Mihi

Ka hikitia o tātou kanohi ki te runga rawa, a, kia kakahutia tātou i tōna korowai o te aroha, kia uru mai tōna wairua tapu, hei whakapakari, arataki i a tātou. Me te tangi anō, ki a rātou mā kua wheturangitia, a, moe mai rā i te mooenga roa o te tangata. Ka rere atu ai ngā mihi ki a tātou te hunga ora e whakatau ai i ngā āhuatanga a rātou mā. Ka rere hoki i te mihi nei ki a tātou e pūnau ana ki te kaupapa, kia manaaki nei i ngā tauira o ngā kura puta noa i te motu. Anō hoki, ko ngā mihi wairua whakarei ki te minenga e tuituia i ngā whānau, me ngā hapū. Anō nei, ngā manaakitanga ki ngā kaiwhakarite e tū whakapiki i ngā moemoeā o ngā tauira o ngā kura katoa.

The Tihi Kōmata newsletter informs Māori secondary school students about exciting events and up and coming opportunities at the University of Otago. This newsletter will give students an update on events enjoyed by Māori secondary school students in 2013-14, and should interest your students who are considering study at Otago in 2015.

YEAR-10 MĀORI STUDENTS MAKING THE RIGHT SUBJECT CHOICES

Kowhiringa Rā – Wellington and Christchurch

Last year, the Kowhiringa Rā (subject planning day) programme was offered to Year-10 Māori students in Wellington and Christchurch. The one-day programme(s) enabled students to make informed decisions about subjects they should take at each level of their secondary school. More importantly, students were given tools to help them choose particular subjects, in order for them to pursue the preferred area of study, or career, after they complete secondary school. At the same time, students were able to network with students from other schools and meet people who have similar interests. Overall, programme activities allowed students to understand the value of tertiary education, and how that relates to being able to live and study in Dunedin.

Activity: Facilitating subject selection in Christchurch

Whakawhānaungatanga: Getting to know each other in Wellington

Identity, Whanaungatanga and Tikanga are important aspects of the Kowhiringa Rā programme, so all students were formally welcomed into a culturally friendly space, through mihi whakatau. In addition, the programme included a range of different activities that enabled students to mingle with each other and also identify and learn more about themselves, culturally and academically. As well as providing students with educational tools to support their decision-making at secondary school, Kowhiringa Rā encourages students to understand their ‘Wairua Māori’ (cultural identity), valued at tertiary level and, in particular, at the University of Otago. This is reinforced with the pastoral care and services provided for Māori students across the campus – particularly at Te Huka Matauraka (The Māori Centre).

Wellington: Students’ team building exercise

The key principle of the Kowhiringa Rā programme was not only to connect Māori students with students from other schools, but also to highlight the value of tertiary education and the ways that these students’ aspirations can be met at the University of Otago. Therefore, it was vitally important to include students currently studying at the University, so that Year-10 students could understand what it is like to study, live and succeed at Otago in Dunedin.

As a result, the students who were able to participate over both
programmes, motivated and encouraged students to continue to: work towards University Entrance; choose the right subjects; and this approach, in theory, would give them (the students) more opportunities, when they decide at what level, they wish to study within the tertiary sector.

It was a real pleasure to have worked with a huge number of creative, engaging and academically astute Year-10 Māori students from schools in Wellington and Christchurch.

PŪTAIAO!

Hands-On Science – Ngā Mahi-a-Ringa Pūtaiao Scholarships

The Hands-On Science (HOS) programme provides a friendly and interactive environment for students to consider studying sciences at the University of Otago. The week-long programme is offered in January of each year and encourages talented young students to consider science as a professional career.

Throughout the week, HOS students are divided into project groups and attend lectures and seminars which include: Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Genetics, Geography, Geology, Health Sciences, Biology/Immunology, Human Nutrition, Information Science, Marine Science, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacy, Physical Education, Physics, Physiology, Psychology through to Zoology.

Each year, the University of Otago offers Year-11 Māori secondary school students the opportunity to apply for fully funded Ngā Mahi-a-Ringa Pūtaiao (NMP) scholarships. The NMP scholarships encourage more Māori students to develop or maintain their enthusiasm to study sciences at school. Students who are interested in the NMP scholarships must complete an application form and write an essay explaining how they would benefit from attending the programme. In addition, students must also display all-round academic ability with a particular focus on science. This year, 13 students attended the Hands-On Science programme in Dunedin, as a result of being awarded an NMP scholarship which covered costs of flights, accommodation, meals, tours and light entertainment.

The Hands-On Science programme is highly successful and students have the wonderful opportunity of meeting students from other secondary schools around New Zealand. So, if you are a Year-11 student (in 2014), of Māori descent and have a passion for science, please consider applying for the Nga Mahi-a-Ringa Pūtaiao Scholarship for the 2015 programme.

NMP Scholarship applications close on 26 September 2014
Website – otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/maori

EXPERIENCING LIFE AT OTAGO

On Campus Experience (OCE)

The On Campus Experience (OCE) is a sought after opportunity for Māori students to experience a snippet of what life is like as a student at the University of Otago. The four-day programme showcases academic divisions and departments, and gives students a feel for the Dunedin campus. Students will have the chance to ask departmental staff about entry requirements, subject specialisations and any other questions they may have about first-year study. The university prides itself on providing sound academic support and pastoral care, so students will become familiar with the support services available to Māori students during their On Campus Experience.

Last year, 16 students from secondary schools around New Zealand were selected for the OCE programme, and were hosted at Arana Residential College. Each year, students stay at a host residential college, and they also visit other colleges to experience the similarities and differences between them. Residential college life provides students with a network of lifelong friendships and study groups so, by staying in a residential college, OCE students were able to experience being semi-independent, and how and where they wish to live while they study in Dunedin.

Other highlights of the OCE programme include visits to Te Huka Matauraka (The Māori Centre), the Business School, the Faculty of Law, and the Health Sciences division. During visits, OCE students are able to see for themselves, the support that the University of Otago has for Māori students, within the many divisions, faculties and departments across the campus.

Indeed, the OCE focuses primarily on promoting the University, but it also shows students other important features about Dunedin. The OCE students take an historical tour of Cadbury Chocolate Factory, climb the infamous Baldwin Street, and dine at Dunedin’s well-known pizza restaurant, Filadelfios.

The OCE programme is an annual event that is held in May of each year. In order for students to be considered for the programme, they must complete an application form along with an essay introducing themselves, their preferred area of study, and reasons why they are interested in studying at Otago. All students must demonstrate academic ability, and also need to explain why they should be considered for the OCE programme.

Application forms for the On Campus Experience 2015 will be available online, from mid-Jan 2015
Website – otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/maori

OTAGO MĀORI

Student Profiles

Name: Natasha Martin
Iwi / Tribal Affiliations: Te Arawa me Ngāti Ranginui
Hometown: Tauranga Moana
What are you studying? Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)
What secondary school did you attend? Otumoetai College
What is your preferred career/profession? Doctor of Medicine
What is your normal day like at University? A normal day for me during Health Sciences First Year (the pre-requisite course to enter the Health Professions):
0600: Study 13:00 3 Hour Lab
0700: Breakfast 16:00 Lecture 3
0800: Lecture 1 17:00 Lecture 4
0900: Lecture 2 18:00 Dinner
10:00 Study at the Library 19:00 Study
11:00 Tutorial at the Māori Centre 22:00 Bed
12:00 Lunch

Last year, 16 students from secondary schools around New Zealand were selected for the OCE programme, and were hosted at Arana Residential College. Each year, students stay at a host residential college, and they also visit other colleges to experience the similarities and differences between them. Residential college life provides students with a network of lifelong friendships and study groups so, by staying in a residential college, OCE students were able to experience being semi-independent, and how and where they wish to live while they study in Dunedin.

Other highlights of the OCE programme include visits to Te Huka Matauraka (The Māori Centre), the Business School, the Faculty of Law, and the Health Sciences division. During visits, OCE students are able to see for themselves, the support that the University of Otago has for Māori students, within the many divisions, faculties and departments across the campus.

Indeed, the OCE focuses primarily on promoting the University, but it also shows students other important features about Dunedin. The OCE students take an historical tour of Cadbury Chocolate Factory, climb the infamous Baldwin Street, and dine at Dunedin's well-known pizza restaurant, Filadelfios.

The OCE programme is an annual event that is held in May of each year. In order for students to be considered for the programme, they must complete an application form along with an essay introducing themselves, their preferred area of study, and reasons why they are interested in studying at Otago. All students must demonstrate academic ability, and also need to explain why they should be considered for the OCE programme.

Application forms for the On Campus Experience 2015 will be available online, from mid-Jan 2015
Website – otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/maori

OTAGO MĀORI

Student Profiles

Name: Natasha Martin
Iwi / Tribal Affiliations: Te Arawa me Ngāti Ranginui
Hometown: Tauranga Moana
What are you studying? Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB)
What secondary school did you attend? Otumoetai College
What is your preferred career/profession? Doctor of Medicine
What is your normal day like at University? A normal day for me during Health Sciences First Year (the pre-requisite course to enter the Health Professions):
0600: Study 13:00 3 Hour Lab
0700: Breakfast 16:00 Lecture 3
0800: Lecture 1 17:00 Lecture 4
0900: Lecture 2 18:00 Dinner
10:00 Study at the Library 19:00 Study
11:00 Tutorial at the Māori Centre 22:00 Bed
12:00 Lunch
There is no arguing that HSFY is a demanding course. However, the second semester has less core course material giving you more time for extra-curricular activities later in the year.

Is your study closely linked to this career/profession?
Yes. As a fourth-year medical student we rotate around medical wards, surgical specialties and GP clinics. In addition to lectures and tutorials, we receive much bedside teaching through attachments with medical teams and other allied health care providers. These experiences also give insight into the role and lifestyles of various health professions.

What made you consider the University of Otago?
During my last year of college I was fortunate to visit Dunedin and the University of Otago through the On Campus Experience. This enabled me to find out information about Health Sciences First Year and Medicine at the University of Otago.

Have you made many friends at the University and/or in Dunedin?
Yes. Being in a residential college exposes you to a whole new network of friends. Attending the Te Huka Mātauraka (The Māori Centre) tutorials was also a great way to meet Māori students studying similar courses. Te Roopū Māori (The Māori Students Association) arranges many social events, including sports teams and Kapa Haka. In Medicine, we have many groups and networks that cater to a wide variety of interests – sporting, academic and cultural.

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown?
Dunedin, described as the “Student Capital” of NZ, is a unique city that is very different to Tauranga. The University is within walking distance of: many of the residential colleges; George Street (the main shopping strip of Dunedin); Forsyth Barr Stadium; UniPol Gym. Dunedin is very different to Tauranga in that its infrastructure caters to the large student population. There is much more to be discovered in Dunedin by exploring the Peninsula, climbing Baldwin Street, or visiting the beaches of St Clair and St Kilda.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago?
Yes. The Māori Centre provided great tutorials for all of my HSFY papers. The Māori Centre also provided opportunities to meet with staff and students of the various health professions. They also organised a mentoring programme, Ka Rikarika A Tane, matching new students with older students who had progressed along a similar path.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence?
Yes. In Dunedin you are surrounded by many students, some of which will be living away from home for their first time.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago?
Flights are expensive to Dunedin – especially if you are travelling from outside of the major airports (Auckland and Wellington).

Do you have any further comments about life as a student at Otago?
For me, deciding between attending the University of Otago or the University of Auckland was a tough decision. In all honesty, I think I could have been happy at either. Nonetheless, I have really enjoyed the time I have spent at the University of Otago. I attribute this to the people I have met and the friends I have made along my journey.

What would be your preferred career/profession?
I’m looking to join the Police Force in the near future.

What is your normal day like at University?
Depends on my timetable. Some days I will have three or four lectures, and other days I will have no classes. I always need to pop into the library for a bit each day to stay on top of study though. This leaves heaps of time to go to the gym, play sport and be social.

Is your study closely linked to this career/profession?
Physical Education can relate to policing yeah. Physical fitness is an important factor of being a competent police officer. I may be able to use my qualifications inside the force to help with fitness training and helping recruits pass the physically demanding entry tests.

What made you consider the University of Otago?
To be honest, I had decided half way through the year that I was not going to put my parents through the struggle of me moving to the other end of the country. However, I was persuaded to apply for the On Campus Experience scholarship programme. I was fortunate enough to be accepted into this initiative, and had such a good time exploring Dunedin. And, by the time I went back home, I was dead set on going to Otago.

Have you made many friends at the University and/or in Dunedin?
Absolutely! I have made far more friends down here than I have at home. There are a ridiculous amount of like-minded people at University who are easy to get along with.

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown?
I come from a small country town of only 3,000 people, so yes, of course there are huge differences. There are people everywhere who I don’t know, but they are all the same or similar ages. The student population really makes Dunedin feel homely.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago?
There is a heap of support for Māori at Otago. The Māori Centre is dedicated to help Māori students with whatever they need and is a great way to meet new people. They also do the best they can to help you pass your papers by providing tutorials for your papers.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence?
Definitely! I find that I have changed heaps since I left school. Having that newfound freedom from your parents is a really great thing, and being around a bunch people who are also experiencing this new freedom is great way for you to make friends and grow together. Flatting teaches you how to fend for yourself…no mum to cook for you.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago?
I don’t think people realise that when they get to University and are put in colleges that the people surrounding them may one day become their best friends. My advice to anyone who is coming to Dunedin and going into a college is to be an absolute social butterfly and meet as many people as possible. You’re not going to remember everyone’s name straight away, but this way you’ll maximise your chances of finding someone who is best friend or girl/boyfriend material.

Do you have any further comments about life as a student at Otago?
Taking the leap and coming to Otago is the best thing I have done in my life. I have had an insane amount of good times and created a bunch of wicked memories with new friends, and I can guarantee you will not regret doing it!
What secondary school did you attend?
Wellington Girls College

What would be your preferred career/profession?
Considering Teaching

What is your normal day like at University?
Busy, yet manageable. I still have a balance of social time and study time.

Is your study closely linked to this career/profession?
My studies are quite broad so they can lead me into many areas or professions.

What made you consider the University of Otago?
The On Campus Experience (OCE). It allowed me to see myself as a potential student of the University of Otago.

Have you made many friends at the University and/or in Dunedin?
Yes, however I don’t stray far from my main clique.

Have you noticed any significant differences between Dunedin and your hometown?
I’ve noticed that it’s hard to go back to how you acted before moving to Dunedin and fall into your same old routine. I’ve also noticed that the people that stayed home haven’t changed much and keep on doing the same things that they used to do.

Is there any academic support for Māori students at the University of Otago?
There’s plenty of academic support for Māori students. Māori students get the same opportunities and support as other students and they also get more academic support from the Māori Centre who provide extra tutorials, mentor/mentee programmes and many other programmes to encourage and help students.

Is Dunedin a good place to gain independence?
Yes. Especially if you’re from the North Island. Dunedin is not too far away from home yet far enough away that you can’t constantly return home.

What is one piece of advice you wish you had known before you came to the University of Otago?
Before I came down to Otago, I wish I knew how to balance my social life and my studies well.

DEVELOPING MĀORI HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Tū Kahika

Tū Kahika is a University of Otago programme that supports Māori students to achieve their goals of becoming a health professional. Students take part in a full-year (February to October) Health Sciences programme, run within the Foundation Year. The successful completion of the Tū Kahika programme provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to study with greater confidence at degree level and, in particular, within the Health Sciences First Year programme at Otago. Students benefit from having guaranteed accommodation in a University of Otago Residential College, Foundation Studies tuition fees paid in full, $5,000 towards accommodation costs, additional tutorials in core science subjects, career development, professional and cultural development, as well as pastoral and academic support throughout the year.

The Tū Kahika programme is for academically capable students with a passion for Māori health and the determination to succeed. If you are a Year-13 student, and you are passionate about a career in the health professions, please consider the Tū Kahika programme application date in late September.

Applications close: 15 September 2014 (places are limited).

For further information see our website: otago.ac.nz/tukahika/index.html

Application: otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/otago070384.pdf

Contact:
Zoe Bristowe
Whakahaere Kaupapa/Programme Manager
03 479 4119
021 246 6433
Email: tu.kahika@otago.ac.nz

If you have any queries please feel free to contact:
Ashley Te Whare
Māori Liaison Officer
ashleytewhare@otago.ac.nz
021 279 9731
09 373 9731