

# PLANNING AHEAD GUIDE



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

## CHOOSING YOUR SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Most subjects at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington can be started from an introductory level.

The recommended subjects in this guide will provide you with relevant preparation for particular courses or degrees. Subjects listed as prerequisites should be studied in Year 13 to ensure you have the relevant knowledge and skills to cope with the content of required courses for the degree or major of your choice.

If you do not have this prerequisite background in a subject, you will need to take bridging courses. If available, these courses may be best completed over the summer period prior to starting your first year or you may be able to take them in trimester one or two.

### Key:



Recommended  
Prerequisite

Use this guide\* and the key to help choose your school subjects. Our Future Students team offers expert advice on coming to Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington, choosing your subjects, and planning your degree. Look out for us at your school or at events in your region, or contact us with any questions you have about planning your studies.

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## ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING SCIENCE

A broad selection of school subjects is recommended. These might include subjects such as Biology, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, English, History, Mathematics, Physics, or Practical Arts, and any science or technology. No portfolio is required.

## BUSINESS

Accounting, Business Studies, Calculus, Computer Science, Economics, Geography, Languages, Statistics, and essay-based subjects such as English and History will be useful for any Bachelor of Commerce degree, but most majors can be started without any specific background in that subject area. For Actuarial Science, Calculus is a prerequisite.

## COMMUNICATION

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Communication. All majors can be started from an introductory level in the first year.

## DESIGN INNOVATION

Subjects to study at school include a balance of sciences and mathematics with Design, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Technologies, English, Media Studies, Practical Arts, and Technology. If you do not achieve 14 NCEA Level 3 credits (or equivalent) in one essay-based subject such as Art History, Classical Studies, Economics, English, Geography, or History, you will need to do a writing skills course in your first year of the Bachelor of Design Innovation. No portfolio is required.

## EDUCATION

### Early Childhood Education

Recommended subjects for the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Early Childhood include a balance of Sciences, Mathematics, and essay-based subjects such as English, Geography, and History. Creative subjects such as Design, Music Studies, and Practical Arts are also useful.

### Primary Teaching

Any undergraduate degree can be used as the basis for admission to postgraduate primary teaching programmes. If you are planning your undergraduate degree with the intention of undertaking a teacher education programme in the future, you should embrace the opportunity to study a broad base of curriculum areas, including mathematics, sciences, social sciences, and te reo Māori.

Subjects such as Early Childhood Education, Education, Mathematics, Music, New Zealand History, New Zealand Sign Language, Pacific languages, Psychological Science, Statistics, and te reo Māori will be particularly useful for those wishing to undertake a primary teacher education programme.

### Secondary Teaching

Any undergraduate degree can be used as the basis for admission to postgraduate secondary teaching programmes. If you want to teach at secondary level, you should include the subjects you wish to teach in your undergraduate degree. You should choose teaching subjects that relate to the New Zealand school curriculum areas. We recommend that you take one teaching subject as a major, and another to at least 200 level. Subjects to consider taking to 200 level could be Education, a language, or Psychological Science.

## ENGINEERING

We recommend that students interested in pursuing our four-year Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours) complete NCEA Level 3 Mathematics or equivalent. If you haven't completed the required level of Mathematics, we can suggest introductory courses that can meet the prerequisites for your core courses. We encourage students interested in Electrical and Electronic Engineering to take both Calculus and Physics.

|                  |                                       | Subjects |                    |              |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|
|                  |                                       | Physics  | Digital Technology | Mathematics* |
| BE (Hons) majors | Cybersecurity Engineering             |          | ▼                  | ▼▼           |
|                  | Electrical and Electronic Engineering | ▼        | ▼                  | ▼▼           |
|                  | Software Engineering                  |          | ▼                  | ▼▼           |

\*Where Mathematics is a prerequisite, Calculus or Statistics would also be sufficient

## ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY\*

There are no prerequisites for Bachelor of Environment and Society (BEnvSoc). However, recommended subjects are Statistics (for science-focused majors), all other majors can be started from an introductory level in the first year.

\*subject to regulatory approval

## GLOBAL STUDIES

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Global Studies, and any combination of different subjects will be useful for this interdisciplinary degree. Students who meet the requirements of previous language study may be admitted directly into higher level language courses.

## HEALTH

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Health. However, recommended subjects to study at school include Biology, English, Health, Home Economics, Physical Education,

## HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

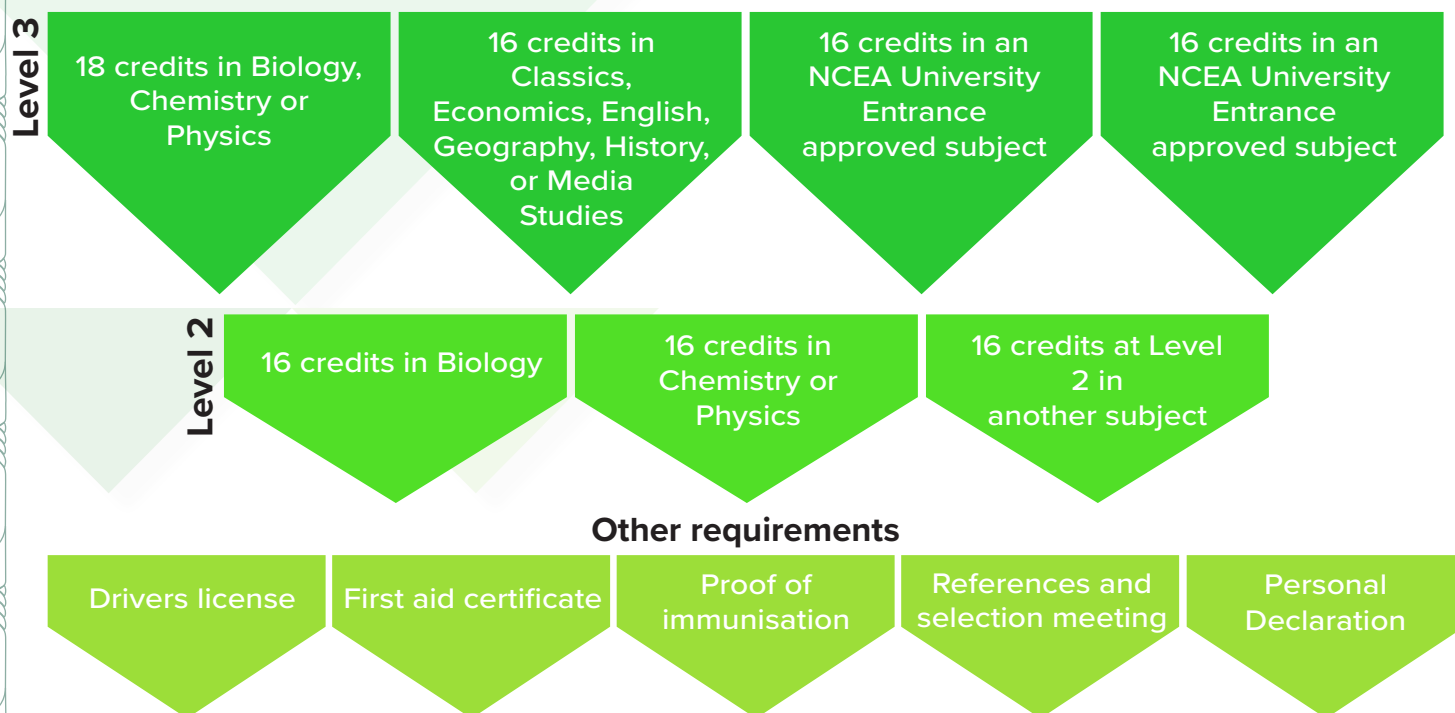
Any Bachelor of Arts major can be started from an introductory level. For some subjects, it is useful to have studied the relevant subject at school.

## LAW

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Laws. Subjects to study at school include those that you enjoy, that are essay-based, and that encourage analytical thinking such as Art History, Classics, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Media Studies, Music, Physics, Psychology, and languages.

## MIDWIFERY

Entry to the Bachelor of Midwifery (BMid) requires certain NCEA subjects. This includes Biology, Chemistry, or Physics at Level 2 and Level 3, as well as an English-rich subject such as English, History, Art History, Classics, Geography, Economics, or Media Studies at Level 3. It is recommended that interested students get in touch with the University as early as possible to discuss a pathway.



For more information on entry requirements, visit [www.wgtn.ac.nz/bmid](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/bmid) or contact the Faculty of Health: [health@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:health@vuw.ac.nz) / 0800 04 04 04

## MUSIC

Some prior knowledge of music (including knowledge of music theory) is recommended for the Bachelor of Music (BMus). However, some courses can be taken without prior study of music. The introductory course MUSC 160 Introduction to Music Theory and Musicianship is offered in Trimester 3 for students without a good foundation in music theory. Classical Performance and Jazz Performance students must audition.

| Major                           | Entry requirements   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Classical                       | You'll need to audition for a place in this subject, meeting a standard equivalent to Grade 8 in Associated Board exams. Prior knowledge of music theory is required.                  |
| Jazz Performance                | You'll need to audition to show you have reached a level of technical and musical competence in a jazz style on your instrument or voice. Prior knowledge of music theory is required. |
| Instrumental/Vocal Composition  | Prior knowledge of music theory is required.   |
| Sonic Arts and Music Technology | Prior knowledge of music theory is required.   |
| Music Studies                   | Prior knowledge of music theory is required.   |

For more information about entry requirements, visit our website: [www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/nzsm)



## POPULAR MUSIC\*

There are no prerequisites for Bachelor of Popular Music (BPM). However, recommended subjects are English, History, Digital Technologies, Design and Visual Communication, Practical Arts, Maths and Sciences.

\*subject to regulatory approval

## PSYCHOLOGY

You can enroll in the Bachelor of Psychology (BPsyc) or any Psychology-related major no matter what you studied at school. Some experience with NCEA Level 1 or 2 Statistics or equivalent is recommended, although not required. Depending on which major you choose, other useful subjects at school could be Biology, Chemistry, Digital Technology, Health, or essay-based subjects.

## SCIENCE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Most Bachelor of Science majors can be started at an introductory level and completed within three years. However, students of Actuarial Science, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Cell and Molecular Bioscience, Chemistry, Computer Graphics and Games, Computer Science, Electronic and Computer Systems, Geophysics, Mathematics, and Physics will need to have met NCEA (or equivalent) requirements of core courses in these majors to complete in this time. For students who do not meet these requirements, there are alternative pathways available which our Future Students team can help you explore.

For the Bachelor of Biomedical Science, NCEA Level 3 Chemistry is strongly recommended. For those who haven't met the NCEA (or equivalent) requirements, there are alternative pathways available which our Future Students team can help you explore.

|                |  | Subjects |           |         |          |              |                                   |
|----------------|--|----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
|                |  | Biology  | Chemistry | Physics | Calculus | Mathematics* | Other                             |
| BSc majors     | Actuarial Science                              |          |           |         | ▼▼       |              | Economics                         |
|                | Artificial Intelligence                        |          |           |         |          | ▼▼           | Digital Technology                |
|                | Biology  | ▼        |           |         |          | ▼            |                                   |
|                | Biotechnology                                  | ▼        | ▼▼        |         |          |              |                                   |
|                | Cell and Molecular Bioscience                  | ▼        | ▼▼        |         |          |              |                                   |
|                | Chemistry                                      |          | ▼▼        |         | ▼        | ▼            |                                   |
|                | Computer Graphics and Games                    |          |           |         | ▼        | ▼▼           | Digital Technology                |
|                | Computer Science                               |          |           |         | ▼        | ▼▼           | Digital Technology                |
|                | Data Science                                   |          |           |         |          | ▼            | Digital Technology                |
|                | Development Studies                            |          |           |         |          |              | English-rich subjects             |
|                | Ecology and Biodiversity                       | ▼        |           |         |          | ▼            |                                   |
|                | Electronic and Computer Systems                |          |           | ▼       | ▼        | ▼▼           | English-rich subjects             |
|                | Environmental Science                          |          |           |         |          | ▼            |                                   |
|                | Environmental Studies                          |          |           |         |          | ▼            | English-rich subjects & Geography |
|                | Geography                                      |          |           |         |          | ▼            | Geography                         |
|                | Geology  |          |           | ▼       |          | ▼            |                                   |
|                | Geophysics                                     |          |           | ▼       | ▼        | ▼▼           | Digital Technology                |
|                | Information Systems                            |          |           |         |          |              | Digital Technology                |
|                | Marine Biology                                 | ▼        |           |         |          | ▼            |                                   |
|                | Mathematics                                    |          |           |         | ▼▼       |              | Digital Technology                |
|                | Physical Geography                             |          |           |         |          | ▼            | Geography                         |
|                | Physics  |          |           | ▼▼      | ▼▼       |              |                                   |
|                | Psychological Science                          |          |           |         |          | ▼            | English-rich subjects             |
|                | Science Communications                         |          |           |         |          |              | English-rich subjects             |
|                | Space Science                                  |          |           |         |          | ▼            | Digital Technology                |
|                | Statistics                                     |          |           |         |          | ▼            |                                   |
| BBMedSc majors | Human Genetics                                 | ▼        | ▼▼        |         |          | ▼            | Digital Technology                |
|                | Molecular Pathology                            | ▼        | ▼▼        |         |          | ▼            | Digital Technology                |
|                | Molecular Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry | ▼        | ▼▼        |         |          | ▼            | Digital Technology                |

\*Where Mathematics is a prerequisite, Calculus or Statistics would also be sufficient