

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

AUT

TE WĀNANGA ARONUI
O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME GUIDE
2026



TOP 100
WORLDWIDE
Young University

AUCKLAND
UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

Nau mai, haere mai ki AUT WELCOME TO AUT

E ngā mana, e ngā reo
E te iti, e te rahi
E ngā mātāwaka o ngā tōpito o te ao
Ngā mahuetanga iho e kawē nei i ngā
moemoeā o rātou mā
Tēnā koutou katoa

Piki mai rā, kake mai rā,
Nau mai, haere mai ki tēnei o ngā wānanga
Whakatau mai i raro i te korowai āhuru o Te Wānanga
Aronui o Tāmaki Makau Rau

Te whakatupu i te kōunga, i te mana taurite me ngā
tikanga matatika, i ngā pūkenga ako,
i ngā pūkenga whakaako me te āta rangahau hei hāpai
i ngā hāpori whānui o te motu, otirā, o te ao.

To the prestigious, the many voices
The few, the great
To those of all races and creeds
We who remain to fulfil the dreams and
aspirations of the ancestors
Greetings one and all

Climb, ascend
Embark on the journey of knowledge
Let us at AUT embrace and empower you
To strive for and achieve excellence

To foster excellence, equity and ethics in
learning, teaching, research and scholarship,
and in so doing serve our regional, national
and international communities.

Cover

The cover design symbolises the far-reaching impact AUT has on students, their whānau, society and the world. The ripples represent this impact, while beneath them lies a modern Poutama pattern, symbolising the support and guidance AUT provides to students on their educational journey. A traditional Poutama design on the back connects to the front, reflecting the foundational role of Te Ao Māori in supporting and enhancing all aspects of AUT.

Disclaimer: Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to change. All students enrolling at AUT should consult its official document, the AUT Calendar, which is available online at aut.ac.nz/calendar, to ensure that they are aware of, and comply with, all regulations, requirements and policies. The information contained in this programme guide was correct at the time of print, December 2024.

Image #4 on page 3 by Simon Devitt Photographer.

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He aha ai e ako ki AUT? WHY STUDY AT AUT?

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead and stories about our great graduates and students.



1 Study communications at AUT and you have access to a modern media centre 2 Relax at the Te Āhuru Recreation Centre on the City Campus between classes 3 The Sir Paul Reeves Building (WG) offers industry standard facilities and great spaces to socialise and study 4 Our state-of-the-art screen and television studio

New Zealand's leading modern university

AUT is proud to be one of the world's best modern universities. Times Higher Education has ranked us in the top 1% of universities in the world, the top 100 universities under 50 years of age and number one in Aotearoa New Zealand for international outlook. Study with us and you'll join New Zealand's most diverse and vibrant university, and develop the skills for rewarding careers in a wide range of industries and professions. Across all of our programmes, we encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and the ability to explore new technologies, challenge routine thinking and solve problems in new ways. AUT is where talent meets opportunity, and we love seeing so many of our graduates shape successful careers in New Zealand and around the world.

Preparing you for the future

Our communication studies programmes are well regarded by the industry, and you'll have plenty of opportunities to network with industry leaders and potential employers thanks to our strong connections with partner organisations and professional bodies like the Public Relations Institute of New Zealand and Commercial Communications Council. As part of your Bachelor of Communication Studies you can work on projects for real clients, or complete workplace experience or internships for major industry organisations. Your degree can be as unique as you are – you can include subjects from across AUT and tailor your studies to your interests. And if you want another way into AUT, our Diploma in Arts is a great way to start your studies and gain the confidence to succeed at university.

Top facilities and equipment

To make sure your learning is relevant to your future career, you have access to top facilities and industry-standard equipment, including a screen and TV studio, performance studio, radio station, sound and edit suites, digital media labs and a media centre. You'll study in modern buildings that don't just win architecture awards but also offer excellent environments where you can collaborate with your classmates and develop skills that help you stand out to employers. We're proud of our five-star ranking for teaching and facilities, awarded by the world university rankings organisation QS. Our state-of-the-art buildings were created using sustainable principles and offer inviting lecture theatres, auditoriums and research spaces; offering you the perfect environment for your studies.

Research that shapes tomorrow

Our research is focused on real-world impact, and we're proud of our reputation as a leading research university. As an AUT student you could learn from globally renowned researchers who are experts in areas as diverse as communication for social change, media and democracy, screen practice and the impact of AI on the creative sector. Their research often feeds back into the classroom, and you may even be able to contribute to these research discoveries. We have a number of world-class research centres and groups, and our research addresses issues facing the environment, society and the world.

Oranga Taurira

STUDENT LIFE

As a modern and innovative university, we offer you endless opportunities, and a supportive culture that celebrates diversity. Here, you are at the heart of everything we do. At AUT, you'll find some of the most comprehensive student support services in New Zealand, designed in collaboration with our students. We'll support you to build friendships, develop life skills, achieve academically, and have amazing experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

The best start for your uni journey

Starting university life is exciting and perhaps a little daunting, regardless of your stage in life. With our wide-ranging support services, orientation programmes at the start of each semester, and multiple opportunities to meet new friends and follow a passion or hobby, you'll transition smoothly.

Student Hub

Our professionally qualified staff, including social workers and occupational therapists, are ready to support our diverse student community. The Student Hub is your go-to for navigating student life at AUT, providing the support you need from when you apply to after you graduate.

Your home away from home

As a student you'll spend most of your time on campus, whether you're based at an AUT campus in the City, South Auckland or the North Shore. Each campus has its own vibe, and all are connected by shuttle buses or public transport. You'll find everything you need right here, including medical centres, gyms and recreation centres, free and confidential counselling, programmes to develop your self-knowledge and resilience, and community-specific services to make you feel comfortable and safe. Our campuses are monitored 24/7 by our security team.

Your place for support

AUT celebrates diversity and is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi with passion, curiosity and pride. We're committed to supporting the aspirations of our Māori and Pacific whānau. We were the first New Zealand university to appoint a full-time rainbow community coordinator, and are proud to be a Pride Pledge university. We support equity of access and opportunity for students, staff and visitors, and follow the principles of Kia Ōrite: Code of Practice for an inclusive tertiary environment that enables disabled, Deaf and neurodivergent students to achieve fully. As an AUT student you can access our specialised community support services, including LGBTTQIA+, disabled and Deaf, high-performance athlete, international, Māori and Pacific student support. The AUT Student Association (AUTSA) advocates and represents your interests, and shares student voices through Debate magazine.

Achieve your academic goals

Our goal is to help you achieve your academic dreams and set you up for a successful career. Our library and learning services support includes learning advisors, workshops, assessment advice appointments, tailored postgraduate research support and tools like Studiosity to help you ace your assessments. At AUT you'll find everything you need for your studies, including computer labs, printers, IT support, free wifi on campus, the full Microsoft 365 suite, LinkedIn Learning and remote access to AUT computers for specialist software. To make sure financial difficulty doesn't get in the way of your academic achievements, our support also extends to help with food or transport vouchers, rent and living expenses, and even laptops and data packages if you experience financial hardship.

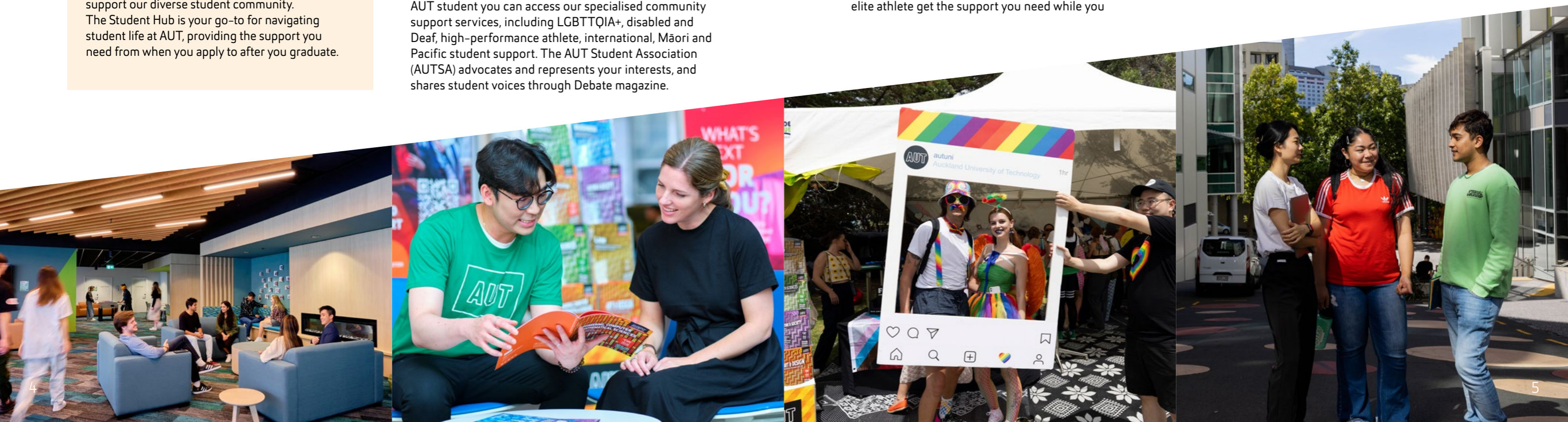
A vibrant uni experience

We want you to make the most of university life, have fun and grow during your time with us. Choose from over 90 student-led social, sustainability, cultural and academic clubs, or perhaps start your own. Participate in social sports, represent AUT through University Tertiary Sport (UTSNZ) and if you're an elite athlete get the support you need while you

compete internationally. Make the most of our state-of-the-art sports facilities at AUT Millennium, on-campus gyms at every campus, and a swimming pool and courts for tennis, volleyball, basketball and other sports at the South Campus. Our Te Āhuru Recreation Centre at the City Campus also has a sports court, dance and exercise studios, flexible spaces for clubs to meet, and large spaces to gather and share food.

Beyond learning and into employability

Our services and award programmes help you become a well-rounded graduate ready to succeed in New Zealand and the world, and support your career after you graduate. Attend employer presentations, events, and workshops throughout the year, and use our four graduate job boards, including for international career options. Develop sought-after skills through volunteering, leadership and employability activities with the AUT Edge and Beyond AUT Awards, or access funding and mentoring through AUT Ventures Limited to commercialise your AUT research. You can also study overseas as part of your degree at one of AUT Global's partner universities around the world.



Bachelor of Communication Studies

Overview

BCS | AK3303

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



QUICK FACTS

Level	7
Points	360
Duration	3 years full-time
Campus	City
Starts	23 Feb & 13 July 2026

AUT's communication studies degree is very well regarded in New Zealand and all around the world. That's because our people pick up top jobs in the best companies and media outlets, and win many prestigious awards. Our students and graduates are internationally recognised, having won the Cannes Lions Award, AXIS Award, Sally Logan-Milne Young Practitioner of the Year Award, ORCA Award, D&AD New Blood Award and Advertising Capstone Challenge.

As an AUT student you have access to industry standard facilities and equipment, including a media centre, radio studio and fully equipped television studio, and gain invaluable workplace experience before you graduate.

Entry requirements

Minimum entry requirements

University Entrance or equivalent

Useful New Zealand school subjects

Language rich subjects are useful, including Art History, Business Studies, Classical Studies, Drama, Economics, English, Geography, Health Education, History, Media Studies, Physical Education, Social Studies, Statistics, Te Reo Māori, Te Reo Rangatira

English language requirements

IELTS (Academic) 6.0 overall with all bands 5.5 or higher; or equivalent

Don't meet the entry requirements?

Consider starting with our Diploma in Arts – refer to page 15 for more details.

What this qualification covers

The Bachelor of Communication Studies is highly flexible and you can build your degree in a way that reflects your interests.

To graduate with a Bachelor of Communication Studies you need to complete:

Core courses (120 points)

These are courses all students in this degree need to take in the first year. They give you a basic understanding of the media world and communication theories, and help you decide which subject to focus on later in your studies.

Your chosen major (120 points)

Your major is the subject area you want to specialise in. This makes up one third of your degree, and usually consists of eight courses related to your chosen subject. You can view the list of majors in this degree on page 8.

Flexible component (120 points)

You can choose one of the following options:

- Two minors (60 points each); or
- A minor (60 points) and elective courses (60 points); or
- A second major (120 points)

Your second major, minor(s) and elective courses can be from communication studies or from different AUT degrees.



"I just loved how the communications degree really let our creative imagination run wild. I particularly remember my third year at AUT when as public relations students we were able to get involved with a local charity to run a mock PR campaign. We had an absolute blast as it felt the closest to being in the field. I now live in LA and get to work with companies that are disrupting traditional industries. Most recently, I worked with AmazeVR, which is ushering in the future of live entertainment. I got to help launch T-Pain's first-ever VR concert and was on site for the filming of media interviews between him, CNN and Rolling Stone. That was a real pinch me moment."

Ben Fitchett
Account Supervisor, Sling & Stone, Los Angeles
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Public Relations with a minor in Creative Entrepreneurship

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
SEMESTER 1	Text, Image & Sound 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS
	Mahitahi I Collaborative Practices 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS
	Media Production Foundations 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS
	Media, Technology & Society 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS
SEMESTER 2	Communication Ethics 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS
	Media, Politics & Citizenship 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS	Major course 15 PTS
	Intercultural Communication 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS
	Media Production Studio 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS	Flexible component 15 PTS

Core courses PTS: Points

Bachelor of Communication Studies

Overview continued

Majors

Choose one of these majors as part of your degree:

- Advertising and Brand Creativity
- Digital Communication
- Journalism
- Public Relations
- Radio and Audio Media
- Screen Production

Refer to pages 9 to 14 for more details on each of these majors. Entry into your desired major is subject to your first-year results; it isn't guaranteed.

If you want to include a second major in your degree, you can choose another subject from the list above or you can see more options from different AUT degrees on aut.ac.nz/majors-minors

Minors

A minor is smaller than a major. It usually consists of four courses. If you decide to include a minor in your degree, you could choose from:

- Advertising and Brand Creativity
- Communication for Social Change
- Digital Communication
- Journalism
- Media and Power
- Multi-Camera Production
- Professional Performance Communication
- Public Relations
- Radio and Audio Media
- Screen Production

For more information on each of these minors and to see even more minors from other subjects visit aut.ac.nz/majors-minors



Build your degree on our website

Visit our website to build your own degree and see what your three years of study could look like. Simply scan the QR code on page 7.

Possible combinations include:

- Bachelor of Communication Studies in Public Relations with minors in Advertising and Brand Creativity & Event Management (one major, two minors)
- Bachelor of Communication Studies in Journalism with a minor in Communication for Social Change (one major, one minor, plus elective courses of your choice)
- Bachelor of Communication Studies in Advertising and Brand Creativity & Marketing (two majors)

Bachelor of Communication Studies

Advertising and Brand Creativity

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



Advertising is about thinking laterally and developing effective brand and product campaigns. You start with a blank piece of paper, do the hard work to get to a great idea and then choose various media to create a campaign. AUT is the only New Zealand university that teaches advertising creativity specifically and at degree level. We work closely with the advertising industry, and you learn from guest speakers from leading advertising agencies and client companies like Google, TVNZ, Spark, MediaWorks, Saatchi & Saatchi, DDB, Colenso BBDO, FCB New Zealand and Film Construction.

What this major covers

YEAR 1

The first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies is the same for all students. You study a range of core courses that give you an overview of the media world and communication theories.

YEAR 2

This year you take four courses related to advertising and brand creativity, exploring the advertising industry and its role on a global stage, creative strategies and principles, and trends in advertising. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

YEAR 3

Our advertising and brand creativity courses help you develop a professional advertising portfolio you can use to apply for work as a copywriter, art director and other roles in an ad agency. You collaborate with your classmates on advertising briefs, writing and designing ads for real products and clients. Clients and agencies brief our students directly, and your completed work may even be published in the media. Many students are also offered workplace experience at leading advertising agencies. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

Career opportunities

- Account director or planner
- Art director
- Copywriter
- Digital creative or strategist
- Media buyer/planner
- Strategic planner
- Web content creator
- Marketing manager



"The first few years of the communication studies degree were great because they give you the chance to try out a whole range of courses to see what sticks. And advertising was that for me. I loved that I was able to write, draw or conceptualise for different brands and briefs. In my last year at AUT, we spent hours and hours working up an advertising portfolio for a showcase at the end of the year. It was stressful, fun and such a great experience. Advertising feels like such a good creative outlet for me, and I've loved every second of it."

Alex Tawharu

Ngāti Raukawa

Copywriter, Bastion Shine
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Advertising Creativity with a minor in Public Relations

Bachelor of Communication Studies Digital Communication

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



Digital media is at the heart of modern communication. AUT's digital communication courses offer a mix of media communication, production workflows, strategic thinking, and technological competencies that prepare you for a wide range of careers. You'll work on various projects to create websites, app proposals, videos, motion graphics and print media that can serve as portfolio pieces. Majoring in digital communication can lead you to an exciting and fast-paced career as a digital strategist or producer. You could also pair digital communication with another major or minor to build a breadth of desirable media production skills for any media or communications role.

What this major covers

YEAR 1

The first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies is the same for all students. You study a range of core courses that give you an overview of the media world and communication theories.

YEAR 2

Our digital communication courses cover how to make digital media communicate effectively, look great, sound great and tell a great story. This year you take four courses related to digital communication, focusing on interactive media production for various platforms including web and mobile. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

YEAR 3

You work on various digital communication projects, and deliver your work via mobile devices, broadcast media or broadband communication, on time and on budget. You develop a high level of critical thinking and strategic planning skills for video, audio and other digital media, and manage the production cycle from idea to final product. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

Career opportunities

- Digital strategist
- Digital media project manager, producer or consultant
- Digital video specialist
- Instructional media designer
- Interactive media producer or consultant
- Mobile app designer or mobile content developer
- Motion graphics designer
- User experience (UX) or interface (UI) designer
- Web administrator or web designer



"In digital media, we got to explore video editing, animation, illustration design, audio editing and 3D modelling. However, the course on user experience (UX) course stood out to me – it sparked my passion for UX and ultimately set me on my career path. In my role at NZME now, I'm part of a team responsible for designing the end-to-end experience and user interfaces for our digital products, including The New Zealand Herald, Viva, The Listener and Driven. We've significantly enhanced our websites' overall user experience through SEO initiatives, storytelling and a redesign of core structures. This has made a real impact on our digital presence."

Dean Talavera
Intermediate UX Designer, NZME
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Digital Media & Bachelor of Business in Marketing conjoint programmes

Bachelor of Communication Studies Journalism

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



Technological change has transformed the world of journalism. But behind the digital wizardry of today, the principles at the heart of all good reporting – accuracy, fairness and ethical truth-telling – are as fundamental and important as they ever were. Professional journalism skills, including high-quality writing, the ability to verify information and a talent for interviewing, are needed to cut through the noise. And that's why AUT graduates are in strong demand. At AUT you study at a journalism department known nationally and internationally for its research, programmes and the industry experience of its lecturing team.

What this major covers

YEAR 1

The first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies is the same for all students. You study a range of core courses that give you an overview of the media world and communication theories.

YEAR 2

This year you take three courses related to journalism, helping you develop the knowledge for a career in journalism or a number of other pathways that use these transferable skills. You gain experience in news reporting, longform journalism, cross-platform storytelling, bicultural and cross-cultural journalism, as well as media law and ethics. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

YEAR 3

You'll be regularly taking part in live reporting assignments and pitching stories to editors in the industry as well as to our own student-edited news site Te Waha Nui. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

Workplace experience

An important part of your studies are industry placements at leading newsrooms and publications across the range of media platforms. As a journalism student you complete a two-week placement in a newsroom across a range of news organisations, including the main players in the Aotearoa New Zealand news media. During your studies, you'll also have opportunities for paid shifts at a variety of newsrooms.

Career opportunities

- News reporter for newspapers, magazines, television, radio or online media
- Freelance journalist/specialist writer
- Production journalist, web editor or producer
- Researcher/communication specialist



"John Campbell was one of the guest lecturers at AUT and he spoke inspirationally about his work in journalism. The station manager of 95bFM, Manu Taylor, also gave a guest lecture, and encouraged people to try out student radio. I did, and that led to me working for two years on 95bFM's current affairs show. That played a key role in helping me figure out that I wanted to work in broadcasting. Making it to the BBC newsroom was a huge personal achievement for me, and it's been incredibly thrilling to be a part of the coverage of some of the world's biggest stories in recent times, including the war in Ukraine, the US election and the Israel-Gaza war."

George Freeman
Broadcast Journalist & Producer, BBC, London
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Journalism

Bachelor of Communication Studies Public Relations

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



A PR career could involve organising top-level celebrities to promote an exotic resort, working with an international health organisation to communicate disease prevention in a developing country, briefing business leaders on a company merger, or lobbying the government to change regulations on behalf of a charity. We have a longstanding relationship with the Public Relations Institute of New Zealand (PRINZ) and have developed graduate internships with a range of PR consultancies. Our lecturers' strong industry connections mean that you have the opportunity to go on industry field trips and gain paid PR experience during your degree.

What this major covers

YEAR 1

The first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies is the same for all students. You study a range of core courses that give you an overview of the media world and communication theories.

YEAR 2

This year you take four courses related to public relations, covering topics like reputation management, relationship management, strategic messaging, communication in business and political environments, and the power of persuasion. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

YEAR 3

In your third year you plan and execute PR strategies through Outside the Square (OTS), our student-run public relations consultancy. You work in teams to interpret a brief from a real client, develop a communication strategy and implement the plan on time and on budget. Recent clients included Child Cancer Foundation, Moths and Butterflies of New Zealand Trust, PRINZ, House of Science West Auckland, The Y North Shore, Kaipātiki Project, Citizens Advice Bureau, Oke Charity and Duffy Books in Homes.

Other courses this year focus on the role of multimedia in public relations campaigns, political and election campaigns, and developing a strategic communication plan. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

Career opportunities

- Corporate communications executive
- Public relations consultant
- Marketing communications executive
- Government communicator
- Internal communications advisor
- Community relations manager
- Cultural mediator
- Media relations manager
- Influencer campaign manager



"I had only heard good things about the practical and meaningful learning experience AUT offered. The industry project in my final year was the highlight of the degree. Getting to work with a client and learn everything from the basics of account management to brainstorming creative stakeholder engagement strategies was so valuable for starting in PR. In my group's project we helped a community zero waste programme develop an online engagement strategy. I was tasked with identifying and reaching out to national celebs and local community members that had a public profile – a pretty wild thing to be doing as a uni student! For me studying at AUT was such an awesome experience."

Louis Hartley
Te Atiawa (Taranaki)
Consultant, GRC Partners + Porter Novelli
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Public Relations

Bachelor of Communication Studies Radio and Audio Media

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



Radio is fast-paced, dynamic and immediate. Audio media, including podcasts and documentaries, are rapidly becoming core parts of our media diets. Personalities are the public faces of radio and audio media, taking on personas to suit the audience. But many people work in other essential roles to get shows on air and podcasts online, including producers, journalists and sound engineers. In this major you explore the crossover of radio, audio and new media with music, popular culture, change, creative practice and self-expression.

What this major covers

YEAR 1

The first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies is the same for all students. You study a range of core courses that give you an overview of the media world and communication theories.

YEAR 2

This year you take four courses related to radio and audio media, getting to know the business of radio, studio practices, radio programming strategies and the different roles involved in putting a radio show together. You learn more about podcasting and the role of the internet in radio productions. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

YEAR 3

You run an FM and online radio station with other students. You create the format, manage the playlists, sell advertising, write features and commercials, promote the station and its clients, and learn how to work as a team in a fast paced and creative media enterprise. You learn more about the role of the music industry in radio operations, and interact with key people from Radio New Zealand, MediaWorks, NZME and The Radio Bureau. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

Student radio station and podcasting studios

As a radio student you can practise your skills by running our student radio station. You can check it out in Auckland, Static 88.1 FM or visit static.co.nz

Radio students also go on air from our state-of-the-art radio studios on our online Kiwi music station SOUNZ. To find out more visit sounz.kiwi.nz

You can also work in our state-of-the-art podcasting studios with full camera set-ups to make professional multimedia shows.

Career opportunities

- Announcer/radio journalist
- Podcaster
- Copywriter
- Account executive
- Media planner
- Music director or programmer
- Producer
- Production or studio engineer
- Programme director
- Promotions or station manager
- Record company representative
- Studio engineer
- Web content multimedia specialist



"The degree attracts a wide variety of creative minds and helped me create a broad network of lifelong friends and contacts. I also loved that the programme allows you to try many different areas and then hone your craft as you progress through your degree. It gave me the tools to be a well-rounded communicator, and made it possible to transition to television as a sports reporter two months after graduating, despite majoring in radio. As part of the Olympic Channel team I've been fortunate to interview hundreds of athletes, host daily live shows and Instagram lives, create vlogs, articles, podcasts and much more. It's an immense privilege to tell someone's story and it's a responsibility I never take for granted."

Ashlee Tulloch
Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Tuwharetoa
Freelance Broadcast and Media Professional
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Radio

Bachelor of Communication Studies Screen Production

Scan this QR code for details about courses, where your study could lead, and stories about our great graduates and students.



Screen production is all about telling a good story in an exciting and innovative way. The evolution of the moving image has been dramatic, and consumers today have a wide array of viewing choices in the online space and across multiple media outlets. Screen production professionals have to be versatile, adaptable, creative and technically competent in a number of specific roles or across a number of areas within a production. AUT graduates are well-known for their pre-production, production and post-production skills, and can be found in leading roles in film, television and screen production around the world.

What this major covers

YEAR 1

The first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies is the same for all students. You study a range of core courses that give you an overview of the media world and communication theories.

YEAR 2

This year you take four courses related to screen production, focusing on screen theory, studio production, short films and documentaries. You develop the creative and professional skills to assist on productions and sets, manage schedules and understand the varied roles in this thriving industry. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

YEAR 3

You work on practical screen production projects, using AUT's industry-standard studio facilities. You become familiar with professional practices using camera, sound and editing equipment, lighting and post-production. You also develop your screenwriting skills, developing an original idea from concept to final script. You also take courses from your second major, your minor(s) or elective courses.

Career opportunities

- Cinematographer
- Content creator
- Director
- Editor
- Media presenter or programmer
- Multimedia specialist
- Producer/production manager
- Researcher
- Sound recordist/sound designer
- Screen writer



"I had always heard that AUT was more hands on than other universities, and I knew I wanted to get into the film, TV and media industry. I was pleasantly surprised when I read about the communications degree, which had everything I was interested in. I'd recommend this degree to anyone that loves to create. Screen production gives you the knowledge and tools to bring your ideas to life. Radio does the same. I just want to be a part of the process of taking an idea and putting it on the screen. There aren't many Pacific people in this line of work so I want to help pave the way."

Va'a Magalogo
Freelancer - Film and TV
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Screen Production & Radio and Audio Media

Diploma in Arts

Scan this QR code for details about courses and where this qualification could lead you.



Interested in communication studies? Start your university studies with our Diploma in Arts. It's another way into AUT; perfect if you're not entirely sure what to expect at uni or from communication studies, or missed out on getting into your dream degree. You'll take the same courses as first-year bachelor's degree students, and study in a supportive environment with additional academic and student support. It's a great way to try university and gain a qualification in one year. Once you've completed your diploma you can then move into Year 2 of the Bachelor of Communication Studies, which means you can still complete your chosen bachelor's degree in three years.

Entry requirements

Minimum entry requirements

- University Entrance OR
- 42 NCEA credits at Level 3, including UE literacy and numeracy, with:
 - 10 credits in each of three approved subjects, OR
 - 12 credits in each of two approved subjects and 14 credits across two further subjects

English language requirements

IELTS (Academic) 5.5 overall with a minimum of 5.5 in writing and a minimum of 5.0 in other bands, or equivalent

What this qualification covers

You'll become familiar with the media world and different communication studies concepts, and improve your academic knowledge and study skills to give you the confidence for further study.

The courses you study are from the first year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies. Your diploma courses can also help you decide which area of communication studies you might like to focus on later once you move into our bachelor's degree. We'll work with you to help you identify where you want to go and what courses will help you get there.

Further study

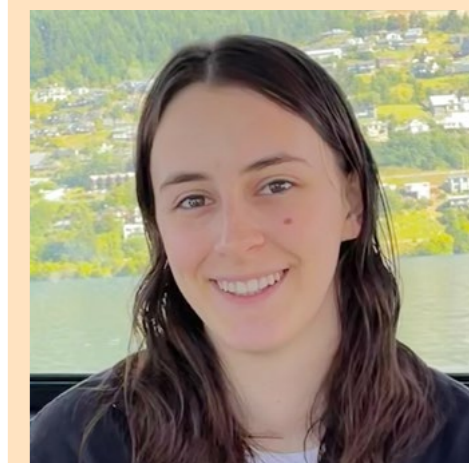
- Bachelor of Communication Studies

Because you study the same first-year courses as our bachelor's degree students, you can move into the second year of the Bachelor of Communication Studies once you've completed this diploma.

DipArts | AK2001

QUICK FACTS

Level	5
Points	120
Duration	1 year full-time, part-time available ¹
Campus	City
Starts	23 Feb 2026



"Deciding to come to AUT for my studies was easy, and I completed a Diploma in Arts, focusing on communication studies, before transferring into the Bachelor of Communication Studies. I chose AUT because it offered everything I was interested in, in one place. I'd heard such great things about AUT from friends and family, and it's a lot more hands-on than other universities. I've loved my studies - I've met so many amazing people and got given so many opportunities to learn from people in the industry. I've always enjoyed planning events as well as PR, and AUT had the perfect combination of both subjects as part of my Bachelor of Communication Studies."

Jorja Parmentier
Event & Talent Coordinator,
Mango Communications Aotearoa NZ
Bachelor of Communication Studies in Public Relations with minors in Advertising and Brand Creativity & Event Management Diploma in Arts

¹ Part-time not available to students who have narrowly missed UE

Overview of our postgraduate qualifications



Scan this QR code for more details on postgraduate communication programmes.

AUT is Aotearoa New Zealand's fastest growing postgraduate study destination. We offer a wide range of postgraduate programmes to help you achieve your goals and progress your communications career. Our world-leading academics are research-active experts at the forefront of their disciplines, and our research centres and networks give you access to transformational research projects.

Postgraduate Certificate in Communication Studies

This intensive one-semester programme offers a flexible entry into postgraduate study in communications. It's a great option if you have a three-year bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline but don't meet the entry requirements for the Master of Communication Studies.

Postgraduate Diploma in Communication Studies

From communication leadership to inclusive journalism and media innovation, this one-year intensive postgraduate programme covers current developments in media and communication studies, and equips you with skills in a chosen area of communications.

Master of Communication Studies

Shape the future of media and communication industries with the Master of Communication Studies. You can specialise in communication leadership, inclusive journalism or media innovation, and complete courses that cover current developments in media and communication studies. You'll work with our experienced supervisors to design and develop your research dissertation, which is at the core of the programme.

Master of Philosophy

The Master of Philosophy is a one-year research-only master's degree. It gives you the opportunity to undertake a research project of an applied or professional nature, under the supervision of communication studies staff. It can also serve as a pathway to more advanced research at doctoral level.

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a thesis-based research degree that leads to advanced academic and theoretical knowledge in a specialist area. It's the highest qualification offered at a university. It enables you to make an original contribution to understanding in the field of communication, and meet recognised international standards for such work. You work closely with a supervisor to prepare a thesis, which is then examined by independent experts applying contemporary international standards.



1 & 2. You have access to industry standard facilities including a media centre 3. Students honing their skills at Static FM, AUT's student radio station 4 & 5. Our state-of-the-art screen and television studio includes a green screen room 6. The Sir Paul Reeves Building (WG building) on AUT City Campus, is home to our communication studies programmes





University admission to AUT bachelor's degrees

University admission to AUT bachelor's degrees

If you're a New Zealand citizen or resident, or an international student studying in a New Zealand high school, you must meet the requirements for University Entrance to gain admission to bachelor's degrees, plus any additional requirements for your chosen programme such as specific subjects and interviews.

Admission categories

You may be granted University Entrance under:

- NCEA University Entrance
- Ad Eundem Statum admission (at an equivalent level) – this includes Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE) and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB)
- Discretionary Entrance
- Special Admission

To find out more about entry requirements, including entry requirements for international students, scan the QR code on the opposite page.

English language requirements

If you don't have English as your first language, you may have to show evidence of your English language skills. Visit aut.ac.nz/englishrequirements for details about English language testing and recognised English tests.

International students

Contact us for information regarding studying at AUT if you're not a citizen or permanent resident of New Zealand or Australia, or a citizen of the Cook Islands, Niue or Tokelau islands.

Visit aut.ac.nz/int/entryrequirements for entry requirements for specific countries. If you have any questions, you can contact us at aut.ac.nz/enquire

UniPrep programme

Not sure if you're ready for university or what to expect at AUT? Taking place over five weeks in January and February every year, UniPrep is designed to ease you into university life and ensure you get the best possible start. Expect to advance your study skills, make lifelong friends, take part in team activities, find out where to get support for your studies and complete your first university course. Once you're part of our UniPrep whānau, just know – we got you!

Visit aut.ac.nz/uniprep

NCEA university entrance

You must achieve all of the below

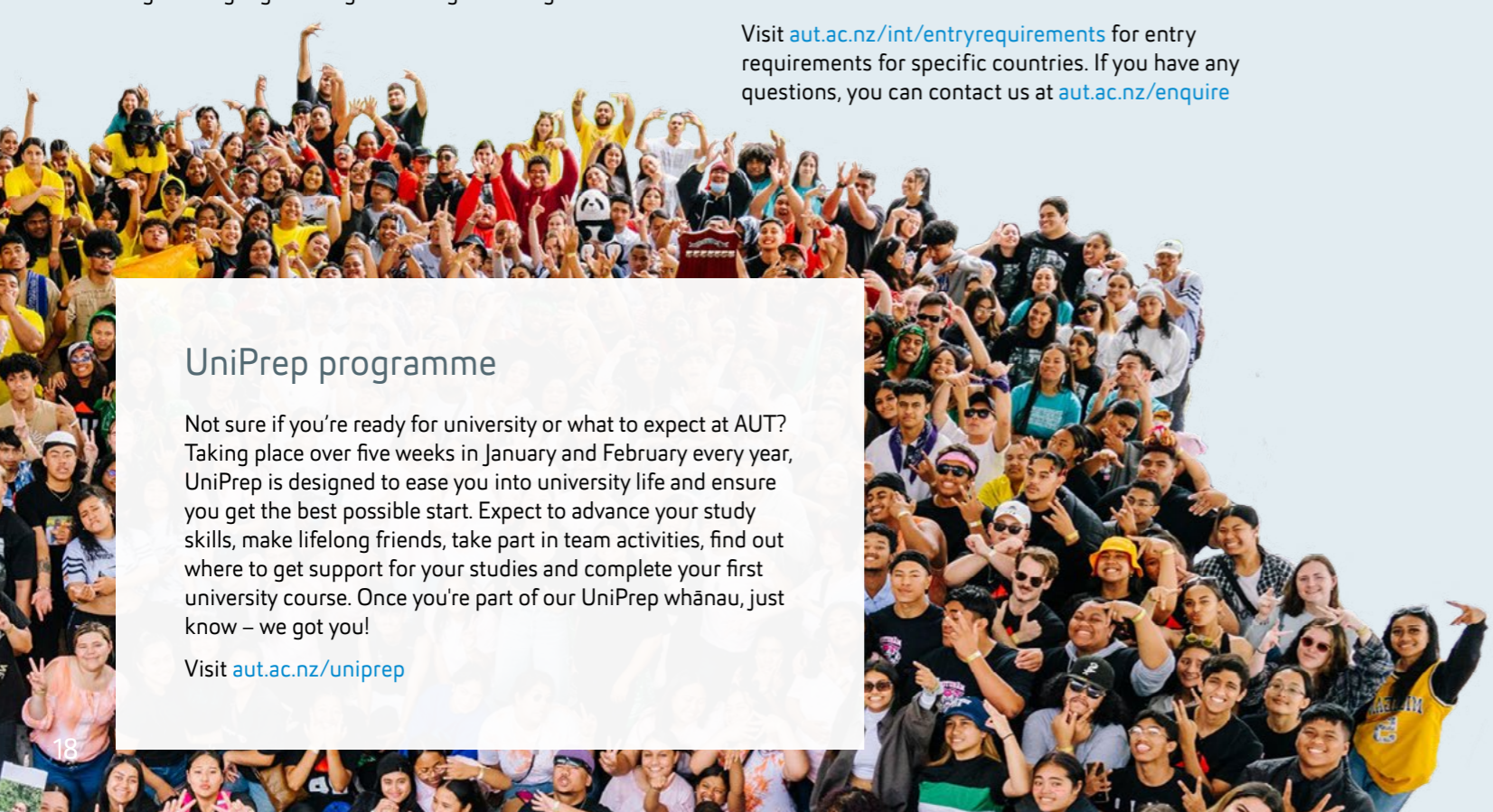
Level 3 (60 credits)	UE Literacy	Numeracy
Within the 60 credits, you need to at least achieve the below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 credits in approved subject 1 14 credits in approved subject 2 14 credits in approved subject 3 18 credits from any Level 3 standards 	5 Reading credits (Level 2 or 3) 5 Writing credits (Level 2 or 3)	10 Numeracy credits at Level 1, 2 or 3

To find out more visit www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/understanding-secondary-quals/university-entrance

Getting UE through CAIE or IB? Here's what you will need:

CAIE	IB ¹
120 points on the New Zealand CAIE Tariff at A or AS level in any subjects that are broadly equivalent to NCEA approved subjects D or above in at least 3 different subjects (excluding Thinking Skills)	E or above in English Language, Language and Literature in English or Literature at AS or A level D or above in IGCSE or GCSE Mathematics, or any mathematics subject passed at AS or A level
IB Diploma with a minimum 24 points	Literature or language and literature (SL or HL) – IB Group 1, with English as the language Any mathematics subject – IB Group 5

1. New Zealand residents who have taken IB but have not been awarded the diploma may apply for discretionary entrance.



Ngā utu whakauru, ngā karahipi FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Cost is an important factor when thinking about university study. This page gives you an idea of the approximate tuition fees at AUT, and different options to help you fund your education including scholarships, student loans and allowances.

To give you an idea of approximate costs, the 2025 tuition fees are shown below (based on full-time study and completing 120 points per year). All fees are in NZ dollars and include GST. The 2026 tuition fees will be advertised on aut.ac.nz/fees as soon as they have been set. You may also need to pay additional fees for course materials or elective courses (check with your faculty if there are additional fees for your programme).

Domestic student tuition fees

Undergraduate programmes

Fee (per year): \$8,379–\$9,450 (for 120 points)¹
(\$7,187–\$8,258 tuition fees + \$1,192 student services levy)

1. Part-time students pay a proportion of the fee based on the number of academic points they are studying.

International student tuition fees

Undergraduate programmes

Fee (per year): \$35,192–\$36,892 (for 120 points)
(\$34,000–\$35,700 tuition fees + \$1,192 student services levy)

Please note that you must pay your fees in full by the date specified on your fees invoice.

To find out more about fees call **+64 9 921 9779** or **0800 AUT AUT** (0800 288 288).

Student loans and allowances¹

If you're a full-time domestic student, you may qualify for a student loan or allowance. Student loans and allowances are administered and paid by StudyLink. The application process can take some time, so it's a good idea to apply early. You can apply for a student loan or student allowance before your enrolment at AUT is complete.

To find out more call **0800 88 99 00** or visit studylink.govt.nz

Free fees for your university study¹

Eligible domestic students may receive their final year of full-time study fees-free. To check if you're eligible for fees-free study visit aut.ac.nz/fees

1. Domestic students only, not available to international students.

Financial assistance

We know that sometimes things happen and financial stress can impact your academic success. That's why we offer financial support that ranges from offering grocery or fuel vouchers, to helping with that unexpected bill.

StudyLink

Visit studylink.govt.nz for tools, tips and information to help you plan and understand the costs you will have while studying.

Scholarships and awards

Scholarships and awards are a great way to fund your university study. There is a wide range of scholarships and awards available to AUT students at all stages of their study including the Welcome to Auckland scholarship and Find Your Greatness scholarship (details below).

Visit the scholarships website for a full current list of scholarships offered by AUT and external funders, as well as application forms and closing dates. You can also contact AUT's Scholarships Office for advice on scholarships, awards and the scholarship application process.

AUT Welcome to Auckland Scholarships

Because we recognise the challenges students may face when moving to Auckland, AUT's three-year Welcome to Auckland scholarships make a contribution towards students' accommodation and study fees. These scholarships recognise high-achieving secondary school students living outside of Auckland who intend to enrol in bachelor's degree study commencing in 2026.

AUT Find Your Greatness Scholarships – School Leaver

AUT's Find Your Greatness undergraduate scholarships for school leavers reflect our commitment to creating great graduates. These three-year scholarships recognise students' academic achievement, as well as students' potential leadership ability and contribution to their school or community, cultural pursuits or sport at a representative level.

The Find Your Greatness scholarships are offered in the four categories below for study commencing in 2026:

- Academic Excellence
- All Rounder
- Hiki Ake (Lift Up)
- Kiwa (Māori and Pacific students)

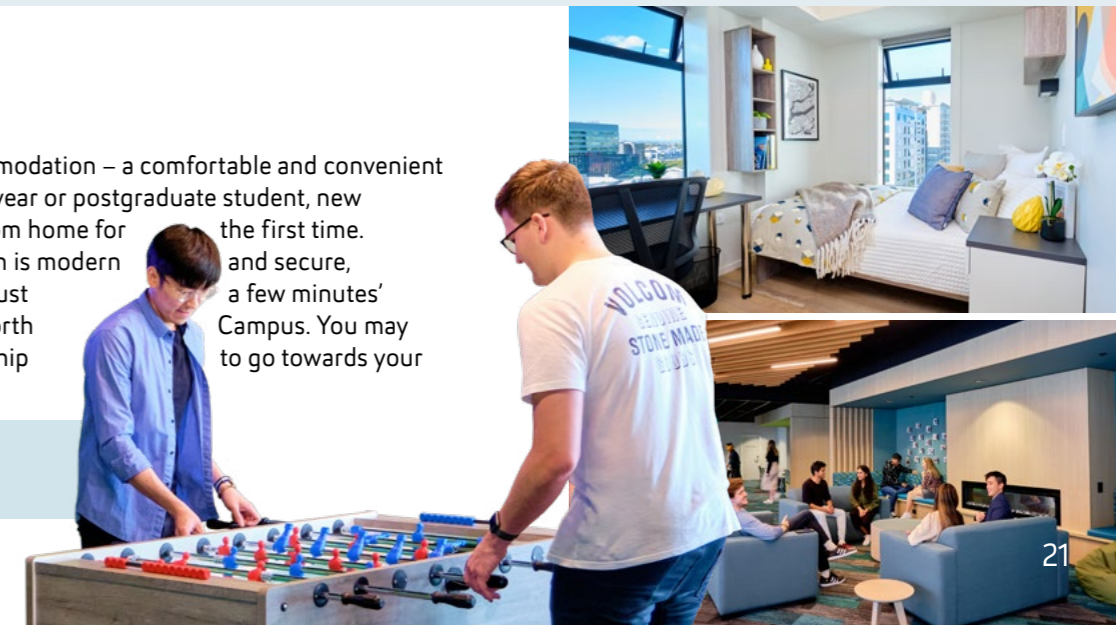
Applicants will be considered in all categories for which they are eligible.

To find out more call **+64 9 921 9837** or visit aut.ac.nz/scholarships

Accommodation

Check out our student accommodation – a comfortable and convenient option whether you're a first-year or postgraduate student, new to Auckland, or living away from home for the first time. AUT's student accommodation is modern and secure, offering a social community just a few minutes' walk away from our City or North Campus. You may even be eligible for a scholarship to go towards your accommodation costs.

Visit aut.ac.nz/accommodation



He pēhea te tono

HOW TO APPLY

Below is the step-by-step guide to the application process.
For more information visit aut.ac.nz/apply

1 APPLY EARLY

Places are limited. Submit your application well before the semester starts.

APPLYING FOR 2026

- Semester 1
– apply by 1 December 2025
- Semester 2
– 4 May 2026

2 COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

- Apply online
- Indicate your programme(s) of choice and major (if known)

International students can also apply using an AUT approved international agent. For a list of AUT registered agents visit aut.ac.nz/international-agents

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

WE ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR APPLICATION

- We will send you an acknowledgment email, which explains how to check the status of your application
- We will contact you if we need more information

WE ASSESS YOUR APPLICATION

- We assess your application to ensure you have met the entry criteria for the programme(s) you are applying for
- We consider your academic history and relevant experience to ensure you can succeed in your programme
- We let you know if your application has been successful

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

CONFIRMED We would like to offer you a place to study at AUT

PROVISIONAL You have met some of the criteria for entry to your chosen programme of study and we would like to offer you a provisional place to study at AUT. If you don't meet the rest of the requirements, then this offer will be withdrawn

CONDITIONAL You have to meet the conditions and approvals listed in your conditional offer to be able to secure a formal offer of place

DECLINED If you don't meet the entry requirements or all places are taken, we may offer you an alternative programme

3 ACCEPT YOUR OFFER

It's important that you respond as soon as possible, particularly if you've been offered a place in a programme with limited places.

Once you've accepted your offer of place, we'll let you know how to enrol in the courses for your programme, and you can start to get excited about joining AUT.

Ready to apply?
apply.aut.ac.nz

Ētahi atu kōrero
FIND OUT MORE



aut.ac.nz

Need some help?

Visit aut.ac.nz/enquire, ask us your question and we'll call you back. Or you can phone **0800 AUT AUT** (0800 288 288) to speak to one of our friendly advisors. We can help with any questions you may have, and you could also book a course counselling session or a campus tour.

Campuses

City Campus
55 Wellesley Street East, Auckland Central

North Campus
90 Akoranga Drive, Northcote, Auckland

South Campus
640 Great South Road, Manukau, Auckland

Connect with us now:



AUT LIVE

Join us at our open day, AUT LIVE, on the City Campus and see everything AUT has to offer to help you make an educated decision about university study.

aut.ac.nz/live





0800 AUT AUT (0800 288 288)

Auckland University of Technology
Auckland, New Zealand
aut.ac.nz

Enquire now
aut.ac.nz/enquire

Connect with us now:



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