

# Craccum

EST. 1927

"Shit, you're still here?"

HEY GUYS  
WHY IS OUR'S  
KINDA DARK  
& SCARY

IT'S AVANT  
GARDE

CRACCUM  
2024

MINI VERY  
REMINISCENT OF  
BOLTANSKI

WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED  
TO BE CUZ US CS  
KIDS ARE OUT

NEPO BABIES

CRACCUM  
2024

## Postgrad Edition

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**BOOK  
TODAY!**



*Free*  
**GRADUATION  
PHOTOS**

6TH-8TH & 14TH MAY  
12 - 4PM  
ALBERT PARK



MON  
6TH



TUES  
7TH



WEDS  
8TH



TUES  
14TH



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**YOU! JUST SEND US AN EMAIL!**

# To be or not to be

## A student-loan holder or in the pursuit to be free

KIERAN PANUI & KALA TAKEBE BURGESS

**A**re you not ready to leave school just yet? Well, postgrad is the perfect opportunity for you to explore your choice of degree and academic limits further. And for those of you who are pursuing a postgraduate degree, Craccum gives its hardest thumbs up to you.

In today's competitive job market, the pursuit of higher education has become increasingly common. Many students see postgrad studies as an opportunity to deepen knowledge, enhance skills and advance career prospects. Who wouldn't want that extra title to set you apart from the other students, even if it means you end up with more student debt?

But getting into postgrad studies is not so easy. First, you have to research the right program for you. Then, go through the dreadful application program that seems like it's never-ending. Another concern may be the finances. The university offers multiple funding options such as scholarships, grants and assistantships.

In Craccum's first postgraduate-orientated issue, we hear from a range of voices about the opportunities, deficits, and anecdotes about the graduate lifestyle. Postgrad is a step up from undergraduate education. This means there is a heavier academic workload and expectations. You have to manage your time effectively, organise your time, and have self-discipline. Most

importantly, you have to Network! While this may seem like a lot and require a lot of dedication, hard work and SACRIFICE, the rewards you get can be significant. It is an investment in yourself and your future. If you are considering taking the step into higher academic education, seize the moment and think about it. Start researching. Remember, the possibilities are endless, and you get so much out of it!

Whether you are going into postgrad or currently studying in a higher programme, or simply here because you adore our writers, welcome to another week of madness.







**APPLICATIONS CLOSE  
19 JULY 2024**



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📍 **AUSA house, 4 Alfred St, Opposite the Main Library**  
☎ **09 309 0789** 🌐 **www.ausa.org.nz** ✉ **advocacy@ausa.org.nz**

# The Union Is On The Move.

## A Report On The Developing Scene of Politics Affecting Students.



ALAN WU & TREVOR PRONOSO



The New Zealand Union of Students' Association (NZUSA) published in 2022 a national report on student wellbeing, known as The People's Inquiry. Collecting the various stories of individual students like you and myself, the organisation presented some damning figures that bleed the colours of reality.

The previous government set student allowance at unliveable rate, with the understanding that students will be subsidised by their parents. The report indicated that **only 40% of students receive any financial help from family**. The previous government also suggested students could take on work while studying >50 hours per week. **The data showed 64% of students sacrifice time in class in order to work and afford to pay for bare necessities.** More

information can be found in the report linked below.

Venturing past the frontlines of tertiary education, it is said that job cuts have reached an excess of 3000 roles across the public service. With cuts of roughly 7% across ministries, the Ministry of Education announced the greatest reduction of the entire public sector. A total of 565 positions have been removed, with substantial cuts made in the Ministry for Children, Oranga Tamariki, and the Department of Internal Affairs. Estimates expect that close to 5000 workers will lose their jobs in the Public Service.

Back at the homefront, one of the biggest items affecting students has been a long-discussed merger between the Auckland University Students Association (AUSA) and

the Post Graduate Students Association (PGSA). As early as 2018, there were discussions and a general sentiment for combining the two organisations. In 2022, an MOU\* was signed, and it has seen continuous development since then.

As of this year, the PGSA is in the formal process of its dissolution. Among other things, AUSA is also moving forward with a constitutional review, of which details will be released at this year's AGM.\* This is not the first time AUSA has mentioned the merger this year. On February 28th, Alan Shaker sat down with 95bFM for an interview and relayed the similar points he had provided to us at Craccum.

The merger is one of many decisions that are part of AUSA's larger restructuring and long-term planning for students. He





attributes this as part of a wider, ten-year strategic plan overseen by AUSA staff and General Manager David Fulton, which would hopefully lay the groundwork for long-term, tangible and effective change.

With the intention to gather a comprehensive understanding of this change, the Craccum news team sought comments from AUSA's President, Alan Shaker, and Post-Graduate Officer, Ben Bonn , to better grasp what this development entails. We also appreciate contributions from post-graduate student and Craccum Pasifika Editor Tua Taito; he was the Pasifika and Rainbow Officer for the PGSA in 2022. His comments provide a helpful general understanding of a PGSA member's perspective in relation to the merger.

*Alan and Ben's comments:*

## What were the original reasons for the merger?

**"Essentially, we wanted to become one student association and speak with one collective voice."**

*"This would present a stronger student voice to our students and to the University. In my view, this would send a stronger message to the University and show that we are a united and collective student body. It would allow us to truly represent all students."*

## What would a merger achieve?

*"One of the advantages of the merger is that more resources and support will be able to be put towards supporting our postgraduate students here at the University of Auckland. In recent years, PGSA has not received much support beyond the student volunteers who have led it."*

*Whilst AUSA is similarly led by students, a key difference is that AUSA also has an existing team of amazing full-time staff members who do a great job of supporting the AUSA student executive to put on events, provide expertise to students, and ensure that student voice is being communicated with the university on various levels."*

*Therefore the merger between AUSA and PGSA will allow for greater resourcing to be put towards postgraduate events, initiatives and campaigns in the future. Bring it on!"*

## Are you able to share what the plans for the future of AUSA would look like?

*"AUSA will be going through a lot of changes to accommodate this merger."*

**For starters, at our AGM we will propose establishing a new executive role. The Education Vice-President (Postgraduate)**

**will be formed and will sit on many high-level University committees alongside the Education Vice-President (Undergraduate).**

*We will still also continue to have a Postgraduate Officer on our Executive too. AUSA will also take over the management of the Postgraduate Lounge in Level 4 and will run the "Lunch & Learn" events for PG students. So it's going to be a lot of change, but good change because it allows us to support Postgraduate students even more and do more for them through our resources and staff."*

*Tua's comment:*

## What is your opinion on it? Is it a good merger for you?

*"My understanding is that PGSA is an entity that is, for an obvious reason, a space for postgrads to mingle. It is a safe space where their struggles can relate or share and help each other out."*

*The merger, I feel, is happening because there isn't a lot of heavy engagement with PGSA's student activities compared to other UoA clubs; this is due to the high demand for postgrad study in general."*

*Thus, the merger will allow more connection with student activities from not just within postgrad students but undergrad students too."*

Clearly, there are multiple developments taking place across the campus as we speak. Although university may be a temporary space that we pass through, it certainly will be one of our most memorable moments. Alongside the friendships you build while studying, ensure that you do not hide yourself away from the evolving social and physical environment that is your education.

The knowledge you gain now will be incredibly valuable, particularly if you continue studying at the university. I encourage you all to attend the upcoming AGM and ask queries about your situation as a student. Take part and learn; a better understanding of the system we are part of will only be more beneficial for us while we are here. It can become lonely being a student and dealing with our own struggles. Finding others who are like ourselves grants us the chance to build each other up. After all, there is strength in unity, not in discord.

If you have not registered as a member of AUSA, I encourage you to do so for the upcoming AGM, where I hope to catch some of you. You can do this through one of the QR codes at the end of this article. Until then, keep safe.

## Appendix

- An **MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)** is a non-binding document between parties that shows an alignment of their intentions. This can be thought of as a formal agreement before a contract but can also be used by parties who cannot create a legally enforceable contract.
- The **AGM (Annual General Meeting)** is a yearly meeting whereby key information, such as the annual report, is presented to members of a non-profit organisation. These are mandated to be held no later than six months after an organisation's balance date. This is a wonderful chance for members (students) to attend and understand what is going on on campus and ask questions; this year, the AGM will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.



People's Inquiry Into Student Wellbeing 2022.



An Updated Tally Of The Public Sector Job Cuts.



Campus Watch With AUSA President: Alan Shaker February 28, 2024.



AUSA Membership Registration

# HOW TO BE A POST-GRAD

## THE LONG STAY AT UOA



OLIVER COCKER

First things first, an honours degree is a postgraduate study. I don't know this misinformation that spreads, but this is the official university position. Alongside that, you have graduate diplomas, post-graduate certificates/diplomas, and your classic Masters and PhD. By the way, the Philosophiae doctor is not just a Doctor of Philosophy with the initials reversed.

What is the difference between postgraduate diplomas and certificates? Diplomas take longer, and you need them when applying for a Master's degree. Certificates are shorter courses that build your knowledge and may add employability; otherwise, they can be relegated to LinkedIn.

There is an English language requirement, and UoA assumes you have it if you were born in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Ireland, the UK, Singapore, and the US. I'm not saying there's something strange about Caribbean islands, the large swathes of Africa where English is now the norm or any of the Pacific Islands whose own languages have been pushed to the brink by English not being on the list. But I am saying that it is very suspicious.

But you want to know how to get into postgrad because that's what the title says, and I would never mislead you in a Craccum article header. So, let us start simple. Finish your Bachelor's Degree. There's only one postgraduate course I could find that did not need an undergrad,

but it was a diploma in business, and instead required you to have four years of work experience and sell your soul.

**SOMETIMES, THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS. YOU MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A PORTFOLIO OR PLAN FOR CREATIVE WRITING OR ART, AS THEY ARE COMPETITIVE COURSES.**

Of course, you need a minimum grade, just like when you were trying to get into your course at the beginning. Across the board, a four, or an average of a B- will get you into a diploma, and a five, or B in the diploma

or your honours degree, will get you into a Master's programme. There are some exceptions. If you want to teach primary or secondary school with the coveted Graduate Diploma and start higher on the teachers' pay scale, you only need a two-point-four or somewhere between a C and C+.

Then you need to decide. Research Master's or taught Master's? It is not a choice for some degrees. A Master of Architecture can only be researched and is a prerequisite for becoming an architect. I wonder why they do not combine the undergrad with it and make one five-year degree. They force it on conjoint law students.

Speaking of law students. Getting honours or a diploma is optional before earning your higher-level degrees. But you can betray me and use your perfectly nice law degree for a Master of Taxation Studies. And I know we need people who are tax experts. And some downright delightful people are experts in tax. But please, don't throw it all away to be an accountant.

In the same vein, trawling through the pages of programmes that the University provides, I



came across the MInfraAssetMgt. The Master of Infrastructure Asset Management is to equip you for a "rapidly growing" and "exciting field." Again, if I am to commit another year or two to UoA, I just don't think I would be able to stomach whatever that really is.

Anyway, if you choose the research side of things, you will need a supervisor. That is an Academic at the University tangentially related to your chosen topic and will agree to manage your programme.

**PICK THEM WELL, IF YOU CAN. YOU HAVE BEEN STUCK WITH THEM FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS, AND IF THEY DO NOT ANSWER YOUR EMAILS NOW, THEY CERTAINLY WILL NOT COME MARKING SEASON FOR EXAMS.**

If you pass that with a six or a B+, you will get entry into the PhD programme as long as you have done some research in the past. Obviously, doing a research Master's helps here, but you can also do it through external work or a lab tech job. Same problems with the supervisor, except this time, you're locked in for at least three years. If you manage an eight or A in your GPA, you also automatically qualify for the doctoral stipend of thirty-three thousand dollars each year of your degree.

**PEOPLE ARE GOING TO WANT THAT. POSTGRAD IS EXPENSIVE.**

On the cheap end, you are looking at ten thousand more on your course fees, and if you want to become a Master of Management, you are looking more at the twenty-five thousand mark.

Heaven forbid you have to pay international fees, which are about four times higher for non-PhD programmes. The government subsidises the cost of a PhD for international students down to the price of a domestic student.

So, committing to postgraduate studies is a big call. I know people who have had to stop halfway through and move on with their lives instead. In the end, you have an undergraduate already, and we all know most employers care little about your qualifications from University, even two jobs down the line.

But those extra years at university do afford you more opportunities. They extend you, if not for money, but for the sheer joy of knowledge itself. I hope that with any degree, you will be able to make enough to live on, so the choice to go further is only for personal growth.

**AND, OF COURSE, IF YOU SHOULD LIKE TO INSTRUCT THE NEXT GENERATION OF UNISTUDENTS, THEY WANT THEIR PROFESSORS TO HAVE POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION.**



# Now What?

## The dreaded question



REEMA ARSILAN

"So, what are you going to do once you've graduated?"

Cue a few minutes of bullshitting, some ums and some ahs, and if this occurs at a family gathering (as these things tend to do) maybe even sidling into another room or pretending my mouth is full until the questioner gives up.

Under halfway through an undergraduate degree, the far off and distant future of two years from now is hard to fathom. It's creeping up, slowly but surely, no matter how mind-numbingly endless the slog through assignments and quizzes might feel. So what happens at the end of the road?

If you're one of those rare and magical students that knows exactly what direction their life is going to take and how they're going to get there, congratulations. For everyone else, I wish you luck. Personally, I picked my degree out of interest for the subject. Maybe you had some vague idea of a future career, or picked something your parents liked, or something you thought would be easy to pass hungover. In any case, the future remains largely uncertain for many of us.

Even for those with everything worked out, something unexpected could derail those plans and have you wind up going in a completely different direction. Taking a random paper as a gen ed could have you discovering a passion that you change your degree for. You might not even make it to graduation at all.

If you do find yourself at graduation and still indecisive and directionless, don't fret. Maybe you'll find a job in your field, or adjacent, or tangentially related in a very convoluted way. Maybe you'll do something completely different. How much does it matter what you studied a few years out, anyway? If you still need more time to procrastinate that decision, maybe you can just aimlessly do postgraduate study until you get there (this is not a recommended approach but no one can stop you).

Decisions like what to do with your life don't have to be made in a hurry, and don't have to be irreversible. In the meantime, figure out a way to distract your relatives, and then let me know what it is.





# RALLY TO THE CAUSE

## THE RETURN OF THE STUDENT PROTEST



OLIVER COCKER

It was the first of May, a sunless day, and the war rooms of University management must have been in blitz. A planned encampment had transformed into a rally, but tents were still being erected. At least one-hundred-and-seventy-five people started to withhold their rent to protest the living conditions and prices of halls. A United Churches meeting was being held in the OGGB as the revival of their movement. Flyers are pinned to every corkboard in every mildewed causeway and atrium on Campus.

As usual, your Features Editor found himself the bespectacled spectator. I was there long after the sun had set, standing on the fringes of the Student Justice for Palestine Rally, bathed in the mustard glow of the Alfred Street lamps. When it burst into life in the midafternoon, there could easily have been in excess of two hundred people in the space outside the library, and by the closing karakia, a few over fifty remained.

There were four tents on the concrete, tied to bollards and trees or desperately pegged into the dirt gaps between the stone bricks. A gazebo had been set up to house the technical equipment for the inevitable rain bursts, and occasionally, people would retreat to the cover of the general library. 'alam Filasṭīn, or the Flag of Palestine, were plenty

in their number. They were often backed by the Tino Rangatiratanga flag, with chants in English, Māori, and Arabic echoing over the repair of Old Choral Hall.

With the sheer number of protests, an activist network is growing in the mycelium of the University. Day by day, groups from the University of Auckland and AUT are linking up. Disruption by disruption, those groups are linking together, supporting each other. I look in the crowd and see the same face staring back with each new dawn, just surrounded by a few more faces, less wearied and steeled to action.

It has been some time since a mobilisation of this magnitude started to build steam. I could point to the initiative for the GPA boost in the Covid years, though that was led from the top by AUSA. Many, admittedly not I, were first introduced into this sphere by the School Strikes for Climate. There have been many others, and speakers on the night at the rally mentioned their efforts at protesting Papua, Sudan, and even South Africa. But there is another cosmic convergence of action in the making at the University.

And it is easy to dismiss it as having no real impact. Maybe the University has few ties to Israel. But that rally reached six of the highest-viewed media outlets in this country and stimulated a little more discussion. Just because you focus on the University doesn't mean you can't sweep wide enough to bring a little more into the cause. And they will need it. I am led to believe that the rally is only the first in a series of steps for

the movement. We shall watch that space carefully.

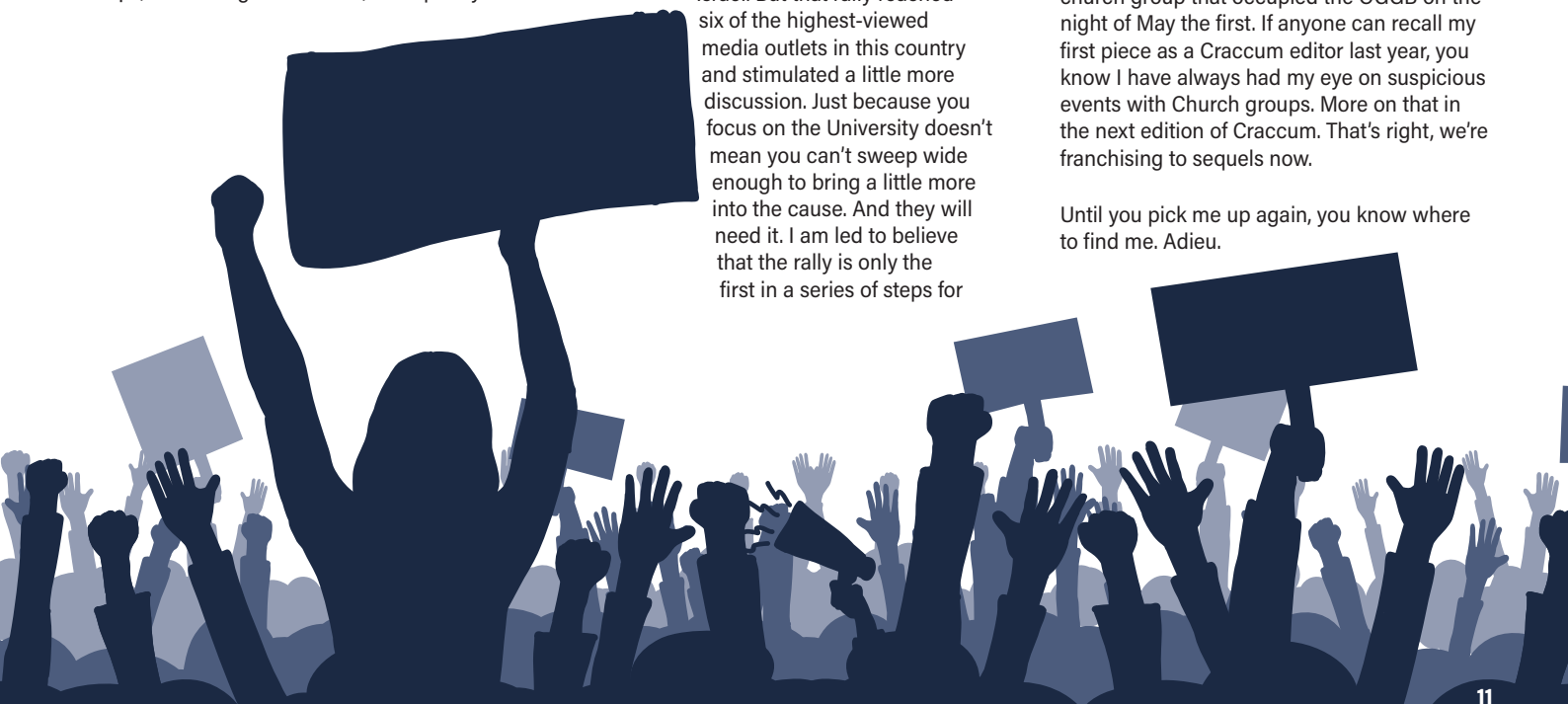
While the Vice Chancellor may threaten the might of the terms and conditions of the University contract on whomever might disturb the peace, it is fair to say that students are starting to rouse each other from the waking dream. Students hold the power. You have been told all your life that you are the future, and now is your chance to take it between your hands and run. Time will pass you by whether you act or not. Regret will come to only those who do nothing.

Also, I know it is annoying when you are trying to take a test in a neighbouring building. And I hope ralliers are considerate of accessways for disabled people and those who need to get through. But they're here to make noise. Keep informed of the various student groups' actions, and you will always know when not to be where.

I did reach out to the Police to find out about their advice regarding the cancellation of the encampment, but they did not get back in time. When that response is received, you, dear reader, will be the first to be informed.

Equally, a complaint has been raised about the church group that occupied the OGGB on the night of May the first. If anyone can recall my first piece as a Craccum editor last year, you know I have always had my eye on suspicious events with Church groups. More on that in the next edition of Craccum. That's right, we're franchising to sequels now.

Until you pick me up again, you know where to find me. Adieu.





PASIFIKA

## Navigating a global pandemic: Sāmoan women's experiences of COVID-19.

An exploratory study of the sociocultural contributors that impacted upon Sāmoan women's positive wellbeing through COVID-19

Sarah Ann McLean-Orsborn

A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Pacific Studies, The University of Auckland, 2023. This thesis is for examination purposes only and is confidential to the examination process.

# Reflecting On The Past And Honouring Loved Ones

A Pacific Postgrad Journey with PhD Candidate now Lecturer  
and Soon to be Dr Sarah McLean-Orsborn



IATUA FELAGAI TAITO



I got the privilege to interview a beautiful Samoan woman who is incredibly intelligent but also kind, hard-working and inspiring. Some context of what she has done academically is that she has attained her BA in Criminology & Pacific Studies, BA (Hons) in Criminology, PGDipHSc in Health Science, MA in Pacific Studies and in September this year will graduate with her PhD in Pacific Studies which will make her a Doctor and expert in her field of research around health and wellbeing for Pacific women in Aotearoa.

She clearly is resilient and an academic in her field who is now a full-time Lecturer for Te Wānanga o Waipapa | School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies in her final year as a PhD Candidate which for anyone who is in academia understands such a huge feat that is.

However, her journey into postgrad was quite different as she explains that it was her Samoan mum when it came to her undergrad, told Sarah that she had to do it.

"My idea was to leave school and get a job and work which is what my parents did so why would I do anything different?"

She explains in her Honours year in Criminology that her research was around Pacific peoples' deportation rates which weren't formally documented nor for the reasons for that. Which made her more concerned around Pacific people's portrayal in media as well as the inequities that Pacific communities were facing.

"I went to Jemaima (currently our Pro Vice-Chancellor Pacific and Professor) who'd been my Stage 3 lecturer and I had her throughout my undergraduate degree... So I reached out to her and talked about what I could potentially do".

In hopes to find the best way to serve Pacific



SARAH WITH HER MENTOR, MA SUPERVISOR AND NOW PHD SUPERVISOR PRO VICE CHANCELLOR PACIFIC PROFESSOR JEMAIMA TIATIA-SIAU

communities, Sarah was going to go to Unitec to get a Certificate in Mental Health to be a frontline worker. And while Professor Jemaima offered her support if that was what Sarah was set on, she also offered guidance and shared that in order to make systemic changes that would have the profound impact Sarah was wanting to achieve, getting a PhD to influence policy would be her best pathway.

As a result, that inspired Sarah to continue the long haul of study from undergraduate all the way to postgraduate now. Throughout that journey she went from her Honours degree in Criminology to do a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences then to do her Masters degree in Pacific Studies at Waipapa Taumata Rau.

"My Masters was a tumultuous time cos mum got sick, and I was very fortunate to submit my Masters and mum was alive. And the day I came back from submitting the hard-copy, she said "so PhD is next".

Although Sarah continued on to do her PhD, prior to Sarah receiving her Masters grade back, Sarah's beautiful mum Eunice passed away. As a result, Sarah explains that her mum wasn't able to celebrate the news of her grade which also guaranteed Sarah a full scholarship to fulfil her mum's wishes of undertaking a PhD. And personally I know that her beautiful mother would've been proud of her.

She further acknowledges her Dad, Mum and her grandparents and their fruits of labour which allowed Sarah to go so far in her career.

"My grandparents, and mum moved when she was 4 from Samoa to Aotearoa in 1962 because they were wanting a better life and they wanted better opportunities for the next generations that would come".

She states that her Mum had to deal with racism when a little palagi lady said to her mum that "she'll make a great cleaner growing up". It showed her limiting view on a Pacific woman as that was the only aspiration for her.

These experiences further justified why her grandparents chose to assimilate within the European culture of Aotearoa and stopped speaking Samoan at home, resulting in Sarah's mum and uncle losing their mother tongue. This decision to prioritise English continued even when the grandchildren were born as Sarah's grandparents refused to teach Samoan due to their steadfast understanding and belief that English was the key to success and their education.

"So it's cool coming through Pacific Studies and doing all that I am doing to recentre Pacific Indigenous knowledges, to recentre Samoan values and knowledges into the work I'm doing cos it has been something that has been disconnected from me".

"So getting into PhD was really cool because



SARAH WITH HER MUM EUNICE

obviously I didn't want to do this, then all these years later I am fulfilling something I hadn't fully realised that my grandparents and parents were working towards this whole time whether inadvertently or advertently in order for me to do... so with this realisation it has been such a privilege to undertake it".

Especially as a means of reconnecting with her cultural heritage which allowed her opportunities to teach and work in Pacific spaces. She also states that she had such a strong family support around her as she was doing her PhD too.

"Especially doing a global pandemic and despite all the concerns that were going on, never once did they ever suggest or ask "are you gonna give up your PhD?"

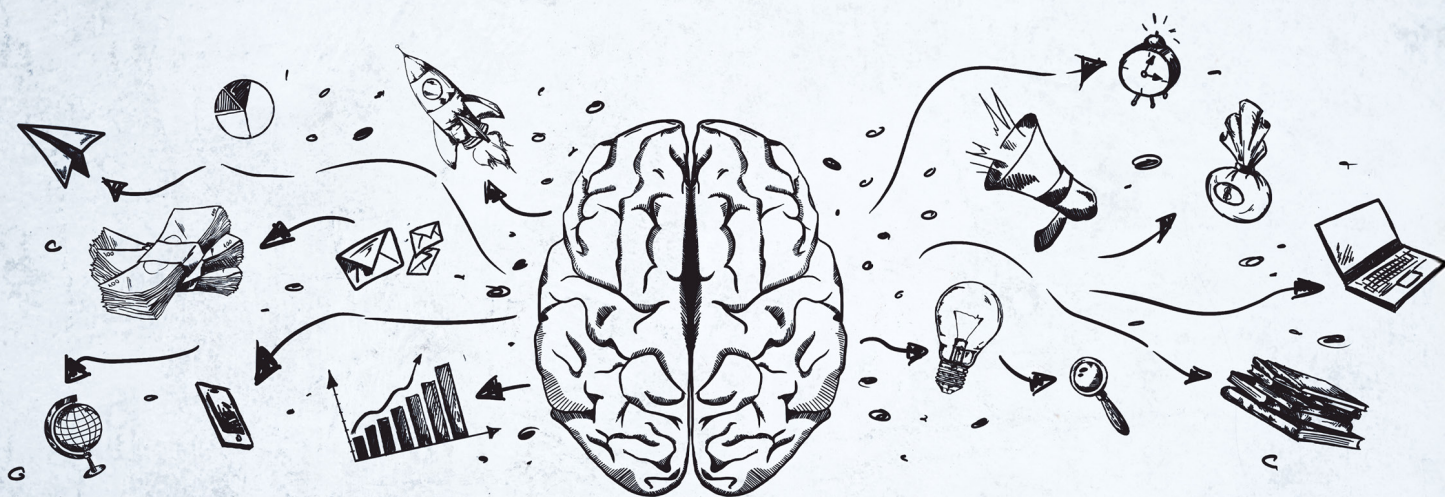
"And as a Pacific person, we appreciate at the end the support rallying around us... by letting us have this grace and space to complete it".

"I'll be the first in my family with a PhD both in immediate and extended and so it's a beautiful way to honour my mum and grandparents who aren't here to see it, and also really cool to have my Dad's name listed on historical records that I did it".

I then asked Sarah if she has any final advice for anyone wanting to do postgrad study she explains below:

"If you're looking at wanting to do a Postgraduate degree, you don't have to have an idea of what the job is going to be at the end of it... because when you are doing things that you genuinely love and enjoy and that you're interested in you'll find doors will open up because people will see you have the heart for it and that you're the right person... because at the end of the day the world is constantly changing and so the beautiful thing about doing a arts degree is that we can be fluid and just know there will always be opportunities".





# WHAT DOES A PĀKEHĀ POST-GRAD THINK?

AN INTERVIEW WITH AN  
URBAN PLANNING POST-GRADUATE



BLAZE WEBSTER

I have always wondered if postgraduate degrees outside of Māori studies leave room for a Māori unit or course. Do students know how to approach Māori subjects/topics in their field?

With the limited resources I have, I decided to approach a pākehā Urban planner that is soon to graduate with his Urban Planning degree with Honours. His name is Artie Kouts, he currently works full-time at Kaipara District Council in Mangawhai. While working there in the Resource Consents department, he told me he has encountered iwi and hapū in his practice. That made me wonder, has his degree

prepared him in confronting iwi about what they are allowed to build on their own land? Or has he already had a crash course of Māori culture in his papers?

**DID ANY OF YOUR PAPERS  
HAVE A MAORI UNIT? IF SO,  
HOW MANY PAPERS AND  
HOW LONG WERE THEY?**

*"There were two specific courses/papers that focused on Māori issues; URBPLAN 305 and a URBPLAN studio on Māori economics. 305 was literally called 'Māori Planning Issues', and we covered the history and issues of Māori in the development of their*

*land, including terminology and the statutory rights within different laws and planning documents.*

*I personally learnt a lot about how connected iwi are to their whenua; this really left a mark on me, as I learnt to appreciate the values that certain maunga, views and viewshafts, landscapes, and wāhi tapu may have in the 'real' world. I remember there was also a segment about Tino Rangatiratanga, of which I enjoyed, as it allowed me to dive deeper into understanding the independence that iwi and hapū ask for. My favourite was the huge segment on the Treaty and the principles*



of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (very controversial, but boils down to the need to protect Māori rights to Participation, Protection, and Partnership.) I enjoyed this as it allowed me to explore my own understanding of where I will work with iwi and hapū in the future.

Both courses were one semester, and rather brief, but they gave a good understanding of Te Ao Māori in Planning. They allowed us to see the deeper connections iwi/hapū may have to whenua, landscapes, or other natural resources."

### IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WISHED YOUR PAPERS WENT OVER WITHIN MĀORI CULTURE OR VALUES WITHIN YOUR WORK?

"I think uni courses struggle with 'easing' people into the cultures of both differing iwi/hapū and Te Ao Māori itself—at least in my course of URBPLAN. We went through a lot of things in our courses, and I would say it became overwhelming when we had to pack a lot of learning into one or two specific courses, and I would imagine it was a whole lot more for those peeps who did not grow up in New Zealand and were introduced to Te Ao Māori within the same time they took those courses.

I think this shows a lack of some courses in understanding different student's needs. Sure, there were Pasifika-Māori students in the class who thrived and absorbed information easily, but there were also international students who probably struggled to keep up with new terminology or Te Reo. Maybe a strong introductory course would have been great, in the first year!"

### WERE THOSE COURSES RELEVANT TO WHAT YOU ARE DOING NOW? DO YOU THINK THEY WILL BECOME RELEVANT?

"I would say they are, but it is difficult to say. Iwi and Hapū are treated as single statutory groups for consultation in Resource Consents in my work. For example, in order to consult iwi—or for iwi to ask for consultation—in the world of Resource Consents under the current legislation, negative effects of a development would have to be considered severe or untreatable (we call this 'minor' or 'more than minor'). Whilst it is also rare to enforce consultation, certain iwi and hapū are proactive, and sometimes propose treatments to negative effects to the best extent they can and Council likely takes those treatments on-board.

In particular, they may ask Council to impose rules about 'Accidental Discovery Protocols' on a development that requires moving 2,000 square metres of soil; this allows the iwi to intervene when applicable, especially when a wāhi tapu or midden is discovered without being too overbearing to the rights of those who wanna build a new house near the coast. It is a balancing act in most cases. In sensitive cases, I have taken Te Tiriti Principles very seriously, and enforced consultation when contaminated soils were moved near a river-natural environment.

So, in comparison to what I learnt at uni though, it was helpful but not really; as I said, we learnt about history and certain examples. What I took from these courses were more high-level. I got a strong grasp of Te Tiriti and the legal Te Tiriti o Waitangi Principles; I am sensitive when it comes to working with iwi and hapū, and I am respectful of the work they do, and know

when consultation is required. Does this make an impact in the long-run? I hope so."

### HAVE YOU LEARNT ANYTHING WHILE WORKING AS AN URBAN PLANNER THAT YOU THINK NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT IN YOUR DEGREE?

"I learnt that the nature of work and studying is very different. At uni, you seem to stress about the constant timelines and dates to study for a test or do an assignment; at work, I sort of adapted to multi-tasking and managing my time wisely. Maybe I was forced into doing so, maybe I just grew into it, but I am certain I was not like this during my first years at uni.

Maybe university study naturally emphasises the optimism of the future, but work sometimes is more black and white. Whether this is a good thing or this ambient 'monotony' needs to be taught in my degree is a big question; I would say no. University should be a time of discovery and picking a work direction. Work is work..."

From what Artie said, it sounds like he's got some decent education within a Māori perspective in Urban Planning. With the knowledge provided in the papers that he has stated, Artie seems to have a fundamental view on how to approach iwi, and also a seemingly developed respect for Māori with whom he works with. Not every postgraduate degree has papers dedicated to Māori education in their field or even units sometimes; Artie's course serves as a strong example on integrating Māori studies into a foreign topic. If studies and/or careers have some relation to working around Māori topics, like whenua or wāhi tapu, students need foundational knowledge of the Māori lens and why their kōrero impacts our whānau.

## On this Week's edition of the Cum-Laude Craccum Podcast

BENN WEST AND BEN LUO

Welcome to the Ninth Episode of the Craccum Podcast, where Craccum's own talking heads Ben Luo and Benn West discuss this week's post-graduate edition of Craccum. We will also be speaking to Honours Student Ben Bonné, part of the AUSA executive team as the postgraduate officer. He will be elucidating what AUSA does, how it represents YOU and the future of the student union. There is power in a union but only if you listen to this week's podcast.

In this edition of the podcast, since both of the hosts are undergrads, we will be discussing our plans for after we graduate.

We have mined the depths of our friends' patience for those who were smart or capable enough to pursue post-grad to let us share their experiences and polled those still struggling to find themselves a place in heavily contested fields. In addition, the Ben L and Ben W combo will be discussing the most recent media we have been consuming as we are gluttons for consumption.

We will also be discussing current event news topics such as the coalition of our contempt (ACT, NAT and NZF) don't seem to be coalescing and fracturing as they learn how to govern a country, further developments in the student rent strike to

elaborate on multiple articles from previous issues of Craccum, and finally discuss the benefits of the planned changes to the AT HOP readers expected to be accepting Bank Cards by the end of the year.

This run-down of this week on the Craccum podcast has been going on for so long that most of our readers would have graduated by the time they finished reading this Podcast editorial.



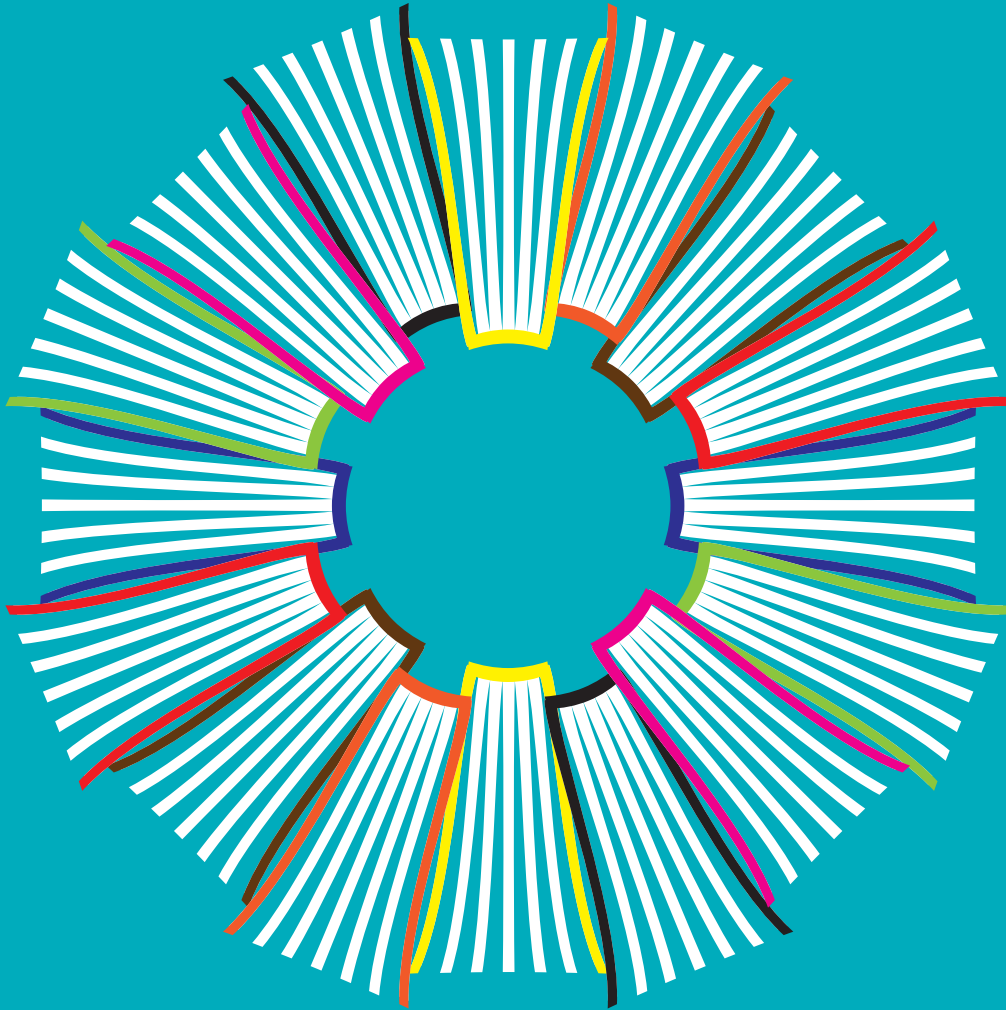












# WHICH AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL EVENT SHOULD YOU ATTEND BASED ON YOUR MAJOR?

THE AUCKLAND WRITERS FESTIVAL WAITUHI O TĀMAKI IS TAKING OVER THE CBD FROM 14-19 MAY. THERE WILL BE OVER 200 EVENTS HAPPENING, AND WITH GENEROUS STUDENT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE.

EMILY MUSTO (AWF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING INTERN)

A FOREWORD BY UOA ALUM & AWF PROGRAMME MANAGER, **JENNIFER CHEUK:**

*The Auckland Writers Festival, and arts festivals in general, are really unique spaces for connection and inspiration – people from all over the world come together to celebrate the*

*importance of storytelling and art! How amazing is that? I think being surrounded by so much creative energy and conversation is a really special experience, and it's not often that this can happen.*

*I graduated from the University of Auckland not long ago, and while it was difficult at times, it was also exciting to be learning new things every day. But, it's also really easy to feel confused about how your degree or academic knowledge will fit into the real world – the Auckland Writers Festival (and wider arts events, too) is important because it showcases literature and creativity as crucial aspects of our society. Writers Festivals are not just about books. They are about critical conversations, engaging discussions, topical debates. They are about science and politics and the environment as much as they are about fiction, poetry*

*and theatre. Storytelling is at the heart of what it means to be human, and the Festival showcases storytelling as necessary for everyone.*

*Whether you are an engineering student or a fine arts student; whether this is your first or fifth time going to the Auckland Writers Festival – I guarantee there will be something to inspire and captivate you in the 2024 Programme.*

*Outside of the general events, we are hosting 14 masterclasses, thanks to Silver Sponsors The University of Auckland, Faculty of Arts. These fabulous sessions provide the opportunity to master your craft and learn from the best. The Art of Theatre Reviewing, hosted by Dr James Wenly (ex-UoA Lecturer!), is your chance to delve into an accumulated wealth of knowledge around reviewing – from how to approach a theatre show to articulating your thoughts and opinions, this masterclass will get you started on your journey from theatre-goer to theatre critic.*

*Take a look at UoA academics who are participating in the Auckland Writers Festival this year! Fancy to see what your lecturer has to say when they're not confined to lecturer theatre?*

- Elizabeth Broadbent, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
- Te Kawehau Hoskins, Faculty of Education and Social Work
- Paula Morris, Faculty of Arts
- Hineatua Parkinson, Faculty of Science
- Anne Salmond, Faculty of Arts
- Selina Tusitala Marsh, Faculty of Arts
- Lisa Uperesa, Faculty of Arts
- Geoff Willmott, Faculty of Science
- Michael Witbrock, Faculty of Science

POLITICS



THE YEAR THE WORLD VOTES

Sat, 18 May, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

*2024 is the biggest election year in global history, with an extraordinary four billion people set to go to the polls. Politics students love nothing more than dwelling on the dire state of the world. If you are in for good gossip about political superpowers, The Year the World Votes is perfect for you to get your fix on electoral madness.*

MEDIA AND SCREEN STUDIES



BEEF: WRITING ASIAN FEMALE RAGE

Sun, 19 May, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

*I have beef with film bros, so this one isn't for you. Instead...if you are a film gal passionate about trailblazing storytelling and onscreen representation, get in line for Beef: Writing Asian Female Rage. The 2023 Emmy Award-winning Netflix series Beef has been overwhelmingly praised by the Asian diasporic community. Nahyeon Lee, Celeste Ng, Amanda Chong, and Lee Murray continue to praise and discuss the importance of writing rage for East Asian women from the page to the screen and to the stage.*

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



FUNGI OF AOTEAROA: A CURIOUS FORAGER'S FIELD GUIDE

Fri, 17 May, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

*Learning is done best when your teacher is a true enthusiast. Whether or not you are the fungi brand of environmental science student, you will be after attending Liv Sisson's Fungi of Aotearoa: A Curious Forager's Field Guide. Join Liv to fall down the fungi rabbit hole and hear the remarkable story of how these incredible organisms have shaped the world as we know it and the role they are playing in modern medical and environmental research.*



BUY TICKETS, AND CHECK OUT THE FULL PROGRAMME HERE



## EXERCISE SCIENCES



## DAN CARTER: THE ART OF WINNING

Fri, 17 May, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Was the 2011 New Zealand World Cup a turning point in your young life that made you decide to dedicate the rest of your years to sport? Or are you sent into lovestruck every time a Chemist Warehouse ad comes on, and this perfect ten lights up your screen? If so, Dan Carter: The Art of Winning will allow you to enter the mind of not only a high-performance athlete but a New Zealand icon. You'll come away with lessons on leadership, strength and resilience that will stick with you on and off the field.

## MUSIC



## A WAIATA IN AN HOUR HE WAIATA I TE HĀORA

Sat, 18 May, 5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

You're telling me that you could watch Troy Kingi create a song on stage live in front of you for only \$13 (with Student I.D.)! For Music students, A Waiata in an Hour He Waiata i te Hāora is your chance to be a co-writer with a legendary singer-songwriter. Be part of something special as Troy Kingi lays bare his creative process and invites the audience to be part of conceiving, writing and performing an entirely original waiata in 60 minutes.

## MARKETING



## THE CREATIVE OE

Fri, 17 May, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Hello marketing students, are you perhaps planning an OE? Go figure. Whether you're just about to graduate, planning a mid-degree break, or feeling a bit lost, The Creative OE will be your insight into the changing landscape of Aotearoa, New Zealand and whether it is still an essential part of the creative experience to go overseas in search of better opportunities.

## FINE ARTS



## PACIFIC ARTS AOTEAROA

Sat, 18 May, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Pacific Arts Aotearoa is a groundbreaking anthology of Pacific creativity spanning six decades of vibrant and groundbreaking work. Elam students, put on your slayest fit to radiate those BFA vibes - and walk up that hill! You don't want to miss what will be a dynamic and energising conversation with the legendary Rosanna Raymond, editor Faith Wilson, interdisciplinary artist, curator, and writer Pelenakeke Brown and journalist Indira Stewart. The arts are feeling bleak AF right now - everyone needs some inspiration!

## DRAMA

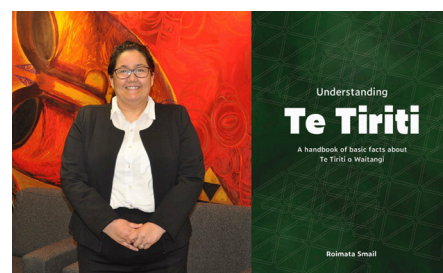


## THE SINGAPORE LIT SALON

Sat, 18 May, 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

A chaotic and beautiful remix of poetry, spoken word, and live wrestling..? You could call this the embodiment of what Drama students love best. Take a break from being under the stage lights; this is time to sit back and enjoy as you tell The Singapore Lit Salon to break a leg. Enjoy from the comfortable chairs of the Aotea Centre (where we hope to see you on stage someday) as you watch a stacked line up of spoken word, translated poetry, performance and more. Ranging from experimental eco-poetics to feminist rage writing, these artists will showcase the creativity of contemporary Singapore and have you in for a treat.

## LAW



## TE TIRITI 101

Sat, 18 May, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Roimata Smail is a triple threat: Human Rights barrister, TikTok queen and author of Understanding Te Tiriti. Te Tiriti 101 is an essential (and free!) session for all girlboss and boyboss law students (I'm eyeing up you commerce conjoint-ers). Join her wānanga on the key facts and principles of Aotearoa's most foundational document. Maybe bring (force) your engineering friends along..?

## COMPUTER SCIENCE



### AI: GOOD OR BAD, IT'S HERE TO STAY

Sat, 18 May, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

I bet when you read the title and saw Auckland Writers Festival, you thought there was no way they would have an event for me. Well... we give you AI. Maybe you're over when your friends try to debate the ethics of AI with you, or maybe you're sad about the dystopian reality we're facing. AI: Good or Bad, It's Here to Stay is a time to combat looming existentialism and put a spotlight on how we can harness its powers for social good. Join four scientists working with artificial intelligence to improve healthcare, sustainability and indigenous data sovereignty, and discuss how AI can improve the world around us.



BUY TICKETS,  
AND CHECK OUT  
THE FULL  
PROGRAMME  
HERE



FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM AT  
@AKLWRITERSFEST

OR GO TO  
[WWW.WRITERSFESTIVAL.CO.NZ](http://WWW.WRITERSFESTIVAL.CO.NZ)

# CLUBS

CHECK OUT THESE THREE COOL CLUBS ON CAMPUS, COME BACK FOR NEW CLUBS EACH ISSUE.



## SUSTAINABLE FUTURE COLLECTIVE

SFC is a student-led club aiming to increase environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices. We run a range of events including beach clean-ups, documentary screenings, craft workshops, pub quizzes, clothing swaps, 'bring your own' cup/bowl events, and much more! Check out our social media for details @sustainablefuturecollective



## NASA (NURSES OF AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION)

Join our NASA club, reigniting the nursing community's spark and exploring beyond healthcare. Seeking members (nursing students only), to connect with peers, access discounted events, and be part of an exciting nursing community. Email [uonasa@gmail.com](mailto:uonasa@gmail.com) to sign up and take off on this journey with us!



## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ELSA)

The Environmental Law Students' Association (ELSA) is a new club for all students (not just law!) interested in utilising environmental law and policy to protect the planet. We facilitate volunteering opportunities and put on awesome events. Check us out on Instagram @elsa.uoa and become a member for free.



GUAGE

DON TOLIVER)

E

RL

ON MY EX PACK

12. GHOST IN THE MACHINE (FT. JAY-Z)  
BRI

14. NOBODY C

15. CON

16. S

17. TO

HK DESIGNS (@HKDESIGNS)

# SZA'S SOS TOUR CONCERT

## 36,000 SZA FANS CAN'T BE WRONG; OR HOW I BECAME THE TARGET OF A TIKTOK MANHUNT



LEWIS MATHESON CREED

I've been lucky enough to have attended many concerts in my life, probably nearly 100 at this stage. I've seen some rock greats like Queen and Santana and some of the biggest stars in modern pop, like Harry Styles and Rihanna. I've even

seen The Wiggles. But SZA's performance (because to call what occurred on the 13th, 15th and 16th of April a mere concert does a disservice to her artistry) was undoubtedly one of the best shows I've ever seen. You know it's something else when the concert

has credits! Maybe it was the second-hand weed in the mosh pit. Still, her set had giant anchors, and lighthouses appeared out of nowhere as SZA journeyed by boat, got shipwrecked and explored the ocean and stars with her cast of raggedy backup



dancers. It was still a cash grab, though, with tickets for about \$400 each (about four times what Hozier charges for his upcoming show). And yeah, I couldn't hear Rowe's fantastic singing. Very well, over 12,000 women shouting their hearts out to every lyric of every song. But that was the point of the experience.

I've come to understand that for many modern pop concerts, the audio or musicianship is no longer what's most important. Instead, in practice, they're cathartic events for fans to vent their emotions, which they identify with through lyrics while providing a space to virtually promenade, either with one's partner or friends, on social media. This might sound judgmental, but I get it. I won't be out here telling you to not do what makes you feel good about yourself. It's just not why I come to see music live. And this point is not to take away from the fact that SZA's band did a great job! I have had a lot of respect for their inclusion at the concert. I was disappointed when Tyler, The Creator's show had no live instrumental or mixing aspects. And yes, I know he's a rapper who samples much of his music, but when you're paying top dollar for a live show, you'd expect to usually hear more than one musician. SZA also floored me with her renditions of her numerous hits featuring other artists, like Doja Cat, Kendrick Lamar and The Weeknd: it was almost as if they were never there to begin with.

I went in blind to her Tuesday concert with my girlfriend (a huge fan) and I left

joining the ranks of her fanbase. Likewise, Aotearoa's spirit and our indigenous culture have left a deep impression on the American singer. As I'm sure many of you are aware, she opened her show with a haka and closed it with a karakia, and wore the tino rangatiratanga flag passed up by one of the audience members on her closing night: she even had some Māori designs tattooed on her chest the next day. Every big-name international act says "I love you, New Zealand" after their shows, but I don't think any have quite meant it like SZA did. And she really comes across as having a real genuine gratitude for her fans, as she spent hours interacting with them after her extensive setlist: something I have never seen or heard of before, but apparently, this was not a one-off; SZA's just a generous person. She even personally invited me to meet her, as she liked my aqua blue shirt (I wore it to cosplay as the water on the SOS album cover). However, to my girlfriend's frustration, the security guards turned me away.

As a bizarre addendum to one of my favourite concerts of the year, I was interviewed by RNZ while waiting in line to get into the Spark Arena, and the clip made it onto their social media channels. Since then, it has been watched over 450 thousand times on TikTok, and the top comment on the video is about me. Y'see when the RNZ host asked me which SZA songs I knew, I said I only knew Kill Bill and All The Stars feat. Kendrick Lamar. However, my presence at the show as a SZA-fan 'imposter' sparked controversy on

TikTok with fans who missed out seeing her live, with some users demanding I donate my ticket, and others trying to find my non-existent personal account. Apparently, even Kiwi "journalist" Guy Williams made a post putting in his ten cents supporting me: thank you, fellow tall white man with glasses.

**BUT ENOUGH ON MY FIVE MINUTES OF INFAMY, SZA'S SHOW SLAYED IT, AND I KNOW I'LL BE BACK FOR HER NEXT SHOW, ALTHOUGH NEXT TIME I'LL KNOW MORE THAN TWO SONGS :)**

P.S. Shout out to HK Designs (@hkdesigns) for letting me use their amazing drawing of the SOS album cover for this article. You can buy their SZA poster, as well as heaps of awesome posters and prints (I have their IGOR poster up in my room), at their website <https://hkdesigns.co.nz/>. Support local artists!



1. Phoebe Rings - Mandarin Tree [NZ]
2. The Local Group - What a time to be alive [NZ]
3. Fontaines DC - Starburster
4. Fu Manchu - Hands of the Zodiac
5. Joe Ghatt - Always Remember [NZ]
6. Jim Nothing - Easter at the RSC [NZ]
7. Mount Kimbie - A Figure in the Surf
8. Cindy Lee - Diamond Jubilee [NZ]
9. Los Palms - From the Shadows
10. Repairs - LYLAS [NZ]

Text VOTE with your favourite song to 5395 or visit [95bfm.com/vote](https://95bfm.com/vote)  
The 95bFM Top Ten, every Wednesday from 7pm





# CHALLENGERS

LUCA GUADAGNINO'S NEW MESSY  
MELODRAMA ON QUEER QUARRELLING,  
EROTIC EXTRAVAGANCE, AND TENNIS  
THREESOMES

MADELINE SMITH

**T**he queer theorist Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick observed that stories about two men competing over a woman were far more focused on the rivalry between the two men than their actual desire for the woman. It's not so much that the love triangle itself is queer, but that in a repressive and patriarchal society, this triangular structure becomes an 'acceptable' form of male-male desire. What happens when that male-male desire moves from the homosocial to the homoerotic? Usually, that's the collapse of the triangle—it now becomes taboo rather than accepted—but that's not quite the case in *Challengers*.

Whether or not screenwriter Justin Kuritzkes has any investment in queer theory, he builds his script on these tensions of the love triangle. Director Luca Guadagnino milks those tensions for all they're worth, resulting in a highly entertaining erotic melodrama. The film stars Zendaya as tennis coach Tashi Donaldson, co-starring Mike Faist as her husband Art and Josh O'Connor as her ex-boyfriend/Art's former 'best friend' Patrick. The two men face each other off in a tennis match, and the film jumps back and forth between the game and flashbacks to explore their complicated history.

There are levels in representing this tripartite relationship. Level one is to make it intentionally implicit that the two men in the love triangle are into each other. Level two is to make it outright obvious. Level three is to make the woman in the triangle be into them both, but most into the idea of them being together. Part of why *Challengers* is a great film is that it reaches level three when it could have easily coasted along at level one. Level three is especially important here because it gives much more significance to Tashi's desire than is usually afforded to women in a love triangle story. Typically, the female character's only significance is her ability to be exchanged between men—she



is a backdrop to the growth of the men, and her relation to their desire for her or their desire for each other is of no concern to the writer. But in *Challengers*' game, Tashi is a key player—just as obsessed with her desire, just as willing to manipulate the outcome to get what she wants.

For instance, take a flashback early into the film where Tashi, Art and Patrick hang out in a hotel room. The interactions involve a kind of casual eroticism, where the characters gradually reveal their desire for each other through conversation. The two men clearly have a particular goal in mind when they invite Tashi to their room, but they end up talking more about each other than her. The initial casualness of the scene is something of a facade - all three of the characters are engineering the scene to their desired outcome. But Tashi is the one who's most ahead. She doesn't enter the room for sex, but to relish in the experience of being desired. She knows exactly what they want, but she also picks up on their homoerotic connection right from the get-go, and it seems that this is what she finds most appealing. She uses their desire for her to redirect them to their desire for each-other. The scene ends with her leaving these tensions unresolved so they can continue to play out in the next tennis match—Tashi believes that the best tennis emerges from the relationship between the players. And so the scene moves from Art and Patrick's desire for Tashi, to Art and Patrick's desire for each other, to Tashi's desire to watch them make out, and finally to her desire to watch "some damn good tennis". None of these desires are fixed—they're constantly mediated and transferred, produced and engineered by another. This is always implicit in the classical love triangle, but *Challengers* makes it the driving force of the drama.

*Challengers* plays around with the love triangle rather than transcending it—while the woman is now an agent in the triangle as opposed to an object, she is still partaking in the objectification and manipulation that drives the triangle. I don't necessarily see this as a negative for the film. My point here isn't to promote *Challengers* as a morally 'unproblematic' love triangle.

In fact, part of *Challengers*' pleasure is that these elements—the outward homoeroticism and Tashi's agency/desire—strengthen the delightful messiness of the love triangle and the games of power between the characters, rather than cleaning them up. *Challengers* has all the hallmarks of great melodrama: betrayal, elaborate schemes, complicated power dynamics, entangled desire, etc. In its dramatic execution, it resembles the erotic thrillers of the 1990s. While *Challengers*' plotting lacks the murderousness or the more explicit perversion that erotic thrillers tend to centre around, it keeps the core element of characters weaponising desire for their own ends. It's often mistakenly assumed that the plot of an erotic thriller is just an excuse for the explicitly erotic content. If that were the case, there would be no need for a film like *Challengers* in the era of the internet. It has very little on-screen sex and nudity, but it has an excellent sense of how to blend eroticism into the drama.

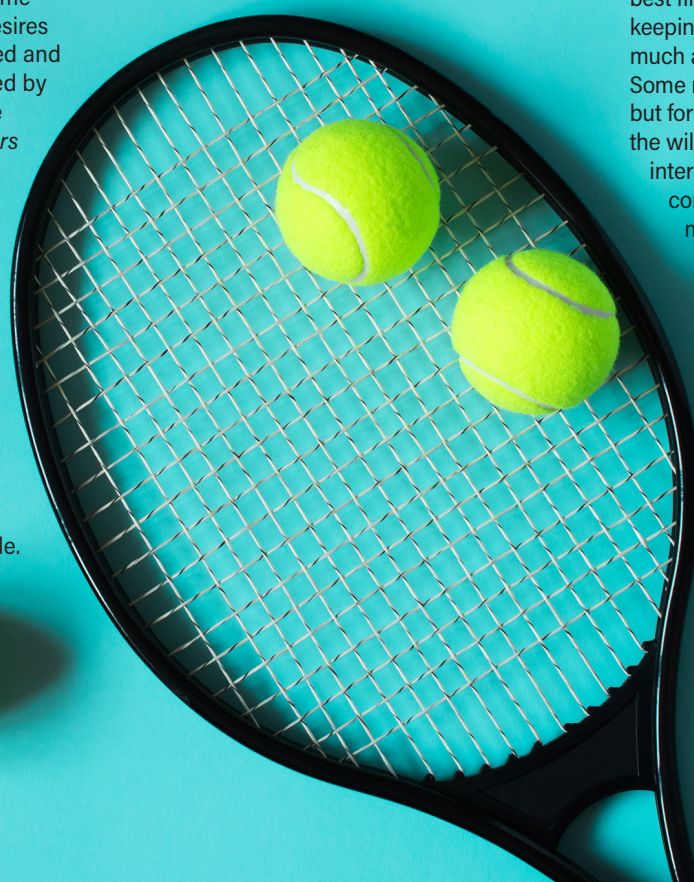
**CHALLENGERS FINDS A  
SOAP OPERA SEASON'S  
WORTH OF WAYS  
TO COMPLICATE ITS  
CHARACTER DYNAMICS,  
AND BALANCES IT INTO  
A TIGHTLY WRITTEN  
PACKAGE.**

The sexual tension builds into a wonderfully over-the-top climax, where the characters release all their messy feelings in the final match of the tennis game. I'm not someone who is much into sports, but I find the same kind of enjoyment in sports films as I do with action films. Filmmakers like Johnnie To and John Woo do not conceive of action scenes as separate from the drama, but instead as something tied to it. Like a ballet, the choreography unleashes the characters' internal feelings into the external world. A great sports film does the same through its sport of choice, and the finale of *Challengers* will surely go down as one of the strongest examples of this. The excess is comparable to the very best of sports anime.

I'll admit I'm a bit of a skeptic when it comes to Luca Guadagnino, but he goes into a completely different mode here than in his previous works. The obsession with sensuality is still there (which is one aspect Guadagnino is undeniably very good at across all of his films), but *Challengers* goes for a brash and kinetic style as opposed to the relaxed summer of *Call Me By Your Name* and the dreariness of *Suspiria*. Think of every possible way you could shoot a tennis match, up to the most ridiculous formal concepts, and they'll most likely be in the climactic scenes of *Challengers*.

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross' techno score is equally key to maintaining this kineticism and proves to be their strongest work in a long while. Like with Danny Boyle's best films, Guadagnino's no. 1 concern is keeping up the energy and drawing as much attention as possible to his formalism. Some might find his virtuosity obnoxious, but for me it's a refreshing change up from the wildly uneven *Bones And All*, which had interesting concepts but a lack of true commitment to them (e.g being a road movie that refuses to truly slow down and linger in the environment, as well as a cannibal movie that cuts away when things are getting too gory).

**CHALLENGERS IS A  
FILM WITH A FULL  
COMMITMENT TO  
WHAT IT'S DOING,  
AND THE RESULT  
IS ONE OF THE  
MOST DELIGHTFUL  
MAINSTREAM  
RELEASES TO  
COME OUT IN A  
GOOD WHILE.**





# Redemption for the Fine Arts students

## Misconceptions surrounding the Fine Arts degree



KALA TAKEBE BURGESS

In an era where STEM fields often take centre stage in education and career discussions, fine arts students have sometimes found themselves marginalised or even dismissed as less practical pursuits. There are so many stereotypes surrounding our degree, leading to misconceptions about the nature of fine arts education and the potential career paths available to graduates. I am here to make redemption for all the fine arts students out there who get brushed off and told that it's not a 'real' degree.

As Arts are often undervalued by society, many fine arts students come across scepticism about the practicality of their chosen path. Yet, we pursue our dreams, even when the 'end goal' is unclear. Many steer away from pursuing a creative degree merely because of the lack of respect surrounding it and the uncertainty of what the future holds.

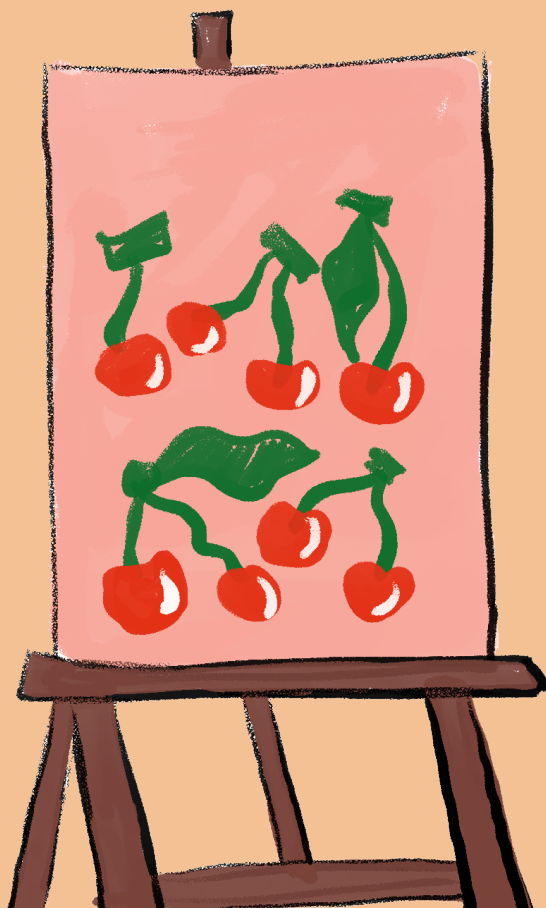
When discussing why they wouldn't pursue an arts degree with some acquaintances, who I believe are very talented, they told me that "art is just a hobby," "nothing will come out of it," "if they study a degree that has a secure job they would rather do that, than risk their future," or "their parents were against it". While I do understand all of those concerns as I, too, had these thoughts when thinking about going to university, but soon realised that fine arts are just pigeonholed into narrow career paths when there are so many creative career paths out there and that I should do what my heart tells me, not my brain. So here I am, in the third year of my fine arts degree. Soon I will graduate, and my options are... post-grad studies or one of the endless creative career options. Yes, there is more than just being a freelance artist. You could be Art therapist, Art Teacher, Illustrator, Graphic designer, Art Director, Curator, Set Designer, Art Critic, Gallery Manager, Creative Director and there are so many other pathways this degree could take

you. It's time to shatter the struggling artist's stereotype and acknowledge the opportunities available to fine arts graduates.

The misconceptions surrounding studying a fine arts degree fail to capture the depth and complexity of our experiences. Fine arts education cultivates essential skills beyond technical proficiency in the respected media. It nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. I firmly believe that every field needs a creative mind behind it, and what better people to have than people who explored their creativity in university. We learn valuable skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative expression, which are highly transferable to various industries. We have the versatility to thrive in diverse professional landscapes.

So, we must continue to support and advocate for the arts, ensuring that future generations will still have the opportunity to pursue their passions. Art is inspiring and uplifting, which we need in our lives. I hope this article has made at least a slight redemption for the fine arts students.

Next time you decide to comment on someone's degree, think for a second - maybe they are the lucky ones; they get to pursue what they are passionate about. And stop telling us we will be baristas. Thanks.



BUT...  
I WANT TO  
MAKE ART!!!



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# WTF are your 20s for?

Life post-grad, aka, your quarter-life crisis.



KAAVYA GHOSHAL

University is a bubble. It's a universe where responsibilities seem to evaporate into thin air, and you just need to worry about whether or not you can make it to the 8 am lecture. And if you don't? It's probably recorded anyway! It's a time when you can bury yourself in assignments, textbooks, and coffee without a care in the world because, hey, you're *technically* working towards your future... right?

All of a sudden, you're graduating. Procrastinating an assignment now means that your job is at stake, asking for an extension makes you look unprofessional, and you can't rewatch your day at work at 2x speed.

Welcome to your roaring 20s. Commonly described as the best years of your life, your 20s are meant to be a combination of finding yourself and losing yourself—where you find and lose the best jobs, get in and out of defining relationships and eventually, hopefully, end up where you're meant to be.

Your 20s are the weirdest time to exist. You're not a teenager anymore, but your brain hasn't even fully developed (especially if you're a man), so you still feel like one.

You want to experience life but can't afford to pay for the things on your Pinterest board. You make fun of influencers but secretly despise the idea of a 9 to 5. You need to start dressing a bit more maturely but don't feel like you're old enough to dress "chic" when you're out in town at 4 am. Half of your friends are two months away from being engaged, and the other half have never even been on a first date. You spend some days working to pay rent and the other half writing a paper about

how Auckland housing is ripping you off. You're applying for jobs while your friend is going to be studying Med for the next five years.

There's no consistency, no security, and a whole lot of confusion—and if you don't embrace it now, you're going to miss this time for the rest of your life.

When it comes to your career post-uni, I don't know if I'm qualified enough to give you advice. Jack of all trades, master of none, is something that used to dominate my life until I realised that I didn't *have* to have it all figured out. You need to decide whether you want to live to work or work to live and apply to companies that you think will make you want to wake up every morning. Make a list of companies that align with your values (or have obnoxious yearly bonuses) and start to apply. Or, start your own! There's no better time to fail than now when you have so much time to build yourself back up.

Your biggest change post-grad needs to be your mindset. You studied, got your diploma, and now, as scary as it is, you

need to take your life into your own hands. If you're someone in their last year of studies, try to work and get experience in companies that want you to post your studies. With the internships that I've done, I chose to be a small fish in a big pond because that allows me to have more choices in the company in which I want to start my career. It's easy to live in the moment and procrastinate the hard stuff, but if you work hard now, you're setting yourself up for the best career start you can have.

Relationships in your 20s are tricky. I know that some of the people I have in my life will most certainly be bridesmaids at my wedding, but I also know that some of them won't even make the guest list (whoops).

University creates a bond between all students because we all suddenly have this one thing in common. Once we leave, we'll probably meet a lot more people who are "friends by choice" than "friends by convenience". Your next date might just be the love of your life, or it might end up being someone that you spend the rest of your life avoiding.

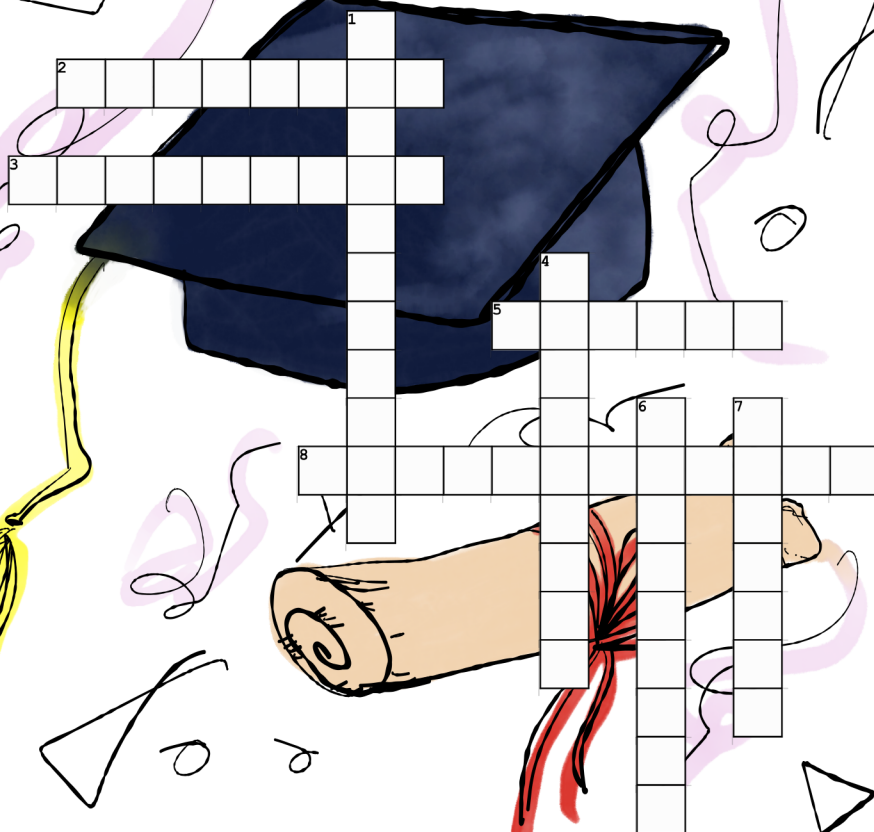
Basically, your 20s are a hot mess. Life post-grad is a mixture of showing up to work, drawing in imposter syndrome, and feeling like you could absolutely run the company the next day. Your roaring, rotten, romantic 20s are not something you want to speed through—embrace it!



ILLUSTRATION: KALA BURGESS



# CROSSWORD



## Across

2. A monthly reward for your hard work
3. Levelling up in your career
5. Paid or unpaid junior role in a company
8. Research project, final step in order to finish your PhD

## Down

1. A reward for academic excellence
4. A conversation between an employer and potential employee
6. First milestone in your uni degree
7. Document proving you graduated

# WORD SEARCH

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# SUDOKU

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# HOROSCOPES



CLARICE DE TOLEDO



LEARN  
MORE

**W**elcome to May! This will probably be a more stable month than April, as we casually enjoy Taurus season and its more serene waters. This week we will have a New Moon in Taurus taking place on May 8th, Wednesday. New Moons are the best time of the month to send out intentions, manifest and envision what we want to attract during this new lunar cycle. This one in particular will be a very powerful one, since it's the first new moon to take place after the chaotic energy that the eclipses and mercury retrograde. It invites a stable and calming atmosphere after what it might have felt like a storm of misunderstandings and change.

This new moon we'll be in close proximity with Jupiter and Uranus, planets that talk about change and optimism. As well as making a pleasant sextile with Saturn, which is longevity. So whatever you decide to put your energy towards around this week, will have fruitful and blessed rewards!

**Please read your Rising Sign as well!**

## ARIES

This new moon could bring more motivation when it comes to making money and starting new projects. This is the perfect moment to put into practice if you want to start your own business, a new job, ask for a raise or have more autonomy when it comes to your workplace. It could be that something is shifting when it comes to your self-valued and your self-esteem, you could be making improvements on yourself and your skills and feeling better about yourself.

## TAURUS

Around this time one could feel like turning a new page in your life. You could be feeling more focused on yourself, more confident and feeling more seen by people. Learning more about yourself and thinking about ways you can live life more true to yourself and your values. You could be putting more energy into how you dress and your overall style. It's a really welcoming time for positive change and overall scenarios where you feel powerful and motivated to start a new chapter.

## GEMINI

This new moon could be a more introverted time for you, you could be feeling more sensitive and facing things from your unconscious mind. But also of learning ways that you can hold yourself back, or patterns that you would wish to release. It could just be a time to feel a little bit more like a hermit, taking care of your energy and reflecting. It's a good time to start doing therapy or relying

on spiritual practices to deal with heavier emotions.

## CANCER

You could be spending more time with your friends, strengthening your friendships and having a lot of different commitments. It also could be that you're coming into contact with a lot of different types of people and collaborating with people on projects as well as announcing your work to other people and finding support on that. You could also just be feeling more positive and optimistic about the future and the goals you're working towards.

## LEO

You could be feeling more motivated when it comes to your professional life and your career goals. It could be that you're putting a lot more thought into the direction you would like to follow, and also feeling more comfortable about receiving attention when it comes to your career. It could also be that you're receiving more attention around your friends or social media or somehow you land a leadership role into a project or even a new job. It's also possible that you could be looking into ways that you can take on more responsibility, maybe around your house or around university.

## VIRGO

This could be a very good time for you when it comes to your studies, you could be feeling more inspired to learn and activities like writing and speaking might come up more easily for you. You could be opening up your mind to new ways of thinking, and shifting your mindset around different topics in a way that aligns more with you. You could be sharing your knowledge with other people and being more proud of the written work you do. It could also be that you're planning for a big trip or in some way learning more about a different culture.

## LIBRA

This new moon could bring a focus on where you would like to improve aspects of your own behaviour and learn how to take more accountability for things. It could be a time for a lot of inner healing and recognizing certain patterns that might be holding you back. But it could also be a time where you're learning more about emotional intimacy, and you're letting more people in, developing more in-depth relationships, that could be happening in a platonic or romantic way. It's also possible that you're just spending more money or spending time reflecting about life and death.

## SCORPIO

If you're in a relationship, it could be that around this time you're spending more time together, planning the future and working through any issues that you may have together. Or it could also be that becoming closer to a friend, or establishing certain business partnerships. If you're single you could be feeling more open to dating and meeting some new people.

## SAGITTARIUS

This month could be a good time to focus on little mundane tasks like organising your study schedules, managing your time and refining some of your skills. If you've been meaning to get a side job around this time, you will likely come by a good opportunity, or it could be that you switch jobs for something that fits your schedule better. There will be a lot of focus on your work-life balance, so even though you'll probably feel very busy, don't put too much stress on your body.

## CAPRICORN

This month you could be putting more effort into a creative hobby like writing for fun, photography, painting, performance, or graphic design. You will be working on confidence by things that bring you joy. Your social life could feel more busy, and you could be feeling more open for dating opportunities if you're single. If you're in a relationship, you could be feeling more romantic towards your partner and spending more quality time together.

## AQUARIUS

Around this new moon, your attention could be going towards your family life and home. You could be putting more energy into decorating your space or deep cleaning and decluttering. There could be some family gatherings coming up, or life events that take place in their lives, like someone having a baby or getting married. Alternatively, it could be that you'll be feeling more nostalgic about your childhood and past, or you're just looking to spend time with people that are closest to you.

## PISCES

This month you will be following wherever your curiosity takes you, learning new skills of all kinds, like cooking, playing an instrument, going rabbit holes on subjects. It's a really positive time to focus on your studies but also something that is fun and it's just for you, you could be reading more and watching more youtube videos on random things. Your social life could also pick up more this month, and you might feel compelled to explore your neighbourhoods more or certain parts of the city you haven't been to yet.



# SHADOWS

YOUR STUDENT BAR

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### TUESDAY

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WEEKLY SHADS PUB QUIZ

### WEDNESDAY

2 FOR 1 PIZZA\*

STUDENT NIGHT FT DJS

SPECIALS

### THURSDAY

2 FOR \$25 COCKTAILS\*

INDIE TUNES

### FRIDAY

DJ

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EVERYDAY 3PM - 5PM  
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SHADOWS  
YOUR STUDENT BAR



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EVERYDAY  
3PM - 5PM  
9PM - 11PM

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Heineken • \$9  
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