

Summer Studentships 2026/2027

PROJECT TITLE:

Socially accountable interprofessional student learning activities: How does the community benefit?

AIM:

To use case study method to explore the characteristics of interprofessional education programme community projects in Tairāwhiti that have endured and made a difference to the community

METHODS:

Case study method

Background: a narrative literature review of the use of community projects as a learning activity by students

Cases: five to seven of Turanga Health's community projects undertaken by students in the Tairāwhiti interprofessional education programme over the last 15 years. Turanga Health is a well known and highly esteemed Māori Health Provider in Tairāwhiti. Otago University has a long established relationship with Turanga Health.

Data: original reports/presentations, interviews of past and current stakeholders regarding the value and outcomes including engagement and or use by community members (and Turanga Health)

Analysis: thematic analysis of interviews, comparison of original reports/presentations with current use

Outcome: a report which describes a range of enduring community projects and determines the characteristics of community projects

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE:

Setting socially accountable community projects for students to undertake is not a common learning activity in universities but can mean a lot to community-based sponsors and students alike. This project will conduct 5-7 case studies of community projects undertaken by students in the interprofessional education programme since 2012. These projects have been nominated by Turanga Health <https://www.turangahealth.co.nz/> and will illustrate a range of clinical, community and philosophical questions. We aim to determine the characteristics of these community projects and explore their long-term outcomes.

STUDENT'S ROLE AND EXPOSURE TO SCIENTIFIC METHOD:

The student will be asked to work with staff from University of Otago and the project sponsor Turanga Health. The student will be hosted at Mātai Institute <https://www.matai.org.nz/> along with Mātai Institute's summer students. This is a largely qualitative research project and will require enthusiasm to engage with the local community who seek health care services as well as staff at Turanga Health.

RELEVANT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS (Education or Research):

A senior health science student who is Māori or Pacific and who's hometown is Gisborne or in the wider Gisborne region. Will need a full driver's licence. Requires experience in qualitative interviewing, qualitative analysis and synthesis of information.

Main supervisor:	Prof Eileen McKinlay (UOW)	
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Other Supervisor/s:	Dr Tehmina Gladman (UOW), Sallie Sthory & Hiki Pihema (University of Otago- Gisborne), Dr Shirley Keown (Turanga Health) & Dr Oka Sanerivi (Mātai Institute)	
Host Department:	Primary Health Care- Wellington	
Location:	Gisborne	
	Can students work remotely?	No, must be a Gisborne resident during non-term time