

PLANNING AHEAD GUIDE

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.

Use this guide and the key to help choose your school subjects.

Key:



Recommended

Prerequisite

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. No portfolio is required.

BUSINESS

Statistics and essay-based subjects such as English and History are recommended. Business Studies, Digital Technology, and Mathematics are also useful. Accounting and Economics provide good preparation but are not essential as these subjects are taught from an introductory level. 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 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 of 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 school 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.

Any undergraduate degree can be used as the basis for admission to the Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood Education). Useful subjects to prepare yourself for an early childhood education teaching programme include those that develop your knowledge on the broader context of education and society. A major in Education is a good option for those considering early childhood teaching.

Primary Teaching

Any undergraduate degree can be used as the basis for admission to 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, New Zealand Sign Language, Pacific languages, Psychology, Statistics, and Te Reo Māori will be particularly useful for those wishing to undertake a primary teacher education programme.

Secondary Teaching

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.

Knowledge of te reo Māori is useful as all student teachers are required to use this proficiently by the time they graduate; similarly, an understanding of New Zealand history is also helpful—though both can be studied from beginner level at the University.

ENGINEERING

We recommend that students interested in pursuing our four-year Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours) or the three-year Bachelor of Science degree complete NCEA Level 3 Mathematics or equivalent. If you haven't completed the required level of Mathematics, you are welcome to speak with us—we can suggest introductory courses that can meet prerequisites for the core courses. We encourage students interested in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Computer Graphics and Games to take Calculus, while we also recommend Physics for Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

		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

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 200-level language

HEALTH

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Health. However, Biology, English, Health Education, Home Economics, Physical Education, Physics, Science, Social Studies, and Statistics might help your studies.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

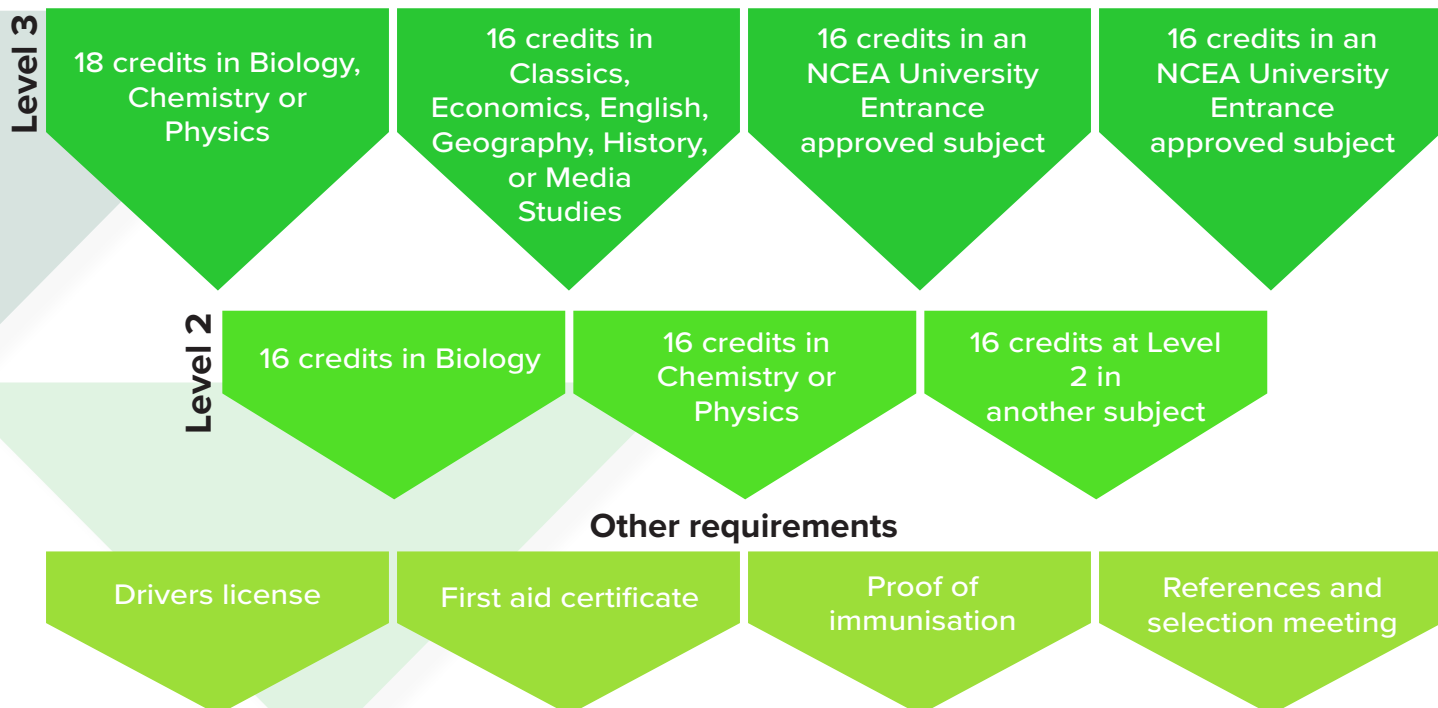
Any Bachelor of Arts major can be started from an introductory level. For some subjects, it is useful to have studied the relevant subject at school.

LAW

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Laws. Subjects to study at school include those that you enjoy, those that are essay-based, and those that encourage analytical thinking such as Art History, Classics, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physics, 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 Art History, Classics, Economics, English, Geography, History 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 or contact the Faculty of Health: Info@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

SCIENCE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

Most Bachelor of Science majors can be started at an introductory level and completed within three years. However, students of Actuarial Science, 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, it is still possible to catch up in most majors. Students will be advised of their options during the course enrolment process.

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBMedSc)

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—our student success advisers can give more information.

SCIENCE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

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

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