

2024



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

TOHU PAETAHI TAUHOKOHOKO

BACHELOR OF

COMMERCE







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Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has been awarded an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 17 universities worldwide to do so. The University gained a total score of 966 out of a possible 1,000 points across eight audited categories, including maximum points for the employability

and inclusiveness categories. Maximum points were awarded for 25 of the more than 30 indicators, including overall student satisfaction; further study; graduate employment rate; international diversity, support, and collaborations; academic reputation; satisfaction with teaching; campus facilities; accreditations; art and cultural investment and facilities; disabled access; scholarships and bursaries; low-income outreach; and student cohort diversity.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington uses all reasonable skill and care to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate at the time of being made available. However, matters covered by this document are subject to change due to a continuous process of review and to unanticipated circumstances, including those caused by COVID-19. The University therefore reserves the right to make any changes without notice. So far as the law permits, the University accepts no responsibility for any loss suffered by any person due to reliance (either whole or in part) on the information contained in this document, whether direct or indirect, and whether foreseeable or not.

TOHU PAETAHI TAUHOKOHOKO

BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

BE AN INNOVATIVE BUSINESS LEADER

If you're interested in a career in the world of commerce and want expertise in business, and the business of government, then the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) is the degree for you.

The BCom at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington is a three-year undergraduate degree designed to give you the skills and knowledge you need for a successful career in the exciting world of commerce.

You'll get a strong foundation in private business and public administration and gain skills in communication, teamwork, and leadership. In the BCom, you'll develop your critical and creative thinking, as well as an understanding of how different cultures do business.

The BCom is taught at the University's Wellington School of Business and Government, located in the heart of Aotearoa New Zealand's innovation, entrepreneurship, policymaking, and creative capital. You will be immersed in an educational environment that allows students to simultaneously consider economic issues from a commercial, government, and social impact perspective.

We capitalise on our location and expertise to create meaningful connections with the corporate leaders, not-for-profit organisations, and government agencies around us. As a student, you will reap the benefits of these close engagements through real-world projects, internships, guest lectures from industry professionals, and valuable professional networking opportunities.

The Wellington School of Business and Government is among a small group of business schools worldwide that hold the triple crown of international business education accreditations. You can be confident your qualification will stand up against the best around the world.



“The Bachelor of Commerce will prepare you for an exciting career in the ever-changing world of business and government. Through our innovative programmes, passionate staff, and modern learning and teaching spaces, you will receive a university experience that is second to none.”

Professor Jane Bryson

Dean

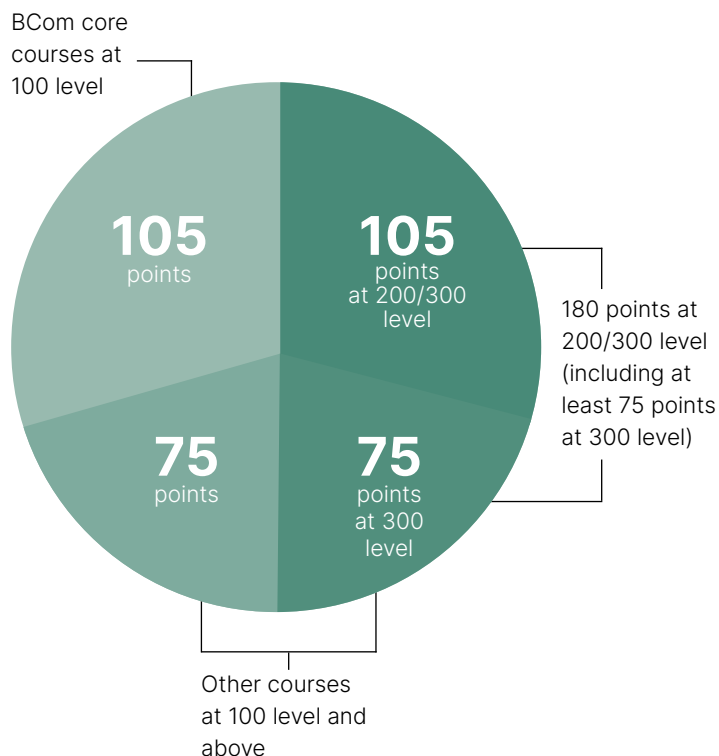
Ōrauāriki—Wellington School of Business and Government



DEGREE STRUCTURE

BCom AT A GLANCE

- ▶ 360 points total
- ▶ Seven 100-level core courses (105 points):
 - ▶ ACCY 130 Accounting for Accountability and Decision Making
 - ▶ ECON 130 Microeconomic Principles
 - ▶ FCOM 111 Government, Law, and Business
 - ▶ INFO 101 Introduction to Information Systems
 - ▶ MARK 101 Principles of Marketing
 - ▶ MGMT 101 Introduction to Management
 - ▶ QUAN 102 Statistics for Business
- ▶ 180 points at 200 and 300 level with at least 75 points at 300 level—of the 75 points, at least 45 must be from courses listed for the BCom
- ▶ Major requirements met (typically seven or eight courses, 105–120 points)
- ▶ Electives or additional majors (typically nine or 10 courses)



KEY FEATURES

- ▶ Three years of full-time study (360 points)
- ▶ Seven core 100-level courses
- ▶ One Commerce major but the ability to major in two or more subjects, including a major from another undergraduate degree
- ▶ Up to two minors from any undergraduate degree

 www.wgtn.ac.nz/bcom

MAJORS AND MINORS

A major is a subject area that you specialise in throughout your degree and take through to 300 level. You must take at least one Commerce major, but many students take two (or more), which could include a major from another faculty. Each major has its own requirements.

A minor is a subject area that you specialise in to a lesser extent than a major. It is 60 points at 200 or 300 level, including at least 15 points at 300 level. You may take up to two minors, which can be from another faculty.

Majors

- ▶ Accounting (ACCY)
- ▶ Actuarial Science (ACTS)
- ▶ Commercial Law (COML)
- ▶ Data Science (DATA)
- ▶ Economics (ECON)
- ▶ Finance (FINA)
- ▶ Human Resource Management and Employment Relations (HRER)
- ▶ Information Systems (INFO)
- ▶ International Business (IBUS)
- ▶ Management (MGMT)
- ▶ Marketing (MARK)
- ▶ Public Policy (PUBL)
- ▶ Taxation (TAXN)
- ▶ Tourism Management (TOUR)

Minors only

- ▶ Banking (BANK)
- ▶ Business Ethics and Sustainability Management (BESM)
- ▶ Econometrics (ECME)
- ▶ Innovation and Entrepreneurship Studies (INEN)

Recommended first-year programme

A standard full-time programme for your first year of study is four 15-point courses in each of Trimesters 1 and 2. You should include FCOM 111 Government, Law, and Business, and as many of the other core courses as possible in your first-year programme, together with courses required for your chosen major subject(s).

The remaining courses required to make up the desired workload can be chosen from other 100-level BCom courses, or from 100-level courses offered for other degrees. In order to get into advanced-level courses, you need to have first completed their 100-level prerequisite courses. If you already have a specific major in mind, we suggest you enrol in specific courses (as shown right) during your first year.



MAJOR	RECOMMENDED FIRST-YEAR COURSES
Accounting	BCom core and ACCY 131
Actuarial Science	ACCY 130, ECON 130, ECON 141, MATH 142*, MATH 177, MATH 151 or QUAN 111, FCOM 111
Commercial Law	BCom core plus one elective
Data Science	DATA 101, FCOM 111, INFO 101, INFO 102, QUAN 102, and two or three other core courses
Economics or Finance	ECON 130, ECON 141, FCOM 111, QUAN 102, QUAN 111, and two or three more core courses
Human Resource Management and Employment Relations or Management	BCom core plus one elective
Information Systems	INFO 101, INFO 102, INFO 103, and FCOM 111, and three or four core courses
International Business or Marketing	BCom core plus one elective (an approved language or cultural course is useful for IBUS majors)
Public Policy	BCom core plus PUBL 113
Taxation	BCom core plus ACCY 131
Tourism Management	BCom core plus TOUR 101

*MATH 141 required if insufficient mathematics background.

CONJOINT DEGREES

Some Commerce students enrol in two degrees at the same time; for example, combining a BCom with a Bachelor of Design Innovation (BDI), Bachelor of Laws (LLB), or Bachelor of Science (BSc) in a conjoint programme. The amount of study involved is less than that required for two separate degrees. Such a programme can still require five years of full-time study, although it is possible for an able student to complete a conjoint programme in four years—this is dependent on the courses on offer.

Taking two degrees at the same time offers the possibility of extensive interdisciplinary work. For example, many Commerce students are interested in law and find a BCom/LLB programme attractive. If you are interested in environmental or development issues, you might combine a BCom in Economics with a BSc in Environmental Studies or Development Studies. For a career in the diplomatic service, you could combine a BCom with a BA in Modern Language Studies and/or Political Science. There are many other combinations that can be designed to suit your interests and ambitions.

Enrolment in a conjoint programme normally occurs in your second year of study; to enter or stay in the programme requires a B- average or better in the previous year. If concurrent study (or maintaining a B- average) is not possible, you can complete a major from another faculty. You can still complete a second degree after finishing your first degree by completing 60 additional points of study.



EXPLORE OUR SUBJECTS

ACCOUNTING

Accounting is a vital aspect of business throughout the world. It's all about keeping businesses, government departments, charities, and other organisations accountable—from how much money an organisation makes, to the amount of greenhouse gas it emits. The role of an accountant is to record, analyse, and communicate information about an organisation's performance for its stakeholders. To succeed in accounting, you need to be comfortable with numbers and able to communicate—written and interpersonal skills are just as important as maths skills.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/accounting

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Learn to help companies and organisations manage risk. The Christchurch earthquakes, the global financial crisis, and climate change concerns have all shone a spotlight on the need to better plan for the future. Actuarial Science brings economics, mathematics, and statistics together to forecast and manage risks.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/actuarial-science

COMMERCIAL LAW

The law impacts on all business activity. Whether dealing with customers, suppliers, or employees, or protecting the physical and intellectual assets of a business, it is essential that business people have some knowledge of appropriate legal issues. An understanding of commercial law and its operation will aid those who make business decisions and those who advise others on business decisions.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/commercial-law

DATA SCIENCE

Big data and the Internet of Things have changed the way society works. We send and receive data constantly, and now we need people who can manage and find hidden insights within it. Develop technical skills in computing technologies, statistics, and mathematics and work with real data sets to develop a practical understanding of the social dimensions of data.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/data-science

ECONOMICS

Study why people choose to do the things they do, and how better decisions could be made. Economics focuses on scarcity—something that can apply to almost any situation. Consider a student deciding which university to go to, a business contemplating expansion, a government negotiating a free-trade deal—all of these involve decisions about limited resources and how to get the most value out of them.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/economics-finance

FINANCE

Study how people and companies spend money and manage risk, find out how markets work and behave, and learn to apply your knowledge. Understanding financial markets—whether trading in shares, currencies, bonds, electricity, or commodities—is essential to understanding a modern economy. Focus on four main areas of finance: financial contracts, financial institutions, financial decision-making by firms, and investment portfolio choices.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/economics-finance

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

Study Human Resource Management and Employment Relations and gain the knowledge and skills to create more effective workplace practices. Develop an understanding of how good human resource management can make a difference in people's working lives.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/human-resources

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Learn to transform businesses and organisations using information technology (IT). Every day, huge amounts of information, data, and records are created—find out how to use information systems to manage IT. You'll discover how to research and analyse business problems, find the right technology to provide a solution, and then put that solution in place.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/information-systems

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

All businesses operate in the global marketplace. The companies they compete with, buy from, or supply to may be based anywhere in the world. Study trade policy, importing and exporting, as well as areas like foreign investment, the strategies of multinational corporations, international operations management, and cross-cultural management.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/international-business

MANAGEMENT

Management is all about organising the right resources to help a business achieve its goals. These could be employees or financial and physical resources. Study human behaviour and learn to use conceptual models to make decisions in complex or uncertain situations. Find out about strategic thinking in organisations and gain the skills to analyse situations and make strategic decisions. If you see yourself as a leader and want to develop your decision-making and analytical skills, study Management.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/management

MARKETING

Master the skills to tell stories that connect and engage people. Gain a solid grounding in all areas of business and learn about marketing and its role in the commercial and public sectors, as well as not-for-profit organisations. You'll study consumer behaviour, gaining an understanding of how people make decisions about what they do or don't buy. Become an expert in marketing plans—how they're created and used. Learn to think strategically and to create compelling stories that motivate consumers.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/marketing

PUBLIC POLICY

Understand public policy from the inside out. Public policy is the set of decisions that shape how a country is run. Look at how governments make these decisions, how the public sector works, the political side of policymaking, and how policies can be improved.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/public-policy-government

TAXATION

When people think about tax they might think about liabilities or advising a client on their tax obligations—but experts in tax also have the power to change the world for the better. Tax has the ability to influence the way people behave and can address societal issues such as inequality, corporate greed, and climate change.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/taxation

TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Learn about the complex nature of tourism and prepare for an exciting career in planning, managing, or governing tourism in Aotearoa New Zealand and globally. Explore a range of perspectives, including how to develop and manage sustainable destinations, shape tourism governance, design tourist experiences, and manage the interplay between communities, the economy, and the natural environment.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/tourism-management



WHERE CAN YOUR DEGREE TAKE YOU?

A Commerce degree prepares you for a variety of career paths. You may decide to focus on majors leading to specific career outcomes or on gaining a broad grounding for roles in small or large businesses or the public sector. Our graduates have careers in accounting, banking, consulting, finance, government, marketing, public relations, and more.

Typical job titles include:

- ▶ accountant
- ▶ actuary
- ▶ auditor
- ▶ banker
- ▶ business analyst
- ▶ communication officer
- ▶ economist
- ▶ finance manager
- ▶ human resources adviser or manager

- ▶ import or export adviser
- ▶ investment specialist
- ▶ management consultant
- ▶ marketing specialist
- ▶ policy adviser
- ▶ project coordinator
- ▶ research officer or analyst
- ▶ statistical analyst.

Commerce students develop skills employers want, such as:

- ▶ critical and creative thinking
- ▶ effective communication
- ▶ ethical leadership
- ▶ global, multicultural, and sustainable perspective
- ▶ specific knowledge.



“Studying at this university in a collegial, enriching, and stimulating learning environment led me to undertake postgraduate study to pursue my area of interest. I would strongly recommend studying at Victoria University of Wellington. My journey here has been truly inspiring, rewarding, and fulfilling.”

Yana Geary

Graduate, Bachelor of Commerce in Human Resource Management and Employment Relations and Management
Student, Master of Commerce



ACCREDITATION

The Wellington School of Business and Government was the first business school in New Zealand to obtain accreditation in both business and accounting from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International). Very few business schools hold this distinguished hallmark of excellence. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, Master's, and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

The Wellington School of Business and Government is among one percent of business schools worldwide to hold the triple crown of international accreditations of the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS, www.efmd.org), AACSB International (www.aacsb.edu), and the Association of MBAs (www.associationofmbas.com).

ACCOUNTING

Our Accounting programmes hold additional accreditations from:

- ▶ the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
- ▶ Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
- ▶ the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
- ▶ CPA (Certified Practising Accountants) Australia.

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Actuarial Science is a fully accredited programme with the Actuaries Institute of Australia. Students may be granted exemptions from foundation subjects. A grade of B+ or higher is required in all listed courses that comply with foundation subjects.

INFORMATION STUDIES

Our Information Studies programmes include the Master of Information Studies, the Postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies, and the Postgraduate Certificate in Information Studies. Qualifications completed with the Archives and Records specialisation are accredited by Records and Information Management Professionals Australasia, which represents more than 3,000 records and information management professionals across Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia. The Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa recognises the specialisation in Library Science as a qualification that covers the body of knowledge necessary for professional registration.

PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

The Master of Public Policy and the Master of Public Management have an international endorsement with accreditation by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration, widely recognised as the global standard in public service education. Accreditation confirms that the Wellington School of Business and Government's Public Policy and Public Management Master's degrees meet the field-wide standards of quality.



POSTGRADUATE STUDY

For students who are considering further study after completing their BCom, we have a range of professionally focused and research-based postgraduate programmes that are designed to help them launch their career in business or government. You can choose to build on the knowledge you've gained from your BCom or study a completely new subject area. Through these programmes, you'll gain the practical workplace skills you need to successfully enter the world of work. You'll also get hands-on business experience through consultancies, internships, and networking opportunities.

A Master's degree normally takes just one extra year or 18 months of full-time study to complete.

MASTER OF ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

Kick-start your career as an actuary with New Zealand's only Master's-level actuarial science qualification. Actuaries will always be in demand to plan for the future. They predict and analyse financial risks and solve business problems in many industries, and can contribute to policy work on climate change, future health and retirement provision, and natural disaster planning.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/mactsc

MASTER OF COMMERCE

Gain thorough training in independent research and explore a topic you are passionate about with the Master of Commerce. You will gain advanced professional skills in analysis, synthesis, and communication, and become part of a community of students who have a profound and critical voice that is heard across all sectors of society.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/mcom

MASTER OF GLOBAL BUSINESS

The Master of Global Business is a professionally focused programme that allows you to build on an undergraduate degree in any area and gain valuable skills in global business strategy and analysis. The programme is coursework-based and includes an industry consultancy project, where you'll work with a New Zealand or international organisation to gain real-world experience.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/mgbus

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING

The Master of Professional Accounting will enable you to make the move into accounting or get the certification you need to take the next step in your accountancy career. The chartered accounting (CA) pathway allows you to become a provisional member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand during your study—with no extra tuition fees, study, or certification.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/mpa

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS ANALYSIS

Build on your non-technology background and launch your career as a business analyst with a strong industry-focused qualification. Gain skills in business and systems analysis, databases and analytics, management, and information systems strategies, building on your existing talents and skills.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/mbusan

ENHANCE YOUR CAREER PROSPECTS

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

By adding the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Studies minor to your degree, you can learn how to develop your ideas into products, services, or solutions that may help us change the way we work, think, and live.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/innovation-minor

If you decide to start your own business while you're studying, you can also take advantage of The Atom—Te Kahu o Te Ao innovation space, a co-working space for student-run companies.

i www.theatom.co.nz

STUDENT CLUBS

Enhance your studies by getting involved with a student club. Clubs such as the Business and Investment Club, Business Consulting Club, and Beta Alpha Psi provide great opportunities to put the skills you're learning to use and to network with other students and employers.

Other activities offered at the University include exchanges, field trips, internships, peer mentoring, and summer scholarships. We invite you to take advantage of these in order to demonstrate your value as a locally and globally engaged citizen with eminently employable skills.



FIND OUT MORE

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/bcom

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

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

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

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/puaha

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/study

CONTACT US

Ōrauariki

Wellington School of Business
and Government

Student Service Centre

Ground Floor, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus,
23 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6011

J 0800 04 04 04

✉ info@vuw.ac.nz

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/business

COURSE PLANNING

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

J 0800 04 04 04

✉ future-students@vuw.ac.nz

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/courses

To discuss postgraduate study options after you finish
your BCom, contact the Professional Programmes Office.

✉ ppo@vuw.ac.nz

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/professional

OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

Disability support

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/disability

Māori student support

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/awhina

Pasifika student success

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika

Rainbow student support

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow

Refugee-background student support

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students

Scholarships

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships

Student services and support

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-support

BCom SUBJECTS

BCom MAJORS

Accounting	Information Systems
Actuarial Science	International Business
Commercial Law	Management
Data Science	Marketing
Economics	Public Policy
Finance	Taxation
Human Resource Management and Employment Relations	Tourism Management

BCom MINORS

Banking
Business Ethics and Sustainability Management
Econometrics
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Studies





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