scholarships (100 available)
- Chancellor’s Awards for Top Māori and Pacific Scholarships (44 available)
- Alumni Scholarships (20 available)
- Jubilee Awards (135 available)

Students have until 5pm on 25 August 2015 to apply, and will be notified of their outcome by 16 October.

Check out the Scholarships e-book for the steps of making your online application, advice about choosing your referees, and how to best complete the personal statement section.

Scholarships e-book <http://ebooks.auckland.ac.nz/2016-scholarship-ebook>

Scholarships website  
[www.scholarships.ac.nz](http://www.scholarships.ac.nz)



# Do what you love (even if it isn't Medicine)

## Steph Shen,

First year BSc - Food Science and Nutrition, and 'Inside Word' blogger.

Originally from Pakuranga College, Auckland



For me the answer became clear in Year 13, and this year I am sailing the alternate course of studying Food Science and Nutrition with the goal of becoming a Registered Dietitian (a total of 5 wonderful years).

## Negatives aside, medicine is a great pathway

Besides everything that I've said above, I'm not saying that everyone should be dissuaded from studying medicine. If you're absolutely set on going for it, then do it! Huia [Hall of Residence] is right next to Auckland Hospital and across the road from Grafton Campus (Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences). It's absolutely inspiring to see people who have worked their hearts out and are (or are becoming) the health professionals we need.

To those who are still tossing up between joining the pools of med-hopefuls in the future or otherwise, have an informative talk with different people: careers advisers, university representatives, parents. The University even has an Open Day in late August where you can talk to different people from a wide range of faculties. Though make sure you take everything with a grain of salt.

At the end of the day, it's up to you to weigh up the pros and cons. It's definitely a big decision to make as a teenager/young adult looking ahead into the next 5-10 years. But remember, life isn't about the beginning and end destinations. It's the change of paths in between that make it all the more interesting.

It will never be too late to do what you love.

Take care,

Steph

Read more blogs by Uni Students at the Inside Word [www.auckland.ac.nz/theinsideword](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/theinsideword)

Follow our Facebook page for School Students [www.facebook.com/AkldUni4Schools](http://www.facebook.com/AkldUni4Schools)

## A bit of reflecting

For now, I'd like to do a bit of reflecting. This blog post is around a thought that has been nagging me for a long time.

Once upon a time (when the grass was greener and I came home to mum's cooking every night) my dream was to become a doctor. The most straightforward reasons were:

- I enjoyed sciences at high school
- Was super passionate about health
- I like helping others

But the more that I thought about it, the more I wondered: is medicine the only pathway?

Mr President of Huia Residence lives down the hallway from me and is a second-year medical student this year. I managed to have a brief discussion with him about going on the medicine pathway and he raised some fair points:

Pros:

- Financial and job security (despite the actual degree being a hefty sum)
- Life satisfaction ("helping" people)
- Respected and assumed to be very smart

Cons:

- Long hours

- Reduced time with family
- Over-specialisation

## Is it worth the sacrifice?

The uncertainty of what to study may mean choosing the 'safe route' of medicine over what we genuinely love. After talking to a few pre-med students, their back-up options were quite different to anything medical related: pure maths, chemistry, even curating. That's definitely not saying that you can't continue appreciating these things as a hobby in your "spare time", but whether you choose pre-med because it is a more 'realistic' pathway (for the \$\$\$, or your parents told you to do it), I'd advise weighing up the pros and cons again. At the end of the day - as cliché as it might sound - you should be doing what makes you happy.

## Health is more than just medicine

Medicine is not for everyone. If you genuinely want to make a difference in health in general, there are also many pathways that can get you there! These include (but are not limited to) nursing, health promotion, optometry, and pharmacy.