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Subject Guide

For School Students



This guide shows Year 13 school subjects that are recommended or required for University of Auckland degree programmes.

Recommended subjects are those that are useful for degree preparation, and may contribute to gaining entry. **Required subjects** are those that are needed to gain entry to a degree.

Gaining Admission

To be admitted to the University, you must:

- Have a University Entrance qualification based on NCEA, Cambridge International, IB or another recognised, equivalent qualification
- Meet the rank score and any other requirements for your chosen programme

Please note that this guide is based on entry requirements for 2026 and is subject to change. For details on current entry requirements, including University Entrance and selection into a programme, please refer to our website.

auckland.ac.nz/admission

Academic English Language Requirement (AELR)

In addition to any University Entrance Literacy standard, you must meet the Academic English Language Requirement either through your entry qualification or during your first 12 months of study. This applies if you are applying for admission to an undergraduate programme and you are a domestic student, or an international student applying on the basis of a New Zealand secondary school qualification or on the basis of results at another New Zealand tertiary institution.

Meeting the requirement through school qualifications

To satisfy the AELR via an entry qualification from a New Zealand secondary school you must achieve the following:

- For those applying on the basis of NCEA: You must have gained both the University Entrance Literacy Standard AND an overall score of at least 17 credits in English at Level 2 and/or 3.* †
- For those applying on the basis of Cambridge International: You must have gained the University Entrance Literacy Standard AND a minimum of a D grade in an English course at AS or A Level.
- For those applying on the basis of International Baccalaureate (IB): You must have gained both the University Entrance Literacy Standard AND an overall score of 26 points or more.

Meeting the requirement in your first 12 months of study

If you do not meet the requirement through your entrance qualification as outlined above, but otherwise qualify for admission, you can satisfy the AELR during your first year of study by passing an academic English language course. Visit us online for more information.

auckland.ac.nz/aelr

- * Does not apply to applicants who meet the University Entrance Literacy Standard in Te Reo.
- † English for Academic Purposes standards US 22749, US 22750 and US 22751 will contribute to meeting the AELR.

Business and Commerce

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score. There are no specific subjects for admission. However Statistics and/or Calculus, or Mathematics, are recommended. Any of the following subjects are also beneficial: Accounting, Economics, English, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, History, Geography, Business Studies.
Bachelor of Property (BProp)	

Education and Teaching

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies (BECSt)	Applicants for BED Teaching and BED TESOL will be selected on the basis of their rank score, interview, police check, and referees' reports. There are no specific subjects required for admission, however any of the following are recommended: Languages, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Technology, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira, Visual Arts. A high standard of oral and written English is important. For the Bachelor of Education – Teaching (Primary), literacy and numeracy assessments will also be required for admission. An English test may also be required.
Bachelor of Education (Tchg)	
Bachelor of Education (TESOL)	

Engineering, Architecture and Design

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS)	There are no specific subject requirements for entry into the BAS degree. However, the following secondary school subjects can help prepare you for Architecture at university: Art and equivalent subjects such as Art and Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture; Art History; English; Social Sciences subjects such as Classical Studies, Geography, History; Mathematics; Physics; Te Reo Māori or Te Reo Rangatira; Technology subjects such as Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Hard Materials.
Bachelor of Design (BDes)	There are no specific subject requirements for entry into the BDes degree. However, the following secondary school subjects can help prepare you for Design at university: Art and equivalent subjects such as Art and Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture; Mathematics; Technology subjects such as Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Hard Materials. You may need to take specific subjects at school if you want to enter a Design conjoint degree programme.
Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (BE(Hons))	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score and our subject requirements. NCEA applicants who have at least a minimum of 11 external Level 3 credits in Mathematics with Calculus and a minimum of 10 external Level 3 credits in Physics will be considered for entry. For guaranteed entry, students require 17 external credits in Calculus and 16 external credits in Physics at Level 3; Cambridge International students require A Level Mathematics and Physics; and IB students require Higher Level Mathematics and Physics. Cambridge International AS Level Mathematics and Physics, or IB Standard Level Mathematics "Analysis and Approaches", may be accepted based on level of grade achieved. IB Standard Level Mathematics "Applications and Interpretation" will not be accepted. Any of the following are also recommended: Biology, Chemistry, English-rich subjects (Classics, English, Geography, History, History of Art).
Bachelor of Urban Planning (Honours) (BUrbPlan(Hons))	There are no specific subject requirements for entry into the BUrbPlan(Hons) degree. However, the following secondary school subjects can help prepare you for Urban Planning at university: English; Social Sciences subjects such as Classical Studies, Geography, History; Technology subjects such as Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies.

Health and Medicine

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc)	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score and 18 credits in one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and 18 credits in one of Classical Studies, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Social Studies, Te Reo Māori or Te Reo Rangatira at NCEA Level 3 or equivalent. For potential applicants to the MBChB, Biology, Chemistry and at least one English-rich subject are strongly recommended. Cambridge International students will be selected on the basis of their rank score and one of English, Geography, History, or Classical Studies, and one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics at full A level.
Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Honours) (BMedImag(Hons))	Applicants for the BMedImag(Hons) must first complete the required Stage One courses as part of the BSc. (Majors/specialisations that can easily incorporate the required courses are Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition (Nutrition Pathway), and Medicinal Chemistry.) Biology, Chemistry and at least one English-rich subject are strongly recommended. Physics and Mathematics (Calculus or Statistics) are useful.
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB)	Applicants for the MBChB must first complete the required Stage One courses in the BHSc or the BSc (in Biomedical Science). Biology, Chemistry and at least one English-rich subject are strongly recommended. Physics and Mathematics (Statistics or Calculus) are useful.

Health and Medicine cont.

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Nursing (BNurs)	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score and 18 credits in one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and 18 credits in one of Classical Studies, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Social Studies, Te Reo Māori or Te Reo Rangatira at NCEA Level 3 or equivalent. Cambridge International students will be selected on the basis of their rank score and one of English, Geography, History or Classical Studies, and one of Biology, Chemistry or Physics at full A level.
Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom)	Applicants for the BOptom must first complete the required Stage One courses as part of the BSc. (Majors/specialisations that can easily incorporate the required courses are Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition (Nutrition Pathway), and Medicinal Chemistry.) Biology, Chemistry and at least one English-rich subject are strongly recommended. Physics and Mathematics (Calculus or Statistics) are useful.
Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm)	Applicants for the BPharm must first complete the required Stage One courses as part of the BHSc or the BSc. (Majors/specialisations that can easily incorporate the required courses are Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition (Nutrition Pathway), and Medicinal Chemistry.) Biology and Chemistry are recommended, plus at least one English-rich subject.
Bachelor of Sport Health and Physical Education (BSportHPE)	There are no specific subject requirements for the BSportHPE. See the Bachelor of Commerce section if you are intending on entering the Bachelor of Commerce/Bachelor of Sport, Health and Physical Education (BCom/BSportHPE) conjoint programme.

Humanities, Society and Globalisation

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score. There are no specific subjects required for admission. However, any of the following subjects are recommended: Classical Studies, Drama, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Languages, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Psychology, Religious Studies, Social Studies, Statistics, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira. You may need to take specific subjects at school if you are intending on entering a conjoint degree.
Bachelor of Communication (BC)	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score. There are no specific subjects required for admission. However, any of the following subjects are recommended: Calculus, Classical Studies, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Drama, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Languages, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Psychology, Social Studies, Religious Studies, Statistics, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira. You may need to take specific subjects at school if you are intending on entering a conjoint degree.
Bachelor of Global Studies (BGlobalSt)	Students will be selected on the basis of their rank score and a minimum of 16 credits in each of three subjects from the NCEA approved subject list. There are no additional requirements for Cambridge International or IB. Study of a language is encouraged. You may need to take specific subjects at school if you are intending on entering a conjoint degree.
Bachelor of Social Justice Studies (BSJS)	There are no specific subjects required for admission, however any of the following are recommended: Languages, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Mathematics, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics), Technology, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira, Visual Arts. A high standard of oral and written English is important.

Law and Justice

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Laws (LLB (Part I))	There are no specific subjects required for admission. Any of the following are recommended: Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, History, History of Art, Languages, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira. A good standard of oral and written English is important.

Fine Arts, Music and Performance

PROGRAMME	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
Bachelor of Dance Studies (BDanceSt)	There are no specific subject requirements for entry into the BDanceSt degree. However, taking Dance as a secondary school subject will help prepare you for Dance Studies at university.
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)	There are no specific subject requirements for entry into the BFA degree. However, the following secondary school subjects can help prepare you for Fine Arts at university: Art and equivalent subjects such as Art and Design, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture; Technology subjects such as Design and Technology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, Hard Materials. You may need to take specific subjects at school if you want to enter a Fine Arts conjoint degree programme.
Bachelor of Music (BMus)	There are no specific subject requirements for entry into the BMus degree. However, taking Music as a secondary school subject will help prepare you for Music at university. You may need to take specific subjects at school if you want to enter a music conjoint degree programme.

Science and Mathematics

SUBJECT / MAJOR	SCHOOL SUBJECTS
BIOLOGICAL, HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES	
Biological Sciences	Useful: Statistics; Recommended: Biology, Chemistry, English-rich subjects
Biomedical Science	Useful: Calculus or Statistics, English-rich subjects, Physics; Recommended: Biology; Strong Recommended: Chemistry
Exercise Sciences	Useful: Chemistry, English-rich subjects, Physics, Statistics; Recommended: Biology
Food Science and Nutrition	Useful: Chemistry, Physics; Recommended: Biology, Calculus or Statistics, English-rich subjects
Marine Science	Useful: Chemistry, Earth and Space Science; Recommended: Biology, English-rich subjects, Statistics
Physiology	Useful: Calculus or Statistics; Recommended: Biology, English-rich subjects, Physics; Strongly recommended: Chemistry
CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES	
Chemistry	Useful: Biology, Calculus or Statistics, English-rich subjects, Physics; Strongly recommended: Chemistry
Food Science and Nutrition	Useful: Chemistry, Physics; Recommended: Biology, Calculus or Statistics, English-rich subjects
Green Chemical Science	Useful: Calculus or Statistics, Physics, English rich subjects, especially Geography; Recommended: Biology, Geography Strongly recommended: Chemistry
Medicinal Chemistry	Useful: Statistics or Calculus; Recommended: Biology, Physics, English-rich subjects; Strongly recommended: Chemistry
Pharmacology	Useful: Calculus or Statistics; Recommended: Biology, English-rich subjects, Physics; Strongly recommended: Chemistry
Physics †	Useful: Chemistry, Biology (for students interested in Medical Physics), Earth and Space Science, Statistics, English-rich subjects; Recommended: Calculus; Strongly recommended: Physics
GEOGRAPHY, EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	
Earth Sciences	Useful: Chemistry, Physics, Statistics or Calculus; Recommended: English-rich subjects, especially Geography; Strongly recommended: Earth and Space Science
Environmental Science	Useful: Biology; Recommended: Statistic or Calculus, English-rich subjects, especially Geography; Strongly recommended: Earth and Space Science
Geographic Information Science	Useful: Physics, Statistics or Calculus; Recommended: Earth and Space science, English-rich subjects, especially Geography
Geography	Useful: Statistics or Calculus, English-rich subjects, especially Geography; Recommended: Earth and Space Science
Marine Science	Useful: Chemistry, Earth and Space Science; Recommended: Biology, English-rich subjects, Statistics
HUMAN, SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES	
Anthropological Science	Useful: Biology, Statistics; Recommended: English-rich subjects
Exercise Sciences	Useful: Chemistry, Physics, Statistics, English-rich subjects; Recommended: Biology
Geography	Useful: Statistics or Calculus, English-rich subjects, especially Geography; Recommended: Earth and Space Science
Psychology	Recommended: Biology, Statistics, English-rich subjects
MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCES	
Computer Science	Useful: Physics; Recommended: Calculus, English-rich subjects
Data Science	Useful: Statistics or Calculus; Recommended: English-rich subjects
Geographic Information Science	Useful: Physics, Statistics or Calculus; Recommended: Earth and Space science, English-rich subjects, especially Geography
Information and Technology Management*	Useful: Statistics or Calculus, Accounting; Recommended: English-rich subjects, especially Geography
Logic and Computation	Useful: Statistics or Calculus, English-rich subjects
Mathematics	Recommended: Statistics, English-rich subjects; Strongly recommended: Calculus
Quantitative Economics **	Useful: Economics; Recommended: English-rich subjects; Strongly recommended: Statistics or Calculus
Statistics	Useful: English-rich subjects; Recommended: Statistics, Calculus

* Accounting is also useful preparation ** Economics is also useful preparation † Biology is recommended for students with an interest in Medical Physics

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