



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

TOHU PAETAHI AO WHĀNUI

BACHELOR OF GLOBAL STUDIES

2026





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Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has an overall five-stars-plus rating in the QS Stars university rating system, one of only 23 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.

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TOHU PAETAHI AO WHĀNUI

BACHELOR OF GLOBAL STUDIES

LAUNCH AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Gain the interdisciplinary and intercultural abilities necessary for a career, locally and around the world, in a range of industries and institutions, including foreign affairs and diplomacy, government, non-governmental organisations, policy and research, public and private international organisations, teaching, and tourism. The University has strong connections with community, corporate, cultural, diplomatic, legal, media, non-governmental, political, public sector, and scientific organisations. Our capital city connections mean students have excellent opportunities for part-time work, volunteering, and internships, as well as networking for jobs once they graduate.

LEAD CHANGE AND GROWTH

The Bachelor of Global Studies (BGS) will give you the flexibility to study what matters to you, as it prepares you to contribute to change and problem-solving in our globalised world. As global problems affect the everyday lives of billions of people, and local decisions have global implications, we need people who can seek new solutions. The BGS creates graduates who understand the interdependent relationships between regions, people, and cultures, and appreciate the differences that come with them. The BGS will equip you to take on the world with the intercultural, interdisciplinary, leadership, and teamwork skills to seek solutions and positive change locally and globally.

LEARN FROM THE BEST

The University is ranked in the top 1 percent by the QS World University Rankings, and number one in research quality in New Zealand across a broad range of subjects by the Performance-Based Research Fund. Our staff are nationally and internationally renowned scholars who are imaginative and passionate teachers.

CONNECT WITH INDUSTRY

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington's capital city location gives our students access to change-makers in the hub of national and international politics, policy, science, commerce, diplomacy, and culture. Studying for a BGS in Wellington gives you direct access to organisations, businesses, and institutions whose daily dealings are in global spheres or have global outcomes.



“Welcome to Te Wāhanga Aronui—
Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences.

“Learning about and understanding
global issues and how connections
shape society is more important now
than ever.

“Our Bachelor of Global Studies
offers eight different specialisations
(or minors) that you can choose
to study. You might be interested
in ethical leadership, health
and wellbeing, human rights,
sustainability, or exploring different
cultures, for example, and through
these lenses, you’ll gain insights
across subjects on global issues.

“Global Studies prepares you to
create meaningful change that
addresses and challenges our global
future. Studying in our capital city
location will help you build the local
and global connections you need to
become a leader.

“We are all looking forward to getting
to know you and being part of your
Global Studies journey.”

Professor Averil Coxhead

Dean, Te Wāhanga Aronui—Faculty of
Humanities and Social Sciences

DEGREE STRUCTURE

Our BGS is made up of three years of full-time study and requires you to take courses totalling at least 360 points. You'll pursue your areas of interest through a mixture of required courses, electives, and two minors.

Your structured first year is designed to prepare you to decide on, and thrive in, your chosen minors in your second and third years. This means specialising in at least two interdisciplinary thematic areas alongside your second- and third-year core courses. You'll finish your degree with a capstone project, where you'll work with external partners to help solve real-world problems—putting into practice the skills and knowledge you've gained across your studies.

CORE COURSES

All BGS students must complete four common courses across their degree. These are the core courses of the Bachelor of Global Studies. They are designed to help you develop leadership and teamwork skills, bringing together knowledge from other areas of study to lead positive global change. You'll build a degree that suits your interests and passions.

In your first year, you'll take our flagship GLBL 101 course, which will introduce you to key issues and approaches to working across different fields, building on skills to help you solve problems and work in effective global teams.

ELECTIVES

You will have the opportunity to select at least three courses from a range of subjects across the University to complete as part of your degree—these are often known as electives. One of these must be chosen from the Māori Studies courses. In your third year, you'll complete a skills and concepts course of your choosing, designed to offer skills and ways of thinking

useful for your Global Studies degree. You can also choose other courses from the list of electives to complete the 360 points required for the BGS.

LANGUAGES

All BGS students must study a language as part of their degree. You can pick from Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Māori, New Zealand Sign Language, Samoan, and Spanish. These courses have a focus on cultural awareness, reflecting on your own and other cultures, and transforming interactions with speakers of the language. There are courses available to suit everyone, whether they have studied the language before or are a beginner.

MINORS

In the BGS, you must take at least two minors. Each minor is made up of a selection of theme-based courses from across the University, and you will need to do at least three of those courses to gain a minor. You can also opt to take extra courses to complete your degree. There are eight minors in the BGS, which allow you to pursue the areas of Global Studies that most appeal to you. You can learn more about these on page 6.



SAMPLE DEGREE

This sample degree structure shows you how your Bachelor of Global Studies might look with two minors. Most courses are worth 20 points, for a total of 360 points in three years.

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
GLBL 101 Introduction to Global Studies: Collaboration in Global Contexts	Māori studies elective	GLBL 201 Leading Global Change	Language course	Minor 1 course	GLBL 301 Capstone Global Studies Project
ICOM 101 Introduction to Intercultural Communication	Elective*	Minor 1 course	Minor 1 course	Minor 2 course	Minor 1 course
Language course	Language course	Minor 2 course	Minor 2 course	Elective†	Minor 2 course

*This elective must be chosen from a specified list of 18 courses.

†Skills and concepts course. This will be selected from a specified list of 18 courses.



“I chose to do a Bachelor of Global Studies because I have a big range of interests and it’s a very flexible degree. In my first year, I have had such amazing opportunities to learn about a huge range of things, from art history to international relations to environmental issues.

“While I have grown to be a lot more independent and responsible while at university, I also really like the community aspect. All my tutors and lecturers have been so friendly and helpful, and it’s been amazing getting to know people in my classes too.”

Florence Cook

Student, Bachelor of Global Studies minoring in Ethical Leadership and Intercultural Communication, and Area and Cultural Studies

EXPLORE OUR MINORS

AREA AND CULTURAL STUDIES

Learn about the historical and contemporary issues facing specific countries and places, as well as the cultures that grew from those areas and how they have spread around the globe. You'll study subjects ranging from Politics to Film and Music, as well as languages and cultures, and gain an understanding of people and places around the world.

CULTURES AND IDENTITIES

Discover the history of global attitudes towards identity—including cultural, gender and sexuality, and Indigenous identities—and investigate the impact of changing attitudes towards them. As part of this minor, you'll have the opportunity to study subjects ranging from Anthropology and Art History to Geography, Māori Studies, and Pacific Studies.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

In this minor, you'll look at the global cultural impacts of climate change and the breakdown of the environment and examine worldwide attempts to deal with the big environmental issues facing our world. You'll be able to choose from subjects including English Literature, Management, Science in Society, the Study of Religion, and more.

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Learn the pleasures and pitfalls of communicating across cultures and how to lead effectively when working with people from varied cultural backgrounds. You'll focus on courses in Management and Intercultural Communication and learn how to be an effective global leader.



GLOBAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Life in our global society still includes the reality that some have access to medicines, treatments, and healthcare, while others do not. In this minor, you'll learn about the roots of these inequalities and how they can be changed. You'll study a range of courses from health and design, as well as Marketing, the Study of Religion, and more.

GLOBALISATION, MOVEMENT, AND CHANGE

Look at the way that people have moved—and continue to move—around the world and examine the impacts of migration, global communities, and cultures on people and societies. This minor includes a range of courses such as Anthropology, Geography, Māori Studies, and the Study of Religion.

HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND PEACE

Find out how we can create peace and preserve human rights across nations with different historical legal systems and approaches to law and justice. This minor includes several courses in Anthropology, History, and International Relations, as well as other subjects that will help you learn about the historical and contemporary state of human rights around the globe.

WORLD AFFAIRS AND ORGANISATIONS

In this minor, you'll examine the intersection of capitalism and culture, find out what's required to run an international business, and learn about the potential impacts of a globalised economy on developing nations. You'll focus on courses in International Business and Economics, as well as Public Policy, Political Communication, and others.



"Global Studies is very flexible—you're free to share your opinions and study in a way that suits you.

"I think people don't understand the importance of collaboration and teamwork, and it's often missed between high school and the workplace. The BGS gives you that experience, and I think will give all of us a step ahead after we leave university."

Tarita Lefale

Student, Bachelor of Global Studies minoring in Environment and Sustainability, Human Rights, Justice, and Peace, and Māori Studies, and Bachelor of Laws



POSTGRADUATE PATHWAYS

Studying for a Bachelor of Global Studies prepares you for postgraduate study in several different areas.

Students who complete their degree with a grade point average of B or higher will be eligible to apply to study for the following degrees:

- ▶ Master of Communication
- ▶ Master of Global Business
- ▶ Master of International Trade
- ▶ Master of Migration Studies
- ▶ Master of Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Students who complete their degree with a grade point average of B+ or higher will also be eligible to apply to study for the:

- ▶ Bachelor of Arts with Honours
- ▶ Bachelor of Science with Honours
- ▶ Master of Development Studies
- ▶ Master of Political Science
- ▶ Master of Science.

Students who complete their degree and gain at least two years' work experience in the public sector, or have a grade point average of A- or higher, will be eligible to apply to study for the:

- ▶ Master of Public Management
- ▶ Master of Public Policy.

Depending on the options taken within their minors, students will also be eligible to apply to study for a range of other Master's degrees, including:

- ▶ Master of Climate Change Science and Policy
- ▶ Master of Design Innovation

- ▶ Master of Environmental Studies
- ▶ Master of Health
- ▶ Master of Intercultural Communication and Applied Translation (for students who complete extensive courses in their chosen language)
- ▶ Master of International Relations
- ▶ Master of Science in Society
- ▶ Master of Strategic Studies
- ▶ Master of Urban and Regional Planning.

Depending on the selection of minors and electives, students may also be eligible for entry into other Honours programmes with permission of the programme director or head of school.

For example, students who continue studying their chosen language up to 300 level will be eligible for Honours and Master's degrees in that language.

i wgtn.ac.nz/masters





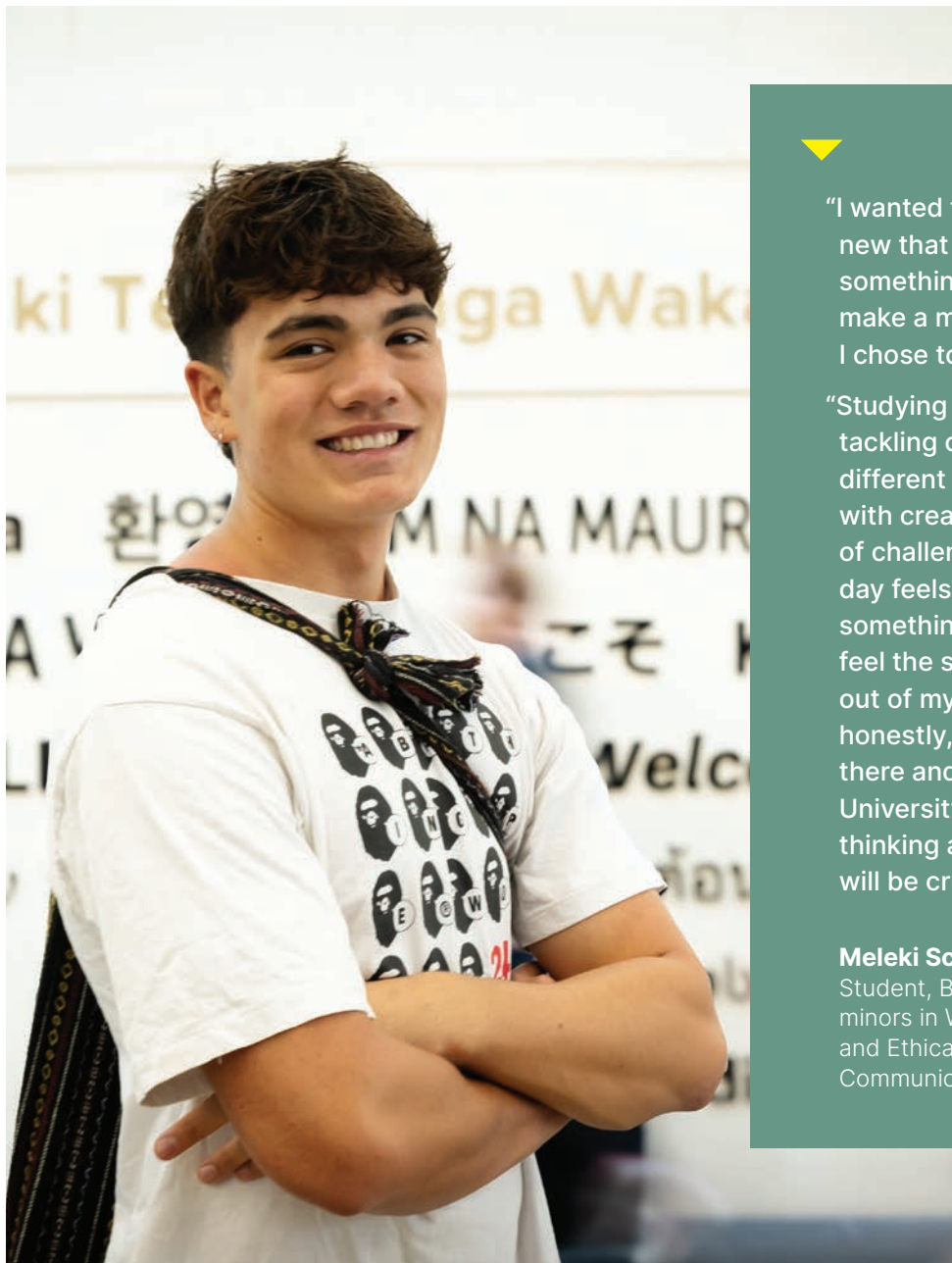
CAREERS

With our BGS, you'll graduate as an informed and engaged global citizen, with the skills to create change, collaborate, and seek solutions for the challenges facing our societies and cultures today and in the future. Studying in Wellington will help you make connections with change-makers in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world and keep up to date with the latest developments in policy and society.

A Bachelor of Global Studies prepares students for careers in many fields, both in Aotearoa and overseas. A graduate of the BGS could pursue careers in:

- ▶ the public sector, both local and international
- ▶ government service, including the diplomatic service, both local and international
- ▶ the United Nations system and other international organisations
- ▶ social entrepreneurship and companies with a global outreach
- ▶ politics and international relations
- ▶ global health and community development
- ▶ journalism, including travel journalism
- ▶ travel and tourism.

The degree's industry advisory board will also ensure that your degree is preparing you for the workforce. The board provides support and advice to the University, making sure the BGS is always relevant to industry practices and requirements.



“I wanted to study something fresh and new that was relevant to today’s world—something that offered the chance to make a meaningful change. That’s why I chose to study Global Studies.

“Studying has really helped me when tackling complex issues, understanding different viewpoints, and coming up with creative solutions. It’s been a mix of challenging and interesting—every day feels like a fresh opportunity to learn something new, and no two days ever feel the same. I’ve had to push myself out of my comfort zone at times, but honestly, it was just so fun to get out there and do it. I also appreciate that the University encourages both independent thinking and teamwork, which I believe will be crucial for my future.”

Meleki Schuster

Student, Bachelor of Global Studies with minors in World Affairs and Organisations and Ethical Leadership and Intercultural Communication

FIND OUT MORE

i wgtn.ac.nz/bgs

i 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.

After receiving 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.

To enrol in a BGS, you will need University Entrance, or to meet the requirements of another admission type. For more information, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/study

i wgtn.ac.nz/puaha

CONTACT US

Te Wāhanga Aronui

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Tītoko—Student Success

Level 4, Murphy Building, Kelburn Campus

📞 0800 04 04 04

✉ info@vuw.ac.nz

COURSE PLANNING

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

📞 0800 04 04 04

✉ future-students@vuw.ac.nz

i wgtn.ac.nz/courses

OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

Disability support

i wgtn.ac.nz/disability

Māori student support

i wgtn.ac.nz/awhina

Pasifika student success

i wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika

Rainbow student support

i wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow

Refugee-background student support

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

Scholarships

i wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships

Student services and support

i wgtn.ac.nz/student-support





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