



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

**TOHU PAETAHI PŪTAIAO**  
**BACHELOR OF**  
**SCIENCE**

2026





# CONTENTS

Tohu Paetahi Pūtaiao—Bachelor of Science	2
Careers	3
Further study opportunities	4
Your BSc	5
Entry requirements	5
Choosing your major	5
Double-major degrees	5
Conjoint degrees	5
Degree structure	5
Sample degree programmes	6
Majors	8
Find out more	12
Science subjects	<i>Inside back cover</i>



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.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington uses all reasonable skill and care to ensure the information contained here was accurate at the time it was prepared. However, matters covered by this publication are subject to change due to a continuous process of review, and to unanticipated circumstances. 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 publication, whether direct or indirect, and whether foreseeable or not.

# TOHU PAETAHI PŪTAIAO

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington’s Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree consistently produces students with scientific skills and experience to flourish in today’s evolving job market. Our BSc is a combination of theory-based learning with world-renowned academics and practical experience, providing you with the ability to collect, analyse, and understand data, think critically and creatively, and communicate your findings effectively.

When you study with us, you’ll have the opportunity to step outside the classroom with hands-on laboratories, field trips, and summer scholarships. You could have opportunities to work with researchers and external organisations such as GNS Science, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, or Te Papa Tongarewa on all kinds of exciting projects. We have students researching everything from battery technology to kauri dieback.

With the option to choose from more than 25 majors—in everything from Mathematics and Statistics to Geography to Space Science—you’ll have the flexibility to combine subjects that fit your interests and career aspirations to create a degree that is unique to you.

So, if you’re looking for an inspiring learning environment with excellent teaching staff who have unparalleled industry and community knowledge and passion for their subjects, and if you want to learn about cutting-edge research in state-of-the-art facilities, there’s no better place to study science than Wellington—the science capital of Aotearoa New Zealand.

[wgtn.ac.nz/bsc](http://wgtn.ac.nz/bsc)



## CAREERS

Our BSc graduates have secured roles all over the world, as earth scientists, biodiversity managers, and data analysts to name a few. The degree has an excellent reputation among employers both in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the globe for developing knowledgeable, skilled, and creative scientists who are determined to make a difference in their field of expertise.

After completing this degree, you might find yourself developing new software for multinational businesses, working with government officials on reducing the impact of climate change, studying marine life in the Antarctic Ocean, or solving an issue that doesn't exist yet.

Potential jobs include:

- ▶ actuary
- ▶ chemist
- ▶ computer scientist
- ▶ data scientist
- ▶ disability worker
- ▶ environmental scientist
- ▶ geologist
- ▶ geospatial specialist
- ▶ government analyst
- ▶ hydrologist
- ▶ learning and development adviser
- ▶ marine biologist
- ▶ meteorologist
- ▶ physicist
- ▶ science policy writer
- ▶ scientist
- ▶ space industry employee
- ▶ teaching and education
- ▶ youth worker.



“Every day I get to launch things into space that are being used by you and me, such as satellites used for GPS systems and Earth observation. When I look at that, I can say, ‘I have had a positive impact.’ I have left a tangible print on things, and I am exceptionally proud of that.”

**Julia Rothman**

Graduate, Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physics  
Director, Launch Complex 1, Rocket Lab

## FURTHER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Te Herenga Waka offers a variety of postgraduate study options that will help boost your career opportunities after completing your BSc.

### Bachelor of Science with Honours

Extend your knowledge in a specialised field of science with a Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc(Hons)). You'll complete an intensive one-year programme and gain the advanced theoretical knowledge and research skills you need to pursue a scientific career.

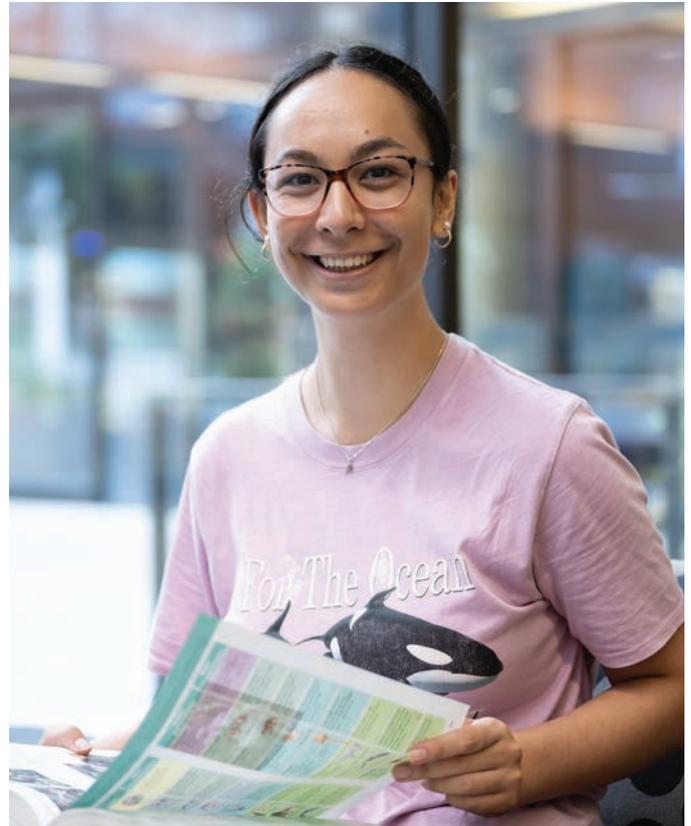
### Master's degree

A Master's degree will develop your technical, laboratory, and academic writing skills to further prepare you for a career in science. There are several options available, including one-year (180-point) coursework degrees and two-year (240-point) coursework and thesis degrees.

### Doctor of Philosophy

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an internationally recognised degree for those who wish to pursue a career as a research scientist or as an academic and involves a major piece of specialised original research. Supervision for PhD research is available in almost all subject areas we offer.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/postgraduate-science](http://wgtn.ac.nz/postgraduate-science)



"I adore Te Herenga Waka and think it makes Wellington a great place to study. I have absolutely loved my Biology papers and know I have chosen the best path of study for me."

**Maia Moetahi Renata-Horn (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Whakaue, Ngāti Rangitīhi)**

Student, Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology

# YOUR BSc

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

An interest in science or mathematics will go a long way to helping you during your degree. Some science courses have specific NCEA Level 3 entry requirements. If you feel you haven't studied enough science at secondary school or have not met the NCEA requirements for a subject, there are alternative pathways available—our student advisers can give you more information.

## CHOOSING YOUR MAJOR

A major is the main subject you'll focus on in your degree. Choose a major that suits your passions and future ambitions. You can also add a minor, which is an optional additional area of focus for a degree. There is also the option to do a double major—you can find more information about this below.

## DOUBLE-MAJOR DEGREES

Many students add a second major to their BSc degree. Your first major must be a Science subject, and your second major can be a Science subject or a subject from another undergraduate degree. Combining Biology and Chemistry will see you well placed to be at the forefront of drug discovery and development. You could combine Space Science and Computer Science and support the development of cutting-edge software for space applications. There are many combinations to choose from.

## CONJOINT DEGREES

You can choose to combine your BSc degree with another in a conjoint degree. This will take you less time than completing two degrees separately. You could combine a BSc in Environmental Studies with a Bachelor of Laws to become an

environmental lawyer, or a BSc in Psychological Science with a Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing to work in advertising. Our student advisers can help you make a plan that will work for you.

## DEGREE STRUCTURE

### Your first year

In your first year, you're likely to take seven or eight courses from a range of subject areas. There are no core courses common to all majors in this year. However, your BSc must include one course in either Econometrics, Mathematics, Physics, or Statistics. Most students do this in their first year.

### Your second year

This year, you'll start to get down to the detail of your chosen major and develop your research skills. You're likely to take six to eight courses—three or four courses in your major subject and the remaining courses chosen from your second major, minor subject, and/or electives. To add variety and depth to your degree, you might take some courses outside the sciences.

### Your third year

In your third year, you're likely to take three or four courses in your major subject and a further three or four courses that might be your second major, or a mixture of your minor and other electives. You'll graduate with specialised knowledge in your major, ready to enter the workforce or go on to postgraduate study.

**i** [wgtn.ac.nz/course-planning](http://wgtn.ac.nz/course-planning)

# SAMPLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Example: BSc with a double major—first major Ecology and Biodiversity, second major Statistics

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
BIOL 113 Biology of Plants (15 points)	BIOL 111 Cell and Molecular Biology (15 points)	BIOL 222 Ecology and Environment (20 points)	BIOL 227 Plants and Algae: Function and Diversity (20 points)	BIOL 327 Population and Community Ecology (20 points)	BIOL 328 Behaviour and Conservation Ecology (20 points)
BIOL 114 Biology of Animals (15 points)	STAT 193 Statistics in Practice (15 points)	BIOL 228 Animal Diversity (20 points)	BIOL 241 Genetics (20 points)	BIOL 325 Global Change Biology (20 points)	STAT 393 Linear Models (15 points)
MATH 141 Calculus 1A (15 points)	MATH 177 Probability and Decision Modelling (15 points)	STAT 292 Applied Statistics (15 points)	BIOL 271 Introductory Marine Ecology (20 points)	STAT 392 Sample Surveys (15 points)	STAT 394 Multivariate Statistics (15 points)
GEOS 101 Our Dynamic Earth and Environment (15 points)	BIOL 132 Biodiversity and Conservation (15 points)		STAT 293 Applied Statistical Modelling (15 points)	STAT 391 Mathematical Methods for Applied Statistics (15 points)	
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	55 POINTS	75 POINTS	70 POINTS	50 POINTS
120 POINTS		130 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Total points required: 360

Total points completed: 370

First major	Second major	Elective
-------------	--------------	----------

**Major:** A major is the main subject you'll focus on in your degree.

**Elective:** Elective courses are courses in other subjects you're interested in and they don't necessarily need to be related to your major or minor subjects.

## Example: BSc with a major in Physics and minor in Mathematics

YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3	
TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2	TRIMESTER 1	TRIMESTER 2
PHYS 145 Practical Skills for Scientists: Applications in Physics (15 points)	PHYS 142 Calculus-based Physics (15 points)	PHYS 245 Methods of Experimental Physics (15 points)	PHYS 242 Electromagnetism I (15 points)	PHYS 305 Thermal and Statistical Physics (15 points)	PHYS 304 Electromagnetism and Wave Optics (15 points)
MATH 151 Algebra (15 points)	MATH 142 Calculus 1B (15 points)	PHYS 243 Classical Mechanics and Relativity (15 points)	PHYS 241 Quantum Mechanics and Kinetic Theory (15 points)	PHYS 307 Quantum Physics (15 points)	PHYS 345 Advanced Methods of Experimental Physics (15 points)
Any 100-level MATH course (15 points)	MATH 161 Discrete Mathematics and Logic (15 points)	Any 200-level MATH course (15 points)	Any 200- or 300-level MATH course (15 points)	Any 300-level MATH course (15 points)	Any 300-level course (15 points)
PHYS 101 Introduction to Physics (15 points)	SPCE 102 Introduction to the Universe (15 points)	COMP 102 Introduction to Computer Program Design (15 points)	Any 200-level MATH course (15 points)	Any 200- or 300-level course (15 points)	Any 300-level course (15 points)
60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS	60 POINTS
120 POINTS		120 POINTS		120 POINTS	

Total points required: 360

Total points completed: 360

Major

Minor

Elective

**Major:** A major is the main subject you'll focus on in your degree.

**Minor:** An optional additional area of focus for a degree.

**Elective:** Elective courses are courses in other subjects you're interested in and they don't necessarily need to be related to your major or minor subjects.

# MAJORS

## Other available majors

For more details about the Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, or Electronic and Computer Systems majors, see the *Engineering and Computer Sciences* publication. Information Systems can also be taken as a major in the BSc—see the *Bachelor of Commerce* publication for more information on this subject.

## Actuarial Science

Get the knowledge and skills you need to become a qualified actuary. Actuarial Science brings economics, mathematics, and statistics together to help companies and organisations forecast and manage risks.

## Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the science and engineering of intelligent machines that sense, act, and learn from experience to perform tasks for humans. In this major, you'll gain knowledge of concepts, techniques, and tools in AI, and learn how to apply that knowledge to solve problems. Developing programming skills will enable you to build software tools that incorporate AI technology—and help shape our future.

## Biology

Biology introduces you to the wonder of life, in all its forms and at all levels—from the smallest molecules to ecosystems that support a vast array of life. In your first year, you'll get an introduction to cell, plant, and animal biology. During your second and third years, you'll be able to choose courses that span the spectrum of biological disciplines, from flora and fauna to genetics and biochemistry.

## Biotechnology

Biotechnology helps us develop products that benefit humanity. This could be in the form of new medicines, better crops, or biofuels for a cleaner environment. You'll study the commercial, legal, and political considerations of bringing new developments to the marketplace, and learn to think critically about related issues.

## Cell and Molecular Bioscience

Look at cell biology, genetics, and chemical genetics, and study living organisms at the molecular level. Get an introduction to physiology and learn about human organs and organ systems.

## Chemistry

Chemistry investigates the physical world around us. Learn about how matter behaves at the atomic scale. Apply practical and theoretical techniques to understand the principles behind the behaviour of atoms and how they bond together to make molecules. Find out how this knowledge is being used in the development of new medicines and new materials and how it is being applied in sustainable practices to solve the major issues threatening society.

## Climate Science

This major will give you an overview of the climate system and explain the impact of climate—and climate change—on Aotearoa New Zealand. You'll delve into climate modelling, learn the skills to effectively communicate about climate change, and master how to interpret data, explore scientific questions, and work effectively in teams. You'll have career options as a climate researcher, meteorologist, policy adviser, or science communicator.

## Computer Science

Learn to create the building blocks of software development. From the clever speech-recognition algorithm on your phone to any of the myriad complex software systems we depend on every day, new creations continue to arise that would have been impossible without the science of computing.

## Data Science

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.

## Development Studies

Concerned about multiple social, political, economic, and environmental crises? Development Studies engages you in theories and practices that aim to increase equity, sustainability, and justice. By learning from action by local communities, government agencies, and international organisations, Development Studies opens up a world of opportunities for you to make a real difference both in Aotearoa and internationally.

## Earth Science

Earth Science helps us unravel the mysteries of our planet's past, present, and future. You'll learn about the processes and systems that influence natural hazards, resources, the environment, and climate—from the effects of shifting tectonic plates, to the power of volcanic eruptions, to the importance of ancient climates. This major will also take you outside the classroom. You'll work in the lab and out in the field to collect, analyse, and evaluate data. You'll have career options as a geologist, geophysicist, geotechnical analyst, natural hazards adviser, scientific adviser, researcher, or consultant.

## Ecology and Biodiversity

Learn about the huge diversity of plants, animals, and micro-organisms that live on Earth. Ecology is understanding how living things interact with their environment, while Biodiversity looks at the range of plants and animals with which we share the planet. This major will improve your understanding of life on Earth, and give you the tools to contribute to solving global challenges such as the conservation of our plant and animal species.

## Electronic and Computer Systems

Learn about mechatronic design, robotic engineering, and digital electronics. Explore the architecture of computer systems and the engineering behind communication. Build your knowledge from the fundamentals of maths, physics, and computer programming through to cutting-edge applications.



“Victoria University was the only university that gave me the flexibility to be able to study my two passions—design and chemistry—so it was an obvious choice. The highlight of my studies so far has been the connections I’ve made with lecturers, students, and guest speakers while learning new content and techniques. There’s great support from staff when it comes to your future career and job opportunities too.”

### **Dimitri Economou**

Student, Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Bachelor of Design Innovation in Communication Design and Fashion Design Technology

## Environmental Science

Learn the science behind society's most pressing environmental issues—including biodiversity decline, climate change, freshwater deterioration, and soil erosion. Through hands-on experiments and real-world applications, you'll learn how humans intertwine with and reshape the natural world.

## Environmental Studies

The environmental problems we face can feel overwhelming and confusing. Environmental Studies allows you to understand the underlying causes of these problems and develop solutions. In learning about social, cultural, and economic perspectives on the environment, you'll explore human-nature connections, and how healthy environments and communities are made. Study a range of topics, including climate justice, sustainability, Māori conservation and environmentalism, and social influence for pro-environmental behaviour change.

## Geography

Geography is about understanding and engaging with change at different scales—from the physical processes that shape our Earth to the socio-political and economic processes that shape how and where we live. At Te Herenga Waka, Geography develops your analytical skills and conceptual thinking through interactive classes, geospatial tools, lab work, team projects, and field trips. Strengthen your ability to inform positive solutions to major societal challenges from climate change and natural hazards to migration and urbanisation. Take Geography and find a world of employment opportunities awaiting you.

## Marine Biology

Study life in the sea. Learn about the organisms that live in the ocean and how they interact with one another and their environment.

## Mathematics

Explore the potential of Mathematics while you confront some of the world's most difficult unsolved intellectual challenges. Investigate problem-solving techniques you can use in several disciplines, including pure and social sciences.



▼  
“What really stands out is how passionate and engaged the lecturers are. Most of them are also active researchers, which means they bring a deep, real-world understanding of their topics to the classroom. The Physics department is relatively small, which creates a friendly and inclusive environment where it’s easy to feel part of the community. Before starting university, I had this impression that lecturers would be distant and intimidating, but that couldn’t be further from the truth. Even as a first-year student, I found it surprisingly easy to connect with my lecturers and feel supported.”

### **Milly Daly**

Student, Bachelor of Science in Physics and Biology

## Physics

Physics explores the inner workings of the universe. It's given us the internet, mobile phones, and space travel, and with the rate technology is advancing, modern physics is getting more relevant every day. By studying physics, you'll have the tools to understand and navigate today's technologies and the innovations of tomorrow, from clean energy, to space technologies, to healthcare devices.

## Psychological Science

Study the science behind our brains and behaviour. Gain insights into why people think, act, and feel the way they do. Examine social behaviour, emotion, personality, and motivation. To find out more about this major, or the other psychology majors available in our specialised Psychology degree, see the *Bachelor of Psychology* publication.

## Science Communication

Build your knowledge of science and the scientific process, learn how to communicate science effectively to a range of audiences, and get hands-on experience across different mediums including video and podcasts. This major must be taken alongside another major or minor from the Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science, or Bachelor of Psychology.

## Science in Society

Look at the role of science and mātauranga Māori in our past and present and how these are shaped by political, economic, and social forces. Find out how people and governments use science to make decisions about issues such as climate change and vaccination. (Available only as a minor, and must be taken alongside a major from the Bachelor of Science, except the Science Communication major.)

## Space Science

Learn about all parts of the space industry—from the technical innovations needed to go into space to the ethical and legal issues that develop as we push out of Earth's orbit. While you'll focus on the practical aspects of space, courses also delve into the history of astronomy and space exploration, alongside perspectives on the night sky in Māori and Pasifika culture.

## Statistics

Learn to collect, analyse, and interpret data. Statistics is a mathematical tool to help us understand today's information-rich world, and statisticians work in many different industries—from the financial world to marketing campaigns to government policy.

 [wgtn.ac.nz/subjects](http://wgtn.ac.nz/subjects)



“The staff have done an excellent job of facilitating a programme that teaches not only the technical basis of our field but also essential transferable skills, such as critical 3D thinking, that will be applicable to any research or job that we move into. It's really empowering to know that we're gaining a diverse skill set that all employers are looking for.”

### Hannah Clark

Graduate, Bachelor of Science  
in Physical Geography and Geology

To read more about Hannah's  
study journey, scan the QR code.



# FIND OUT MORE

[wgtn.ac.nz/bsc](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/bsc)

[wgtn.ac.nz/apply](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/apply)

## WHY WELLINGTON?

Our University is ranked first in New Zealand for intensity of high-quality research (2018 Performance-Based Research Fund), and we're ranked in the top 150 in the world for science subjects including Development Studies, Earth and Marine Sciences, Geography, and Psychology (2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject).

Our career-focused curriculum and relationships with industry and government will prepare you for success in your chosen field and give you the chance to make a difference. We're home to several leading research institutes—you might learn from someone who is developing vaccines at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research (the country's largest private medical research institute), designing sustainable technology at the MacDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology (New Zealand's top research institute in materials science), or researching climate change at Te Puna Pātiotio—Antarctic Research Centre.

## 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.

We'd love to see you at one of our information events—check our website for dates.

[wgtn.ac.nz/puaha](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/puaha)

[wgtn.ac.nz/information-evenings](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/information-evenings)

## COURSE PLANNING

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

[0800 04 04 04](tel:0800040404)

[future-students@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:future-students@vuw.ac.nz)

[wgtn.ac.nz/courses](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/courses)

## OTHER STUDENT RESOURCES

### Disability support

[wgtn.ac.nz/disability](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/disability)

### Māori student support

[wgtn.ac.nz/awhina](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/awhina)

### Pasifika student success

[wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika)

### Rainbow student support

[wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/rainbow)

### Refugee-background student support

[wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/refugee-background-students)

### Scholarships

[wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/scholarships)

### Student services and support

[wgtn.ac.nz/student-support](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/student-support)

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Actuarial Science	Environmental Science
Artificial Intelligence	Environmental Studies
Biology	Geography
Biotechnology	Information Systems
Cell and Molecular Bioscience	Marine Biology
Chemistry	Mathematics
Climate Science	Physics
Computer Science	Psychological Science
Data Science	Science Communication
Development Studies	Science in Society
Earth Science	Space Science
Ecology and Biodiversity	Statistics
Electronic and Computer Systems	

## BACHELOR OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Human Genetics
Molecular Pathology
Molecular Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry

## CONTACT US

Student Service Centre  
Room CO144, Level 1, Cotton Building, Kelburn Campus

📞 0800 04 04 04

✉ info@vuw.ac.nz

📘 facebook.com/vicuniwgtncscience

📷 instagram.com/vicuniwgtn\_STEM

🌐 wgtn.ac.nz/science

## BACHELOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Climate Science
Cultural Anthropology
Design for Social Innovation
Development Studies
Earth Science
Education for the Environment
Environmental Design
Environmental Humanities
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies
Geography
Sustainability and Ethics in Business

## BACHELOR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Brain Sciences and Mental Health	Māori Psychology
Cognitive Science	Mental Health Principles and Applications
Criminal Justice and Psychology	Psychological Science (the required major in the Bachelor of Psychology)
Educational Psychology	Work and Organisational Psychology
Health Psychology	

For more details about these majors, see the *Bachelor of Biomedical Science*, *Bachelor of Environment and Society*, *Bachelor of Psychology*, and *Engineering and Computer Sciences* publications. For more details about Information Systems, see the *Bachelor of Commerce* publication.



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

2026

---

**TOHU PAETAHI PŪTAIAO**  
**BACHELOR OF**  
**SCIENCE**