



**Ara**

Institute of Canterbury

Ara rau, taumata rau

# Pacific Handbook 2020

[ara.ac.nz](http://ara.ac.nz)





**A fia vave o’o lou  
va’a, alo na o’oe. Ae  
a fia tuli mamao le  
taunu’uga, tatou  
‘alo’alo fa’atasi.**

If you want to go fast,  
go alone; if you want  
to go far, go together.



Cover artwork:  
“Never forget where you came from”  
*Silvelio Fasi*

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# WELCOME

**Talofa lava, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, Bula Vinaka, Mālō e lelei, Mālō ni and warm Pacific greetings to you all.**



It is my huge pleasure to provide the warmest welcome on behalf of Ara Institute of Canterbury. We are thrilled that you've chosen to study here.

Ara is proud of the success of its Pacific students. With your voice, and the direction of the Pacific Advisory Group, we continue to develop support services, facilities and teaching that responds to your needs.

I strongly encourage you to get involved with student life as much as possible while you're at Ara. We hope while you're gaining a qualification to enhance your career opportunities that you'll develop friends for life (and possible future colleagues).

This booklet gives you plenty of tips and information that will help you to have a great experience at Ara.

There are no silly questions or wasted queries - please put us to the test. We're here with you throughout your study.

**Diana Law**  
**Manager, Student Support**

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## PACIFIC ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)



The Pacific Advisory Group (PAG) is established to provide leadership and influence to Ara as the institution continues to adapt to effectively support the participation, success and progression of Pacific students and their whānau as Pacific within Ara. PAG is an advisory group whose responsibilities are to bring forward ideas and points of view from community and other stakeholder discussion. It contributes to forums and gives feedback to networks, it is not operational.

**Patricia Siataga**  
**Chairperson**

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# THE PACIFIC ISLAND STUDENTS OF ARA (PISA)

## Warm Pacific greetings!

The Pacific Island Students of Ara (PISA) was established in July 2017 and we'd love you to join us.

Our vision is to see a stronger Pacific presence at Ara, and to empower and inspire our Pacific people. We aim to do this through motivating Pacific students to do their absolute best by bringing our culture into campus life. PISA hopes that by making our people feel

more at home and celebrating Pacific culture that they will feel supported enough to achieve whatever they set their mind to.

Search "Pacific Island Students of Ara - PISA" on Facebook for more information and regular updates of our meetings.

**Manuia le aso,  
PISA Executive Team**



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# PAYING FOR YOUR STUDIES

## STUDYLINK

One of the ways to fund your studies is applying for either a student loan and/or a student allowance. A student loan can help pay for:

- **Compulsory fees**
- **Course-related costs**
- **Living costs**

You will have to pay this back once you start working. A student allowance is a weekly payment that will help you with your living expenses while you're studying. You don't have to pay the money back. Please note: if you're under 24, your parents' income is taken into consideration.

To apply for a student loan and/or allowance, you'll need to have a RealMe account. If you don't have one, you can create a RealMe account at [www.realme.govt.nz](http://www.realme.govt.nz)

After creating your RealMe account, you can then follow Studylink's 'Seven Steps to your Student Finances'.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Ara offers a number of scholarships each year across a variety of study areas. We encourage you to apply if you think you might be eligible. If you have any questions regarding these, or you need some support, contact your Pacific advisor.

For up-to-date information about our scholarships visit:

[www.ara.ac.nz/study-options/scholarships](http://www.ara.ac.nz/study-options/scholarships)

## GIVME WEBSITE

Generosity New Zealand is a database of over 4000 scholarships, grants and awards for individuals. Enter your details on the website and the database will match you with possible scholarships you could apply for.

This site is free to access through Christchurch City Libraries.

[www.generosity.org.nz/giv-me](http://www.generosity.org.nz/giv-me)

Applying for a student loan and allowance can be a long and complicated process. Please see your Pacific student advisor for further assistance.

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# STUDENT SUPPORT

To ensure your success, our Pacific advisors are here to help you through the hurdles of studies.

## **Their role includes:**

- Assistance with StudyLink applications
- Assistance with enrolments/applications
- Cultural support
- Pastoral support
- Learning support
- Course and programme information
- Scholarship and hardship information
- Childcare scholarships
- Advice on study and exam preparations
- Assistance with change of programme, withdrawal and compassionate withdrawal applications
- Referral to internal and external services

## **Contact:**

studentsupport@ara.ac.nz

## **Visit:**

- Rakaia Centre, City campus, Christchurch
- Student Services Building, Woolston campus, Christchurch
- Arthur Street campus, Timaru
- Humber Street, Oamaru

## STUDENT ADVISORS



**Ariana Letiu**  
Pacific Student Advisor -  
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**Reverend Fitifiti Luatua**  
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**Fesili Togiaso - Iosefo**  
Pacific & Youth Advisor -  
City and Woolston campus  
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**Racheal Taula**  
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# STUDENT VOICE

Have you ever had an incredible idea and no one to share it with? Do you lie awake in bed and ponder over problems that you're facing? Do you ever feel like a plastic bag drifting through the wind, wanting to start again? Are you (or someone you know) a current student at Ara? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then I'd like to know you and hear what you have to say.

My name is Angus Howat and I'm Ara's Student Voice Co-ordinator for students from Oamaru to Christchurch and everywhere in between. I look after the representation of students throughout the organisation and do my best to make things better.

Within Ara, the Student Voice is a powerful tool to create change and we have lots of ways for that voice to be heard including:

- Student representatives
- Comment boxes
- Online feedback tools
- Focus groups
- Face-to-face testimonials
- Student Council

Everyone at Ara is seeking positive change to better support student success and wellbeing and we need your input to make that happen.





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## STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is made up of 28 elected students from across all departments and campuses who meet regularly to discuss issues within their departments and issues that span across the entire institution. The Student Council provides advice to the Chief Executive, providing a student's perspective on matters. It is a great opportunity to serve your community and to learn a lot from a diverse group of leaders.

If you're interested in giving it a go, feel free to get in touch with me or come and visit me in L232.



**Angus Howat**  
studentvoice@ara.ac.nz

*"The history of innovation is the story of ideas that seemed dumb at the time." - Andy Dunn*

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# STUDENT ADVOCACY

Student Advocacy is a free service for all students. The Student Advocate is here to assist students facing difficulties inside or outside Ara that are affecting their studies and their ability to achieve their academic goals. Listed below are some examples.

**For issues within Ara, the Student Advocate can:**

- Provide support with academic contracts and other related academic policies
- Provide support concerning relationship issues with either Ara staff or fellow students
- Liaise with tutors or head of schools regarding concerns you may have
- Inform you of Ara policies and procedures
- Advocate for the rights of an individual student, classes or the entire student body

**For issues outside Ara, the Student Advocate can:**

- Assist with problem-solving
- Provide advocacy and support with government and non-government agencies, e.g. StudyLink, Work & Income NZ
- Provide support with everyday life issues
- Provide support and referrals to address alcohol and drug issues, mental health issues, family violence, Court proceedings, housing issues and counselling

In summary, the Student Advocate will assist with anything that interferes with your study while at Ara institute of Canterbury.

The Student Advocate is a registered counsellor and a full member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors. They are bound by the Code of Ethics, Bicultural Code of Practice and Complaints Procedure of these organisations.

All records are kept in a locked office in a secure holding facility. All meetings between you and the advocate are confidential unless there are safety issues involved or permission has been granted by you.

**Contact:**



**Duncan Dunbar**

P: 03 940 8518

M: 027 273 6246

[duncan.dunbar@actionworks.org.nz](mailto:duncan.dunbar@actionworks.org.nz)



## PACIFIC STUDY SPACE

The Pacific Study Space is a dedicated learning space available for you to use seven days a week. It's a hub for you to connect with each other and get into a regular study routine.

The Study Space include computers and is intended for individual or group study as well as fono. You may like to drop in before, between or after classes to meet other students, check your emails, complete your assignments, and prepare for tests and exams.

The Study Space also gives students access to Learning Services Support to help you succeed in your study. The Pacific Learning Advisor is there during term time 3 - 4pm Tuesdays and Thursdays to help you develop your academic study skills.

The Pacific Study Space is newly established and demonstrates Ara's commitment to celebrating and supporting Pacific students. We hope that it will encourage stronger learning connections and a friendly support network between students.

When: 7am - 12am Monday - Sunday

Where: X302, Rakaia Centre, City campus

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# LEARNING SERVICES

Learning Services is a free service that offers learning and study advice to Ara students. We focus on supporting you to manage your study and to develop the academic skills required to complete coursework successfully.

## Learning Services provides the following:

- **Online and print resources:** these are available electronically and in print format from the Library or on My Ara
- **Study and writing workshops:** our workshops are held throughout the year and include topics such as getting started with your study, introduction to academic writing, essay writing and APA referencing
- **Lunchtime Q&A sessions:** a great opportunity to get advice from a learning advisor on writing and referencing questions
- **Maths support:** we offer daily appointments with a learning advisor, plus maths Q&A sessions (Monday-Friday, 12pm-1pm), and you can access electronic resources through the Maths Room Online via Moodle and My Ara.
- **PASS groups:** run by senior students who provide help with course content, these are weekly one-hour study groups set up to help you succeed in core first-year courses

For more information see **My Ara**.





## LEARNING SERVICES PACIFIC STUDENT SUPPORT

- Learning and study advice is available from our Pacific Learning Advisor
- Connect with peers and learn collaboratively in the Pacific Study Space X302
- Come along to Pacific Q&A Sessions in the Pacific Study Space (3-4pm Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time) to get support with your assignments, exam preparation and general study strategies

### Contacts:

P: 03 940 8089  
learningservices@ara.ac.nz  
myara/learning-services



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Pacific Learning Advisor  
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georgie.archibald@ara.ac.nz



**Bridget Lee-Rae**  
Learning Advisor  
Woolston campus  
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**Lisa Timmings**  
Learning Advisor  
Timaru, Ashburton & Oamaru  
campuses  
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E: lisa.timmings@ara.ac.nz



## CAREER SERVICES

Warm Pacific greetings from the Careers and Employment team at Ara. We provide free advice to current and prospective students, as well as our graduates.

We can help you with exploring your career options.

You may be looking for part-time work while you study as well as employment when you finish your studies. We can help you with job search, CVs, interviews and more.

If you're a current Ara student you can find work opportunities and full details of our services on My Ara. These services are available regardless of where you study, and you can access our helpful online resources at any time, even after you finish your studies.

We have drop-in times at the City campus between 11.30am and 1pm daily for quick CV checks etc (no appointment necessary) or if you need more time or want to chat with one of the team, then pop in or contact us for an appointment: [careers@ara.ac.nz](mailto:careers@ara.ac.nz) / 03 940 8720 or see My Ara. We look forward to working with you.



**Lynda Clegg**  
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# EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITIONS

The role of our Employment Transition team is to place you into work experience, full-time employment or an apprenticeship.



This includes providing necessary support that will enhance your learning journey. The support provided is ongoing until you've secured an employment outcome. We also encourage you to pursue further studies.

- Industry insight - covers the in-depth knowledge of industry cultures and expectations once offered employment
- Careers - provides interview tactics, curriculum vitae and job search skills/mock interviews
- ADT (alcohol, drugs testing) which takes place at work
- The importance of Pacific culture - a Pacific representative is invited to talk about Pacific heritage. This also includes a visit to the Christchurch museum
- Pacific community project - Pacific student involvement with projects e.g. painting a school/work experience
- Team building - complete tasks as a group and improve communication skills
- Community law - presentation from experts to provide information on legal support



## **Martin Yeki**

Pacific Employment Transition  
Liaison

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# ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Engagement team is responsible for engaging with industry, community, iwi and secondary schools throughout the wider Canterbury region and nationally.

## **Youth and Community Development Representatives:**

- Engage with school and community groups for youth under 25
- Implement and facilitate programmes to better engage students
- Work with communities, including the Pacific community, to simplify what Ara has to offer

## **Workforce Development Representatives:**

- Connect with community, church groups and organisations
- Assist businesses to grow staff capability through professional development
- Focus on Māori and Pacific Trades Training
- Create employment or work experience for Ara students



### **Sua Tauti**

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Engagement Services  
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### **Simo Faitaua**

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### **Ateca Sher – Fiji Bachelor of Nursing**

After a lot of contemplation, I decided to further my education to become a Registered Nurse.

First I did a one-year course at Hagley College, then a pre-health qualification at Ara. It wasn't easy transitioning back into student life; I was intimidated at first because I was a mature student and hadn't studied science at high school. However, in that pre-health course I enjoyed my biology and chemistry classes and made an awesome circle of friends.

I started the Bachelor of Nursing in 2018. It was a major step up requiring immense commitment, dedication and focus. Ara offers a strong learning environment, combining nursing theory with application during clinical practice. I'm now about to complete my second year of the degree and I've developed my nursing skills by improving the therapeutic relationship and increasing my understanding of anatomy and pathophysiology.



I feel very fortunate being a Pacific student because of the services provided to us.

I've faced many challenges as a nursing student, especially losing my father and both of my parents-in-law within a year. However, through perseverance and motivation from my supportive family I was able to pick myself up, move forward and focus on succeeding. I'm grateful that the nursing tutors and staff assist students when in need. I recommend Ara as the best tertiary institution for the Bachelor of Nursing because of these supportive staff.

I feel very fortunate being a Pacific student because of the services provided to us, for example our own Pacific support staff and the Pacific Study Space. I'm also grateful that Georgie Archibald (Pacific Learning Advisor) is able to assist me to improve my assignments at Ara, regardless of my academic grade.

My main career focus is to become a Registered Nurse in the Canterbury region so that I can help improve the health of our Pacific community and Canterbury as a whole. I thank my husband for his endless support, and my children, parents, families and the Kikau family for being there for me and my family in times of need, especially during clinical placement.

*Vinaka saka.*



You will be supported every step of the way by the amazing staff and support services at Ara.



## **Dianne Williams – Cook Islands Diploma in Enrolled Nursing**

Since childhood, I've always envisioned myself working in the medical sector. My journey began this year in March when I was accepted into the Diploma in Enrolled Nursing programme. Within a week I went from a stay-at-home mum to a full-time student.

The reason I chose Ara was because I'd seen how supportive and encouraging the staff were and, most importantly, the high success rate of students studying enrolled nursing.

It's been an amazing experience being studying at the Manawa campus, with state-of-the-art technology and tools available for us to succeed in our learning.

The thing I've enjoyed most about the programme is my clinical placements. I've not only been able to get a glimpse of what it's like working in the field but I've been able to apply what I've learned in the classroom.

I feel so lucky to have been given the opportunity to study at Ara. I've loved every part of my course and have felt so supported by my lecturers and peers. I can't wait to graduate and begin my future career as an Enrolled Nurse, where I have the option of changing pathways and doing more study at Ara to become a Registered Nurse.

Dedication, motivation and support play major part in tertiary studies. As I have no family here in Christchurch, I've had to make big sacrifices and meticulously prioritise my studies at home. Although it's been challenging at times, what's pulled me through is knowing that I'm gathering the knowledge and tools that will greatly benefit me once I enter the workforce.

My advice for our Pacific people wanting to study at Ara is to believe in yourself and know that you will be supported every step of the way by the amazing staff and support services at Ara. They'll help you make that dream career of yours a reality. All you have to do is take that first step and apply.

I would like to say a huge thank you to my husband and son for being my greatest supporters and motivation.



The staff are genuine and very welcoming.



### **Joshua Vaifale – Samoa New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills Level 3**

As a school student in 2018, I set plan for my future. An Ara staff member assisted me in taking the first step and in 2019 at age 19 I completed my Level 3 carpentry qualification at Ara.

During my studies at the Woolston campus I grew my knowledge base, gained new skills and tried new things. I was honoured to lead the Woolston students' haka group for Kapa Haka and pick up an apprenticeship before my study year finished.

The carpentry course is a highlight of my life. I'm grateful for all the support and guidance I was given from my tutor and the student advisors. The staff are genuine and very welcoming which created a fanau-based environment - this was the point of difference for me to succeed.

My main motivation to continue and complete my studies is my mother. She was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year and I would like to give back to my parents for all the sacrifices they have made for me and my siblings.

My future plans consist of completing my apprenticeship with Metro Construction and returning to Ara to study a Bachelor of Construction Management. This will hopefully lead me to my goal of starting my own business and eventually taking this back to Samoa. I'd like to start up a technology school so I can share with the people of my culture new skills and knowledge to better themselves, their homes and their country.

If there's any advice I could offer new Pacific students it would be to keep the faith, hang in there and persevere through the moments you feel like you want to give up. Keep it in the back of your mind that you're creating a pathway for your own future, your children and future generations to come.



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For more information:



0800 24 24 76



ara.ac.nz