

Engaging learners
to achieve their
potential and beyond



THE
UP100





NZMA Trades

Trades and Construction



The Culinary Collective

Culinary



Acknowledge Education

Healthcare



Yoobee College of Creative Innovation

Technology and Creative Industries



New Zealand School of Tourism

Tourism and Hotel Management



Cut Above Academy

Hair and Beauty



New Zealand Tertiary College

Early Childhood Education



UP International College

International Education

Contents

	Page
UP Education Group CEO message	4
About UP Education	5
Educational offering	6
Where we are	7
Student stories	
Section 1: Trades & Construction	9
Section 2: Healthcare	17
Section 3: Hospitality & Management	25
Section 4: Culinary	31
Section 5: Technology & Creative Innovation	37
Section 6: Early Childhood Education	47
Section 7: Tourism & Hotel Management	55
Section 8: Hair & Beauty	63
Section 9: Sport, Recreation & Performance	69
Section 10: International Education	75



Preparing learners for the changing world has never been more important.

The nature of work is rapidly evolving, and with the rise of digitisation and automation, the magnitude of this change will only continue to accelerate.

According to The World Economic Forum, the shelf life of a skill is five years. Globally, this is seeing employers place an increasing value on 'skills currency' – building workforces with adaptable skills to address existing and emerging workforce needs.

At UP Education, that is why our education is focused on preparing our students to be work and world ready. The modern workforce needs to be not only academically confident but also culturally confident with a strong suite of soft skills.

Across our network of providers in Australia and New Zealand, we are proud to be educating a new generation of thinkers and doers – equipping people with the skills, motivation, and resilience to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the future.

The UP 100

The UP 100 is a compelling showcase of the transformative role of education in shaping the lives, passions, and pursuits of learners.

From grassroots to global, our learners are making an impact.

Every day across our learning communities, we continue to be inspired by our students – understanding the challenges they overcome, the goals they smash, the successes they realise, and the change they effect in their communities, country – or for themselves.

While 100 stories have been shared, each story is unique. The UP 100 is a celebration of the diversity of our students, their strengths, and their achievements.

At UP Education, we understand that one size does not fit all, and that the education system must continue to evolve to serve the needs of our learners, and the needs of a changing world.

If we are to meet the skill needs of the modern global economy, education must be fit for purpose and accessible to the lives of the modern learner, wherever they are and whatever life stage they are at.

The stories of the learners included in this publication illustrate this – and I hope you are as inspired as I have been reading about the educational journeys and achievements of The UP 100.



Mark Rushworth
Group Chief Executive
UP Education

About UP Education

UP Education is a leading multi-sector education group delivering Vocational Education and Training, Higher Education, University Partnerships and Online Learning throughout New Zealand and Australia.

With 50+ campuses in 15 locations, UP Education is the largest independent tertiary education group in New Zealand, along with a rapidly growing presence in Australia.

Across Australasia, our learning communities are united by a commitment to the delivery of high-quality educational experiences that equip learners to succeed in the modern global economy.

In a world where change happens faster with each new day, education forges pathways for the future.

At UP Education, we are on a mission: to elevate and empower people to unlock their potential.

Educational Offering

University Partnerships

A top-two pathway provider in Australasia, UP Education has six university partnerships which deliver foundation programmes that transition international students into English-speaking universities.

New Zealand



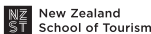
Australia



Higher Education and VET

UP Education's group of industry-leading private colleges equip learners with the skills to excel in the rapidly evolving labour market.

New Zealand



Australia



Online learning

To meet the increasing requirements of borderless education, UP Education has invested in delivering effective and inclusive digital learning solutions.

New Zealand



Australia



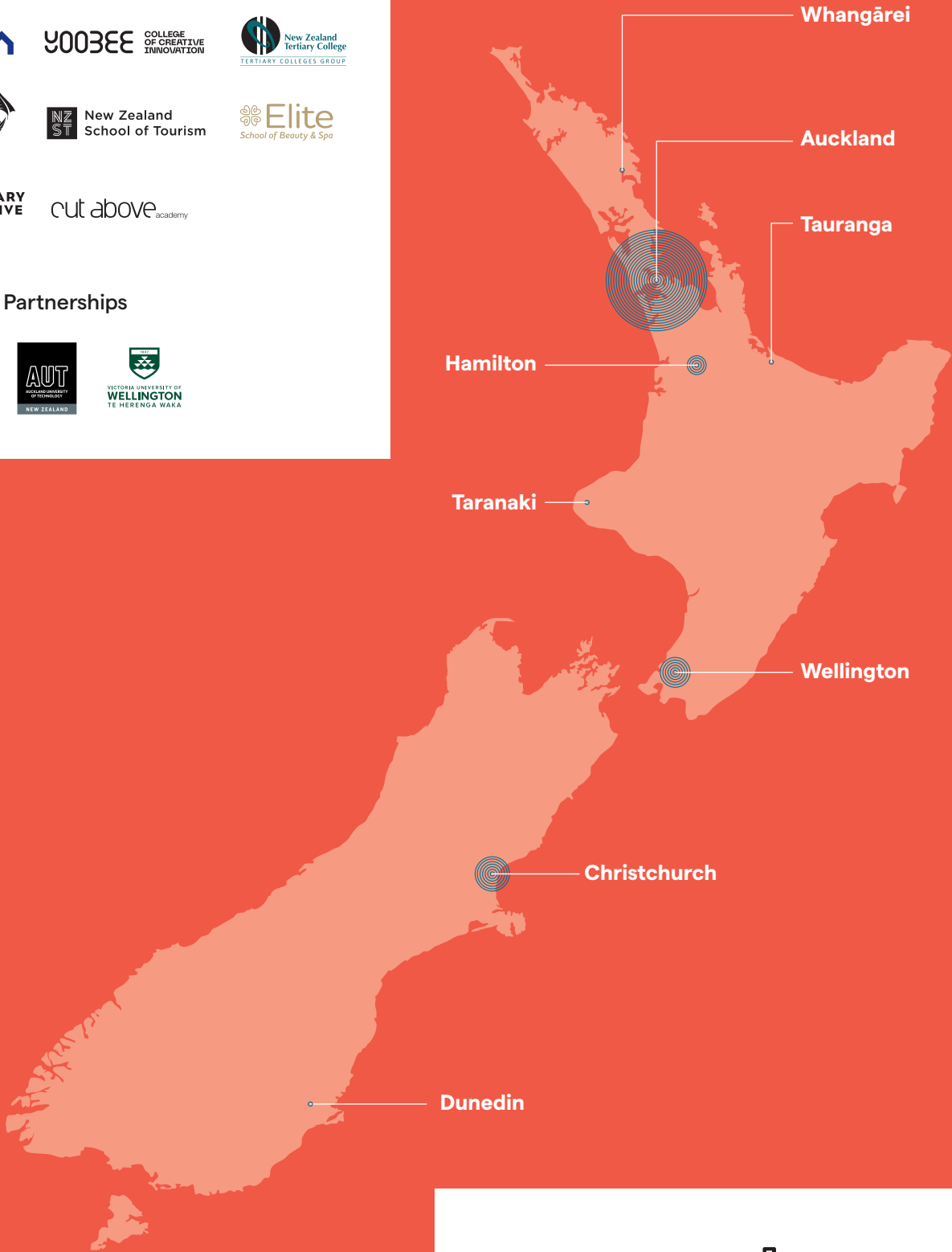
Where we are in New Zealand

Higher Education and VET



University Partnerships





 **15**
locations

 **50+**
campuses

 **500,000+**
students
educated

**Our
learning
community**

Where we are in Australia

Higher Education and VET



University Partnerships





Trades and Construction



Apprentice
Collins Plumbing, Gas, Heating & Drainage
Auckland, New Zealand

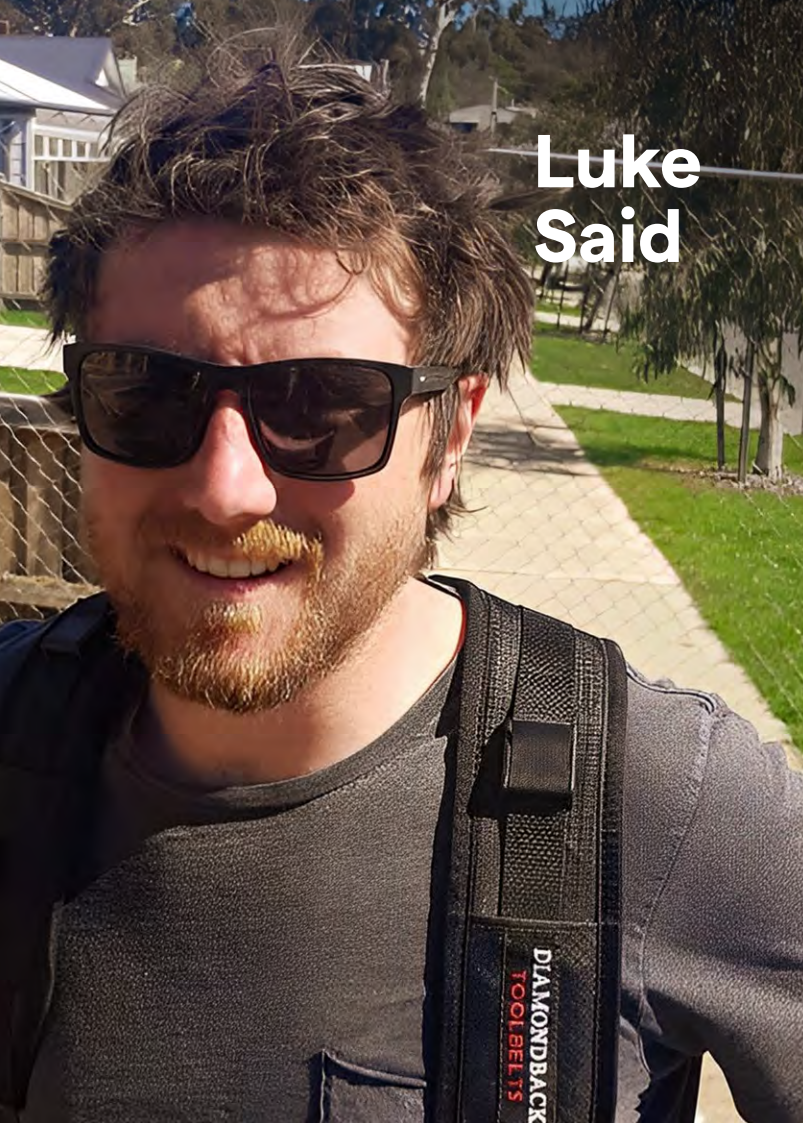
Elenoa Tabudravu

After months of rigorous warfare training in the Navy as a Combat Systems Specialist, Elenoa was ready for the next challenge – this time, on land. In mid-2020, Elenoa decided to re-train as a plumber and gas fitter at the NZMA Trades West campus. Having soared through the ocean on a fifty-ton ship, Elenoa became accustomed to venturing outside her comfort zone. Now, she’s a trailblazer in the trades industry – one of a growing number of tradeswomen going against the status quo.

Elenoa recently graduated with a Level 3 Certificate in Plumbing and Gasfitting – edging her closer towards her long-term goal of owning her own trades business. Three job interviews later, Elenoa has been offered an apprenticeship with Collins Plumbing, Gas, Heating & Drainage – proving that a drastic career change is not nearly as daunting as it may seem.

→ Course
Level 3 Certificate in
Plumbing and Gasfitting





Luke Said

Owner / Qualified Builder and Carpenter
Impact Build
Kyneton, Australia

Since graduating from Builders Academy Australia (BAA), Luke has cultivated his leadership skills by starting his own building and construction business, Impact Build.

According to Luke, a roll-up-your-sleeves attitude is essential for someone who is looking to become a qualified builder or wanting to start their own business. Luke says if it wasn't for the flexibility of BAA and its online learning opportunities, he would have struggled to balance running a business whilst completing training.

Luke currently has a couple of apprentices working for him. He says it's been rewarding to help the next generation of tradies succeed – just as BAA had done for him.

→ Course
Double Diploma in
Building and Management



Charmaine McMenamin

Graduate
Black Ferns
Auckland, New Zealand

Charmaine is exceptional in all that she does. Prior to completing her Certificate in Electrical Engineering with NZMA Trades, she was named Female Player of The Year at New Zealand's 2019 Rugby Awards.

Sadly, in 2021, she was diagnosed with a serious spinal injury and forced to confront the brutal reality of life without rugby. As an inspiration to all women, NZMA Trades was proud to have supported Black Fern player, Charmaine, in the process of pursuing a new career pathway and acquiring her electrical engineering qualification.

Fortunately, Charmaine won't have to give up rugby just yet. After receiving specialist surgery, the 27-test loose forward has officially strapped on her boots for the 2022 Women's Rugby World Cup.



→ Course
Level 3 Certificate in
Electrical Engineering Theory



Mereana Panui

Student
Auckland, New Zealand

Mereana, construction trainee and Māori and Pacific Trades Training scholarship recipient, is currently completing her pre-apprenticeship programme at NZMA.

When she first began, she was pleasantly surprised by the number of females in her class. Entering a male-dominated field, Mereana thought she would be treated differently – but at NZMA this wasn't the case.

With the support of her tutors and classmates, Mereana isn't just learning how to build cabins, she's acquiring plenty of soft skills. As team leader, she has already improved her capability to motivate and inspire others to become the best they can be.

→ Course
Level 3 Certificate in
Carpentry Trade Skills



Michael

Site Manager
Simonds Homes
Melbourne, Australia

Michael started his building apprenticeship at 18-years-old. Over a decade later, he is thriving as Site Manager for Simonds Homes, a construction company that has built over 21,000 homes since the start of its operation in 1949.

His advice to young apprentices — get to know as many people as you can. He believes that it's possible to make a living; to enjoy what you do and to make lifelong mates in tandem.

According to Michael, the most valuable skillset in life is the ability to communicate and to treat others with respect.

He argues the key to success at work comes down to building structures that fulfil client needs, putting time into an effective site plan, and bringing relentless energy to every job.

→ Course
Certificate IV in
Building and Construction





Student
Auckland, New Zealand

Liz Nicholls

75-year-old Liz is holding her own as a budding electrical engineer. She is about to finish her building course at the NZMA Trades Hoani Waititi Marae campus, where the youngest trainee is 16-years-old.

So what motivates a 75-year-old grandmother to become a builder? Her goal is to keep fit and to attain a practical skillset in order to sustain independence. Liz lives by herself, so it's important for her to be able to fix things around the house.

The Ngāpuhi grandmother has ten mokopuna, all of whom share an association with Hoani Waititi Marae. Her son, Taniora, was a foundation student at Te Wharekura o Hoani Waititi Marae. Liz says she wants to set an example for other kuia.

She brings a calmness to everything she does, and the younger students admit they love having her around. In an industry dominated by men, Liz proves that you can do anything, regardless of age or gender.



→ Course
Level 3 Certificate in
Electrical Engineering Theory



Fiona Fowler

Construction Manager
Simonds Homes
Melbourne, Australia

Fiona was a qualified construction manager for over ten years before she decided to enrol with Builders Academy Australia (BAA). Although she possessed the right qualifications on paper, at the time, she lacked the practical skills for the job.

As an apprentice with BAA, she's been able to get practical training while completing a house renovation for a client. She has enjoyed the opportunity to apply her theoretical knowledge and gain familiarity with integral power tools.

→ Course
Certificate III in Carpentry



Kirsty O'Connor

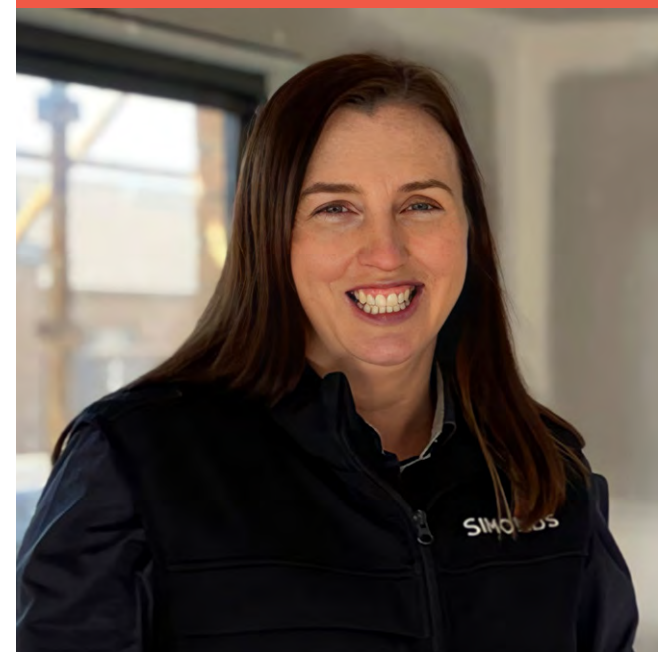
Construction Manager
Simonds Homes
Melbourne, Australia

As a construction manager, Kirsty enjoys supporting the growth of her team in their respective roles, as well as helping families build the home of their dreams.

Kirsty is a calm and supportive leader and this shows in all that she does. Currently, she is supporting four supervisors as they gain experience building homes to satisfy various clients.

Kirsty believes that with teamwork and effective problem-solving, every project is bound for success. Her advice to aspiring managers is to build strong relationships with clients and suppliers. When everyone is confident in their roles and deadlines, that's when magic happens.

→ Course
Diploma of Building
and Construction





Award-winning Apprentice Carpenter
Melbourne, Australia

Reuben Fulton-Grigg

Every two years, the WorldSkills Australia Carpentry Regional Competitions puts the skills of 4000+ apprentices, trainees and students to the test. The best-of-the-best have the chance to take home a gold, silver or bronze medal and compete at a national level.

With a deep passion for his craft, Reuben won the bronze medal in the WorldSkills Regional Carpentry Competition in 2020. Reuben, along with his fellow competitors, were tasked with building a sawmill from scratch.

Reuben put the skills he attained with Builders Academy Australia to practice – double checking every step, re-reading plans, and taking the time to do the job right.



With a wealth of work-ready skills, Reuben says he is loving his carpentry apprenticeship. Bringing enthusiasm and professionalism to everything that he does, employers are lining up to hire Reuben upon graduation.

→ Course
Certificate III in Carpentry





Founder
Empowered Mindset
Brisbane, Australia

Sadie
O’Shea

With a deep interest in the individuality of the human psyche, Sadie says her counselling qualification has changed the course of her life for the better.

Sadie originally graduated with a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Human Resource Management – assuming this would satisfy her interest in a human-centric role.

After working in HR for various organisations, Sadie decided to explore her passion for counselling further with the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors. After completing her Diploma of Counselling, Sadie felt confident enough to leave her HR job with a major university — to start her own wellness firm, Empowered Mindset.



The firm helps people navigate their emotions and fears in order to live a more fulfilling life. Sadie is particularly interested in empowering youth and young adults to transition back into education and employment. She says the highlight of her job is witnessing clients take hold of their lives by setting goals and taking action to achieve them.

→ Course
Diploma of Counselling



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE of
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLORS

Receptionist
Medical Clinic
Melbourne, Australia

‘Fall down seven times, get up eight’ summarises Ryan’s empowering journey in education.

In 2020, Ryan arrived in Australia on a working holiday visa before being admitted to hospital for mental health issues. His experience as a patient helped him to recognise the critical role that nurses play in society.

This inspired Ryan to start a Diploma of Nursing at Acknowledge Education. With the support of his tutors and classmates, he was able to find his feet in education, while focusing on restoring his mental and physical health. He says the family dynamic on campus motivated him to excel in his studies.

During his placement with a local Anatomy and Wound Care Unit, he gained further insight into the life-changing work of healthcare professionals. Driven by an even greater sense of purpose, Ryan has since been offered a role at a local GP clinic.

He’s currently working towards his registration and hopes to secure a role as an enrolled nurse upon graduating.

→ Course
Diploma of Nursing



Ryan
Prance

Matthew Pavy

Addictions Counsellor
Addictions Rehabilitation Centre
Brisbane, Australia

Matthew served a total of 11 years in the Army, seven of which he was personal assistant to Vice Chief of the Defence Force.

After a successful career on the frontlines, Matthew desired to contribute to his community in a more holistic way.

With the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors, Matthew was able to propel himself into a new career – landing an addictions counsellor role in a rehabilitation centre that provides group therapy, case management and individual counselling.

Led by a love for serving others, Matthew thrives in his role as a counsellor – specialising in addiction, family and couples therapy.

→ Course
Diploma of Counselling



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE of
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLORS



Jannet
Singh

Graduate
Auckland, New Zealand

As the oldest of her siblings, Jannet has always taken on the caregiver role. Before her younger sisters were born, Jannet would give her mother massages, cook food and help with the housework.

It’s unsurprising that Jannet has found herself in midwifery; a profession dedicated to helping women and families as they ease into parenthood. For Jannet, it was important to master foundational soft skills before pursuing a midwifery qualification at Auckland University of Technology. This drew her to NZMA, where she’s been able to master problem-solving and communication skills, as well as gain a greater understanding of essential health concepts.

With an unmistakable sense of compassion, Jannet is sure to have a positive impact on many lives in her future role as a midwife.

→ Course
Level 4 Pre-Nursing Pathway



Julia Hoermann

Community Support Worker
for People with Cerebral Palsy
Auckland, New Zealand

After working as an audiologist selling hearing aids, Julia was keen to grow her career in a more meaningful way.

After gaining a Certificate in Health and Wellbeing, Julia now enjoys a rewarding career as a community support worker for people with cerebral palsy.

Julia plays an integral role in the lives of her clients – helping them make meals, drive safely to appointments and complete a number of everyday tasks. Julia admits her new role has deepened her humility, and increased her gratitude for abilities we often take for granted, including being able to drive and walk on our own.

With a shortage of skilled healthcare professionals in New Zealand, she encourages others to enrol and upskill with a health and wellbeing programme.

→ Course
Level 2 Certificate in
Health and Wellbeing



New Zealand
Tertiary College
TERTIARY COLLEGES GROUP



Counsellor
St Luke's College
Baynton, Australia

Tara, mother of two, is always juggling the responsibilities of work and family life. Nonetheless, she has managed to forge her way to becoming a qualified counsellor with the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors.

Tara has established herself as an allied health professional – catapulting from practice manager to an applied behavioural analysis therapist in a few short years.

Specialising in disabilities, Tara has a clear passion for helping people navigate their own struggles with mental and physical health. She says pursuing a career in counselling has long been an aspiration of hers, but like many, she struggled to make time for her passions.

Today, she's very glad she took the leap of faith and began studying. Without doing so, she wouldn't be where she is today, changing the lives of young people at St Luke's College (Karratha, Western Australia).

→ Course
Diploma of Counselling



Tara Norman



Tim Cudmore

Founder
Cudmore Consulting
Brisbane, Australia

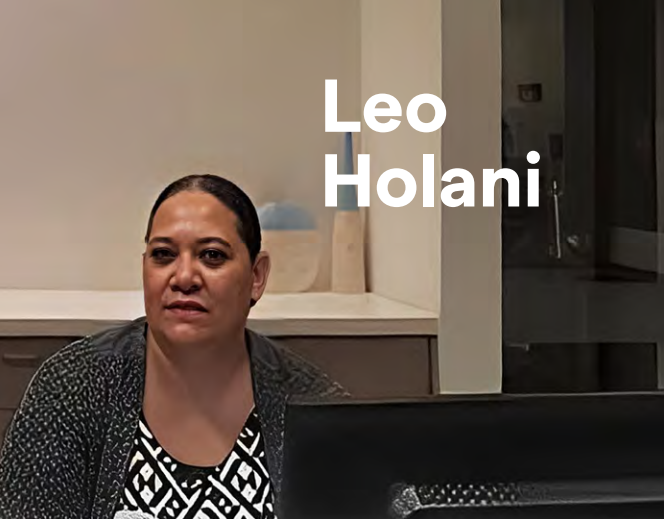
Tim is a freelance expert consultant in behaviour actuary, disability and trauma.

Having lived with a traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury for over 23 years, Tim specialises in translating and explaining the unique reality of long-term disability.

He also recommends support strategies for those who have experienced extreme physical, psychological and emotional trauma.

His personal experience has provided him with a rare ability to understand and predict the human condition. This, combined with training at the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors, has enabled Tim to provide exceptional care to clients navigating trauma, depression, anxiety, and disability.

→ Course
Diploma of Counselling



Leo Holani

Resident Services Representative
Selwyn Heights Retirement Village
Auckland, New Zealand

Leo was a registered nurse in Tonga for 12 years, before moving to New Zealand in 2005 to work in the health sector. Requiring a health and wellbeing qualification that's recognised nationally, she enrolled at the New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC).

Although Leo had previous experience in the field, she credits NZTC for teaching her new and effective ways to care for patients of different cultural backgrounds.

This has allowed her to excel in her role as a Resident Services Representative at Selwyn Heights Retirement Village. Here she caters to residents by combining her ability to respond effectively to stressful situations, with her new-found skills in pastoral care.

Driven by the goal to constantly improve her own health and wellbeing skills, Leo is now working towards her Level 4 qualification.

→ Course
Level 3 Certificate in Health and Wellbeing



Shane Goodhew



Founding Partner & Client Liaison Manager
Clarity
Chiang Mai, Thailand

After hitting rock bottom at 23-years-old, Shane's career in construction was squandered — or so he thought. With low self-esteem and self-worth, Shane admitted himself to a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in North Thailand.

It was here that he met Mike, a counsellor who changed the course of his life for the better. With professional help, Shane was able to overcome the cycle of addiction and negative thought patterns.

After being released, Shane was driven to help others overcome their personal struggles. This led him to complete a Diploma of Counselling with the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors remotely from Thailand.

Soon after, Shane opened his own rehabilitation centre called Clarity. He is glad to be enhancing the lives of others – just as his former counsellor, Mike, had done for him.

→ Course
Diploma of Counselling





Graduate
Auckland, New Zealand

Ronan McConney

Ronan may live with cerebral palsy, but this hasn't stopped him from pursuing his dream to become a paramedic.

Ronan has gained his Level 4 Health Studies qualification with NZMA and is now studying a Bachelor of Health Science, majoring in Paramedicine at the Auckland University of Technology.

Ronan believes disabled individuals can do anything they put their minds to — but this must be supported by tertiary institutions willing to provide adequate support.

Thankfully, during Ronan's time at NZMA, the tutors went above and beyond to cater to his learning needs — granting extensions for assignments and offering one-on-one support when required.

Combined with Ronan's inner drive, this support has enabled him to complete tertiary

education and challenge some of the stereotypes that exist for disabled individuals in the workforce. He says people with disabilities possess many valuable strengths — such as empathy, patience, and first-hand experience in overcoming obstacles.

According to Ronan, an education system that prepares disabled learners for the workforce is crucial. To achieve this, tertiary institutions must provide individualised support.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in Health and Wellbeing
(Advanced Support)





Co-Founder
Ministry of Clouds
Adelaide, Australia

Julian
Forwood

Julian began as a true self-starter with an evident passion for the industry.

Today, he’s a complete connoisseur of luxury beverages. His career kicked off with Moët Hennessy Australia: the inarguable market leader for premium wines and spirits. The company is a significant branch of LVMH Group and has contributed massively to their gross revenue (\$40 billion).

Having learned industry practices from the best in the business, it’s no surprise that Julian was head-hunted for a General Manager Sales role with Wirra Wirra Vineyards. During this time, he successfully increased brand exposure and overall revenue potential.

In 2013, Julian and his wife Bernice decided to take their passion for wine to the next level – launching Ministry of Clouds as a one-of-a-kind wine manufactured in Australia’s wine capital, McLaren Vale, Adelaide.



Bernice and Julian

Ministry of Clouds earned the top spot on the James Halliday 2015 Wine Companion list and was featured in the Halliday’s Top 10 New Wineries list. That’s the result of sheer dedication to the craft.

For Julian, the creation of the Ministry of Clouds is a toast to the pursuit of a life well-lived.

→ Course
Bachelor of Hospitality Management



**Food & Beverage Assistant
The Broadmoor
Colorado Springs, USA**

Micala's studies prepared her well to thrive in travel and tourism.

She was able to acquire a breadth of world-ready skills in business administration, public speaking and leadership.

In 2021, Micala secured an internship via the New Zealand School of Tourism with The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, USA.

Today, she bases herself in the American West nestled away in the lush Pike National Forest – where every day is filled with new experiences.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in Tourism and Travel Management



**Micala
Lindsay**

**Ben
Gounden**



**Food & Beverage Assistant
Sudima Hotel
Auckland, New Zealand**

Securing a job at 4.5 star hotel, Sudima Hotels, has defined only the start for 19-year-old Ben and his flourishing career in the service industry.

Sudima Hotels is a national network with locations in Auckland, Rotorua, Christchurch, Queenstown and Kaikōura. As the country's first Toitū CarboNZero certified hotel, it exemplifies the best in sustainable architecture.

Rooms are designed with an emphasis on self-care and the restaurant presents a refreshing plant-focused menu.

Originating from humble beginnings, Ben has far surpassed his parents' wildest dreams. The two immigrated from Fiji to New Zealand for a better life for their children — and he's certainly making their efforts worthwhile.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in Tourism and Travel Management



**Kyle
Kaya**



**Director of Operations
Veriu Group
Adelaide, Australia**

Having worked his way up from frontline hospitality roles, Kyle is an effective leader who understands the demands of the job and what it takes to deliver results.

In 2018, Kyle was recruited to drive the complete integration and transformation of Veriu Group. Known for going above and beyond, he was quickly promoted to Director of Operations. Kyle faces the demands of his role head-on.

He seeks to propel exceptional industry change, and has recently devised a ten-year plan in which to make Veriu Group the largest Australian-owned apartment hotel empire.

The hotel group is on track to open another 80 hotels across nationwide locations.

Needless to say, Kyle is excited for what the future holds.

→ Course
Bachelor of Hospitality Management



**Lavin Samtani
Hotel ICON
Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong**

Lavin graduated from ICHM with zeal to enter the fast-paced hospitality and hotel industry.

Lavin was placed at Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel and Towers, where he would go on to excel in both service and administration roles. Surrounded by diversity and entirely picturesque landscapes, it didn't take long for Lavin to fall in love with the city.

He would later establish an esteemed reputation with top restaurants throughout Hong Kong – which is no easy feat in a city populated by over 7 million people. He was eventually approached to lead food and beverage departments at Elite Concepts, Renaissance Kowloon Hotel, Mira Hotel and W Hong Kong.

With a passion for providing excellent service, it would seem that Lavin was destined for his current role as Director of Food and Beverage at Hotel ICON – one of the top 5 hotels in Hong Kong.

→ Course
Bachelor of Hospitality Management



**Lavin
Samtani**

Jordan Harrison



Bartender
Caluzzi Cabaret, Metro Bar & Restaurant
Auckland, New Zealand

At the age of 20, Jordan moved from Waiuku to Auckland. On a jobseeker benefit at the time, moving to Auckland was the first step in taking control of his life, which led him to enrol in the hospitality programme at NZMA.

Jordan says NZMA allowed him to meet people from all walks of life — something he valued immensely as someone who grew up in a rural town. Jordan says his time at NZMA allowed him to figure out his strengths, and most importantly, evolve from a teenager to an adult.

According to Jordan, the friendly nature of both tutors and students alike empowered him to ask questions and learn at his own pace.

With both Level 3 and 4 qualifications under his belt, Jordan is putting his hospitality skills to good use amidst the bustling scene at SkyCity. He may have stepped out of his comfort zone moving to the city, but he's never felt more secure and positively challenged in his life.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in Hospitality



Graduate
Waikato, New Zealand

Daejarn is a Māori student raised in Waikato, and comes from a long line of tradies.

At the age of 18, she decided to define her own path in hospitality with NZMA. When Daejarn began her studies, she was shy and soft-spoken. The welcoming environment at NZMA encouraged Daejarn to come out of her shell and adjust to big-city life.

Daejarn is currently applying for roles in hospitality and looks forward to making her whakapapa proud.

Reflecting on the last few years, Daejarn says she's incredibly proud of herself for taking the leap of faith and upskilling in an unfamiliar sector. Not that long ago, Daejarn was working in traffic management and yearning for a career change.

When asked what education means to her, Daejarn reveals that it's not about money – it's about purpose.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in Hospitality



Daejarn Heta



Amy McWaters (centre)

CEO
Hampers & Gifts
Sydney, Australia

Amy McWaters

Amy gained a strong sense of self-belief with ICHM – leading her to pursue hospitality and management roles with some of the world's most esteemed hotels, such as The Savoy London, Burj Al Arab Dubai, Peace Hotel Shanghai and Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates.

As the long-standing CEO of Hampers & Gifts Australia, Amy continues to adjust to market conditions with ease – successfully supporting the transition of the business, following its 2021 acquisition by publicly-listed Maggie Beer. It's clear that Amy is a well-rounded leader that understands the extensive functions of hospitality and e-commerce.

She's most in her element when challenged to figure out a new system or fine-tuning an existing one. Today, Amy adds yet another string to her bow, supporting bright minds of the future in her position on the ICHM College Council.

→ Course
Bachelor of Hospitality Management





Pastry Chef
Esther Restaurant, QT Hotel
Auckland, New Zealand

Ellie Corfe

Ellie does not wait for success – she creates it. In fact, she’s done so since the beginning of her culinary journey in 2012. Having graduated from university with a Bachelor of Arts, a short stint in the workforce would confirm her true passion for cookery and culinary arts.

After completing an apprenticeship with the Hilton, Ellie discovered her natural talent for making pastries. To hone in on this skill, she sought after a Level 4 and 5 Diploma in Cookery at The Culinary Collective. Now, she has ten years of professional experience under her belt, and has worked for some of the most luxurious restaurants in Auckland – from Cable Bay Vineyards on Waiheke Island to Esther based in the five-star hotel QT Auckland.

Ellie is more than your standard pastry chef, she’s an innovator of pastry desserts. Her signature desserts range from chocolate work, mousses and cakes that have been selected for Auckland’s Top 100 Iconic Eats.



Ellie is certainly leading the way for New Zealand’s next generation of pastry chefs. When asked what’s the secret to her success, she answers that the key ingredient – for making delicious food and succeeding in life – is sheer passion.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Cookery



Chelsea Mendes

Sous Chef
Thyme Square
Hamilton, New Zealand

After working as a flight attendant for an Indian international air carrier, Chelsea travelled from India to New Zealand in 2019 to complete her qualification in cookery with The Culinary Collective.

Dedicated to succeeding regardless of the obstacles, Chelsea was awarded the Student of the Year Award at the 2020 Culinary Collective graduation. Chelsea would go on to catch the attention of food spectators industry-wide. In 2021, Chelsea competed in the Waikato Regional Culinary Fare, walking away with a gold medal for the Main Meal category.

She would go on to be named Emerging Chef of the Year at the Waikato Hospitality Awards. Not long after finishing her studies, Chelsea was offered a role as Sous Chef for Thyme Square in Hamilton, a luxury restaurant renowned for its hand-crafted and locally-sourced cuisine. Chelsea is just one example of the value that international students can bring to the New Zealand workforce.



→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Cookery



Chef
Castello's Longbeach Hotel
Melbourne, Australia

Hashnan began studying at Acknowledge Education with the desire to translate his love for food into a career. At one stage, he had just \$20 in his bank account, and still, Hashnan continued full-time study and work-based training in order to become a qualified chef.

His hard work paid off shortly after graduating, when he landed a role as kitchen hand with Manningham Hotel and Club. It was in this role that he crossed paths with an inspiring mentor, Chef David, who taught him the ins and outs of managing dinner service for high-profile events. Hashnan would later be recruited to work for a series of major hospitality establishments across Melbourne.

Today, he lives his ultimate dream as a respected chef at Castello's Longbeach Hotel. Hashnan continues to go from strength to strength — the result of regularly rubbing shoulders with well-known executive chefs. Hashnan confirms that with perseverance and dedication, anything is possible.



Hashnan Gedara

→ Course
Advanced Diploma in Hospitality Management
Commercial Cookery and Patisserie Streams



Harjot Singh

Chef
Joy Lab
Auckland, New Zealand

The Culinary Collective granted Harjot the means to explore his interest in the origins of food — particularly culturally-significant practices that have been honoured for generations.

Born and raised in India, Harjot says New Zealand is the ideal place to become a chef, courtesy of a bounty of fresh ingredients. Harjot especially enjoys working with New Zealand seafood, his specialty being prawns and fish. He aspires to become a head chef at a renowned seafood restaurant.

In the meantime, he's building an impressive backlog of experience with Joylab; owners of a complete network of lavish, Auckland-based bars and restaurants. Harjot is committed to being a life-long learner – a philosophy that has served him well throughout his studies and career.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Cookery



Pastry Chef
Sidart Restaurant
Auckland, New Zealand

Pallavi was originally trained as an engineer and telecommunications expert in India. After graduating university, she decided she wanted to pursue a career as a chef instead.

With the foundational skills to succeed in a commercial kitchen, the tutors at The Culinary Collective helped Pallavi land a part-time role with Amano Bakery. It's here that a collection of boundary-pushing bread and pastry makers challenge the status-quo on a daily basis. With an exceptional work ethic, Pallavi would later land a role as a pastry chef with fine-dining restaurant, Sidart, based in the 'foody' district of Ponsonby, Auckland.

Sidart was named the Best Fine Dining Metro Restaurant of the Year and one of Viva's Top 10 Restaurants for 2021. Pallavi's decision to move to New Zealand for a career in culinary has been undeniably worthwhile.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in Baking



Pallavi Singh

Steven Segedin

Intern chef
Homeland
Auckland, New Zealand

When Steven began his studies with The Culinary Collective (TCC), he had never cooked a proper meal in his life.

Now, he has a Level 4, 5 and 6 qualification under his belt and the skills to become an esteemed chef. In 2021, Steven landed his first internship via TCC with a prestigious interior design firm, where he catered for over 50 designers. This exposure led him to being selected to prepare a Matariki seven-course meal for the annual Tohunga Tūmau event (as aired on 1News).

Now, Steven is completing an internship at Homeland, a prestigious cooking school and innovation hub, led by renowned Kiwi chef, Peter Gordon. Peter also owns several high-end restaurants in Auckland, London and New York City. Under his mentorship, there is no doubt Steven will continue to achieve great things.



→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in
Culinary Management



Melisa Nikolo Takai

Intern chef
NZMA and Unispace
Auckland, New Zealand

In 2000, Melisa migrated to New Zealand from Tonga with the hopes of a better life. With many fond memories of being in the kitchen, Melisa decided to pursue her career as a chef with The Culinary Collective. From a young age, Melisa would help both her mother and grandmother prepare traditional Tongan dishes – her favourite being grated grapefruit combined with lemon and caramel sauce.

After mastering the skills to succeed in a commercial kitchen, Melisa landed an internship with NZMA group in 2021. This involved preparing meals for various private tertiary colleges, including the New Zealand Institute of Sport. Melisa was later offered a catering internship with commercial interior design firm, Unispace.

With an impressive C.V. and a culinary qualification under her belt, Melisa is destined for a fruitful career.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in Cookery





Editor Producer
CNN
London, United Kingdom

Oscar Featherstone

In 2012, Oscar moved to London to find his place in the film and television industry – initially at Videojug Networks, followed by The Telegraph.

Now, Oscar is thriving as the editor producer for CNN, a leading distributor in digital news. Oscar’s exceptional work on CNN’s investigative journalism piece, Putin’s Private Army, earned him a News and Documentary Emmy Award. His work on Putin’s Private Army resulted in a three-part story: a humanitarian vignette, an investigation, and a character profile.

Oscar loves the varied nature of working in a newsroom – challenging him to work quickly in response to world events. Oscar considers himself lucky to be working alongside the best in the industry as he crafts hard-hitting global news.

Ten years into his career, Oscar credits much of his success to the solid foundation he was provided at Yoobee’s South Seas Film and Television campus.



The versatile course empowered him to meet the diverse needs of organisations like CNN — who seek corporate communications and marketing skills, as well as journalistic flair. To gain prestige, Oscar says it’s important for aspiring editors to be patient and to push through the initial years of feeling under-appreciated. Once you push through that period, he says, the opportunities will come.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Film
and TV Production

Digital Coordinator
Digital Journey
Christchurch, New Zealand

In 2021, Sarah gained six weeks of work experience with global powerhouse, Facebook, as part of her creative marketing programme at Yoobee College of Creative Innovation.

Externships are carried out remotely, giving students the opportunity to navigate real-world projects in their own time from the comfort of their home. With ongoing guidance and mentorship from movers-and-shakers at Facebook, Sarah's externship gave her just the right edge to hit the ground running post-graduation.

She now thrives in her role with Christchurch-based agency, Digital Journey – applying her diverse expertise in communication, problem-solving, marketing, digital and social media.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in
Creative Marketing

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION

Sarah Burnett



Olivia Walker



Intern Developer
Datacom
Auckland, New Zealand

Olivia counts herself lucky to be joining the growing number of women in tech, who are redefining the historically male-dominated field of technology.

With an exceptional passion for software engineering, Olivia was awarded a Datacom Women in Tech Scholarship by Yoobee College of Creative Innovation. This gave her the opportunity to go further than a Certificate in Creative Media — to eventually complete a Bachelor of Software Engineering.

Her journey with technology has only just begun. She has big goals and displays immense commitment to seeing them through. She credits her scholarship for kickstarting the journey towards a successful and satisfying career. Olivia hopes to become a role model to young women in tech — as well as those looking to enter the field.

→ Course
Bachelor of Software Engineering

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION

Hakopa Ririnui

Student
Rotorua, New Zealand

Hakopa is a recipient of the Yoobee College of Creative Innovation Indigenous Legends Scholarship, which promotes Māori and Pacific learners to pursue a career in the creative industries.

A descendant of Ngāi te Rangi and Ngāti Ranginui iwi from Tauranga, the 24-year-old is a passionate advocate for his whānau and people, and wants to see more Māori youth consider creative studies. He grew up in a hard-working family with generational ties in sports and rugby. He will be the only child of six to have taken an interest in the creative field. With limitless potential, there's no doubt Hakopa will continue to achieve great things on behalf of himself and his whakapapa.

→ Course
Bachelor of Animation

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION



Karen Jin

Data and Analytics Intern
Datacom
Auckland, New Zealand

The pandemic challenged many people to become more resilient. For Karen, it was an opportunity to reflect on how she could best use her talents and passions to fuel her career. This motivated her to enrol at Yoobee College of Creative Innovation to transition from a career in marketing to the field of engineering.

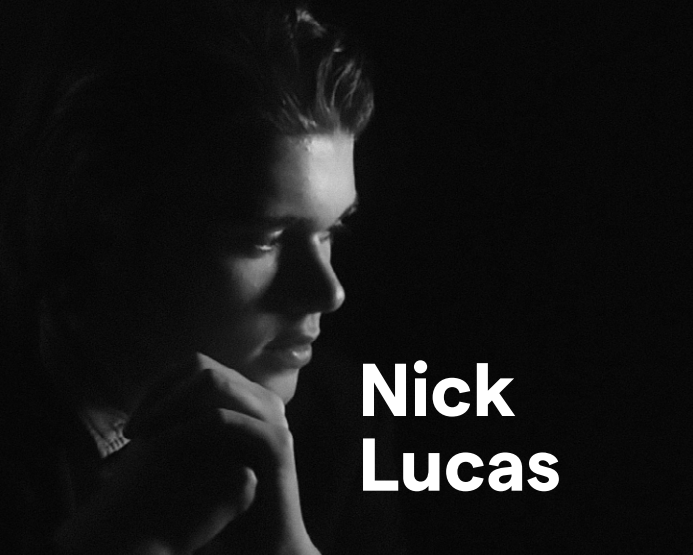
Karen has been determined to honour her favourite motto "action is character," after lacking discipline and focus to attempt the degree during her teenage years.

Karen is currently in her second year of study at Yoobee, and yet, she's already landed an internship with Datacom. Karen is glad she took the leap of faith to chase her engineering goals.

→ Course
Bachelor of Software Engineering

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION





Nick Lucas



Cinematic Animator
Cloud Imperium Games
Manchester, UK

When Nick started at Yoobee College of Creative Innovation, he initially wanted to become a VFX artist. After a Level 3 introductory course, he decided to pursue a Level 7 Diploma in Advanced 3D Production instead.

Now, Nick is working overseas as a Cinematic Animator for Cloud Imperium Games, an independent gaming company with over 700 team members and five studios across the globe.

Cloud Imperium produce some of the world's most renowned games, including record-shattering space simulation, Star Citizen, and cinematic adventure, Squadron 42, both of which Nick has helped to construct. Nick says working in the UK has been the best experience of his life — but the real defining moment of his career was working on low-budget production 'Shadow of the Republic' at Yoobee.

That particular project taught him that collaboration is the foundation for a successful career in animation.

→ Course
Level 7 Diploma in
Advanced 3D Production

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION



Holly Beckham

Award-winning Director
Auckland, New Zealand

Since graduating, Holly has produced and directed a film called 'He Ara Anō' — a documentary that reveals how the disconnection with wairua (spirituality) creates fertile ground for addiction among young wāhine (women).

Inspired by her own struggles, Holly sought to highlight the voices of wāhine toa in Aotearoa — providing a platform for personal stories of hope and strength to help others overcome addiction.

The film was completed in December 2020 and has since received ten prestigious awards, including the Mokkhu International Critics Choice Award, Halicarnassus Best First Time Director, and Sasee Best Student Short Film Award.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in
Film & TV Production

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION



Dan Pool

Lead Virtual Art Department Artist
Wētā FX
Wellington, New Zealand

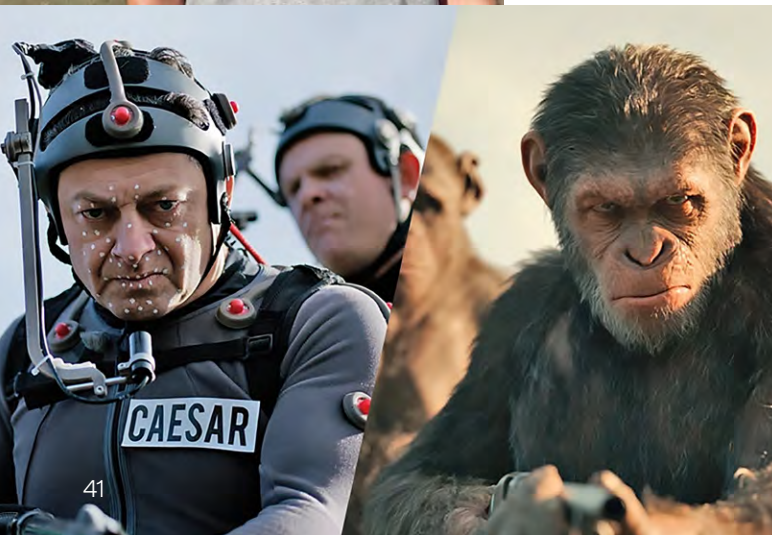
Dan is breaking boundaries with Wētā FX, the standard-bearer for creativity and innovation in visual effects and animation. Wētā FX houses New Zealand's best visual artists, as well as various industry awards, including six Academy Awards for visual effects.

Dan's most impressive creative project to date is the Avatar sequel — which became the highest-grossing film of all time, earning over \$2 billion in sales. As the Lead Virtual Art Department Artist, Dan is driven to achieve the impossible for his globally renowned clients.

He has helped to put New Zealand's creatives on the map via block-buster projects, like War for the Planet of the Apes, Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol.2, The Jungle Book, The BFG, Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip, and more.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in Animation

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION



Leon Coertze

Creative Director
Wakkie Creative Lab
Auckland, New Zealand

Mature student, Leon, experimented in a variety of fields — including sales, psychology and aviation — before pursuing a career in animation. Despite working in a number of sectors, Leon's career journey is defined by a common theme: the tenacity to do more than his job description entails.

In 2018, Leon entered the world of animation with Wakkie Creative Lab and in short, he hasn't looked back since. Having sat in the director's seat for over four years now, it's evident that animation is his calling.

Leon decided to upskill with Yoobee College of Creative Innovation, which led him to complete a metaverse internship in Jakarta, Indonesia. Leon continues to propel his animation career to new heights.

→ Course
Bachelor of Animation

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION



Laura Graham



Metaverse Intern
WIR Group
Jakarta, Indonesia

Laura initially explored the beauty industry and film industry before discovering a gratifying career in animation.

Not long after she enrolled at Yoobee College of Creative Innovation, she was selected for the Prime Minister’s Metaverse scholarship programme in Jakarta, Indonesia — where she immersed herself in the development of cutting-edge augmented reality.

WIR Group operates on a global scale and is one of the leading players in Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence. After working alongside industry experts and experiencing Indonesian culture, Laura returned to New Zealand ready to take on the changing world of work.

→ Course
Bachelor of Animation

YOOBEE COLLEGE OF CREATIVE INNOVATION

Jonty Knocker



Layout Artist
Blur Studios
California, USA

Jonty Knocker is a household name in gaming and virtual production. Since graduating from Yoobee College of Creative Innovation, Jonty has attracted over 250k subscribers to his YouTube channel (Cinematic Captures), amassing a total of 60 million+ views.

Having earned plenty of accolades from respected directors and producers, it comes as no surprise that Jonty has been picked up by award-winning production company, Blur Studios. Jonty sets an incredible example to aspiring artists and demonstrates the value of streaming platforms, like YouTube, for showcasing animation talent.

He says his success comes down to his dedication to self-improvement and his valued partnerships with other creatives.



→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in Animation
Level 6 Diploma in Creative Digital Design

YOOBEE COLLEGE OF CREATIVE INNOVATION

Nolene Human

Metaverse Intern
WIR Group
Jakarta, Indonesia

Nolene is a recipient of the Metaverse Prime Minister’s scholarship programme, which awarded her an internship in Indonesia with WIR Group.

With innate passion for the industry, she came out of her internship with a refined understanding of technological innovation and the confidence to complete a Bachelor of Software Engineering. With WIR Group, she co-developed solutions for foreign companies using immersive technology – such as Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence.

Nolene says the highlight of her internship was having the New Zealand Minister of Education visit WIR Group to hear the Yoobee College of Creative Innovation cohort’s insights from their metaverse placement.

→ Course
Bachelor of Software Engineering

YOOBEE COLLEGE OF CREATIVE INNOVATION



Intern Software Developer
Datacom
Auckland, New Zealand

In 2022, Hudson participated in Datacamp, an annual competition by Datacom. The participants were challenged to create something with global impact aligned with the theme: the power of coming together. Hudson coded two websites from scratch, placing second runner-up and earning him an internship with Datacom.

Only a few months into working with Datacom, Hudson was offered a scholarship to study a Bachelor of Software Engineering at Yoobee College of Creative Innovation. With inherent passion for his craft, Hudson has been coined a “natural talent” by Datacom executives.

According to Hudson, the practical learning opportunities at Yoobee showed that it’s possible to enjoy learning, whilst attaining vital industry skills and networks. Hudson has set his sights on the top of the corporate ladder — at this rate, he’s bound to reach his goal.

→ Course
Bachelor of Software Engineering

YOOBEE COLLEGE OF CREATIVE INNOVATION



Hudson Curren



Game Economy Designer
PikPok
Wellington, New Zealand

Jayne Gale

Jayne, a former economist and policy developer, decided to make a drastic career change at the age of 60. In 2016, Jayne's stressful career started to impact her health.

She tried her hand at art, writing, and graphic design courses before discovering a new-found passion for gaming. Hoping to transform her love for gaming into a career, Jayne commenced the Game, Art and Development course at Yoobee College of Creative Innovation – creating over a dozen games whilst learning the art of coding and design.

After graduating, Jayne landed a role as a Game Economy Designer at PikPok, one of New Zealand's fastest-growing game development companies. Jayne hopes to inspire more people of her generation to embrace technology and to consider re-training – whether the goal is to pursue a new career, or stay occupied during retirement.



→ Course
Level 7 Diploma in
Game Art and Development

YOOBEE COLLEGE
OF CREATIVE
INNOVATION



Early Childhood Education



Registered ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand

Rosanjela Dias

Rosanjela was a secondary school teacher in Sri Lanka before choosing to pursue early childhood education in New Zealand. Rosanjela was glad to have chosen the New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) as it allowed her to fit her studies around work. She says NZTC combined a balance of theory and practical learning that have served her well in the workforce.

The now fully registered teacher has been working at an early childhood centre in Auckland's North Shore for over five years. She is currently loving her role as the team leader of the baby and toddler room.

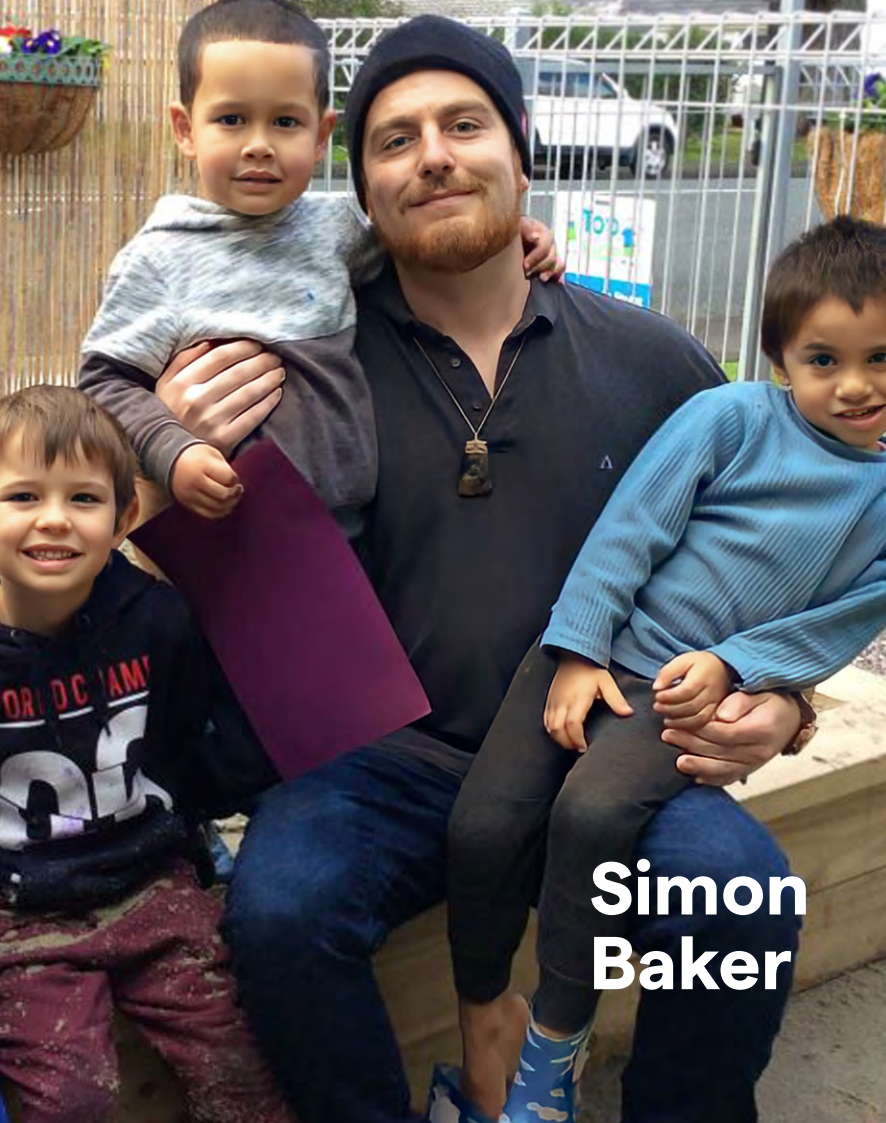
Rosanjela feels privileged to be working at an early childhood centre that is positively affecting the lives of children via the Reggio Emilia approach. This approach adjusts teaching methods according to the unique ways children perceive the world. Lessons are tailored to the children's motivations, interests and home environment.



She believes collaboration between teachers and whānau is the key to creating a seamless learning journey for children. Looking ahead, Rosanjela aims to secure a management position and complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with NZTC.

→ Course
Bachelor of Teaching
(Early Childhood Education)





Simon Baker

**ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand**

Simon is proud to be following the footsteps of his father, who was a highly respected primary school teacher. Simon is glad he made the decision to cross over into early childhood education, and is one of many males to recently join the profession. Wary that many children grow up without a father figure, Simon believes it is crucial to have both male and female teachers in early childhood education. This helps children form a more balanced perspective on the world.

Simon is currently focused on completing his degree, so he can become a qualified ECE teacher. His goal is to become a head teacher and eventually, a centre manager.

→ Course
Bachelor of Teaching
(Early Childhood Education)



Breeanna Lubbers



**ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand**

After losing her job as a flight attendant, Breeanna was forced to face the difficult reality of pursuing a new career.

After ten years on the job, Breeanna had never considered what other careers might appeal to her. Upon reflection, Breeanna realised just how much she enjoyed taking care of children during her time as a flight attendant. This inspired her to enrol at New Zealand Tertiary College with the hopes of becoming an early childhood teacher.

She is currently working towards a Bachelor of Teaching and says she's confident this is the right career for her. According to Breeanna, being an early childhood teacher, by nature, is filled with passion, care and laughter. There's nowhere else she would rather be.

→ Course
Bachelor of Teaching
(Early Childhood Education)



**ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand**

Sherry has embraced many transitions in life, including her relocation from China to New Zealand. She says that shifting industries, from tourism to early childhood education, has been a rewarding journey.

According to Sherry, there is nothing more rewarding than positively influencing the lives of children during their critical developmental stages. The block courses at New Zealand Tertiary College have helped her to understand the New Zealand education landscape, and successfully reskill to succeed in the workforce.

The most important thing that Sherry has learned during her studies is that children are a product of their environment. If a child is acting out or displaying shy behaviour, it can trace back to the influence of their whare, whānau or community. Sherry has recently signed a contract to work as a full-time ECE teacher and is applying to become a registered teacher. She can't wait to put her new-found skills into practice.



Sherry Guo

→ Course
Graduate Diploma in Teaching
(Early Childhood Education)



Pip Deazley



**ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand**

A former librarian, farmer, nanny and banker — Pip has done it all.

Later in life, she decided to become an early childhood teacher. Pip says that being a mother is the most fulfilling role she's ever had. Becoming an ECE teacher is her way of constantly re-living that experience.

As a single mum, she was aware that balancing full-time work with study would not be easy, but she was determined to show her daughter that you can achieve anything you put your mind to — no matter what age you are, or how many responsibilities you have.

Pip's love for teaching has helped her to secure a leadership role with an ECE centre and pathway into the Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme at New Zealand Tertiary College.

→ Course
Postgraduate Certificate in Education
(Leadership and Management)





Tevita Afuhia Kioa

Mentor & Recruiter
Oceania Career Academy Auckland, New Zealand

Tevita moved to New Zealand from Tonga in 1995. Motivated by the desire to support troubled youth, Tevita decided he wanted to pursue a career in early childhood education with NZMA.

Today, Tevita works at Oceania Career Academy (OCA), New Zealand's first Pacific-owned/led Private Training Establishment for Trades. OCA is dedicated to Māori and Pacific students who have either dropped out of secondary school, or are currently unemployed.

Tevita can't help but imagine what it might be like if one of his young clients were a family member. The thought alone brings tears to his eyes. Since landing his role with OCA, Tevita has helped many Pacific people identify their sense of purpose and secure a stable career. Tevita feels truly honoured to be in his line of work.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care - Home Based



Samantha Hansen



Student
Auckland, New Zealand

After completing a Bachelor of Sport and Exercise, and representing New Zealand in weightlifting, Samantha decided to step up to the next challenge: a career in early childhood education.

She spent five years as a nanny, before and during her studies at New Zealand Tertiary College, which helped her to realise her passion for working with young tamariki. She's currently placed at an ECE centre, completing the practical element of her teaching qualification. As a hands-on-learner, Samantha is enjoying the practical work experience and the opportunity to learn from experienced teachers.

As she prepares to enter the workforce, she is excited to expand her knowledge on Te Whāriki principles to assist her in creating an optimal learning environment for young children.

→ Course
Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education)



Student
Auckland, New Zealand

After graduating from secondary school in China, Yi was sure she wanted to become a registered early childhood teacher in New Zealand. Yi began studying with New Zealand Tertiary College, where she is learning a lot about Kiwi culture and the diversity of local communities.

She feels confident that this is an essential foundation for understanding the needs of children, it will be immensely valuable in her future role as an ECE teacher. NZTC's progressive style of learning has helped her explore many important theoretical concepts, as well as engage in practical hands-on learning opportunities.

In the near future, Yi aims to acquire a Bachelor of Teaching, so she can later apply for a New Zealand Teacher Registration to become an ECE teacher.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care



Yi Zhang



Edward Ashton

ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand

Edward says he "sort of fell into the job" after a brief stint relieving at an ECE centre. It only took a few weeks for early childhood education to become his passion.

The centre manager at the time encouraged him to enrol with New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC). Edward clearly recalls the most rewarding moments in his five years as an ECE teacher: when families thank him for helping shape their children into the people they are today.

Edward is among a growing number of men entering early childhood education. Although the number of male students at NZTC has grown, Edward believes there could be even more males in the industry, if it were highlighted as an option in secondary schools. After Edward completes his degree, he hopes to hone in on special needs education.

→ Course
Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)





David Mos

ECE Teacher
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand

Earning a Graduate Diploma in Teaching with New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) has enabled David to make a positive difference within his local community.

David is the only male teacher at his ECE centre, and says parents appreciate the point of difference he brings to their children's development. Winner of the 2019 NZTC Values Award, David embodies vision, heart, competence and spirit.

David says the birth of his son and daughter inspired a whole new appreciation for the importance of whanaungatanga (sense of family connection) in relation to a child's wellbeing. David is proud to work at an ECE centre where all children and whānau feel as if they belong.

→ Course
Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education)



TERTIARY COLLEGES GROUP



Bronwyn Walker

Founder of ECE Centre
Bronwyn's Home Centre Nursery
Auckland, New Zealand

After a successful career in graphic design, Bachelor of Teaching student, Bronwyn, is relishing opportunities in early childhood education.

Alongside New Zealand Tertiary College, she's able to explore and adopt valuable educational pedagogy. Bronwyn especially enjoys the Reggio Emilia approach to learning, which encourages detailed investigation, and has strengthened her passion for early childhood education.

Bronwyn is building bicultural awareness, both professionally and personally, through Te Whāriki – which forms the foundation of her teaching philosophy. As she explores an affinity with Te Ao Māori and a connection with Te Ao Mārama, the natural world continues to inspire, enrich and direct her way of thinking and teaching.

Bronwyn is grateful for her skills in early childhood education as it has equipped her to meet the demands of her role – as both a teacher and a mother.

→ Course
Graduate Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education)



TERTIARY COLLEGES GROUP



Carer
ECE Centre
Auckland, New Zealand

At eight-years-old, Mele arrived in Aotearoa from Tonga. Unable to speak English, school was a real challenge. These barriers persisted throughout secondary school, however, when she enrolled in early childhood education at NZMA, she was greeted with tapa cloths, and a vast number of Pacific students and tutors.

This was a comforting environment that reflected her cultural heritage. It was such a stark contrast to her memories of primary and secondary school – a traumatic period that still lingers in the back of her mind. Mele is grateful to NZMA for helping her become the first in her family to gain a tertiary qualification. She recalls how special it was to witness the tears of her family at her graduation.

Today, Mele works at an early childhood centre in Pukekohe caring for children on the spectrum. If Mele could offer one piece of advice to her 16-year-old self, it would be "don't give up."

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in
Early Childhood Education



Mele Ahomana



Event Concierge
Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort
Florida, USA

Siubhan
McPhail

Dyslexia is a learning disability that affects one in ten New Zealanders, including 70,000 school children.

One of those Kiwis is Siubhan, who continues to defy stereotypes of dyslexia with two awards under her belt, including the 2020 Top Tourism and Travel Student Award and 2022 runner-up for Ritz-Carlton Leader of the Quarter. Siubhan says her awards are a representation of her hard work and the world-ready skills she gained from New Zealand School of Tourism (NZST).

Navigating dyslexia in school was very challenging for Siubhan. After years of bullying and struggling to understand content in secondary school, Siubhan gave up on education and decided to work in Europe instead. This is where Siubhan’s love for travel and tourism bloomed. When Siubhan returned to New Zealand, she decided to enrol at NZST.

Her final marks were exceptionally higher than secondary school, as NZST allowed her more time to complete tasks and didn’t purely measure her competency based on essay writing.



Siubhan says education providers must understand that there are many different forms of dyslexia, and each person will experience different struggles. Since graduating, Siubhan has gained valuable industry experience.

Today, she loves her role as Event Concierge at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort in Naples, Florida, USA. Her advice to other students with dyslexia is to “keep believing in yourself.” She says learning differently from everybody else doesn’t mean you can’t reach your dreams.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in
Tourism & Travel Management



General Manager
Alila Hotels
Bali, Indonesia

JP is the epitome of a forward-thinking leader, tempered with humility and a restless hunger for self-improvement.

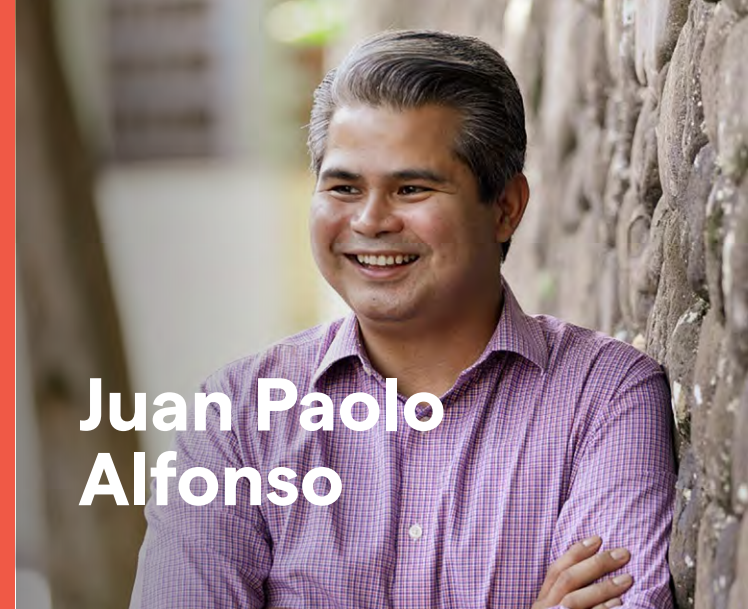
JP says his affinity for exhibiting excellence on the international stage started with ICHM – living and working alongside people from across the globe.

Since graduating, JP's career has taken him to the white sand beaches of the Caribbean, the mountains and deserts of the United States, and even the tropical jungle of Costa Rica. During his twelve years with Aman Luxury Hotels and Resorts, JP learned how to deliver complete serenity in order to create unforgettable resort experiences.

Based in the lush tropical forests of Bali, Indonesia, JP is redefining luxury stays with Alila Ubud Hotel – blending culture, wellness and adventure with supreme hospitality.

→ Course
Undergraduate Certificate of Hotel,
Tourism and Hospitality Operations

ICHM



**Juan Paolo
Alfonso**



**Ladeena
Lee You**

Intern
Disney World
Florida, USA

Porirua student, Ladeena, has always possessed a dream to travel the world. This dream came to fruition when she hopped on a plane to the USA for a six-month internship at Disney World. Ladeena was one of the ten students from New Zealand School of Tourism (NZST) selected for a paid internship.

Originally, Ladeena wanted to be a flight attendant, but her studies at NZST helped her realise the endless career opportunities in tourism. Disney World is the most popular theme park globally, with over 58 million visitors per year. Ladeena will learn what it takes to run a major global tourist attraction, as part of Disney's operational, guest and customer service pipeline.

With the support of a delegated mentor, Ladeena will master the art of tourism, hospitality, and hotel management according to 'the Disney way.' Disney presents an unparalleled blueprint for success within entertainment and customer service industries.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in
Tourism & Travel Management

NZST **New Zealand
School of Tourism**

Photo:
Ladeena (left)



**Deidre
Cotterill**

General Manager
Cambria Hotel
Downtown Asheville, USA

Driven to create unforgettable experiences for both guests and employees, Deidre is a hands-on leader immersed in all aspects of her job. Landing roles in Florida, Virgin Islands, and now, Asheville – Deidre is thriving in the USA hotel industry.

As the General Manager of Cambria Hotel Downtown, she has successfully welcomed the new up-scale Asheville division to the FIRC Group conglomerate. Since its opening in 2017, Cambria Hotel Downtown has been named Best of Choice and #1 Hotel by the Choice Hotel Brand. Both awards can be attributed, in part, to Deidre's innovative leadership and persistent drive for excellence. With a spectacular rooftop restaurant, high-tech amenities and amazing views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Cambria Hotel Downtown offers a front-row seat to the best sights, sounds and flavours of Asheville.

→ Course
Bachelor of Hospitality Management

ICHM

Graduate
Auckland, New Zealand

Bethany says her studies enabled her to hit the ground running when entering the tourism industry.

At New Zealand School of Tourism, she mastered how to walk and talk like a professional; wearing corporate attire and maintaining an excellent work ethic every day on campus.

Bethany's father has raised her to live and breathe the Samoan motto: "Fai ma le fa'amaoni." In other words, keep striving for greatness, but do so with humility, confidence and pride.

Embodying "Fai ma le fa'amaoni" and her new-found confidence, Bethany has graduated with a Level 6 Diploma in Tourism and Travel Management and has the intention of progressing to degree-level study.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in
Tourism & Travel Management

NZST **New Zealand
School of Tourism**

**Bethany
Iosefa**



Tourism and Hotel Management



**Rebecca
Tapper**

**Flight Attendant
Air New Zealand
Auckland, New Zealand**

Rebecca decided to leave secondary school early to work full-time. Three years later, the New Zealand Government introduced the fees-free scheme, which made Rebecca decide it was time to explore long-term career options.

After completing the New Zealand School of Tourism Study Tour, she was sold on a career in travel and tourism. Rebecca had the opportunity to experience some of the most stunning sights in New Zealand – her favourite being the Franz Josef and Fox Glacier in Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

Rebecca admits that taking the leap of faith into education was daunting at first, but now, she has a ticket to the world as a flight attendant for Air New Zealand. She wishes she made the jump sooner.

→ Course
Level 4 Tourism, Airline
and Flight Attendant Operations



**Vice President of Global Sales
(Europe, Middle East & Africa)
Marriott International
London, United Kingdom**

Mellissa's journey is characterised by complete self-empowerment. Today, she sits at the high table as Vice President of Global Sales at Marriott International. Marriott International bears the most powerful portfolio in the industry, with thirty brands and over 7,000 properties across 131 countries and territories.

A natural-born leader with a fearless attitude, Mellissa has successfully evolved with the times, expanding her skillset across marketing, sales, and people management. Continuous improvement has enabled her to attain that ever-important industry edge.

She says finding the right career for you is not straight-forward. It helps if you're willing to jump headfirst into complex challenges. She's pivoted often in order to match the fast-paced environment of the international hotel and tourism market. Mellissa possesses a mastery in stakeholder engagement and innovation, and showcases just how far you can go within the industry.

**Mellissa
Pitt-Chalmers**



→ Course
Undergraduate Certificate of Hotel,
Tourism and Hospitality Operations



**Server Assistant
Fairmont Chateau
Whistler, Canada**

Samuel will get the chance to see snow for the first time, explore ski fields, broaden his horizons, and continue to make his Samoan parents proud.

Samuel secured an eight-month placement through New Zealand School of Tourism at Fairmont Chateau. This is a luxurious 4.5 star resort, tucked away in the Blackcomb Mountains of British Columbia (Canada). Samuel will learn the tricks of the trade in a destination that epitomises paradise. With three Fairmont Chateau managers named in the Top 30 under 30 Awards, Samuel is confident he will be learning alongside the best in the industry.

Samuel isn't set on a particular role just yet. However, after completing his internship with Crowne Plaza and landing his current placement, he's sure the tourism industry is where he wants to be.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in
Tourism & Travel Management



Photo:
Sam (right)



**Samuel
Stowers**



**Jaime
Simpson**

**General Manager
Jumeirah Mina A'Salam
Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

A specialist in operations, Jaime is thriving as an international hotelier. Over the last 20 years, she has significantly contributed to enhancing overall service at Hyatt Hotels in India, Japan, Thailand and Australia.

Today, she is the General Manager of Jumeirah Mina A'Salam – a breath-taking five-star luxury hotel referred to as the "Jewel of Dubai." Jaime's career has demanded that she skilfully multi-task and consistently perform under pressure. She says her versatile skillset and ability to effortlessly adapt was developed at ICHM – where she was taught to always strive for excellence.

As one of the Top 25 Power Women in Hospitality, she is hailed as an industry leader and a role model to all working mothers, especially those in business. With an unmatched work ethic, it seems there's nothing she can't do.

→ Course
Undergraduate Certificate of Hotel,
Tourism and Hospitality Operations



Tiona Peacock



Senior Front Desk Agent
The Broadmoor
Colorado Springs, USA

It has been Tiona’s long-time dream to explore the world beyond her hometown in Hawke’s Bay. In 2018, she moved to Hamilton to study at New Zealand School of Tourism, later graduating with a Diploma in Travel and Tourism Management.

At 19-years-old, Tiona was offered the opportunity of a lifetime: to venture to the USA for a twelve-month internship with The Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs (fabled from scenes in The Great Gatsby).

At The Broadmoor, Tiona is putting her customer service skills to good practice across a variety of baseline roles. In the short time she’s been there, she’s already been promoted to Senior Front Desk Agent.

Tiona spends her time off hiking through local scenic trails and lush valleys with her new-found friends. After her internship, Tiona hopes to take on Europe.

→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in
Tourism & Travel Management



Intern
Disney World
Florida, USA

Interning at Disney World is the ‘be-all end-all’ for many young people. That includes 18-year-old Madison from Christchurch, who landed a highly coveted six-month internship at Disney World through New Zealand School of Tourism (NZST).

Madison is among the top ten students selected from a pool of more than 100 applicants in New Zealand. Having worked part-time in customer service roles for more than two years, Madison sailed through the interview. Her outgoing personality also landed her an internship with The Edge radio station in secondary school.

Being out in the workforce made Madison realise that secondary school was not for her – leading her to enrol at NZST and discover the world of opportunities in the tourism industry.

→ Course
Level 4 Tourism, Airline and
Flight Attendant Operations



Photo:
Madison (centre)

Madison Haswell



Vice President of Sales
EarthCheck & Head of International Relations,
APEC International Centre for Sustainable Tourism
Brisbane, Australia

André Russ

For nearly ten years, André spent time in Geneva, London and Sydney dabbling in a wide range of industries; including, information technology, innovation, food and beverage.

He would later circle back to Brisbane, Australia, to lead Sales and Business Development for EarthCheck, an international tourism advisory group.

André was appointed Vice President of Sales in 2008 and then, Head of International Relations with APEC International Centre for Sustainable Tourism in 2015.

Having held down two highly-esteemed roles, he continues to make waves in the sustainability space, facilitating projects of both regional and national significance. He’s encouraged the formation of extremely valuable partnerships, which have contributed to the overall growth of the tourism industry.

He remains passionate about reducing compliance costs and ensuring the sustainability of ecological and heritage values. He’s determined to deliver economic, social, and cultural benefits to the local community.

→ Course
Undergraduate Certificate of Hotel,
Tourism and Hospitality Operations





Makeup Director
Maybelline New York
Auckland, New Zealand

Gee Pikinga

Gee is dominating the make-up and hairdressing scene. After graduating from Cut Above Academy, Gee returned as a tutor to pave the way for the next generation of creatives.

Now, Gee is heading up the industry as New Zealand's Make-up Director for Maybelline New York. Gee is every bit deserving of the role – willing to break down conventional beauty standards in the industry. In 2018, Gee graced New Zealand screens as the lead make-up artist for TVNZ show, Project Runway. With extensive industry experience and enough knowledge to offer mentorship, two years later, Gee was selected to be a judge on TVNZ show, Glow Up. Inspired by the BBC format, the show sees nine talented make-up artists battle it out as they navigate inspiring and creative challenges.

From a young age, Gee has always been loud and proud, but admits that standing out hasn't been smooth sailing. Gee is proudly takataapui (non-binary) and embraces a stylish clipped beard and beautifully applied make-up. Encouraging others to own their identity, Gee is a strong believer that who you are on the inside is more important than the beauty products you wear. This has been the recipe for Gee's career success – whether it be selling an aspirational fantasy doing make-up for a fashion show, or embodying a larger-than-life persona on television.

→ Course
Level 4 Hairdressing Emerging Stylist
Level 5 Diploma in Special FX
& Prosthetic Makeup Artistry

cut above academy





**Alana
Kaihe**

**Beauty Therapist
Fifth Lash
Hamilton, New Zealand**

During her time as a student at Elite School of Beauty and Spa, Alana represented student voice in her role as a Kaiāwhina. This involved working closely with campus managers to create and maintain a healthy learning environment.

Determined to help others realise their full potential, Alana played a pivotal role in enhancing the education outcomes of Māori learners.

Upon graduation, Alana entered the workforce as a beauty therapist at popular Hamilton studio 'Fifth Lash' specialising in lashes, brows and waxing.

With a natural ability to lead and an evident passion for health and beauty, Alana glows from the inside-out.

→ Course
Level 5 Professional Face,
Body & Spa Therapies



**Ashleigh
Scott**



**Founder
The Facialist
Auckland, New Zealand**

After graduating from Elite School of Beauty and Spa, Ashleigh moved to London and began working in an exclusive Knightsbridge clinic as a specialised facialist.

Since returning to Auckland, Ashleigh has become an influential figure in the local beauty scene. In 2014, Ashleigh opened her own skincare boutique, aptly titled 'The Facialist'.

Beauty bloggers and influencers adore her machine-free holistic skin care techniques. The positive exposure helped Ashleigh attract interest and admiration from Beauty NZ Magazine.

With multiple therapists currently working in her clinic, Ashleigh's business venture has proven to be a big success. One thing is for certain, Ashleigh is destined for great things.

→ Course
Level 5 Professional Face,
Body & Spa Therapies



**Eisha
Teiho**

**Barber
Auckland, New Zealand**

Eisha is a qualified barber with notable talent. After graduating from the Cut Above Academy in 2019, Eisha has focused on cutting hair in her rohe (area) of South Auckland, and regularly provides koha cuts (free haircuts).

The idea for koha cuts began when she learned just how many people couldn't afford to see a barber. Being a wahine Māori in a tāne (male) dominated industry hasn't been easy for Eisha, but it's taught her how to thrive under pressure.

Eisha continues to be dedicated to providing an excellent service to whoever walks through her doors – even if they can't afford to pay the full price for a cut.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in
Commercial Barbering



**Bradley
Proctor**

**Barbering Apprentice
Auckland, New Zealand**

Cut Above graduate, Bradley, lives by the famous Nike slogan 'just do it'. He believes there's no time like the present – which is a philosophy that has served him well in his career.

Since being named the 2018 Cut Above Student Barber of the Year, he has continued to grow from strength-to-strength.

He was also the successful recipient of the 2021 HITO Barbering Apprentice of the Year Award, which recognises his all-round skillset and exceptional performance during his apprenticeship.

For Bradley, success involves making people feel good — with a nice haircut and an interesting conversation.

→ Course
Level 4 Certificate in
Commercial Barbering



Victoria Toye



Founder
The Darling Room
Hamilton, New Zealand

A farm girl at heart, Victoria moved from Raglan to Hamilton at 18-years-old to start work life as an office assistant. Graduating in 2005, Victoria was one of the very first students to study at the Elite School of Beauty and Spa Hamilton campus.

Now, Victoria is the proud owner of The Darling Room, a successful beauty salon that's been in business for over a decade. Victoria has multiple therapists working at her clinic, which allows her to focus on operational and growth aspects of business. She says the Elite team played a monumental role in helping her set up her business and recruit excellent staff.

Her advice for budding therapists is to avoid the allure of profitability. At the end of the day, your quality of care is what will build a lasting reputation. With a commitment to establishing positive relationships, Victoria proves you can build a loyal client base as well as lifelong friends.

→ Course
Level 5 Professional Face,
Body & Spa Therapies



Founder
Bloom Beauty Studio
Hastings, New Zealand

Jontelle studied at Elite School of Beauty and Spa in 2013, where she received two international qualifications and won Student of the Year.

Now as an independent business owner, her goal is to offer professional, hygienic and outstanding client experiences.

Jontelle says beauty therapy is about enabling her clients to bloom, achieve a healthy appearance and feel confident in their skin. With this in mind, Jontelle's business 'Bloom Beauty Studio' was born. Whether it's a simple eyebrow shape or a course of advanced facial treatments, Jontelle is driven to make her clients feel and look radiant with her range of organic products.

→ Course
Level 5 Professional Face,
Body & Spa Therapies



Jontelle Turvey



Founder
Createdskin Studio
Auckland, New Zealand

Shiree Robertson-Kingi

In 2003, Shiree Robertson-Kingi trained as a beauty therapist at the Elite School of Beauty and Spa. She was a mature learner with two children and a baby on the way, but this didn't stop Shiree from working towards her dreams. Good thing too — Shiree is the now owner and operator of Createdskin Studio in Carterton, which focuses on holistic skin treatment therapy; the use of advanced modalities and ingredients.

Helping people nourish, safe-guard and nurture their body is the foundation for which Shiree has built her holistic skincare practice on. She claims she's so happy to be in a job that allows her to help people feel confident in their skin – especially through organic plant-based, clinical skincare.

When you first meet Shiree, you're struck by two things: her effervescent personality, and her infinite knowledge of skin (AKA the largest organ in the human body). Shiree encourages the next generation of beauty therapists to explore all parts of the industry, then, to specialise in the treatments you love most by studying the science and technology behind them.

Currently, Shiree is pioneering a skin health pilot program with a local secondary school. Her next goal is to develop self-help tools and distribute them via social media platforms to reach people who can't afford most skin treatments and products.

→ Course
Level 5 Professional Face,
Body & Spa Therapies





Gym Owner & Manager
McLean Park
Body Fit Training / Napier City Council
Napier, New Zealand

Dan
Rodden

With an entrepreneurial mindset and a passion for the health and fitness industry, Dan Rodden has gone from strength-to-strength – combining his skills in personal training, events management, and rugby coaching across a number of challenging roles.

After graduating from the New Zealand Institute of Sport (NZIS), Dan immediately landed a role with Sport Manawatu.

Today, Dan approaches the next challenge with equal enthusiasm. Alongside Napier City Council, he works as the Manager for McLean Park. Dan says NZIS courses formed the foundation for a successful career, and also inspired the philosophy for his new business venture.



Recently, Dan launched Body Fit Training, a premier fitness franchise based in Napier. Dan and his wife/business partner have been delivering exceptional results for clients – incorporating technology and scientifically-proven training techniques into stimulating 50-minute sessions.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in
Sports Management



Leah Powick



Sports Scholarship Student
Concordia Irvine University
California, USA

Leah, graduate from the New Zealand Institute of Sport (NZIS), was granted entry to Concordia Irvine University in California USA to complete a track and field scholarship, and a four-year academic scholarship.

Leah is currently completing a Kinesiology degree in the field of fitness and wellness – the study of the human anatomy, nutrition and psychology. Leah says NZIS developed her willingness to learn and taught her the foundational skills to support her ongoing success – on the track and in the classroom.

Now, Leah is a valued member of the Concordia Irvine University track and field team who have competed in a series of athletics competitions. Recently, she sprinted in the 400m and 200m category. She also aims to compete in relay, triple jump and long jump events.

→ Course
Level 4 Sport Management,
Recreation and Human Performance



Myah Lammas

Personal Trainer
Les Mills
Lower Hutt, New Zealand

Myah struggled to stay engaged in secondary school, as it didn't accommodate her unique learning needs. Myah learns through practical lessons rather than pen and paper, so studying a practical sports, recreation and performance course was a refreshing change. It didn't take long for Myah to be convinced health and fitness was the career for her during her time at New Zealand Institute of Sport (NZIS).

Now, with a Diploma in Human Performance, she is thriving in her role as a personal trainer at Les Mills, a gym empire with over 60,000 members across New Zealand. An education in health and fitness has helped Myah to overcome personal struggles with body image. At 16-years-old, Myah's weight loss journey resulted in concerning health complications, as she wasn't guided by a science-based fitness and nutrition plan. Having adopted proven health and wellness solutions through NZIS, Myah is helping her clients at Les Mills live a healthy and fulfilling life.



→ Course
Level 6 Diploma in Human Performance



Personal Trainer
F45 Gym
Auckland, New Zealand

After working in a trades role for several years, Iraia decided to make his dream career a reality. His passion for health and fitness led him to enrol at New Zealand Institute of Sport (NZIS) to become a Fitness Trainer.

In 2021, Iraia graduated with a Level 4 Certificate in Exercise. Today, he's a Fitness Trainer with F45, one of the leading group fitness franchises in New Zealand. Born and raised in the countryside, Iraia says NZIS helped him to navigate big-city life and the ways of the industry, so he could progress at a rapid pace.

As a proud Māori from a low decile school, Iraia is driven to show students just like him, that you can achieve anything you put your mind to.

→ Course
Level 4 Sport Management,
Recreation and Human Performance



Iraia Paerau



Alex Williamson

Personal Trainer
CityFitness
Christchurch, New Zealand

Alex encountered serious injury in rugby during secondary school — enough to convince him that a career in fitness was off the table.

After working as a landscaper for over two years, Alex was made redundant, which pushed him to reignite his passion for health and fitness with New Zealand Institute of Sport.

Now, as a qualified personal trainer at CityFitness, Alex is helping clients define their ideal nutritional and exercise regime to meet their sport and fitness goals. He says no day is the same, given the number of new people that walk through the doors.

During his time at CityFitness, he has enjoyed tailoring strategies to meet the diverse needs of clients. For his teenage clients, it's a matter of managing expectations around fast results and reinforcing the importance of consistency. For his mature clients, it's about building confidence in their physical capability and empowering them to comfortably test their limits. Alex says he's truly found his dream career.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Sport,
Recreation and Performance



Mathew Munson

Gym Owner & Personal Trainer
Club Fitness
Whanganui, New Zealand

Mathew’s fitness journey began in Wellington, where he studied to become a personal trainer with the New Zealand Institute of Sport.

Today, he owns Whanganui gym, Club Fitness, which has 400 members. Mathew is a long-time regular at Club Fitness and worked for the gym during his twenties. After his first stint at Club Fitness, he moved to Jetts gym in Palmerston North and decided to bring the franchise to Whanganui.

Outside of personal training, he held the title of Kiwi Pro Wrestling champion from 2006 to 2009. Mathew is embracing the next challenge in his fitness career as a passionate entrepreneur.



→ Course
Level 4 Sport Management,
Recreation and Human Performance



Maru Whaanga

Student
Auckland, New Zealand

After concluding that the traditional education system wasn’t for him, Maru left school at 13-years-old to become a carpenter.

Harnessing the work ethic of his father, who worked tirelessly 60-hours per week, Maru was able to enjoy a successful 15-year career in building and construction.

Now, Maru is forging a new career path via the esports programme at NZMA Ōtāhuhu. Maru is driven to revolutionise the growing phenomenon of esports in New Zealand. He was initially apprehensive about his ability to succeed in a tertiary setting – but the community environment at NZMA has kept him motivated.

Before Maru’s mother passed away, he promised he would fulfil his potential. His venture into esports is that promise fulfilled.



→ Course
Level 3 Introduction to Esports



Rachel Russel



Personal Trainer
CityFitness
Ashburton, New Zealand

Having found her love for fitness at 50-years-old, Rachel is proof that it’s never too late to pursue a new career path.

Mother of two, Rachel was put under great financial pressure as result of the pandemic. After working at Bunnings for over ten years, Rachel was made redundant, which forced her to rethink her career options. Upon reflection, she decided to follow the steed of her inspirational personal trainer and pursue her passion for fitness and transformative change.

With the help of the New Zealand Institute of Sport, Rachel realised she could do more than retail. With her qualification in Sport, Recreation and Performance, Rachel is employed as a personal trainer for CityFitness. Rachel says: “You only have one life. Do what you want to do, not what you have to do.”

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Sport,
Recreation and Performance



Powerlifting Athlete
Powerlifting Federation
Auckland, New Zealand

New Zealand Institute of Sport student, Lachlan, took home the National Powerlifting Championship in August 2022.

Later that year, he went head-to-head with athletes from across the world, including Australia, UK and Canada, in the 2022 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship. Lachlan says sport has taught him the importance of patience and discipline to achieve a given task – whether it be mental or physical.

Lachlan’s advice to up and coming athletes is to not overlook the importance of learning the mechanics of sports science in an education setting. For him, it has made all the difference as the reigning champion of powerlifting in New Zealand.

→ Course
Level 5 Diploma in Sport
Recreation and Performance



Lachlan Richards

Sport, Recreation and Performance



Director of Management Consulting
PwC
New York City, USA

Abhisek Mohanty

Abhisek completed the University of Auckland Certificate in Foundation Studies with UP Education in 2011. In addition to gaining entry to his Bachelor of Commerce and postgraduate degree with the University of Auckland, the foundation programme helped him adapt to New Zealand culture and connect with a vast network of international students.

Upon graduation, Abhisek was recruited to work for award-winning start-up, Plexure, before exploring various business and data roles at Digitas Affinity ID and Hewlett-Packard (HP). He would later catapult his career as part of the PwC Management Consulting team in New Zealand and Australia.

Currently, he is based in the PwC office in New York City to support his global retail, consumer goods and private equity clients. Having placed himself among several prestigious multi-national firms over the last decade, Abhisek is living proof of how far you can go with UP Education's Foundation Studies programme.



→ Course
Certificate in Foundation
Studies delivered by
UP Education



Nehara Pandey



Author, Blogger and Environmental Advocate
Wellington, New Zealand

Nehara travelled from India to New Zealand to pursue a tertiary education. With the help of UP International College, Nehara was able to venture into degree-level study at Victoria University of Wellington.

With relentless determination, Nehara works towards her Bachelor of Marine Biology and Environmental Studies. Nehara's neurodiversity condition certainly hasn't affected her drive and academic achievement.

At 19-years-old, she's a published writer and blogger, and was recently honoured with the Academic Excellence Award as part of the 2021 Wellington International Student Excellence Awards.

To top it off, she's the youngest climate correspondent for the Youth Ki Awaaz (Voice of the Youth), and recipient of the 2019 Sanctuary Nature Foundation's Young Naturalist Award. One thing is for sure, Nehara has a bright future ahead.

→ Course
Foundation Studies Programme
delivered by UP Education



Consultant
Ministry of Justice
Wellington, New Zealand

Minel made the decision to move to New Zealand to pursue a high-quality education alongside her two younger siblings. She says the pandemic hit her family hard, but with the support of UP International College, she was able to consider degree-level study at Victoria University of Wellington.

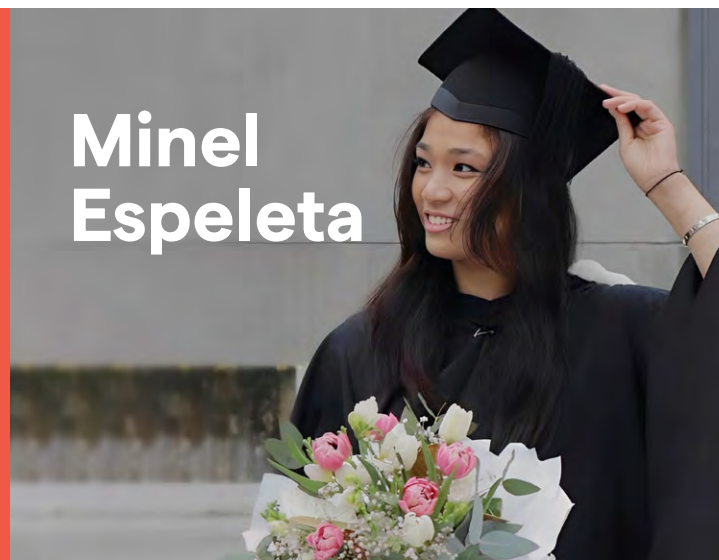
As the eldest sibling, Minel leads the way for her family, and proudly graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 2021. Her first job out of university was with the Inland Revenue Department in the Government precinct in Wellington. She continues to thrive in her new role as consultant for the Ministry of Justice.

When asked about the value of being educated in New Zealand, she says, everyone deserves the opportunity to pursue a great education — no matter where you come from, or how much money you have in the bank.

→ Course
Foundation Studies Programme
delivered by UP Education



Minel Espeleta



Kate Zhai



Office Administrator
Auckland, New Zealand

With a thirst for knowledge and new experiences, Kate moved to New Zealand from China in 2018. It is with the Foundation Studies programme at UP International College that she was able to find her feet and unlock her full potential.

After mastering English, research and accounting during her course, Kate had the confidence to commence a Bachelor of Business degree at Auckland University of Technology. With heightened self-belief and a credible degree under her belt, Kate was offered a role at MC Marketing Management.

After recognising her fondness for education, Kate accepted a role as an office administrator at Auckland University of Technology. She is enjoying the process of understanding the inner workings of operating a major university.

→ Course
Certificate in Foundation Studies
delivered by UP Education



Lisa Yu



Student Ambassador
Auckland, New Zealand

The University of Auckland International College (UoAIC) prepares students to hit the ground running from the moment they commence tertiary study in New Zealand.

Lisa is an inspiring young graduate from UoAIC, striving towards a Bachelor of Arts degree. Originally from China, Lisa understands what it's like to adjust to a new environment, which is why she signed on to be a student ambassador. Being a student ambassador at UoAIC helped Lisa learn more about the New Zealand education system and get used to interacting with locals.

Lisa never imagined she would be speaking in front of university executives to talk about the aspirations of international students during the UoAIC Auckland CBD campus relaunch. She says it was an honour to celebrate the newly revamped facilities at UoAIC, aimed at enhancing the learning experiences of its international students.

→ Course
Certificate in Foundation Studies
delivered by UP Education



Ronel Giam



Award-winning Student
Wellington, New Zealand

Ronel says without the student support services provided by UP Education, he may have never received the Online Community Award at the 2021 Wellington International Student Excellence Awards.

Completing the Foundation Studies programme delivered by UP Education gained Ronel entry into further study at Victoria University of Wellington. Needless to say, the journey wasn't easy. Border restrictions meant he had to complete his Foundation Studies programme online from his hometown in Singapore. Even with the five-hour time difference, Ronel reserved time to help his fellow international students across the world with mentorship and translating for Mandarin speakers.

A self-starter with a keen interest in making the world a better place, Ronel strives to help organisations achieve their social and environmental objectives.

→ Course
Foundation Studies Programme
delivered by UP Education



Connor Nguyen

Student
Hobart, Australia

For students interested in overseas education, Connor's advice is simple: never underestimate yourself. Studying in Hobart, Tasmania, has been a transformational experience for him.

His International First Year Diploma with UP Education gave him the opportunity to ease into the Australian tertiary education system, make new friends, and pursue a Bachelor of Engineering degree with University of Tasmania.

Originally from Vietnam, it took Connor some time to understand the local accent, slang and diverse cultures. He's grateful to have made the move, as it's widened his horizons beyond expectations.

Connor says there are many things to love about Hobart - including the local kangaroos and wallabies - but it's the community that makes it truly feel like home.

→ Course
International First Year Diploma
delivered by UP Education



Pritha Shrestha

Student
Hobart, Australia

Aspiring software developer, Pritha, is one of the growing number of women in tech. Originally from Nepal, her move to Hobart in Australia was no easy feat.

Determined to live out her dreams of studying abroad, Pritha shouldered plenty of tough times, including missing her family back home. Having completed a Certificate of Foundation Studies, she is now able to take the next step towards her ideal career. That begins with a Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology at the University of Tasmania.

Officially settled into Hobart life, Pritha enjoys daily walks to Nutgrove Beach in the beautiful suburb of Sandy Bay, where she reflects fondly on her education journey and achievements thus far.

→ Course
International First Year Diploma
delivered by UP Education



Alex

Student President & Ambassador
Melbourne, Australia

Born in Mandalay, Myanmar, Alex is determined to make the most of his university experience in Australia.

He is happy to have been selected for the international student ambassador position at Swinburne University of Technology. He has also been selected to be the President of the Swinburne Burmese Students Association and the Environmental Representative for the Student Union.

Alex thrives helping his fellow students and he makes sure to use all possible platforms to reach them. Alex is well on the way to achieving a Bachelor of Business (Majoring in Finance) and gives props to the Swinburne Foundation Year programme with UP Education for getting him on his feet and developing his confidence to pursue leadership roles.

→ Course
Swinburne Foundation Year
delivered by UP Education



Senior Product Designer
Osho, Auckland, New Zealand

Introducing Maryna, one of the masterminds behind the New Zealand COVID Tracer App.

Launched by the Ministry of Health in 2020, the app was created to provide an efficient way to contact trace and prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19.

As the Senior Product Designer at RUSH in Auckland, Maryna was challenged to improve the in-app user experience – and did so successfully, improving the app’s average rating from 2.2 to 4.2 stars.

Maryna is a champion of accessible design, backed by qualitative and quantitative research. It’s no surprise she was recruited by Osho to radically accelerate the clean-energy revolution.

Maryna Babych

→ Course
Certificate in Foundation Studies
delivered by UP Education



Shuk Fai Law



Student Ambassador
Darwin, Australia

Amid the pandemic, Charles Darwin University was the first university in Australia to successfully charter a flight and bring international students into the country.

After completing the first portion of her Master of Teaching programme online, Shuk was flown from Hong Kong to Australia to complete the rest of her studies on campus. Darwin is the highly tropical and vibrant capital of Australia’s Northern Territory, and the city packs a lot of personality.

When Shuk first arrived in Darwin in 2020, she was mesmerised by her new home. Maggie believes her diligence, patience and motivation will play a huge part in her future career as a primary school teacher. She is excited to share her life experiences in order to inspire young children.

For now, she’s dedicated to her studies and her role as student ambassador, in which she helps other international students ease into their new life in Australia.

→ Course
International Foundation Studies Program
delivered by UP Education



UP Education
Level 8
4 Williamson Avenue
Grey Lynn
New Zealand 1021

PO Box 78-359
Grey Lynn
Auckland 1245

www.up.education

up.education

@UP Education

Information in this UP 100 issue is effective and current at the time of publication (1 December 2022) and may be subject to change.

For more information, please refer to the UP Education website or contact news@up.education.

THE WH100