

Great careers start with Arts



No.1
New Zealand
university¹



No.1 in
New Zealand for
employability²



UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND



94%
of UoA Arts graduates
are in employment.
(UoA Graduate Survey 2022)

Arts graduates will earn about
\$1.25 million
more over their working life than
someone with just a school-level
qualification.
(Universities NZ 2022)



1 Times Higher Education and QS World Rankings 2024
2 QS World Rankings Graduate Employability, number one in NZ and 68th worldwide 2023



A Bachelor of Arts provides opportunities to connect with, articulate, and explore your passions. A BA enables you to develop these passions into career pathways that will sustain and inspire you throughout your life.

Arts graduates pursue diverse careers. They are journalists, policymakers, social advocates, leaders and entrepreneurs. They are in roles across government, the tech industry, galleries, museums, and the charity sector. Our graduates are sought after, valued, and working to create a better future for us all.

deeper understanding of the world around us, philosophy, ethics, communication, and creativity all offer different ways to understand and navigate the opportunities and challenges of the future.

In a rapidly changing world where many jobs will be transformed, having a career that complements new technology rather than competes with it is key. Arts graduates bring context to the world we navigate daily. Critical thinking skills, visual literacy, a

I invite you to explore and embrace the exciting career pathway that starts with a Bachelor of Arts.

DR. CAROLINE VERCOE
*Associate Professor of Art History
BA Programme Director and
AD Outreach and Student Experience*

Choose from 35+ majors across social sciences, humanities, languages, and Māori and Pacific Studies.

- Academic English Studies & Linguistics
- Anthropology
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Chinese
- Classical Studies & Ancient History
- Communication
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics
- Education
- Employment Relations & Organisation Studies
- English
- European Studies
- French
- Gender Studies
- Geography
- German
- History
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin
- Linguistics
- Logic & Computation
- Mathematics
- Media & Screen Studies
- Music
- Māori Studies
- Pacific Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics & International Relations
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Statistics
- TESOL
- Theological & Religious Studies



**Hear more from
Arts graduates**



Ellie Greenly

**PARTNER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,
MICROSOFT**

BA (English/Linguistics)

Ellie was headhunted for a position at Microsoft – while still at university. She credits her ability to “think outside the box”, research, and develop – and stand by – opinions, as the foundation for the creative thinking skills the tech giant was seeking.

Linguistics, in particular, fuels a path towards AI innovation, she says, and she was involved in the implementation of Windows 11’s Aotearoa NZ keyboard.

“My degree was varied – I learned how coding worked, studied another language, majored in English and Linguistics, and took courses in Psychology and Statistics. That breadth of thinking has helped me in my career.”

“I wanted to explore the subjects I was passionate about with a BA and learn about how people see the world, how society operates, and develop those teamwork skills to carry into the tech field.”





Haya Khan

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, MASALA BAZAAR/
MASALA SCENTS

BA (Communication) / LLB

Haya celebrates and champions South Asian culture in her Parnell store, Masala Bazaar, using her passion for creativity, culture and advocacy to curate this space.

An interest in journalism and the media landscape fuelled Haya's degree choice and futureproofed her career, allowing her to successfully market her business and support people and causes she believes in.

"My Bachelor of Arts allowed me to broaden my horizon in public dealing, media literacy and understanding how and why our society operates the way it does today and how to speak for the change you wish to see."

"I use my qualifications every single day in my business; whether that is in my in-person interactions with customers, studying consumer behaviour online on social media, creating campaigns, understanding market trends, or building our brand identity and equity - all of these tools of trade have been obtained from my Arts degree."



Victor Faletutulu

POLICY ADVISOR, AUCKLAND COUNCIL

BA (Hons) (Criminology)

Master of Public Policy

Victor's degree helped him develop a strong foundation in critical and creative thinking, verbal communication and relationship building. Working at the council he uses these problem-solving skills in the Social Wellbeing team where his job focuses on improving social outcomes through community services and provisions.

"There aren't many Pasifika in policy, so I really encourage our young people to strive to get into these roles and make a difference.

"I was always interested in social issues such as crime, housing, homelessness, and unemployment, and I chose to study Arts because problem solving is my passion. My degree helped me think through problems and develop and flesh out my ideas logically and rationally."





Michal Garvey

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, FOODPRINT

BA (Māori Studies, Political Studies*)

Michal says learning te ao Māori principles such as kaitiakitanga, juxtaposed with the impacts of colonisation in Aotearoa New Zealand, helped shape her values and worldview.

Her app, the award-winning Foodprint, redirects surplus food from eateries to customers to help prevent waste.

“We’re working with over 400 eateries and have saved more than 50,000kg of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions through food rescue; I’m looking forward to the day when that’s 150,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions.”

*Political Studies is now Politics and International Relations



“My degree helped me find my place in the world and uncover the impact I want to have.”



Alex Casey

SENIOR WRITER, THE SPINOFF

BA (Film, TV and Media Studies, Sociology)

As an early hire at the newly established online news website The Spinoff, Alex is one of Aotearoa’s leading voices in journalism. She hosted Three’s The Spinoff TV series too.

As a self-professed enthusiast of pop culture she credits interviewing Quentin Tarantino, visiting the set of Days of Our Lives, and a walk-in role on Shortland Street as career highlights.

“It was when I discovered Sociology in my second year – and fused it with my love of film and television – that my entire way of seeing the world and digesting popular culture changed.

“Sociology gave me a framework with which to understand the structures of the world, and Film, TV and Media Studies showed me how to consume media critically – while still enjoying it!”

*Film, TV and Media Studies is now Media and Screen Studies



Callum Hunter

DIRECTOR, SUPERGOOD

BA (Theological and Religious Studies, Classical Studies)/BCom

The skills that Callum learned in his degree showed him how to adapt and succeed in any field. He has proved this by becoming the Communications Adviser to former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern in 2020. He has since become a Director at supergood, a campaign agency for non-profits and the public sector.

“I’ve genuinely found Theological and Religious Studies contributed a lot to both my career and personal life... the learning and discussion-based classes gave us a solid foundation to be successful anywhere, doing anything, and people have always commented on it as a subject that sticks in their mind after reading a CV.”





Natasha Sharan

COURT VICTIM ADVISOR,
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

BA (Criminology, Employment Relations
and Organisational Studies)

BA (Hons) (Criminology)

MA (Criminology)

Natasha became inspired to become an advocate against domestic violence after growing up watching her parents look after victims in their local community.

She saw Criminology as a perfect way to find a path to help victims of all types of crimes. Her studies helped her develop critical skills like interpersonal communication, analytical thinking, and time management that are essential for her career.

“I help make court information more accessible for victims. This can range from explaining legal and court terms to putting victims in touch with community-based safety support.

“During my study, I had the opportunity to debate, present, and work in a team and individually in a safe and supportive environment. This helped me develop key skills like interpersonal communication, analytical thinking, and time management.

“Being able to communicate ideas and complex processes with often tight deadlines, especially with people from all walks of life, is essential.



Luciane Buchanan

ACTRESS/WRITER/PRODUCER

BA (Drama, Psychology)

Luciane wrote and acted in *Lea Tupu'anga/Mother Tongue*, the first professional short film to be both written and directed by Tongan women. The film premiered at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival.

She is also the female lead in two shows: *The Night Agent*, the most-watched Netflix show of 2023 worldwide, and the Apple TV+ show *Chief of War*.

“Drama allowed me to devise my own stories and gave me the confidence to explore the stories I want to tell. Studying Psychology has influenced how I approach my screenwriting, the topics I want to explore and psychological character development when it comes to acting.”





Freya Markula

IMAGE ORDERS TECHNICIAN,
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

BA (Art History, English)
BA (Hons) (Art History)

Both Freya and Sophie leverage their Art History research skills in their day-to-day roles. Sophie works with the Online Cenotaph database, updating records and helping people research their family's history. One aspect of Freya's job is improving the online accessibility of the Museum's collections.

"My Collections roles have often required me to problem solve to find the most intuitive way to catalogue an object, or the safest way for it to be rehoused. The critical thinking skills that I built upon during my time at university are crucial in my work." - Freya



Sophie Elborough

COLLECTION TECHNICIAN,
RESEARCH SUPPORT,
AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

BA (Art History, English)
BA (Hons) (Art History)

"The analytical skills taught in a BA provided me with an attention to detail which has proved valuable in my current role." - Sophie



George Tereapii Greig

SECOND SECRETARY (TRADE &
ENVIRONMENT), NEW ZEALAND
HIGH COMMISSION TO AUSTRALIA

BA (Media, Film and Television,
Sociology)/LLB

George's current diplomatic posting in Canberra follows a succession of positions in politics. Starting with a role at Auckland Council before moving to Wellington to take up a post at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

He was part of MFAT's Covid-19 policy response team and then a Ministerial Adviser to an MP.

"It's critical to have an understanding of New Zealand society, how its people and institutions interact with one another, and how we might connect and engage the New Zealanders we serve.

"Sociology builds social and political knowledge that's key to a career in the Government. Having a media background helps you understand how to communicate with and engage people in our mixed media environment."





Freddie Gillies

AUTHOR/SENIOR GROWTH MARKETING MANAGER, LIFE360

BA (History, Politics and International Relations)/BCom

Living in London, Freddie released his first book, *The Big Bike Trip*, in 2021. He followed that up three years later with his fiction release *Because All Fades*.

Freddie was a guest speaker at the Auckland Writers Festival in 2024. He discussed his latest book and how it has helped change how New Zealand men are portrayed in fiction.

"I chose a Bachelor of Arts because I loved the subject matter. History has always fascinated me because, in its simplest form, it's storytelling. It also helps us understand the present.

"The amount of writing in an Arts degree set me up to write books. Critical thinking is invaluable – it enables empathy, which is crucial when building fictional characters"



Phoebe Upton

CAPTION EDITOR, ABLE

*BA (Sociology, Spanish)
Master of Translation*

Phoebe edits and produces captions for media airing on providers such as TVNZ, Prime and Sky. She says the research, writing, and proofreading skills developed at university allow her to produce work at a consistently high level.

"I believe my degree offered the broadest scope of subjects and gave me essential life skills. My first year allowed me to explore different options, and as I progressed, I gradually narrowed my focus.

"I truly believe a BA sets you up for more than a career – it sets you up for life! It exposes you to different schools of thought, diverse opinions, and distinct worldviews, and fosters a sense of empathy and understanding."



Lucy von Sturmer

FOUNDER AND CEO, CREATIVES FOR CLIMATE

BA (Political Studies, Film, TV and Media Studies)*

Lucy's mission to speak up for climate awareness has seen her named as a "Sustainability Star" by AdWeek. Her company currently has a global network of more than 30,000 professionals who are taking climate action in the workplace.

She is also the founder of award-winning communications consultancy The Humblebrag, which supports business leaders and brands in taking a stand on social, cultural, and environmental issues.

*Political Studies and Film, TV and Media Studies are now the Politics and International Relations and Media and Screen Studies majors

"A Bachelor of Arts helped me to tackle complex problems, enhance my critical thinking skills, and follow my nose towards areas that interest me. I had to be an entrepreneur to translate those skills into a vocational career, but I could not challenge the complexity of tasks I face today without that academic perspective."





Simon Wetherill

HEAD OF LIBRARY & ARCHIVE,
MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT AND
TECHNOLOGY (MOTAT)

BA (Art History, Political Science)

Simon has built a career that aligns with his values. He now leads a team that is responsible for preserving MOTAT’s heritage collection and relishes showing this to visitors: from schoolchildren to Queen Pa Upokotini Ariki.

Following his career from New Zealand, to the UK, and back to Aotearoa and through libraries, information management, and council roles, to his present position, he says he draws on the “softer skills” to develop his career.

“The ability to step back and understand the bigger picture to the task at hand or point of focus was a great skill to develop. Group activities, especially tutorials where you may be confronted with opposing ideas and opinions in a safe space to debate and argue was also very important.”



Melissa Ansell-Bridges

NATIONAL SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL
OF TRADE UNIONS

BA (Sociology and Political Studies*)/LLB

No day is the same for Melissa who, at just 31, was the union’s youngest National Secretary. From financial and strategic planning and reporting, to running campaigns, and engaging with politicians, she fights for people’s working rights.

Before being elected in 2019, she was the Director of actor’s union Equity New Zealand, and a member of the government’s Film Industry Working Group and the Screen Sector Strategy Facilitation Group.

*Political Studies is now Politics and International Relations

“The most valuable thing I learned from my politics and sociology majors was questioning things we take for granted. So much of how society and the economy operate appears set in stone, but they’re choices people have made, and that’s empowering because we can choose to make them better.”





Pulotu Tupe Solomon-Tanoa'i

Malaemalu, Falealili, and Afega

CHIEF PHILANTHROPIC OFFICER,
MICHAEL AND SUZANNE BORRIN FOUNDATION

BA (French)/LLB

Pulotu Tupe's career spans local and international roles – from the Beehive to Taipei. Using her language skills developed at university, she added a third string to her bow with Mandarin Chinese, to succeed in her diplomatic positions.

She offers her expertise in international trade, philanthropy, media, and engaging with Asia and the Pacific in an advisory role. She also runs a social enterprise with her husband, Poporazzi Productions, which specialises in sharing Pacific stories.

"Communication and building bridges across cultures are something I regard as incredibly important. I have dedicated my personal and professional life to working towards a society that is inclusive of diversity."

"Taking French and Japanese subjects were invaluable for the career I pursued in diplomacy and international work. Communicating with others in their language helped me build strong relationships with my interlocutors, enabling deeper understanding and better international negotiation outcomes."



Tayla Marlow

SENIOR INTEGRATED PRODUCER,
TBWA\AUSTRALIA

*BA (Media, Film and Television, Sociology)
BA (Hons) (Screen Production)*

In the fast-paced world of marketing and production, skills like organisation, people management, and communication are key. Add to that her diverse background of filmmaking with companies like Warner Bros and on shows such *The Block* and *Married at First Sight*, Tayla's career is going places.

"A BA gives you a degree that is super flexible, and can change with you throughout your time at university. You can be creative, forward-thinking, and practical all at the same time.

"My study taught me super valuable and practical skills in the field which I now use on a day-to-day basis."



Edward Ashby

CEO, TE KAWERAU IWI TIAKI TRUST

*BA (Anthropology, Art History)
BA (Hons) Anthropology
MA (Anthropology)*

Edward helps to improve Indigenous and human-environmental outcomes through advocacy, analysis, and innovative cross-cultural approaches. He has been involved in diverse projects, including assisting Te Kawerau ā Maki with the final stages of Te Tiriti ō Waitangi settlement with the Crown. He has also worked in England at the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

"My Arts degrees gave me a solid understanding and expertise in anthropology and archaeology, which is central to my role now. In addition to the technical skills and knowledge, my studies in Arts gave me a broad skill set and knowledge base in culture, design, geography, and other areas of the humanities."





Hector Kaiwai

Iwi: Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngai Tūhoe

DIRECTOR, AWA ASSOCIATES AND WAI RANGAHAU

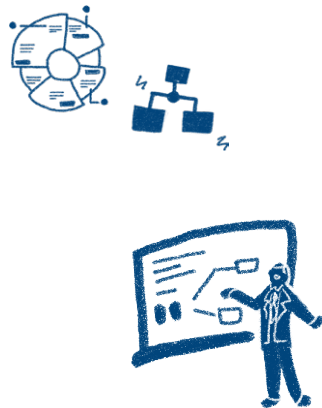
BA (Māori Studies)/BMus

Working to support social and cultural innovation in his career has seen Hector build a career spanning local and national agencies, and the private, philanthropic and NGO sectors. He has contributed to the Waitangi Tribunal, worked with criminal justice organisations, and implemented school programmes.

The kaupapa Māori research foundations learnt in his study are his “bread and butter” in Hector’s research, evaluation and development of policy.

“The internet and advancements in technology have really changed the way in which we process, learn and receive information. The skills and discipline I learnt have given me several paradigms and frameworks to process and interpret information. This ability has helped me to take advantage of, and prosper in, the information age.”

“The flexibility an Arts degree offers meant I could develop a broad range of skills and versatility that is vital in today’s job market.”



Josh Emmitt

CURATOR ARCHAEOLOGY, AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM

BA (Anthropology, Classical Studies and Ancient History)

BA (Hons), MA, PhD (Anthropology)

Josh has extensive experience caring for museum artefacts and taonga, ensuring they are meticulously described, catalogued, and adequately housed. He collaborates with iwi and community organisations to facilitate collection visits, helps develop new galleries in the museum, and facilitates research on the archaeology collection.

Josh’s studies have taken him to diverse locations worldwide, including Italy, Egypt, and Australia, and he has contributed to many museum collections across Europe.

“A valuable part of my study was learning how to think critically. It taught me not just to absorb information, but to interrogate why it’s accepted, how it’s framed, and its broader implications. In today’s world, where discerning the truth is crucial, these skills are invaluable.”



Graci Kim

AUTHOR, DISNEY PUBLISHING WORLDWIDE

BA (Spanish, French) BA (Hons) (Spanish)

From a diplomatic career in Beijing, to cuddly toy entrepreneur, to New York Times bestselling author: Graci has done it all. Her *Gifted Clans* trilogy is inspired by the Korean mythology of her childhood.

In 2022, Graci was awarded the Sir Julius Vogel Award, which recognises achievement in New Zealand science fiction, for Best New Talent.

“My job is to get lost in my imagination and create wild new adventures before working with Disney to turn them into books. Then, I travel worldwide to share my stories and inspire a new generation of readers.

“The training I received through my Bachelor of Arts to be fearless of feedback from lecturers and peers and to use it to revise and improve my work has been a godsend as a writer. After all, writing a book, as they say, is all about rewriting!”





Jack Woon

FILM AND TV WRITER, DIRECTOR, AND EDITOR,
UNKO FILMS LTD

BA (Film, TV and Media Studies)/BE (Hons)
BA (Hons) (Screen Production)

Jack is a filmmaker who has worked worldwide for clients such as National Geographic and Discovery. He won Best Director and Best Film awards at the 2011 Show Me Shorts Film Festival. He also wrote, directed, and edited *Sik Fan Lah!*, a critically acclaimed TVNZ food odyssey documentary series celebrating Chinese New Zealanders.

“Writing is the most important transferable skill I gained at university. A good essay must be well structured and to the point, which is also needed when I cut down an hour-long interview or write a short film script to move an audience.”



Prominent figures from various fields have recognised the importance of an Arts education.

Susan Wojcicki

BA in History and Literature

Wojcicki was one of Google's earliest employees. She later oversaw the acquisition of YouTube, becoming its CEO, showcasing the importance of historical insight and storytelling.

Howard Schultz

BA in Communications

Schultz transformed Starbucks from a small Seattle coffee chain into a global coffeehouse phenomenon, illustrating the power of communication and visionary leadership.

Taika Waititi

Jacinda Ardern

Sam Neill

Witi Ihimaera

Helen Clark

All have a BA!

Stephen King

BA in English

His prolific writing career has produced numerous best sellers and film adaptations.



**WHERE WILL YOU TAKE
YOUR BACHELOR OF ARTS?**

