

# PACIFIC STUDIES

## WHY STUDY PACIFIC STUDIES?

Delve into the languages, cultures, histories and politics of the Pacific and its people.

Whether you're interested in increasing your understanding of contemporary Pacific issues, language, history or politics – Pacific Studies has something for you. Explore the cultures, identities and experiences of Pacific peoples both in the Pacific and in the diaspora, as well as their languages: Samoan and Tongan. Through this rich and varied discipline you can develop your knowledge of dance and performance, health and wellbeing, innovation and sustainability, gender and globalisation, and Indigenous Pacific epistemologies.

## CAREER POSSIBILITIES

With critical thinking and problem-solving skills at the forefront of a degree in Pacific Studies, as well as diverse group settings that develop written and verbal communication skills, students are equipped for a broad range of careers. Find work in local and central governments, in the international arena, the public sector and NGOs or follow graduates into creative industries and the museum and heritage sector.

*"I delight in caring for and learning about the collection and its tāonga. Knowing the collection I care for has connections to my own ancestors gives me personal joy and makes for a more intimate work experience."*

*"Understanding Indigenous perspectives has shaped my thinking and worldview."*



### Ruby Satele

**Collection Manager Pacific, Human History, Auckland War Memorial Museum**

Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Pacific Studies + Art History

Postgraduate Diploma in Arts, Museums and Cultural Heritage

Master of Arts in Museums and Cultural Heritage



*"With Aotearoa's growing relationships with the Pacific as well as Aotearoa's youthful and multicultural population, Pacific Studies will develop students' knowledge and awareness to work with and for Pacific communities."*

**Sarah McLean-Orsborn**  
Lecturer



## WHAT CAN I STUDY?

Pacific Studies develops your knowledge and awareness of Pacific cultures, identities and experiences. You can explore Pacific histories, health and wellbeing, gender and globalisation, languages (Samoan and Tongan), Indigenous epistemologies, dance, performance, material culture and film.

Get excited about your course options:



### Stage 1 Course\*

#### PACIFIC 105 - The Contemporary Pacific

Explores the ways in which Pacific peoples frame their contemporary world in the context of globalisation. It also examines factors which shape contemporary Pacific life and popular culture as well as some of the challenges emanating from how Pacific peoples construct and make sense of their own and others' historical, political, socio-cultural, economic and religious worlds.

### Stage 2 Course\*

#### PACIFIC 205 - Pacific Innovation and Sustainability

Examines innovation and sustainability of Pacific Peoples in the Pacific and within the Pacific communities of Aotearoa. Explores the adaptability and innovation of Pacific peoples to create sustainable communities that embody both traditional cultural values and identities, and are also focused on future development, opportunity, mobility, and communal success.

### Stage 3 Course\*

#### PACIFIC 314 - Pacific History: New Zealand in the Pacific from 1900

Explores the historical relationship between New Zealand and the Pacific from 1900 onwards. Traces the central importance of New Zealand in the history of the Pacific from the rise of New Zealand's colonial empire, through the world wars, and towards the movement for decolonisation. Examines the continually evolving place of New Zealand as a nation in the Pacific Ocean.

## Courses you could study\*

Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa / Pacific Worlds

Pacific Music and Dance

Samoan Language 1

Tongan Language 1

## Complementary majors include:

Pacific Studies



Anthropology

History

Politics and International Relations

Psychology

Sociology



*"Not only is Pacific Studies focused on indigenous peoples in the homelands, but also Pacific peoples living in the diaspora. The only way we Pacific students understand and gain more knowledge in our own people and Oceania, is to dive deeper into its roots and origin, and the University of Auckland provides that atmosphere."*

### Ben Lui Spitzenberg

Mulifanua and Tuana'i, Samoa

Student: Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Pacific Studies / Bachelor of Laws

\*Course availability may be subject to change. For a full list of courses and up-to-date information visit the Arts website. Published August 2023

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