

SHADOW A LEADER

14-18 JULY 2025



WHAT IS SHADOW A LEADER?

At Auckland University of Technology, engagement and collaboration with organisations, professions, and the community are central to our mission, with a strong emphasis on providing industry learning experiences for students.

Shadow a Leader is an exciting initiative by AUT's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law. This programme offers AUT and Auckland secondary school students the unique opportunity to shadow an industry leader for a day.

Participants gain invaluable insights into the dynamic world of industry leadership and discover the essential skills and attributes needed to excel in their chosen careers. This immersive experience is designed to shape the future of aspiring young leaders of our industries.

SHADOW A LEADER IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



COVER LEFT TO RIGHT: ROSE TOOMAN – MARIST COLLEGE, STEPHANIE YOUNG – BACHELOR OF LAWS, JESSICA WANG – MACLEANS COLLEGE, AMELIA ONG – BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES JOINT PROGRAMME, LOUISA KRAITZICK – PARTNER AT PEAD

LEFT TO RIGHT: PRANAV GHAKAR – BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, MAYA BABU – NORTHCOTE COLLEGE, DHYAN GADHIYA – MASTER OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, LETITIA KORTEGAST – TALENTS & EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST AT PORT OF AUCKLAND



WORKING IN TEAMS OF THREE

Shadow a Leader pairs an AUT business and law student with a Year 13 student and an organisation leader, allowing the students to 'shadow' the leader for a day. Since its inception in 2012, this initiative has grown to include over 100 teams of three each year.

AUT business and law students are encouraged to apply for this opportunity, with selections based on their final-year status in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, involvement in student clubs, leadership roles and academic recommendations.

Nominated by their schools for academic and extracurricular excellence, Year 13 students with a keen interest in careers in business, economics or law are selected for Shadow a Leader. These students often participate in entrepreneurial challenges or initiatives, such as the Young Enterprise Scheme.

Students will be informed of their scheduled Shadow a Leader day, including location details (building floor and address), meet-up time, contact information and any special requirements. The student teams are given full independence to navigate to the location, present themselves to the leader and connect with their 'buddy'.



LEFT TO RIGHT: JAYA STANLEY – KING'S COLLEGE, JASPREET KAUR – MASTER OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, MAGDALENE IEREMIA-APELU – ONEHUNGA HIGH SCHOOL, RUI-YI ONG – RANGITOTO COLLEGE AT NEW ZEALAND MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT (NZME)

ON THE DAY

Shadow a Leader is available for one week only, with organisations selecting a single day within this week that best fits their flexible working environment and availability. This approach allows leaders to choose a day that aligns with their schedule and on-site activities.

The day starts directly at the organisation, where students are responsible for independently meeting their leader or contact person. Throughout the day, students will follow their leader's activities, which may include:

- Planning and strategy meetings
- Client meetings and presentations
- Negotiation discussions
- Board meetings
- Product manufacture or factory tours
- Team building

Partnerships Manager, Nirisha Niranjan, organises student teams and industry allocation and has all participants' contact details to ensure the students' prompt arrival to the organisation on the agreed day and time.

LEFT TO RIGHT: LEE TUPUOLA FA'ALOGO AND REGAN UJARA - BACHELOR OF LAWS AT THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) CENTRE

AFTER THE EVENT

The day after their Shadow a Leader experience, all participating leaders and students receive a short online survey.

Leaders are able to share key information on highlights and suggestions for future activities. Students can express their interest in specific AUT programmes, ensuring they receive relevant information. They are also invited to attend AUT LIVE in August.

AUT students can credit their participation towards the AUT Edge Award. They may also have their profile story published on the AUT website, sharing their Shadow a Leader experience.

ABOVE - LEFT TO RIGHT: FRANCES REVELL-DEVLIN - DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND EMMA EVANS - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AT FUJIFILM BUSINESS INNOVATION



BELOW - LEFT TO RIGHT: SAMIYAH AMBREEN - SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, JONTI RHODES - VP OF SUPPLY CHAIN, FACILITIES & SUSTAINABILITY, HAILEY HELWES - GREEN BAY HIGH SCHOOL, EXCEL DE CELIS - MASTER OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, NEETHU CYRIAC - MASTER OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT AND EDDY PEREIRA - GENERAL MANAGER OF GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN AT FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE

BE PREPARED

All participating AUT and secondary school students, teachers and parents are invited to attend an online information session on:

Tuesday 29 April, 4pm-5pm

A link to this session will be sent out two weeks in advance. This interactive session will include a Q&A segment and cover essential topics such as CV writing, creating a LinkedIn account, and professional conduct and etiquette.

The dress code for Shadow a Leader is smart casual for AUT students and school uniform for secondary students. If a school uniform is not available, secondary students should also dress in smart casual attire.

Students will make their own way home from the day's activities at a time agreed upon with their leader.



GET INVOLVED

To express interest in participating as a student or organisation leader, please contact:

Nirisha Niranjan
Partnerships Manager
P: (09) 921 9999 ext 5809
M: 021 0700 901
E: nirisha.niranjan@aut.ac.nz



HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS SAID

Feedback from leaders

"I really enjoyed being able to showcase the ways I adapt my tertiary learning to my current corporate role. It's great experience for the students to get exposure to multiple departments within our business, including a manufacturing line tour. It is great to see the students fascinated in the work we do and our campus. We received feedback that it exceeded their expectations, which is wonderful to hear."

Natasha Wadia, Associate Product Manager – Fisher & Paykel Healthcare

"(The highlights were) the level of engagement/interest shown by the participants (questions asked), the level of pre-attendance reading about the organisation undertaken, and the polite and courteous manner of the participants."

Farquhar Somerville, GM of Property – Dilworth Trust Board

"The whole day was a highlight! The two students were wonderfully confident and friendly and seemed genuinely excited by everything I had to offer them. They were an absolute joy! It was a fantastic day. Thank you SO much for the opportunity to be involved with this wonderful programme."

Simone Tune, Legal Counsel – Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora

"I was glad we had a big group of students; it was lovely to see them bounce off each other and all get different things out of the sessions we put on."

Louisa Kraitzick, Partner – Pead

"It was great to host the students for the day and I'm very glad they felt it was a worthwhile experience. I was impressed with them both and have no doubt they'll go on to great things. I wish them the very best for their future endeavours."

Justin Walsh, Communications Manager – Spectrum Care Trust

Feedback from AUT students

"One of the main highlights of my experience was having the opportunity to visit each department and speak with several department managers within the company to understand the different roles. I also got to see the warehouse, explore the various types of printers they offer, and learn about how the business has evolved over the years and adapted to change. It was also fun to have the chance to disassemble a printer to understand its operation."

Emma Evans, Bachelor of Business
Shadowed Fujifilm Business Innovation, New Zealand

"It was incredible seeing how Lindsay communicates with his staff and conducts a meeting. I met so many interesting people throughout the team and getting a detailed tour of the distribution centre was really valuable. Getting to see all the theories and topics we learned in my Management major play out in real life was really cool too."

Riyaadh Afroz, Bachelor of Business
Shadowed Foodstuffs North Island

"My highlight was getting to talk to the leaders of the organisation and experience first-hand how they all interact and lead the organisation. Foundation North is founded on Te Reo Māori values so it felt more like a family than a traditional workplace. Talking to the Head of Finance, Alex, was a delight as we discussed the future of finance in NZ."

Alison Koch, Bachelor of Business
Shadowed Foundation North

"The highlight of my Shadow a Leader day was learning about the different roles marketers have. I learnt that B2B marketing expands beyond social media and digital marketing campaigns, with marketers even having product development roles that focused on ensuring the product meets the demands of the buyer and the user. This was a valuable learning experience as it opened my eyes to marketing roles I did not previously know existed, which has made me even more passionate about pursuing a career in marketing!"

Ashlee Nagra, Bachelor of Business
Shadowed Fisher & Paykel Healthcare

Feedback from secondary school students

"The highlight of my Shadow a Leader experience was learning about the day-to-day inner workings of a law firm, including sitting in on client meetings, visiting a High Court hearing, and listening to presentations from the staff about their experiences working at the firm, and the international opportunities in law."

I also felt that I was able to better understand the types of law that are practised, most significantly, litigation, and the disputes, claims, and processes that accompany a career in litigation."

Lucia Butler – Marist College
Shadowed Gilbert Walker

"Meeting the other members involved in the Shadow a Leader experience helped me settle quite easily as I knew that I wasn't the only one going through this new experience. Another highlight was meeting the AMAZING team that showed us around the huge campus and introduced us to the company and the things they believed in."

Horatio Dobson – Glenfield College
Shadowed Aurecon

"I have taken away a lot from this experience and have learnt more about the importance of empathy and gratitude. This experience has opened my eyes to marketing in a charity environment and has expanded my knowledge of business."

Caitlin Wallbank – Kelston Girls' College
Shadowed Spectrum Care Trust

"I especially enjoyed the 'Ask Anything' section, where we were able to ask any questions we had about law school or careers in law. The person we were asking, Samantha Shanks, was a younger lawyer and was able to connect with me as a Year 13 student. I also found her very down to earth, and she eased some tensions about the challenges I will face in the future."

Danielle Dazo – One Tree Hill College
Shadowed ADR Centre

"The Shadow a Leader experience was absolutely amazing. There was so much insight and advice that I gained. Everything would be considered a highlight. The way that Microsoft ran the day was extremely well thought out and in a way that everyone in the Shadow a Leader programme gained so much information. The powerpoints that were presented were incredibly informative and educational. The people that we met were definitely a highlight as they each explained their roles, their journey to their positions and were overall incredibly kind. I gained valuable connections and overall had an amazing experience."

Alessandra Sng – Rangitoto College
Shadowed Microsoft NZ

"The highlight of my Shadow a Leader experience was having the opportunity to meet the managing heads of the different departments and learn about their roles, interests, academic courses, and why they chose this career path. I learned about the intricate roles they play in steering their respective teams, managing complex projects, and making strategic decisions that align with the broader goals of the Financial Markets Authority."

Kisha Anne Apdian – Glenfield College
Shadowed Financial Markets Authority



LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA WANG – MACLEANS COLLEGE, ANNA FARRERA – PARTNER, LUISA KRAITZICK – PARTNER, ROSE TOOMAN – MARIST COLLEGE, AMELIA ONG – BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES JOINT PROGRAMME AT PEAD

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

We would like to thank all chief executives, managing directors, firm partners, senior executives and teams from the following organisations who continue to support and participate in the Shadow a Leader programme.

- academyEX
- Air New Zealand
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre
- AMP
- Anthem
- ASB Bank Limited
- Auckland Airport
- Auckland Council
- Auckland Transport
- Aurecon
- BDO
- Bell Gully
- Catalyst Markets
- Chapman Tripp
- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
- Child Cancer Foundation
- Cisco
- Counties Energy
- DELL Technologies
- Deloitte
- DHL Global Forwarding (NZ) Ltd
- Dilworth Trust Board
- Eke Panuku Development Auckland
- EY
- FCB New Zealand
- Financial Markets Authority
- Fisher & Paykel Appliances
- Fisher & Paykel Healthcare
- Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited
- Foodstuffs North Island
- Foundation North
- Fujifilm Business Innovation New Zealand
- Gilbert Walker
- Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora
- Just Life Group
- JW Legal
- K3 Legal
- Kayes Fletcher Walker
- KPMG
- Lane Neave
- Les Mills International
- Microsoft
- Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
- Neptune Pacific Direct Line (NPDL)
- Netlogix
- New Zealand Media and Entertainment (NZME)
- New Zealand Story Group
- NZ Post
- NZ Super Fund
- Orbit World Travel
- Pacific Cooperation Foundation
- Pead
- Port of Auckland
- PwC
- realestate.co.nz
- Spectrum Care Trust
- Tompkins Wake
- TPT Group Holdings (NZ) Ltd
- Transdev
- Trust Investment Management Ltd
- Vector
- Westpac New Zealand

AUCKLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Thank you to the following schools for taking part in the Shadow a Leader initiative:

- ACG Strathallan
- ACG Sunderland
- Albany Senior High School
- Alfriston College
- Aorere College
- Avondale College
- Baradene College
- Botany Downs Secondary College
- Carmel College
- De La Salle College
- Diocesan School for Girls
- Glendowie College
- Glenfield College
- Green Bay High School
- Howick College
- James Cook High School
- Kelston Boys' High School
- Kelston Girls' College
- King's College
- KingsWay School
- Lynfield College
- Macleans College
- Marist College
- Mount Albert Grammar School
- Northcote College
- One Tree Hill College
- Onehunga High School
- Ormiston Senior College
- Pakuranga College
- Papakura High School
- Pinehurst School
- Rangitoto College
- Rutherford College
- Sacred Heart College
- Saint Kentigern College
- Sancta Maria College
- St Cuthbert's College
- St Mary's College
- Takapuna Grammar School
- Western Springs College



**TOP 100
WORLDWIDE**
Young University NZ¹



for Teaching, Employability,
Research, Internationalisation,
Environmental Impact, Facilities,
and Sports (specialist subject)
(QS Stars)

AUT