VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

TOHU PAETAHI ARONUI

BACHELOR OF ARTS

2027

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Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 24 universities worldwide to do so. The University gained a total score of 966 out of a possible 1,000 points across eight audited categories, including maximum points for the employability and inclusiveness categories. Maximum points were awarded for 25 of the more than 30 indicators, including overall student satisfaction; further study; graduate employment rate; international diversity, support, and collaborations; academic reputation; satisfaction with teaching; campus facilities; accreditations; art and cultural investment and facilities; disabled access; scholarships and bursaries; low-income outreach; and student cohort diversity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington uses all reasonable skill and care to ensure the information contained here was accurate at the time it was prepared. However, matters covered by this publication are subject to change due to a continuous process of review, and to unanticipated circumstances. The University therefore reserves the right to make any changes without notice. So far as the law permits, the University accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any person due to reliance (either whole or in part) on the information contained in this publication, whether direct or indirect, and whether foreseeable or not.

TOHU PAETAHI ARONUI
BACHELOR OF ARTS

A BROAD BASE OF KNOWLEDGE

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington is distinctive in New Zealand. We intentionally offer extraordinary choice in your first year across the humanities and social sciences, languages and cultures, and the creative arts, allowing you to discover your passions and develop a truly broad base of learning.

LEARN FROM THE BEST

The University is ranked in the top 1 percent worldwide for Arts and Humanities by the QS World University Rankings, and number one in research quality in New Zealand across a broad range of BA subjects by the Performance-Based Research Fund. Our staff are nationally and internationally renowned scholars who are imaginative and passionate teachers.

PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK

The job market is an ever-changing environment, due to factors such as advances in digital technology and changing demographics. Ensure you can adapt by gaining the skills that are valuable in any workplace—develop your creativity, flexibility, and imagination, while learning how to think critically and present an argument. You'll also develop research skills and learn to communicate complex ideas in both speech and writing.

MAKE CAREER CONNECTIONS

During your degree, you will also have the opportunity to enhance your career prospects with a range of curricular and extracurricular opportunities. Our location in New Zealand's capital and our connections with Wellington's dynamic pool of employers provide unrivalled opportunities to build your future.

"Welcome to Te Wāhanga Aronui—Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. We are all looking forward to getting to know you and celebrating your success.

"We are home to one of the world's best film schools, and you'll be learning with internationally recognised researchers and award-winning lecturers.

"In our Bachelor of Arts, you can learn about subjects that might be completely new to you—such as anthropology, criminology, environmental humanities, language sciences, and sociology—as well as some you might already know a bit or a lot about, such as English literature, history, modern languages, Pacific studies, politics, and pop music.

"You can explore up to three majors in your first year, meaning you don't have to specialise early and can build a broad base, setting you up for further study and a range of career options. Many of our BA students enrol in joint degree programmes. They undertake a BA in a particular subject while completing a second degree, such as Commerce, Law, or Psychology. Joint degree programmes are organised to help students through to completion.

"With so many options available, you can design an individual learning journey to suit your knowledge and skills."

Professor Averil Coxhead
Dean, Te Wāhanga Aronui—Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

DEGREE STRUCTURE

Our BA takes three years of full-time study and you will take courses worth 360 points in total.

MAJOR

A major is the main subject you'll focus on in your degree. In the BA, you can explore up to three majors in your first year. Each major will make up at least a third of the courses in your degree. Each subject area has specific courses you need to take to meet the requirements of the major.

MINOR

A minor is another area of study you want to focus on in addition to your major but with fewer courses. Choosing to study a minor is optional. A minor is made up of at least 60 points from the relevant subject area at 200 level or above. At least 15 of those points must be at 300 level and not counted towards a major or another minor. You may select up to two minors in any undergraduate subject area offered by the University for the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Architectural Studies, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Communication, Bachelor of Design Innovation, Bachelor of Health, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Psychology, and Bachelor of Science.

ELECTIVE

Alongside your major(s) and any minors, you will also have room to take courses in other subjects you are interested in. These are often called electives.

SAMPLE DEGREE STRUCTURES

A major in one subject and minors in two subjects

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
Major course (20 points)	Major course (20 points)	Major course (20 points)	Major course (20 points)	Major course (20 points)	Major course (20 points)
First minor course (20 points)	Second minor course (20 points)	First minor course (20 points)	Major course (20 points)	First minor course (20 points)	Second minor course (20 points)
Elective course (20 points)	Elective course (20 points)	First minor course (20 points)	Second minor course (20 points)	Second minor course (20 points)	Elective course (20 points)
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Total points completed: 360

Majors in two subjects

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
First major course (20 points)	First major course (20 points)	First major course (20 points)	First major course (20 points)	First major course (20 points)	First major course (20 points)
Second major course (20 points)	Second major course (20 points)	Second major course (20 points)	Second major course (20 points)	Second major course (20 points)	First major course (20 points)
Elective course (20 points)	Elective course (20 points)	Elective course (20 points)	Elective course (20 points)	Elective course (20 points)	Second major course (20 points)
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Total points completed: 360

CAREERS

The job market is changing quickly with the rise of new technologies, increased automation and globalisation, significant environmental concerns, and changing demographics. Future-proof your career with a BA and arm yourself with the transferable skills to allow you to navigate new opportunities in the employment market with agility and creativity. These skills include the ability to communicate clearly using a range of media, to think critically and creatively, to manage your own learning, and to understand the ethics of scholarship, as well as the key concepts within the disciplines studied.

Get your degree in a subject you have a genuine passion for and set yourself on a path to a fulfilling career. Bachelor of Arts graduates have skills that employers tell us are of most value to them, including communication, problem-solving and decision-making, resilience, self-management, teamwork, and willingness to learn.

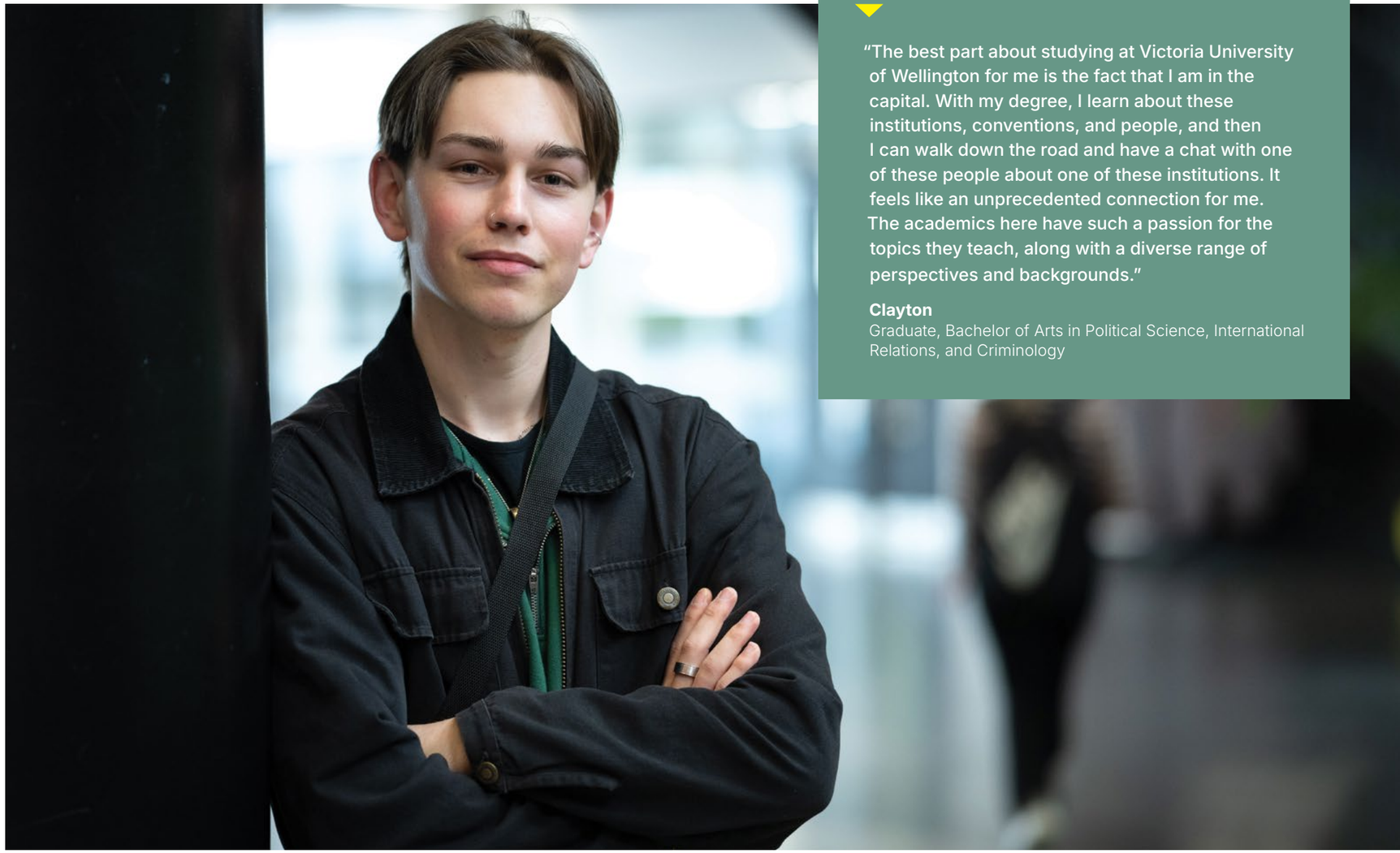
wgtn.ac.nz/humanities-careers

WHERE CAN YOUR DEGREE TAKE YOU?

Our BA graduates are employed in almost every part of the workforce. Your ability to view things from different perspectives and skills in research and analysis can be applied across many sectors and roles:

- administrator
- communications adviser
- community engager
- content developer
- development adviser
- journalist
- marketer
- media adviser
- policy analyst
- political strategist
- project coordinator
- service designer
- teacher
- writer.

wgtn.ac.nz/careers



"The best part about studying at Victoria University of Wellington for me is the fact that I am in the capital. With my degree, I learn about these institutions, conventions, and people, and then I can walk down the road and have a chat with one of these people about one of these institutions. It feels like an unprecedented connection for me. The academics here have such a passion for the topics they teach, along with a diverse range of perspectives and backgrounds."

Clayton
Graduate, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, International Relations, and Criminology

ENHANCE YOUR CAREER PROSPECTS

During your BA, you will have the opportunity to enhance your career prospects with a range of targeted curricular and extracurricular opportunities. Our location in New Zealand's capital and our connections with Wellington's dynamic pool of employers provide unrivalled opportunities to build your future.

FHSS 302 INTERNSHIP

In the FHSS Internship course, you will get the opportunity to put your skills, knowledge, and interests into action on work-based projects, and acquire practical work experience while gaining course credit towards your degree. This course will enable you to expand your horizons and engage in meaningful collaborations with various organisations in the Wellington region such as the Council for International Development, the Ministry of Education, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, NZ on Screen, Radio New Zealand, and many more.

wgtn.ac.nz/working-ba

POSTGRADUATE PATHWAYS

Increasingly, postgraduate study is becoming the key to gaining employment. Te Herenga Waka is one of the country's foremost research institutions, with significant funding from internal and external research sources.

As a postgraduate student at the University, you are able to tap into not only the expertise of our research institutes but also the Crown research institutes and the national, historical, and cultural resources available in Wellington. Our teaching and research programmes present excellent opportunities for student research.

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH HONOURS

(120 points at 400 level) Build on your undergraduate study in a subject in which you have completed a major. Most include a core research component.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ARTS

(120 points at 400 level) An alternative to Honours, the diploma is intended for students interested in advanced study but not intending to complete a research component.

MASTER OF ARTS

(120 points) A one-year full-time degree, offered across 40 subject areas. Research is a key element; most Master of Arts (MA) programmes are by thesis only. Admission to an MA programme normally requires a BA(Hons) degree with First or Second Class Honours in the same discipline.

MASTER'S BY COURSEWORK

(180 points) These 12-month specialist degrees involve a combination of research and coursework.

Communication, Languages, and Language Teaching

- Master of Applied Linguistics
- Master of Communication
- Master of Intercultural Communication and Applied Translation
- Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

Creative Arts and Heritage

- Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) in Design, Film, Music/Sound, or Theatre
- Master of Museum and Heritage Practice
- Master of Music Therapy

Politics and Society

- Master of Criminology
- Master of Indigenous Studies
- Master of International Relations
- Master of Migration Studies
- Master of Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Master of Political Science
- Master of Strategic Studies

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Supervision for research for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is offered in most areas in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and is administered by the Faculty of Graduate Research. The PhD thesis is a major piece of original research that demonstrates "the candidate's ability to carry out independent research and constitutes a significant and original contribution to knowledge or understanding" of a field of study. In order to gain admission as a PhD candidate, you will normally need a First Class or Second Class pass in an Honours or Master's degree (or equivalent).

EXPLORE OUR SUBJECTS

We have grouped our BA subjects in three sections: humanities and social sciences, languages and cultures, and the creative arts. There is actually a lot of crossover among these three areas and it is important to note that a BA can combine subjects from any of these areas, as well as some subjects offered by faculties other than the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (these are marked with an asterisk).

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The humanities and social sciences flourish at Te Herenga Waka, where we explore the many facets of the human experience and how we interact as individuals and communities. By studying humanities and social sciences, you'll be challenged to recognise multiple perspectives, deal with ambiguity, and develop flexibility, creativity, imagination, and critical thinking—all attributes employers tell us they value highly. These BA subjects foster leadership, adaptability, communication skills, and problem solving.

Academic and Professional Writing

Research has shown that better writing leads to better thinking and better learning. Develop the writing and research skills you need to succeed at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at university, as well as in your job. Learn how to formulate, organise, and communicate ideas effectively. Take courses in generating, drafting, and revising your writing for a range of purposes and learn how to write well for university, the media, business, and government. (Available only as elective courses.)

wgtn.ac.nz/writing

Art History

Art making is a fundamental human activity, so the study of visual art provides a unique view into how people use it to express their values, experiences, and cultural identity. You'll study how visual art helps us understand our place in a changing world, with a focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and highlighting art from Aotearoa and the Pacific. Art History explores the cultural, political, and aesthetic frameworks we use to interpret visual art and culture. In this way, it gives you the tools and knowledge to make sense of the world today.

wgtn.ac.nz/art-history

Classics

The legacy of the classical world is still with us today, long after the fall of the Roman Empire. Its influence can be seen throughout modern society, from language and the arts to law, politics, religion, and the way people see the world. In Classics, we investigate the art, history, literature, mythology, and society of the ancient Greeks and Romans, their influence on later societies, and the continued relevance of the ancient world in art, literature, politics, and popular culture.

wgtn.ac.nz/classics

Criminology

In Criminology, you study real-world problems of crime and punishment debated in the media every day—from drug law reform to sexual violence prevention. Internationally renowned teachers and researchers will help you see through the many myths about crime so you can view familiar issues in a new light. Criminology is focused not only on problems but on solutions and supports students who want to make a difference in the world. Many students go on to become policymakers, campaigners, educators, and frontline workers.

wgtn.ac.nz/criminology

Cultural Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology explores diverse worlds to understand the inherent complexity of human life and to grapple with some of our most urgent contemporary issues. Our classes engage with education, the environment and sustainability, food, kinship, gender and sexuality, health and medicine, human rights and social justice, political and economic life, ritual, and technology. We are interested in all kinds of ways of being human, seeking to understand the world through the experiences of environmentalists, humanitarians, Indigenous activists, stockbrokers, undocumented migrants, and many others. Learn about the world through the diversities—and similarities—in human experience.

wgtn.ac.nz/anthropology

Data Science*

Study Data Science as part of a BA to develop technical skills in computing technologies, statistics, and mathematics and work with real data sets to develop a practical understanding of data management and analysis using R and Python. You'll assess the ethics of data collection and use, question privacy and security issues, learn about the importance of communicating effectively with data, and gain an overall understanding of the consequences of the data revolution.

wgtn.ac.nz/data-science

Development Studies

Concerned about multiple economic, environmental, political, and social crises? Development Studies engages you in theories and practices that aim to increase equity, justice, and sustainability. Learning from action by local communities, government agencies, and international organisations, Development Studies opens up a world of opportunities for you to make a real difference in Aotearoa and internationally.

wgtn.ac.nz/development-studies

Economics*

Economics can be taken as part of a BA if you are interested mainly in humanities subjects or social policy. Study how we make decisions about limited resources and how to get the most value out of them. Consider why people choose to do the things they do, and how decisions are made to produce and distribute goods and services.

wgtn.ac.nz/economics-and-finance

Education*

If you are interested in issues such as social justice, challenges facing young people, and our changing world, consider studying Education as part of a BA. Education provides an excellent foundation for a career in many fields including teaching, social policy, youth work, and community services. Education is multidisciplinary and draws on history, philosophy, politics, psychology, and sociology.

wgtn.ac.nz/education

Educational Psychology*

Through studying Educational Psychology as part of a BA, you'll learn how best to help children and young people succeed in life—academically, socially, and emotionally. Understand how children learn and develop using the ideas of behavioural, social, and developmental psychology. You'll also learn about effective assessment and intervention strategies for promoting children's learning and development and for promoting positive behaviour and mental health and wellness. Courses cover a range of educational theories. This interdisciplinary major is offered in conjunction with the School of Psychology.

wgtn.ac.nz/education

English Literature

Experience literatures in English from different cultures and different times. Learn to interpret stories, plays, and poems, and to express your understanding effectively. Explore different genres and find out how a work relates to its time, place, and readers. At the heart of all our courses are the skills of advanced reading and writing; we aim to help you to read with greater attention, critical insight, and appreciation.

wgtn.ac.nz/english-literature

Environmental Humanities / He Aronui Aotūroa

The Environmental Humanities draw on the methodologies and insights of all arts disciplines to study how the arts help us better understand our relationships with the planet. By studying art, film, history, literature, media, politics, and philosophy, we consider how cultural beliefs and values shape our interactions with nature. We examine te Tīriti-led responses to environmental change. Our hands-on classes explore how we can cultivate a deeper understanding of relationships between people, culture, and the environment. Environmental Humanities offers a holistic understanding of the complex environmental issues of our time, while nurturing the ability to respond critically and imaginatively to environmental issues in today's world.

wgtn.ac.nz/environmental-humanities

Gender and Sexuality Studies

Explore the way gender and sexuality structure and shape societies and how this affects our lives. Drawing on a range of theoretical and methodological perspectives, Gender and Sexuality Studies covers topics including sex, gender, and sexuality; gender, language, and storytelling; pornography, sex work, and sexual violence; media, cinema, and representation; gender, ethnicity, and development; feminist, queer, and trans theory; and human reproduction, families, and personal life. (Available only as a minor.)

wgtn.ac.nz/sociology

Geography*

Take Geography as part of a BA if you're interested in the social, cultural, or political aspects of geography. Geography is about understanding and engaging with change at different scales—from the physical processes that shape our Earth to the sociopolitical and economic processes that shape how and where we live. Strengthen your ability to inform positive solutions to major societal challenges from climate change and natural hazards to migration and urbanisation.

wgtn.ac.nz/geography

History

Understanding how the past informs the present, and a deep historical awareness, prepares you to be an informed global citizen. The programme looks at historical periods, events, and ideas from Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world and explores how people in different times and places have created the world we live in today. By studying history, you will broaden your cultural awareness while strengthening your analytical and rhetorical skills.

wgtn.ac.nz/history

International Relations

The study of International Relations gives you the tools and insight to understand how power, policies, and ideas shape the world we live in. International Relations takes a critical look at the world and how countries and non-state actors engage with each other. You can explore the political, economic, security, and normative relations among states and other international actors, to better understand the world and our place in it.

wgtn.ac.nz/politics-international-relations

Kaitiakitanga

Explore the potential in the rapidly growing Māori asset base and how Māori provide sustainable management of environmental resources such as land, lakes, forests, and fisheries in a time of environmental change. Learn the basics in Māori language and gain the skills to contribute meaningfully to Māori social, economic, and political development.

wgtn.ac.nz/maori

Mathematics*

Mathematics can be taken as part of a BA if your interests are mainly in humanities and social sciences. Explore problem-solving techniques that you can use in several disciplines, including the sciences, and that you can apply in a variety of professions.

wgtn.ac.nz/maths-and-stats

Media Studies

Media Studies lets you engage with one of the primary means by which we know ourselves and our society. Study topics such as advertising, gender and sexuality, media policy, multiplatform television, popular music, or social and interactive media. Explore how media works, media's role in New Zealand and internationally, and how media intertwines with popular culture, politics, identity, and more.

wgtn.ac.nz/media-studies

Philosophy

Investigate reality and the human mind, morality and beauty, nature and our relationship to it, the structure of logical thought, and the meaning of life. Combining scientific, analytic, and historical ways of thinking, Philosophy encourages you to explore life's biggest questions, including foundational questions that apply to a range of disciplines such as Art, Law, Politics, Psychology, and more. It gives you the skills you need to analyse arguments and build better ones of your own.

wgtn.ac.nz/philosophy

Political Science

Political Science studies the exercise of power and the theories and philosophies at the heart of politics. Examine political ideas from libertarianism to socialism and colonialism to feminism. Learn about the history, development, and structure of New Zealand's political system and enhance your understanding of the nature of power by comparing political systems from all over the world.

wgtn.ac.nz/politics-international-relations

Psychological Science*

Psychology can be taken as part of a BA if your interests are mainly in the humanities and social sciences. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind—how we process information and what drives our behaviour. Examine social behaviour, emotion, personality, and motivation, and gain insights into why people think, act, and feel the way they do.

wgtn.ac.nz/psyc

Public Policy*

Public Policy can be taken as part of a BA if your interests lie in fields such as the social sciences, politics, development, and the media. Public policy is the set of decisions that shape how a country is run. Explore how governments make these decisions, how the public sector works, the political side of policymaking, and how policies can be improved.

wgtn.ac.nz/public-policy-and-government

Social Policy

Social Policy takes a focused look at the needs and wellbeing of the population and how governments and individuals try to solve some of society's key issues. Explore perspectives on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and examine topics such as health inequities, the impacts of neoliberalism on social policy, poverty alleviation, social inequality, and structural racism. (Available only as a minor.)

wgtn.ac.nz/public-policy-and-government

Sociology

Sociology is the study of social life, ranging from everyday interactions and lived experiences through to global historical processes. Critically analyse how such social forces as capitalism, colonialism, human-induced climate change, patriarchy, racism, and social movements structure the world. Reflect on how these forces contribute to your sense of self and relationships with others. Envisage how you can contribute to positive social transformation.

wgtn.ac.nz/sociology

Study of Religion

The Study of Religion investigates the dynamic and profound impact of religion on diverse contemporary societies. Learn about the growing salience of religion to major political, economic, and ethical questions. Explore diverse faiths and spiritualities, their rituals, identities, beliefs, and practices, and how these inform very different ways of being. Consider the great, enduring questions of humanity, and the ways people live their traditions in today's world.

wgtn.ac.nz/study-of-religion

*Subject offered by another faculty.

"Living and studying in Wellington is vibrant, and personal growth and expression come easily when you explore what both the University and the city have to offer.

"Majoring in History has given me access to uncover life in its rawest form, which has turned assignments from course requirements into passion projects. I am truly grateful for how accomplished the lecturers have been throughout my university experience, as the passion they hold for what they teach is contagious."

Alisha
Graduate, Bachelor of Arts in History

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The BA's language and culture programmes will support you to master a different language, learn about other cultures, and develop a more profound understanding of your own culture and language. Gain a global perspective and a competitive edge in the international job market. Our language courses cater for everyone from complete beginners to students who have a background in the language.

Asian Studies

Asia is the wellspring of many of the world's most enduring and richest civilisations. An understanding of Asia has become vital, especially within the context of New Zealand's future in the Asia–Pacific region. Asian Studies is a multidisciplinary programme incorporating such diverse fields as Development Studies, Film, International Relations, and Marketing.

wgtn.ac.nz/asian-studies

Chinese / 中文

Knowledge of Chinese language and culture offers access to a major global civilisation and countries with enormous economic and political significance. Immerse yourself in Chinese language, literature, film, and history. Our goal is to provide you with the language competence and cultural literacy to conduct effective cross-cultural communications in the Chinese-speaking world.

wgtn.ac.nz/chinese

French / Français

Discover the beauties of the French language and gain access to a variety of French-speaking cultures— from Canada, Cameroon, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Morocco, New Caledonia, Senegal, and Tahiti—as well as 'la belle' France. New Zealand's trade connections with these countries and the use of French in international organisations makes it a valuable global language.

wgtn.ac.nz/french

German / Deutsch

German is the first language of 100 million people living in the economic powerhouse of Europe. New Zealand and Germany have working relationships in science, business, politics, and the arts, so knowledge of German can qualify you for a range of careers, especially in tourism, marketing, and international business.

wgtn.ac.nz/german

Greek / Ἑλληνική

Ancient Greek is the language of some of the greatest philosophers, politicians, poets, and playwrights the world has ever known. The language still underlies many of the words we use every day. Take a journey back to the European origins of modern civilisation—a sure path to becoming a truly global citizen.

Students from Te Herenga Waka will be able to take Greek and Latin language courses through Otago University as part of their BA and will receive in-person tutorial support from our Classics staff. These courses will be credited towards their qualification at Te Herenga Waka.

wgtn.ac.nz/classics

Japanese / 日本語

Japan has a profound influence on the world in the economy, international relations, popular culture, and science, and New Zealand's ties with the country make knowledge of its language and culture a valuable asset. From your first hiragana to advanced projects on culture and society, you will learn about Japan in a journey that will take you from the past to the future.

wgtn.ac.nz/japanese

Language Sciences

In Language Sciences, you will explore the systematic workings of language, how people use it, and how to apply this knowledge to make an impact. You will learn scientific methods to understand language structure, acquisition, and its influence on thought, society, and the world. By specialising in Linguistics or Applied Linguistics, you can tailor your major to your interests and career goals. Linguistics focuses on the mental processes and structures of how language functions as an organic and evolving system, as well as on linguistic diversity. Applied Linguistics focuses on the practical applications of language expertise, language learning and teaching, supporting communities, and meeting societal needs.

wgtn.ac.nz/language-sciences

Latin / Latīna

Latin was the language of the Roman Empire and a major language of the medieval world. Still prominent today in law and medicine, Latin also underlies everyday words in various modern languages. Gain an appreciation for Roman history, literature, and philosophy through the works of great writers such as Cicero, Virgil, and Augustine.

Students from Te Herenga Waka will be able to take Greek and Latin language courses through Otago University as part of their BA and will receive in-person tutorial support from our Classics staff. These courses will be credited towards their qualification at Te Herenga Waka.

wgtn.ac.nz/classics

Māori Studies

Prepare yourself to make a positive contribution to Māori development. Across our three majors in Māori Studies, you can gain a foundation in Māori language, culture, history, and modern society. Take part in and learn the nuances of Māori cultural practices and examine the relationships between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti. A strong knowledge of Māori culture and te reo are valuable skills for every New Zealand citizen both in the home and at work.

wgtn.ac.nz/maori-studies

Modern Language Studies

Modern Language Studies combines study of a modern language (from a wide choice of offerings: Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Samoan, Spanish, and Te Reo Māori) with courses from the University's world-class Language Sciences programme. Students not only gain in-depth knowledge of another language and culture but also gain a comprehensive understanding of how languages work. The transferable skills acquired through this degree help graduates succeed in many careers that require excellent communication and a global outlook, such as interpreting, language teaching, tourism, trade, and many more.

wgtn.ac.nz/language-sciences

New Zealand Sign Language

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is the preferred language of New Zealand's Deaf community, and one of our official languages. Learn how to communicate in a visual modality and find out how NZSL is at the heart of a unique community and culture. Skills in NZSL are relevant to careers in interpreting, education, psychology, human rights, disability, and other human services.

wgtn.ac.nz/sign-language

Pacific Studies

Explore the rich histories, cultures, heritages, and contemporary issues of the largest geographical region on the planet, the Pacific. Get an introduction to the work of leading Pacific thinkers, political leaders, and artists; examine the impacts of imperialism and colonialism; and learn how Pacific people, places, and resources have shaped Aotearoa New Zealand and the world, and why Pacific practices and ideas are essential for a thriving regional future. Support the development of Pasifika communities in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific, and the world. Learn an Indigenous or introduced language of the Pacific—French, Māori, or Samoan—and engage in meaningful discussions in and for the region.

wgtn.ac.nz/pacific-cultures-and-languages

Samoan Studies / Matāʻupu Tau Sāmoa

Study the language, culture, and society of Sāmoa and gain (or deepen) an understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand's Samoan population and our Pacific Island neighbourhood. Learn how to speak and perform important cultural duties in Samoan contexts and appreciate the deep cultural foundations that underpin Samoan language and cultural practices. Explore the way cultural beliefs, ceremonies, and daily life shape the Samoan language, as well as how Samoan language and culture have changed over time. Samoan is the third most spoken language in Aotearoa (after English and te reo Māori), and an understanding of Samoan language and culture is a valuable professional and personal resource for Samoans and non-Samoans alike. Ours is the only university in New Zealand where you can major in Samoan Studies.

wgtn.ac.nz/samoan

Spanish / Castellano

Spanish is the third most widely spoken language, spoken in countries known for their economic potential and rich cultures. Expertise in modern languages has never been more important as New Zealand forges business, cultural, political, and trading ties throughout the world. Spanish is spoken in more than 20 nations, and learning it will give you a head start in a range of careers from tourism and marketing to international business.

wgtn.ac.nz/spanish

Te Reo Māori

There is growing national demand for Māori language speakers, particularly in the broadcasting, education, and public sectors. Te Herenga Waka is one of New Zealand's leading universities for Māori research, and your skills in te reo Māori will be matched with an awareness of Māori practices, language revitalisation, and competency in linguistic analysis and translation.

wgtn.ac.nz/maori

"Studying for a Bachelor of Arts has helped me think critically and creatively. I've developed and changed so much since starting my studies, and I've truly discovered how capable I am. A Bachelor of Arts degree is so flexible and there are plenty of opportunities to try new things, which is so much fun.

"Studying in Wellington, right next to the centre of government, has really benefited me while I'm studying Māori Studies and Māori Resource Management. I've learnt so much about where I come from and my history through my degree, and I look forward to using my qualification to help my iwi grow."

Phoebe
Graduate, Bachelor of Arts in Māori Studies and Māori Resource Management (now called Kaitiakitanga)

CREATIVE ARTS

There is no better place to immerse yourself in the creative arts than in New Zealand's creative and cultural capital. Explore our subjects that will let you cultivate your creativity while developing critical abilities, theoretical knowledge, and professional skills.

Composition

Explore composition for instruments and voices through a range of exciting courses including film scoring and arranging. You'll have the opportunity to have your compositions workshopped by the New Zealand String Quartet, the New Zealand School of Music Orchestra, and members of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. (Available only as a minor in the BA.)

wgtn.ac.nz/music-subjects

Creative Writing

Develop your voice, imaginative capacity, and literary skills. Our undergraduate Creative Writing courses are available in creative non-fiction, long-form fiction, Māori and Pasifika creative writing, poetry, short fiction, television scriptwriting, world-building, and writing for theatre, as well as a changing programme of summer classes.

Taught in a stimulating workshop environment, Creative Writing courses can contribute to a BA or be included in other degrees, or can be taken independently out of personal interest. (Available only as a minor.)

wgtn.ac.nz/creative-writing

Film

Explore the historical, cultural, and technological perspectives of cinema in the city that houses Aotearoa New Zealand's film industry. Uncover how cinema entertains us while shaping our views of the world.

The study of Film offers opportunities to interpret narrative and stylistic features; to analyse how cinema represents gender, race, and sexuality; and to consider film's relationship with other media.

Our courses focus on Aotearoa New Zealand, Hollywood, and world cinema, as well as specific genres, new technologies, and low-budget and documentary film-making.

We also offer film production courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Production courses allow students to develop their skills, creativity, and storytelling. Film graduates find work in the screen industries, education, and the public sector.

wgtn.ac.nz/film

Music

Study Music as part of your BA and explore music from multiple angles, including creative, critical, cultural, historical, and technical. Many courses don't require any prior formal studies in music, including courses in classical music, ethnomusicology, film music, jazz, music technology, and popular music. As a BA student, you can also take Performance courses in Indonesian gamelan and Māori music, giving you the opportunity for cultural exploration through making music.

A BA in Music (where Music is a major) is distinguished from the Bachelor of Music (BMus), in which music is the main focus of study. In a BA in Music, up to half your degree may comprise Music courses, with the other half made up of courses in one or more other subjects.

wgtn.ac.nz/music-subjects

Music Technology

Explore a variety of music technologies, and learn the nuts and bolts of recording, mixing, audio production, electronic music, and coding for sound and music. You can learn how to record film sound and create evocative surround soundscapes, how to record and produce large ensembles such as big bands and orchestras, or how to develop tools and techniques for making live electronic music. (Available only as a minor in the BA.)

wgtn.ac.nz/music-subjects

Performance

Develop your technical and musical ability, and artistic and stylistic insight, in performing instrumental or vocal repertoire. You'll have the opportunity to learn from or work with some of New Zealand's most acclaimed performers and teachers. Study classical, jazz, or other styles of music, including non-Western music. (Available only as a minor in the BA.)

wgtn.ac.nz/music-subjects

Popular Music Studies

Explore and critically engage with local and international popular music and gain a 'big picture' understanding of the social, cultural, theoretical, historical, and political contexts of popular music. Learn about the various audiences, scenes, subcultures, and fans, as well as the new technologies and media, behind the music. Cutting across a number of genres, from rock and pop to hip-hop, electronic dance music, and global music, you'll gain a critical understanding of popular music in local and international contexts, as well as its historical and contemporary significance. (Available only as a minor in the BA.)

wgtn.ac.nz/music-subjects

Text Technologies

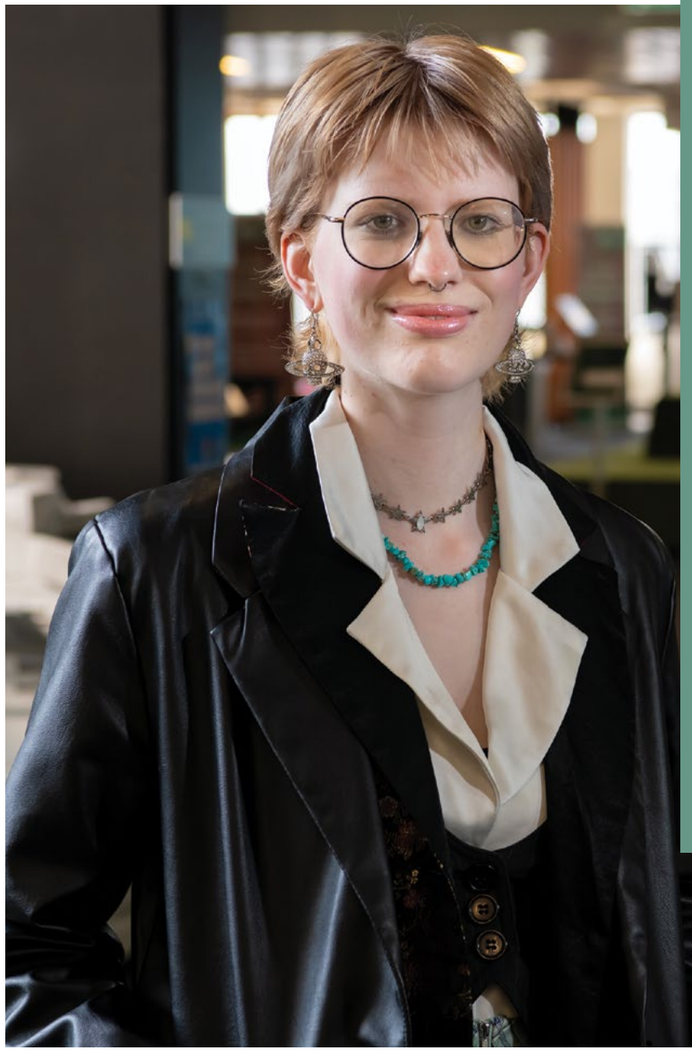
Explore books and printed texts in all their myriad forms—both historical and contemporary—and their influence across cultures and society. See how forms of text have endured and evolved, discover the technology used to create them, and become a maker yourself. Text Technologies is offered as an enhancement or extension to your major, or as an elective in many disciplines. It goes especially well with Communication, Data Science, Design, English and languages, History, Language Sciences, Media Studies, Music, and Theatre.

wgtn.ac.nz/language-sciences

Theatre

Wellington is home to the country's most vibrant arts community, and Te Whare Ngangahau—Theatre and Performance Studies is at the centre. Our name reflects the lively and active nature of our art form, the centrality of a physical space to our identity, and our focus on performance on the stage and beyond. Weaving critical learning with creative skills, our programme helps you rethink the whakapapa of performance, apply a critical lens to practice, and create original works. We offer a BA, Honours, Master of Arts, Master of Fine Arts, and PhD through which you will develop your skills in acting, arts management, collaboration, creative leadership, devising, directing, dramaturgy, and scenography while contributing to the performance ecologies of Aotearoa, Oceania, and the world.

wgtn.ac.nz/theatre



"I have always loved reading, writing, and acting, and knew that if I was planning on tertiary study, I would want to study nothing other than English and Theatre. I most enjoy the creativity and practical skills I learn in Theatre through understanding both backstage and onstage theatre practice, as well as the chance to collaborate and work with fellow actors and performers. In English, I enjoy being exposed to a lot of literature I wouldn't have read otherwise and being given the space to develop my own voice and thoughts. I chose to study at Te Herenga Waka because of the Theatre department: I knew I wanted to study Theatre and felt that the Theatre courses here were the best in the country. I also knew I loved the city of Wellington and wanted to live and study here."

Zia
Student, Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Theatre, minoring in Creative Writing and Gender and Sexuality Studies

FIND OUT MORE

wgtn.ac.nz/ba
wgtn.ac.nz/apply

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

You can apply for admission up to two years in advance of the year you plan to start studying. Apply through our student portal, Pūaha. Once you have met the requirements, you will receive either a conditional or an unconditional Offer of Place.

After receiving your Offer of Place, you will be invited to select your courses once course enrolment is open. You select courses for one academic year at a time.

wgtn.ac.nz/apply
wgtn.ac.nz/puaha

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To enrol in a BA, you will need University Entrance, or to meet the requirements of another admission type.

For more information, go to wgtn.ac.nz/study

CONTACT US

Te Wāhanga Aronui

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Tītoko—Student Success

Level 4, Murphy Building, Kelburn Campus

0800 04 04 04
info@vuw.ac.nz

COURSE PLANNING

For help with course planning, contact Te Kahupapa—Future Students.

0800 04 04 04
future-students@vuw.ac.nz
wgtn.ac.nz/courses

OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

Disability support

wgtn.ac.nz/disability

Māori student support

wgtn.ac.nz/awhina

Pasifika student success

wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika

Rainbow student support

wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow

Refugee-background student support

wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students

Scholarships

wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships

Student services and support

wgtn.ac.nz/student-support

BA SUBJECTS

BA MAJORS	
Art History	Kaitiakitanga
Asian Studies	Language Sciences
Chinese	Latin
Classical Studies	Māori Studies
Criminology	Mathematics*
Cultural Anthropology	Media Studies
Data Science*	Modern Language Studies
Development Studies*	Music
Economics*	Pacific Studies
Education*	Philosophy
Educational Psychology*	Political Science
English Literature	Psychological Science*
Film	Public Policy*
French	Samoan Studies / Matā'upu Tau Sāmoa
Geography*	Sociology
German	Spanish
Greek	Study of Religion
History	Te Reo Māori
International Relations	Theatre
Japanese	

*Subjects offered by faculties other than the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

NON-MAJOR UNDERGRADUATE SUBJECTS
Academic and Professional Writing
Composition (minor)
Creative Writing (minor)
Gender and Sexuality Studies (minor)
Music Technology (minor)
New Zealand Sign Language (minor)
Performance (minor)
Popular Music Studies (minor)
Social Policy (minor)
Text Technologies

For the latest information on degrees, course details, and prescriptions, go to wgtn.ac.nz/ba

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

TOHU PAETAHI ARONUI

BACHELOR OF ARTS

2027

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