

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS



CHOOSING YOUR SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Most subjects at University can be started from an introductory level. Depending on what you want to study, you may need to take recommended subjects at school in preparation for particular courses or degrees. If you do not have the required background in a subject, in many cases you can take bridging courses as part of your study to prepare.

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

Key
* Recommended
**Strongly recommended

ARCHITECTURE AND BUILDING SCIENCE

Arts, Design, Digital Technologies, Calculus, English, Physics, and Statistics are recommended. No portfolio is required.

Students who don't have 14 NCEA level 3 credits each in at least two of the following subjects—Calculus, Statistics and Physics—will need to include an introductory Applied Physics and Statistics course in their first-year programme.

		Recommended subjects			
		Physics	Calculus	Statistics	Design
Majors	Architecture	*	*	*	*
	Interior Architecture	*	*	*	*
	Landscape Architecture	*	*	*	*
	History and Theory				*
	Project Management	*	*	*	*
	Sustainable Engineering Systems	*	*	*	*

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 strongly recommended.

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

Arts, Design, Digital Technologies, Graphics, Media Studies, and Technology are recommended for Bachelor of Design Innovation (BDI) students. Essay-based subjects are also highly recommended. No portfolio is required.

Students who do not have 14 credits in an English-rich subject at NCEA Level 3 must complete a writing-skills course (WRIT 101 or WRIT 151) in their first year of the BDI.

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 and Secondary Teaching

Subjects relevant to those the student plans to teach are important preparation for the secondary pathway. Under the primary and early childhood education pathways, students will work across a broad range of learning areas, including Mathematics and Science. For all students, strong literacy and numeracy skills are essential. 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

Digital Technologies, Maths, Science, Statistics, and Technology are recommended for the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (BE(Hons)) and the Bachelor of Science (BSc).

The BE(Hons), as well as Computer Science, Computer Graphics, and Electronic and Computer Systems (within the BSc) require 16 NCEA Level 3 Mathematics. Students without the necessary Mathematics requirements will be able to take introductory courses in Trimester 1 that will help them meet prerequisites for core courses.

		Recommended subjects			
		Physics	Digital Technology	Calculus	Statistics
BSc majors	Computer Graphics		*	**	*
	Computer Science		*		*
	Electronic and Computer Systems	**	*	**	*
BE(Hons) majors	Cybersecurity Engineering		*		*
	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	**	*	**	*
	Software Engineering		*		*

16 NCEA Level 3 Math credits (or equivalent) are required for all majors.

HEALTH

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

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

LAW

There are no prerequisites for the Bachelor of Laws. Students should study subjects that they enjoy. These may be essay-based subjects or those that encourage analytical thinking such as languages, Art History, Classics, Economics, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, and Physics.

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.

Level 3

18 credits in Biology, Chemistry or Physics	16 credits in Classics, Economics, English, Geography, History, or Media Studies	16 credits in an NCEA University Entrance approved subject	16 credits in an NCEA University Entrance approved subject
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Level 2

16 credits in Biology	16 credits in Chemistry or Physics	16 credits at Level 2 in another subject
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Other requirements

Drivers licence	First aid certificate	Proof of immunisation	References and selection meeting
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For more information on entry requirements, visit www.wgtn.ac.nz/bmid or contact the Faculty of Health: 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

SCIENCE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

Most Bachelor of Science majors can be started at introductory level. Students of Actuarial Science, Applied Physics, Chemistry, Computer Graphics, Computer Science, Electronic and Computer Systems, Geophysics, Mathematics, and Physics will need to have met NCEA, or equivalent, requirements of core courses linked to these majors. Students who do not meet these requirements can take these majors, but may need to take bridging or additional courses.

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBMedSc)

It is useful to study Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. If students do not have the necessary background in Chemistry, introductory and bridging courses are offered in Trimester 3 and Trimester 1.

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