



# **Tino Atonio-Johnston - First Year Undergraduate Bachelor of Sciences August 2016**

## **1. What made you enrol at the University of Otago?**

While visiting Dunedin on the Pacific On-campus Experience (POCE) scholarship in 2015 I experienced the support provided for students, saw the opportunities available and I also got to enjoy the atmosphere of the city. Discussing with other students the stereotypes associated with being Pacific we all experienced increased my motivation to break those preconceived ideas, to go to University and to achieve excellence. My family ties with the University of Otago also helped influence my decision, with my Mum and Cousin both studying here. I wanted the chance to be independent and have the chance to excel, I saw my best chances of doing that was here at the University of Otago.

## **2. What have you enjoyed most about your time at the University of Otago so far?**

I have enjoyed learning to be independent, at the start I struggled with making my own appointments and doing my own washing but now I enjoy having the freedom to make my own decisions. This has also helped me to realise my own potential as I have been challenged through my study and also living away from home. I have tested my limits and realised I am capable of more than I thought I ever was.

## **3. So far during your studies what key sources of support have you encountered at the University of Otago?**

I was assisted significantly before I even arrived at University through the Maori and Pacific Peoples' Entrance Scholarship, without this scholarship I would not have been able to experience this opportunity to study here at the University of Otago. Since being here in Dunedin, the Pacific Island Centre has lots of support, events and tutorials available for Pacific students. I also have signed up for Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) tutorials through the Student Learning Centre (SLC). These sessions involve learning from a student and getting lots of interaction time, I found this assisted greatly in my understanding of difficult concepts presented in lectures. The SLC also offered many workshops and I have attended a few including 'Time management' and 'Exam preparation' which helped my transition into University and how things worked.

**Pacific Development**

**PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand**

**Tel +64 3 479 8834 • Email [pacificdevelopment@otago.ac.nz](mailto:pacificdevelopment@otago.ac.nz)**

**[www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz)**