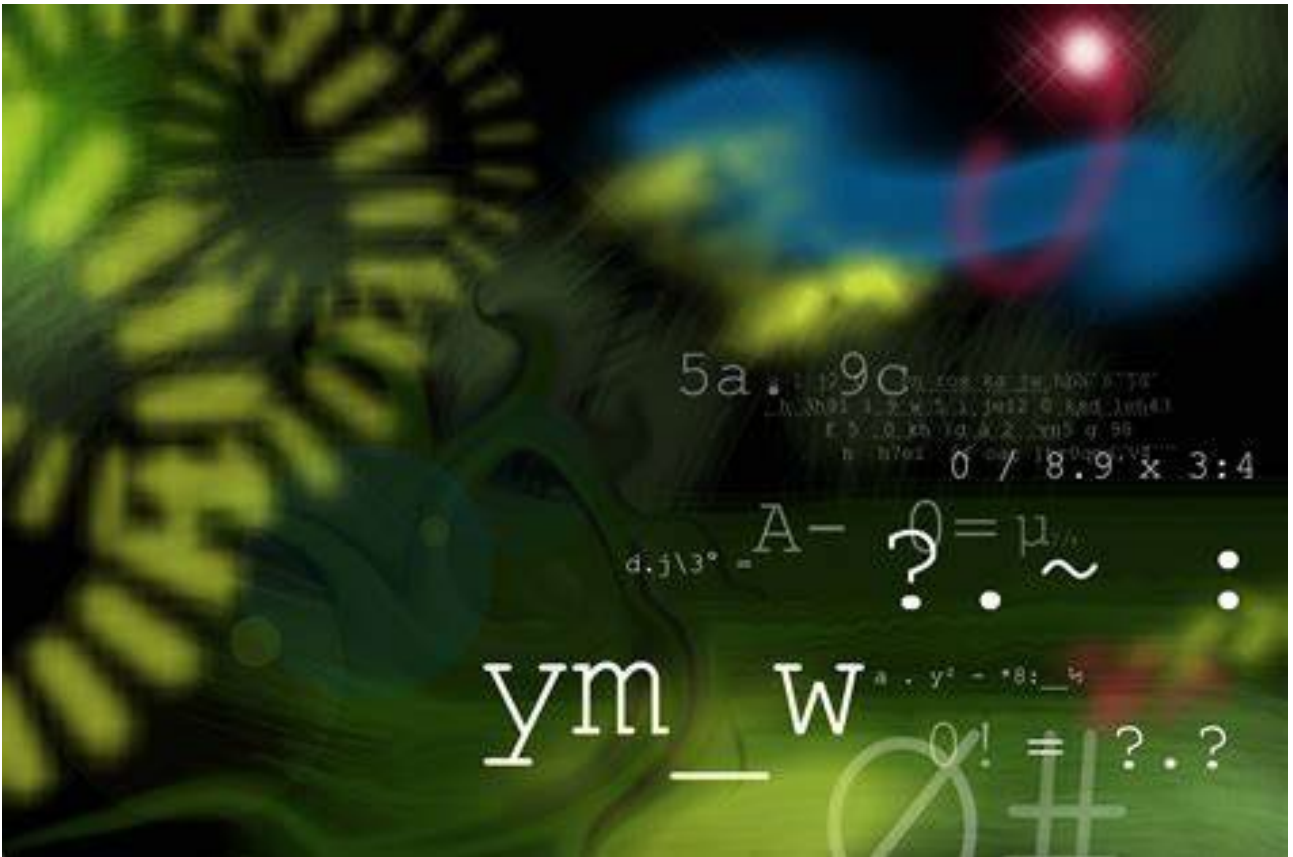


2025

Undergraduate courses

Mathematics, Statistics & Data Science



School of Mathematics and Statistics

[Te Kura Mātai Tatauranga](#)

Location: Room CO358, Cotton Building, Kelburn Campus
Phone: 04-463 5341
Email: sms-office@vuw.ac.nz

www.wgtn.ac.nz/sms

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSC)	3
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS	3
BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)	3
BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS	3
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SCIENCE	3
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE	3
PLEASE NOTE	4
CANCELLATION OF COURSES	4
TIMETABLE CHANGES	4
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 100-LEVEL MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS	5
PREREQUISITES AND RESTRICTIONS	5
MATHEMATICS (MATH)	6
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS	6
MINOR REQUIREMENTS	6
STATISTICS (STAT)	7
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS	7
MINOR REQUIREMENTS	7
ACTUARIAL SCIENCE (ACTS)	8
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS	8
MINOR REQUIREMENTS	8
DATA SCIENCE (DATA)	9
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS	9
MINOR REQUIREMENTS	9
PLANNING YOUR PROGRAMME	10
100-LEVEL COURSES	11
200-LEVEL COURSES	14
300-LEVEL COURSES	17
CONTACT INFORMATION	21
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS	21
STAFF CONTACTS	22
STUDENT SUPPORT	24
TĪTOKO—CENTRE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS	24
ĀWHINA MĀORI STUDENT SUPPORT	24
PASIFIKA STUDENT SUCCESS	24

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSc)

Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements

Complete at least **360 points**, of which:

- At least 210 points must be from courses above 100-level, including
 - at least 120 points from courses listed for the BSc Schedule;
- At least 75 points must be from courses numbered 300-399; and
- At least 15 points must be from ENGR 121-123, 142, MATH, PHYS, QUAN, STAT.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Complete at least **360 points**, of which:

- At least 240 points must be from courses listed for the BA Part A;
- At least 80 points must be from 100-level courses listed for the BA;
- A maximum of 180 points can be at level 100; and
- At least 180 points must be at 200 and 300 level, with
 - at least 75 points from 300-level courses listed for the BA, and
 - of the 75 points, up to 15 may come from courses listed for another degree when they are taken to satisfy the requirements of an additional major subject from another degree.

*Note that Data Science and Mathematics courses are in Part B of the BA Schedule.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SCIENCE

Complete at least **60 points** from courses above 100 level from the BSc Schedule, of which at least 40 points must be at 300 level. With approval, you may substitute 20 points worth of courses from other programmes at the University.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN SCIENCE

Complete at least **120 points** from courses above 100 level from the BSc Schedule, of which at least 75 points must be at 300 level. With approval, you may substitute 30 points worth of courses from other programmes at the University.

PLEASE NOTE

CANCELLATION OF COURSES

The courses offered by the University and listed in this prospectus may be cancelled by the University as a result of insufficient resources or student demand, or if other unforeseen circumstances arise.

TIMETABLE CHANGES

Check the timetable online for confirmation of course times.

www.wgtn.ac.nz/students/study/timetable

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS 100-LEVEL MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

There are four levels of entry to Mathematics and Statistics courses:

1. Well-prepared calculus students may enrol directly in MATH 142 (Calculus 1B).

You will need to have passed NCEA Level 3 Achievement Standards:

- 3.6 (Differentiation, AS91578) achieved with excellence
- 3.7 (Integration, AS91579)
- one of 3.1 (Conics, AS91573), 3.3 (Trigonometry, AS91575), or 3.5 (Complex numbers, AS91577)
- a Merit or Excellence grade in at least one of 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, or 3.7.

If you don't have these qualifications (or their equivalent), you'll require MATH 141 (Calculus 1A) or QUAN 111 (Mathematics for Economics and Finance) or PHYS 101 (Introduction to Physics).

2. Reasonably well-prepared students who have gained 16 NCEA Level 3 Achievement Standard credits in Mathematics (or 12 credits in Mathematics excluding statistics standards, or some equivalent qualification) are given direct entry to MATH 141 (Calculus 1A), MATH 151 (Algebra) and MATH 161 (Discrete Mathematics). If you don't have these qualifications (or their equivalent) you need MATH 132 or an equivalent background in mathematics.

Entry to MATH 177 (Probability and Decision Modelling) requires at least 12 NCEA Level 3 Achievement Standard credits in Mathematics, including 3.6 (Differentiation, AS91578) and 3.7 (Integration, AS91579). If you don't have these qualifications (or their equivalent), you need a pass in one of these courses: ENGR 122-123, MATH 141, or QUAN 111.

3. Less prepared students may enter MATH 132 (Introduction to Mathematical Thinking) and STAT 193 (Statistics in Practice), provided they have met university entrance numeracy requirements, preferably with NCEA Level 2 Achievement Standard 2.6 (Algebra, AS91261) as well. A pass in MATH 132 gives entry into MATH 141, 151 and 161.
4. Advanced students may be granted direct entry to 200-level courses. Entry is at the discretion of the appropriate programme director.

PREREQUISITES AND RESTRICTIONS

Starting at 200-level, courses are listed with prerequisites and restrictions.

Prerequisites are the courses that are required for entry into the course. For example, if STATXXX has (STATYYY, ZZZ) listed as prerequisites, then you must have passed STATYYY **AND** STATZZZ before you can enrol in STATXXX.

Restrictions are the courses that you **should not have already passed** before enrolling in the course. For example, if MATHXXX has MATHYYY listed as restriction, it probably means that MATHYYY contains more advanced material than MATHXXX. If you have already passed MATHYYY, or if you are currently enrolled in MATHYYY, then you will usually not be allowed to enrol in MATHXXX.

MATHEMATICS (MATH)

The BSc in Mathematics is a three-year qualification. Here, we describe the regulations concerning the MATH major within the degrees.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MATH major requirements from 2022 onwards:

- MATH 142, MATH 151, MATH 161
- 15 points from (COMP 100-199, DATA 202, ENGR 222, MATH 245, STAT 293)
- 120 points from MATH 200-399, of which at least 60 points must be from MATH 300-399.

MATH major requirements before 2022*:

- MATH 142, MATH 151, MATH 161
- 60 points from MATH 300-399
- 60 further points from MATH 200-399

* Students enrolled in a MATH major before 2022 may graduate under the regulations in place when they enrolled.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

MATH minor requirements from 2024 onwards:

- 60 points from MATH 200-399, ENGR 222 of which at least 15 points must be from MATH 300-399

MATH minor requirements before 2024*:

- 60 points from MATH 200-399, DATA 202, ENGR 222, STAT 293 of which 15 points must be from MATH 300-399 and at most 15 points can be from DATA 202, ENGR 222 or STAT 293.

* Students enrolled in a MATH minor before 2024 may graduate under the regulations in place when they enrolled.

STATISTICS (STAT)

The Statistics major can have a theoretical (mathematical statistics) emphasis, an applied emphasis, or incorporate computational modelling, depending on the courses you take.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

- MATH 177 or STAT 193; 15 further points from MATH 100-199, STAT 100-199
- (MATH 243 and MATH 277) or (STAT 292 and STAT 293); 30 further 200-level points from the Science schedule or other approved courses
- STAT 332 or 393; 15 further points from STAT 300-399; 30 further 300-level points from (DATA 303, 304, MATH, STAT)
- **MATH 177** is needed for a major in **Statistics** with a **mathematical statistics** or **computational modelling** emphasis, and for a major in **Actuarial Science**.
- **STAT 193** is highly recommended for a major in **Statistics** with an **applied statistics** emphasis, and for a major in **Data Science**.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

- One of (MATH 277, STAT 292) and one of (MATH 377, STAT 332, 393, 394)
- 15 further points from (DATA 303, 304, MATH 277, 377, STAT 292, 293, 300-399)
- 15 further points at 200- or 300-level from the Science schedule.

ACTUARIAL SCIENCE (ACTS)

The role of an actuary is to quantify risk and uncertainty to help businesses and governments manage those risks. Actuaries are employed by banks, insurance companies, investment firms and other companies, including within the public service. They give advice on insurance, pension schemes, company mergers, the management of financial projects and investments.

The Actuarial Science major introduces students to the technical and professional aspects of actuarial science and may enable students to gain accreditation towards qualifying as an actuary with the Actuaries Institute of Australia.

Students enrolling in this major, available in both the Bachelor of Science (BSc) and Bachelor of Commerce (BCom), may consider taking it alongside a second major in Economics, Finance, Mathematics or Statistics. Graduates will be qualified to work in the fields of actuarial work, risk management, financial and statistical analysis.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

- ACCY 130, ECON 130, 141, MATH 142, 177, (MATH 151 or at least a B+ in QUAN 111)
- ACTS 201, ECON 201, FINA 201 or 202, MATH 277
- ACTS 301, 336, STAT 335
- one further course from 200- or 300-level FINA, MATH or STAT

	Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Year 1	ACCY 130: Accounting for Decision Making ECON 141: Macroeconomic Principles MATH 141: Calculus 1A	ECON 130: Microeconomic Principles MATH 142: Calculus 1B MATH 151: Algebra MATH 177: Probability and Decision Modelling
	+ 15 further points	
Year 2	ACTS 201: Financial Mathematics ECON 201: Intermediate Microeconomics FINA 201: Introduction to Corporate Finance MATH 277: Mathematical Statistics	MATH 243: Multivariable Calculus
	+ 45 further points	
Year 3	MATH 377: Probability and Random Processes	ACTS 301: Actuarial Science ACTS 306: General Insurance Techniques STAT 335: Statistical Models for Actuarial Science
	+ 60 further points	

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

ACTS 201, 301, MATH 277 and one further course from part (b) or (c) of the major requirements.

DATA SCIENCE (DATA)

Data literacy is an essential component of future citizenry - the ability to make sense of data, critique its use and communicate with and about it, are becoming hugely valuable skills. Data Science combines ideas from statistics, computing and mathematics to provide new insights that are crucial to the survival of businesses, governments and institutions that want to transform their data into information, insights and novel products. Pair your Data Science major alongside another subject to extract and provide meaningful insights to any field, including actuarial science, biology, chemistry, economics, geography, linguistics and media studies.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

- DATA 101; one of (COMP 103, 132); one of (MATH 177, QUAN 102, STAT 193).
- One of (AIML 231, DATA 201); DATA 202; one of (MATH 277, QUAN 203, STAT 292), one further course from (AIML 232, COMP 261, GEOG 215, INFO 206, MATH 245, 251, 261, 277, PHIL 269, QUAN 201, 203, STAT 292, 293).
- DATA 301, 303, one of (COMP 309, DATA 302, 305); one of (DATA 304, 306-399, AIML 331-339, COMP 307, ECON 303, GEOG 315, INFO 304, 310, 311, 377, MARK 317, MATH 353, MGMT 315, 316, STAT 391, 392, 394, SWEN 304).

Sample programme for BSc major:

	Trimester 1	Trimester 2
Year 1	DATA 101: Introduction to Data Science STAT 193: Statistics in Practice MATH 141: Calculus 1A	COMP 132: Programming for the Natural and Social Sciences MATH 142: Calculus 1B MATH 151: Algebra MATH 177: Probability and Decision Modelling
Year 2	AIML 231 Techniques in Machine Learning STAT 292: Applied Statistics CYBR 171: Cybersecurity Fundamentals PHIL 269: Ethics and Data	DATA 202: Data Management & Programming GEOG 215: Introduction to GIS MATH 245: Computational Mathematics STAT 293: Applied Statistical Modelling
Year 3	DATA 303: Statistics for Data Science DATA 305: Machine Learning for Data Science STAT 391: Mathematical Models for Applied Statistics SCIS 211: Contemporary Issues in Science, Environment and Technology	DATA 301: Data Science in Practice DATA 351: Data Science Internship STAT 393: Linear Models STAT 394: Multivariate Statistics

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

One of (AIML 231, DATA 201), DATA 202, one course from (DATA 301, 302, 303, 305, COMP 309), and one further course from parts (b) or (c) of the major requirements.

PLANNING YOUR PROGRAMME

Course code	Course reference number	Title	Points	Trimester
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
MATH 151	CRN 17161	ALGEBRA	15 PTS	T2

Prerequisites: Courses you must have passed before taking this course.

Restrictions: You can't enrol in this course if you have passed any of the restricted courses.

Use this template to plan your programme. Start by adding in the core papers for your degree.

Year 1:

120 points

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Year 2:

120 points

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Year 3:

120 points

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

100-LEVEL COURSES

DATA 101	CRN 31056 CRN 31191	INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE	15 PTS	T1 T3
<p>We live in an increasingly data-driven world with the volume of data generated annually following a roughly exponential trend. Data scientists find themselves in high demand because of their skills to derive valuable insights from data. But what exactly do they do? This course provides an overview of data science. You will gain an understanding of the skill set that data scientists possess. This includes understanding data sources and types, data wrangling, data visualisation, modelling, and communicating results. Aspects of privacy law and Māori data sovereignty relevant to data science are also introduced.</p>				
ENGR 121	CRN 26052 CRN 31158	ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS FOUNDATIONS	15 PTS	T1 T2
Prerequisites:	12 AS credits NCEA level 3 Mathematics (or equivalent) or MATH 132			
Restrictions:	Any pair (MATH 141/QUAN 111, MATH 151/161/177)			
<p>An introduction to the range of mathematical techniques employed by engineers, including functions, calculus, linear algebra, vector geometry, set theory, logic and probability. This course emphasises engineering applications and modelling.</p>				
ENGR 122	CRN 26053	ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS WITH CALCULUS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	ENGR 121 or MATH 141			
Restrictions:	The pair MATH 142 and MATH 151			
<p>Further mathematical techniques employed by electrical and electronic engineers, with a focus on methods of calculus, differential equations and linear algebra. There is an emphasis on engineering applications and use of software.</p>				
ENGR 123	CRN 27044 CRN 31159	ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS WITH LOGIC AND STATISTICS	15 PTS	T2 T3
Prerequisites:	ENGR 121			
Restrictions:	The pair MATH 161 and (MATH 177 or QUAN 102 or STAT 193)			
<p>Mathematical techniques employed by cybersecurity and software engineers, including combinatorics, logic, probability distributions, model fitting and estimation. The course emphasises engineering applications.</p>				
MATH 132	CRN 17150 CRN 17286	INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL THINKING	15 PTS	T1 T3
Restrictions:	ENGR 121-123, MATH 100-199, QUAN 111			
<p>This course provides an introduction to, or review of, fundamental skills and ideas in mathematics. The course is designed for students who require some mathematics in their degree, but who may not have a lot of mathematical experience. Topics include elementary arithmetic, algebra, coordinate geometry, and functions. There is an emphasis on mathematical ideas and how they have evolved: the goal is not only to apply mathematical tools correctly, but to understand them.</p>				

MATH 141	CRN 17151	CALCULUS 1A	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	12 AS credits NCEA Level 3 Mathematics (or equivalent) or MATH 132			
Restrictions:	ENGR 122, MATH 142, QUAN 111			
<p>Determining the rate of change of a function as its dependent variable changes is a key question in many sciences. It is also the basis for differential calculus, which is the first part of mathematical analysis. This course provides a thorough development of differential calculus. It builds on the ideas of functions and limits to define derivatives, and derives rules for computing them. These rules are demonstrated in scientific applications.</p>				

MATH 142	CRN 17160	CALCULUS 1B	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 141 or QUAN 111 or PHYS 101 or approved level of achievement in NCEA Level 3 Calculus or an equivalent background in Mathematics			
<p>Integration looks at summing continuous variables, providing a way to define and compute areas and volumes, which are essential for many applications. This course develops integral calculus, including the view of integration as anti-differentiation, leading to the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Sequences and series are introduced, and functions are approximated using their Taylor polynomials. Techniques of integration are developed, including substitution and integration by parts. Differential equations are introduced, many of which arise from physical systems, and the course also introduces basic methods for solving them.</p>				

MATH 151	CRN 17161	ALGEBRA	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	12 AS credits NCEA Level 3 Mathematics (or equivalent) or MATH 132			
<p>Linear algebra is central to mathematics, and essential in science and engineering. This course introduces linear algebra, motivated by some of these applications, and maintaining a practical approach using fundamental mathematical objects such as matrices and vectors. Methods to solve systems of linear equations using matrices are introduced, as are eigenvectors, which can be used to characterise matrices amongst many other applications. The concept of an algebraic structure is introduced, as are complex numbers, which allow the solution of many equations that did not previously have solutions.</p>				

MATH 161	CRN 17162	DISCRETE MATHEMATICS AND LOGIC	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	12 AS credits NCEA level 3 Mathematics (or equivalent) or MATH 132			
<p>Logic underlies all of mathematics. This course introduces the basic notions of logic and discusses what makes some arguments good or valid, and others invalid. This leads to a definition of a mathematical proof, whereby the truth of mathematical statements is guaranteed. Other topics include sets, relations, functions, elementary counting principles, and an introduction to number theory. The second half of the course introduces the fundamental concepts of graph theory, which is the study of networks, which have applications from computing to disease transmission.</p>				

MATH 177	CRN 19803	PROBABILITY AND DECISION MODELLING	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	Approved level of achievement in NCEA Level 3 Calculus or one of (ENGR 122, 123, MATH 141, QUAN 111) or equivalent background in mathematics.			
<p>Heads or tails? That's fair, right? Is the coin fair though - and how could you check? How might you choose in a more complicated situation? This course gives you an introduction to probability models in Statistics and their use in good decision making. Concepts you will study include probability, random variables and their distributions, decision theory, model estimation using sampled data, and tests for checking fitted models. Bad decisions follow from badly-fitting models. This course is needed for a mathematical pathway in Statistics, and for Actuarial Science. To make good decisions using probability, choose this course!</p>				

STAT 193	(SEE STREAMS)	STATISTICS IN PRACTICE	15 PTS	T1 T2 T3
Restrictions:	MATH 277, QUAN 102			
Streams:	Stream A (CRN 1791), Stream B (CRN 11333)			T1
	Stream A (CRN 4442), Stream B (CRN 6164)			T2
	Stream A (CRN 17069)			T3
<p>An applied statistics course for students who will be advancing in other disciplines as well as those majoring in Statistics. It is particularly suitable for students majoring in Biological Science subjects, Geography, Health, Linguistics, Psychology, social sciences such as Education, and if you are a BCom student. This course assumes no previous knowledge of statistics, but mathematics to Year 12 is preferred. Topics we will cover include data display and inference, estimation, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing, comparison of means, linear regression and correlation, and analysis of variance.</p>				

200-LEVEL COURSES

ACTS 201	CRN 29082	FINANCIAL MATHEMATICS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	QUAN 102 (or STAT 193 or MATH 177), QUAN 111 (or MATH 141/142, 151)			
Mathematical principles of compound interest, geometric series and annuities; valuation of loans; returns on financial transactions; duration and immunisation theory; term structure of interest rates; stochastic interest rates.				

AIML 231	CRN 35049	TECHNIQUES IN MACHINE LEARNING	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	AIML 131 or 60 200-level points or at least a B in DATA 101; one of (COMP 103, 132)*			
Restrictions:	COMP 307, 309, DATA 302			
This course introduces core concepts and techniques in machine learning, as well as commonly used software libraries for implementing machine learning pipelines. It includes an overview of the machine learning field, including supervised and unsupervised learning; fundamental machine learning techniques including neural networks; tools to understand data such as exploratory data analysis, pre-processing, and visualisation; and the design machine learning pipelines. This course balances theoretical concepts of machine learning and the use of programming libraries for hands-on practice.				
*In 2025 only, one of (COMP102, INFO102) will also be accepted for entry instead of one of (COMP103, 132)				

DATA 201	CRN 31057	TECHNIQUES OF DATA SCIENCE	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	DATA 101 or SPCE 201), one of (COMP 102, 112, 132, INFO 102, 151), one of (ENGR 123, MATH 177, PHYS 245, QUAN 102, SPCE 245, STAT 193)			
Discover the essential computational techniques at the heart of data science, encompassing the realms of data integration and encryption. Dive into the mathematical concepts and techniques that underpin the entire data lifecycle, from generation and representation to transformation.				
NOT OFFERED IN 2025				

DATA 202	CRN 31058	DATA MANAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	One of (COMP 102, 112, 132, INFO 102)			
Explore the practical side of data management in this course designed for those working with data sources. You will get hands-on experience in programming and data management using a high-level language and SQL. You will build confidence in skills such as web scraping, data transformation, data cleaning, and the creation of data summaries and visualisations.				

ENGR 222	CRN 33042	COMPUTATIONAL ALGEBRA AND CALCULUS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	(ENGR 121, 122) or (MATH 142, 151)			
This course covers fundamental concepts in linear algebra and multivariable calculus, with an emphasis on their applications to physical and engineering problems. Topics covered include linear transformations, matrix decomposition including the singular value decomposition, Taylor series, calculus of vector-valued functions, multivariate functions and vector fields. Mathematical software will be used extensively.				

MATH 212	CRN 31091	INTRODUCTION TO REAL ANALYSIS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	MATH 142			
The theoretical underpinnings of calculus took many years to develop rigorously. This course provides insight into the basic techniques of real analysis in the familiar context of single-variable differential calculus. There is a focus on the proof techniques that have been developed to analyse classical analytic functions.				

MATH 243	CRN 18323	MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	(MATH 142, 151) or B+ or better in ENGR 122			
<p>In order to apply calculus to many physical systems, its concepts have to be extended to higher dimensions. The course introduces vector-valued functions of one variable (curves in the plane and in space), real-valued functions of several variables, and vector fields, which are vector-valued functions of two or three variables. Integration over lines and surfaces, together with double and triple integrals, are defined, together with methods to solve them. Applications are used to motivate and demonstrate these methods.</p>				

MATH 244	CRN 18324	ORDINARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	(MATH 142, 151) or (ENGR 121,122)			
<p>Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs) have motivated a lot of mathematics, both for themselves and for their applications, particularly in the wider sciences. This course introduces ODEs, covering their classification, and various solution methods for both linear and nonlinear equations. Systems of ODEs are introduced, together with the linear algebra needed to solve them. The course also presents the Laplace transform and its use in solving ODEs.</p>				

MATH 245	CRN 30099	COMPUTATIONAL MATHEMATICS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	ENGR 122 or ENGR 123 or (MATH 151 and (141 or 142))			
<p>Combining mathematics with computational techniques allows us to study a wide variety of applications in science, for example, solving physics problems by approximating integrals and derivatives, and compressing digital images using singular-value decomposition. This course develops mathematical, numerical, and computational techniques for practical problems that utilise optimisation, simulation, interpolation, and approximation. Some previous experience in programming is highly desirable.</p>				

MATH 251	CRN 18325	LINEAR ALGEBRA	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 151 or B+ or better in ENGR 122			
<p>Linear algebra is a fundamental part of mathematics. This is a second course in linear algebra, focusing on more abstract representations and giving an axiomatic treatment of vector spaces. The course introduces the underlying concepts of linear algebra, including linear transformations, subspaces, isomorphisms, dimensions, eigenvectors, inner products, and diagonalisation. Applications are used to motivate and demonstrate these concepts.</p>				

MATH 261	CRN 18326	GROUPS AND GRAPHS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	MATH 161 or B+ or better in ENGR 123			
<p>This course explores two fundamental mathematical structures: groups and graphs. Both have wide applications in mathematics, as well as in fields such as computer science, cryptography, physics, and chemistry. The course starts with basic group theory and explores permutations, matrices, and symmetries. The graph section uses an algorithmic lens to investigate graph complexity, study network flows, construct shortest paths, and find matchings in graphs.</p>				

MATH 277	CRN 19804	MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	(MATH 142, 177) or B+ or better in both (ENGR 122, 123)			
Topics covered: a review of basic probability theory; discrete and continuous random variables; joint distributions of random variables; expectation, variance, covariance and moment generating functions; correlation and linear combinations of random variables; central limit theorem; maximum likelihood estimation; confidence intervals; hypothesis testing; linear regression; one-way analysis of variance. The statistical software R will be used.				

STAT 292	CRN 18331	APPLIED STATISTICS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	STAT 193 or one of (ENGR 123, QUAN 102) or a comparable background in Statistics			
Modern science is heavily data-driven, and statistical methods are instrumental in producing evidence-based conclusions. This course covers applied statistical methods that are widely used across the biological, social and physical sciences. You will examine chi-square tests, t-tests, analysis of variance and non-parametric tests as a means to assess the evidence for differences between groups; and you will fit linear regression, logistic regression, and loglinear models to explore relationships between variables. Relevant examples are used throughout to illustrate the statistical methods considered. The statistical computing package R is used and demonstrated, although no previous programming experience is required.				

STAT 293	CRN 18332	APPLIED STATISTICAL MODELLING	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	STAT 292			
What is the strongest predictor of a student's exam performance? What does household medical expenditure depend on? Can we predict the number of bird or plant species on an island based on its environmental features? You can explore questions like these using the statistical modelling techniques in this course. With an emphasis on practical applications, we cover statistical model fitting methods, use of the R software for model fitting and the interpretation of results. Topics covered include randomised block and nested design ANOVA models, permutation testing, multiple linear regression, models for count data and models for multilevel data.				

300-LEVEL COURSES

ACTS 301	CRN 27135	ACTUARIAL SCIENCE	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	ACTS 201, ECON 141, (MATH 277 or QUAN 203)			
This is a capstone course for the Actuarial Science major that brings together skills and knowledge from prior courses to develop an understanding of their practical application in the actuarial profession. It provides grounding in the mathematical techniques that can be used to model risks and contingencies.				
ACTS 336	CRN 31125	GENERAL INSURANCE TECHNIQUES	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 277 (or QUAN 203)			
This course provides the mathematical foundation necessary to set premiums and reserves for general insurance contracts. It provides an overview of the various techniques used in general insurance, including loss distributions, ruin theory, credibility, run-off triangles and general insurance modelling.				
DATA 301	CRN 32011	DATA SCIENCE IN PRACTICE	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	One of (AIML 231, DATA 201), DATA 202, DATA 303			
Take your data science skills to the next level with our capstone course. Dive into interactive displays, infographics, and dashboards to sharpen your communication and reporting abilities through visualisation. This course seamlessly combines statistical and mathematical modelling with programming, while also exploring the social and ethical aspects of data science.				
DATA 303	CRN 32012	STATISTICS FOR DATA SCIENCE	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	One of (DATA 202, STAT 293) and one of (MATH 277, QUAN 203, STAT 292))			
In this course we uncover the role that Statistics plays in Data Science. With a focus on understanding relevant statistical methods and their practical applications, this course will help you consolidate key data science skills. Topics covered include generalised linear models, polynomial regression, generalised additive models, shrinkage methods and supervised learning methods. The topics are covered in the context of inference and prediction for continuous, count and binary outcomes.				
DATA 304 COMP 312	CRN 32013 CRN 10444	SIMULATION AND STOCHASTIC MODELS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	One course from (COMP 102, 112, 132, DATA 202); one course from (ENGR 123, MATH 177, 277, STAT 292); 15 further 200-level COMP, DATA, MATH, NWEN, STAT or SWEN points			
Simulation and modelling of stochastic systems, covering examples from operations research and computer science, including queues, networks and computer systems. Design, analysis and validation of simulation experiments. Previous experience with computer programming is required before starting this course. Co-taught with COMP 312.				
NOT OFFERED IN 2025				

DATA 305	CRN TBC	MACHINE LEARNING FOR DATA SCIENCE	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	One of (AIML 231, DATA 201), DATA 202			
Data Science uses machine learning methods to fit data and make predictions. In this course you will learn how to explore data in order to identify the appropriate ethical and cultural considerations and select the appropriate tools to analyse the data, develop the theory that underlies those tools, and see a variety of modern machine learning algorithms (such as Large Language Models) that make modern machine learning such a fascinating topic.				

DATA 351	CRN 32015	DATA SCIENCE INTERNSHIP	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	One of (AIML 231, DATA 201), one of (MATH 277, STAT 292), one of (DATA 202, QUAN 203), 15 further 200-level points all with B+ average. This course is limited entry.			
Students will complete an approved and supervised project in a public, private or non-profit organisation with established data science work stream. This project will enable students to gain professional work experience in the application of data science and to develop teamwork and communication skills in a relevant organisation.				

MATH 301	CRN 3505	PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	MATH 243, 244			
This course is an introduction to Partial Differential Equations (PDEs), including those of importance for the natural sciences. The course covers solution methods for linear PDEs, including the use of boundary values and initial values. The course develops Fourier series and Fourier transforms and discusses their use in solving PDEs, and also develops Green's functions.				

MATH 309	CRN 7528	MATHEMATICAL LOGIC	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	MATH 161 and 30 pts from 200-level MATH			
This course examines symbolic languages, which are a foundational pillar of mathematics as well as the basis of computer science. Their semantics and proof theory are studied, explaining the role of logic in describing mathematical structures and formalising reasoning about them. Topics covered include propositional logic, first-order logic of quantifiers and predicates, and the beginnings of model theory, including completeness and compactness theorems. Some computability theory is covered, culminating in Gödel's incompleteness theorem.				

MATH 311	CRN 9591	ALGEBRA	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	(MATH 251 or 261) and 15 further 200-level MATH pts			
The abstraction of algebra to sets with extra structure has led to many important mathematical developments. The basic algebraic structures, groups, rings and fields, are the focus of this course, together with some of their applications, such as solving systems of polynomial equations. There is an emphasis on general concepts, such as subgroups, homomorphisms, and factorization. Some familiarity with groups is expected.				

MATH 318	CRN 31093	HILBERT SPACES	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	MATH 212 and MATH 251			
This course extends the techniques of linear algebra and real analysis so that problems of an intrinsically infinite-dimensional nature can be studied. A Hilbert space is an inner product space with the analytic structure suitable for studying such problems. Hilbert spaces, and linear maps on them, are of interest to both mathematicians and physicists.				

MATH 321	CRN 19910	INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED MATHEMATICS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 243 and MATH 244			
<p>Many practical problems can be modelled and analysed using differential equations. This course introduces some fundamental methods for such modelling and analysis. The course begins by developing techniques such as dimensional analysis and perturbation methods, and then applies them to solve problems including reaction kinetics, diffusion, and traffic flow.</p>				
MATH 324	CRN 15668	CODING AND CRYPTOGRAPHY	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 251			
<p>Encoding messages so that they can be transmitted robustly and efficiently, while being safe from eavesdroppers, is an important part of modern communication. This course starts with modern coding theory, introducing linear codes, coding bounds, perfect codes, and cyclic codes to develop codes that can deal with communication over a noisy channel. Moving on to cryptography, the course covers topics such as classical ciphers, one-way pads, Shannon's Theorem, public key cryptography, one-way functions, the RSA cryptosystem, key distribution and digital signatures.</p>				
MATH 361	CRN 29085	GRAPH THEORY	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 161 and 30 pts from 200-level MATH			
<p>Graphs provide an abstraction that enables many different systems to be modelled and analysed, from computer networks to disease spread. This course introduces graphs as mathematical objects and covers topics including: connectivity and Menger's Theorem; colourings and Brooks' Theorem; topological graph theory and Kuratowski's Theorem; and Ramsey Theory.</p>				
MATH 377	CRN 19805	PROBABILITY AND RANDOM PROCESSES	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	MATH 243; MATH 277			
<p>The course provides a firmer foundation in probability theory and an introduction to random processes. Main topics: conditional distributions and effects of conditioning; martingales in discrete time; Poisson point processes; birth and death processes; renewal processes.</p>				
MATH 381	CRN 3512	SPECIAL TOPIC: COMPLEX ANALYSIS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	(MATH 212 or 243) and 15 further 200 level MATH pts			
<p>Complex analysis extends real analysis to functions of complex variables. This course covers the fundamentals of complex analysis, including the Cauchy-Riemann equations, holomorphic functions, harmonic functions, the Cauchy integral formula, power series, and the residue theorem. Applications include evaluating real integrals, a proof of the fundamental theorem of algebra, and solving 2D problems relating to steady temperature distribution, inviscid fluid flow and electrostatics.</p>				
STAT 332	CRN 19809	STATISTICAL INFERENCE	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 243, 277			
<p>This course covers distribution theory; estimation including minimum variance unbiased estimators and sufficiency; hypothesis testing and an introduction to order statistics. The topics of estimation and hypothesis testing met in MATH 277 will be looked at in greater depth. Optimal estimation procedures and tests will be developed.</p>				
NOT OFFERED IN 2025				

STAT 335	CRN 27136	STATISTICAL MODELS FOR ACTUARIAL SCIENCE	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 277			
This course introduces a range of models used in actuarial science, including Markov chains, Markov processes and transition, survival models and estimation with graduation methods and binomial models for mortality.				

STAT 391	CRN 19810	MATHEMATICAL METHODS FOR APPLIED STATISTICS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	STAT 292			
Restrictions:	MATH 243, the pair (ENGR 122/MATH 142, 251)			
How should we model data to ensure we have a good understanding of the world? Drawing correct conclusions from well-chosen statistical models needs a range of mathematical techniques. This course shows you the key methods used in the construction and maximisation of likelihoods, the analysis of experimental data and linear models, and an exploration of probability plus several probability distributions. Specific mathematical topics include matrices and their properties, differentiation and optimisation of functions, plus integral calculus. The statistical software R will be used.				

STAT 392	CRN 3048	SAMPLE SURVEYS	15 PTS	T1
Prerequisites:	STAT 193 (or equivalent), 30 approved points from 200/300 level courses			
An introduction to practical aspects of survey sampling, including writing a survey proposal, costing, non-sampling errors, rudiments of sampling theory, questionnaire design, fieldwork, basic analytic techniques, and report writing.				

STAT 393	CRN 19811	LINEAR MODELS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	(MATH 243, 277) or (STAT 293, 391)			
This course will cover general linear models: theory and applications, including maximum likelihood estimation, model selection, AIC, tests of hypotheses, confidence intervals, and residual diagnostics. It includes longitudinal analysis for continuous responses using fixed or random effects methods. The course covers the theory of generalised linear models and gives examples for binary and count data. The statistical software R will be used.				

STAT 394	CRN 19808	MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS	15 PTS	T2
Prerequisites:	MATH 277 or (STAT 292, 391)			
Multivariate Statistics is an essential component of Statistics and Data. We'll delve into the fundamental concepts and techniques to tackle complex multivariate data with Principal Component Analysis (simplify data while retaining its integrity), Cluster Analysis (identify patterns and groupings), Factor Analysis (discover the underlying factors influencing your data variables), Discriminant Analysis (learn how to classify), Canonical Correlations (gain insights into the relationships between multiple sets of variables), the Multivariate General Linear Model (make predictions with confidence), and Multidimensional Scaling (discover and visualize complex data relationships). You'll have hands-on experience using statistical software to apply these techniques to real-world datasets.				

CONTACT INFORMATION

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Te Kura Mātai Tatauranga

Location: CO358, Level 3, Cotton Building, Kelburn Campus

Phone: 04-463 5341

Email: sms-office@vuw.ac.nz

Website: www.wgtn.ac.nz/sms

Associate Deans:

Undergraduate Students	Dr Christopher Hollitt	AM223	04-463 6965
Postgraduate Research	A/Prof Nokuthaba Sibanda	CO534	04-463 6779
Academic Development	Dr Stuart Marshall	CO338	04-463 6730

STAFF (All room numbers refer to Cotton Building)

		ROOM	PHONE
Head of School	Prof Lisa Orloff Clark	324	04-463 6734
Deputy Head of School	Prof Richard Arnold	538	04-463 5668
School Manager	Ginny Whatarau	323	04-886 4566
Programme Directors:			
Mathematics	Dr Steven Archer	363	04-886 4493
Statistics	Dr Yuan Yao	533	04-886 4494
Data Science	Prof Alejandro Frery	537	04-887 4269
Advisor to International Students	A/Prof Ivy Liu	424	04-463 5648
Advisor to Māori and Pasifika Students	David Cox	320	04-463 6788
Advisor to Women Students	Ginny Whatarau	323	04-886 4566
Disability Liaison Advisor	Amy Blair	358	04-463 5341
Office Administration			
Senior Administrator	Sonia Tenreiro	358	04-886 3633
Administrator	Amy Blair	358	04-463 5341
Postgraduate Coordinator	Morgan Holschier	358	04-887 3988

STAFF CONTACTS

(All room numbers refer to Cotton Building)

TEACHING STAFF	ROLE / RESEARCH INTERESTS	ROOM	EMAIL
Dr Ryan Admiraal	Social network analysis, disease modelling	536	ryan.admiraal@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Astrid an Huef	Functional analysis, operator algebras, dynamical systems	439	astrid.anhuef@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Steven Archer	Lecturer (teaching)	363	steven.archer@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Becky Armstrong	Post Doctoral Fellow in Mathematics	548	becky.armstrong@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Richard Arnold	Biostatistics, Bayesian statistics, statistics in geophysics	538	richard.arnold@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Nick Brettell	Matroid theory, graph theory, algorithms	427	nick.brettell@vuw.ac.nz
David Cox	Lecturer (teaching)	320	david.cox@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Petro Feketa	Stability theory, nonlinear control, hybrid and discontinuous dynamical systems	426	Petro.feketa@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Alejandro Frery	Statistical computing; signal, image, network analysis, data analysis, synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery	537	alejandro.frery@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Emma Greenbank	Mathematical modelling, fluid dynamics, Surtseyan ejecta and Lithium-ion batteries	435	emma.greenbank@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Noam Greenberg	Computability theory, set theory	438	noam.greenberg@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Tanya Gvozdeva	Lecturer (teaching)	362	tanya.gvozdeva@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Brendan Harding	Fluid dynamics, iterated function systems	433	brendan.harding@vuw.ac.nz
Dr John Haywood	Time series, forecasting, seasonal adjustment, statistical modelling	541	john.haywood@vuw.ac.nz
Dr David Huijser	Bayesian statistics, data modelling	542	david.huijser@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Byoung Du Kim	Number theory	434	byoungdu.kim@vuw.ac.nz
A/Prof Ivy Liu	Categorical data analysis	424	ivy.liu@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Stephen Marsland	Shape analysis, diffeomorphism groups, machine learning, complexity	443	stephen.marsland@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Louise McMillan	Model-based clustering, statistical ecology	429	louise.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz
A/Prof Sasha Melnikov	Mathematical logic, computability theory, computable algebraic and metric structures	442	sasha.melnikov@vuw.ac.nz
A/Prof Dimitrios Mitsotakis	Numerical analysis, differential equations, nonlinear waves	441	dimitrios.mitsotakis@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Binh Nguyen	Image analysis, visualization	535	binh.p.nguyen@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Lisa Orloff Clark	Algebra and functional analysis	324	lisa.orloffclark@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Hung Le Pham	Functional analysis	440	hung.pham@vuw.ac.nz
A/Prof Nokuthaba Sibanda	Biomedical statistics, statistical process control, applications of Bayesian statistics	534	nokuthaba.sibanda@vuw.ac.nz

Prof Peter Smith	Telecommunications, statistics in engineering	539	peter.smith@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Budhi Surya	Levy process, optimal stopping, applied probability, financial stochastic	544	budhi.surya@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Ilija Tolich	Post Doctoral Fellow in Mathematics	430	ilija.tolich@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Dan Turetsky	Computability theory, algorithmic randomness	436	dan.turetsky@vuw.ac.nz
Prof Matt Visser	Black holes, general relativity, cosmology	321	matt.visser@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Yuan Yao	Statistical learning, high-dimensional data analysis, survival analysis, empirical processes	533	yuan.yao@vuw.ac.nz

STUDENT SUPPORT

TĪTOKO—CENTRE FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The Student Success team offers a range of services that cover all student-related matters from applications and enrolment to graduation. Our aim is to create a client-focused, friendly environment where all who visit our area not only feel welcome, but also receive support and advice of high quality.

Address CO144, Level 1, Cotton Building
Phone 0800 04 04 04
Email info@vuw.ac.nz
Hours 9.00am - 4.00pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
9.30am - 4.00pm Tuesday

Email

We encourage you to use email for enquiries. You can contact our team at info@vuw.ac.nz. Please include your full name and ID number in the subject line of your email.

In-person appointments

If you are coming to the office, you will need to make an appointment in advance.

ĀWHINA | MĀORI STUDENT SUPPORT

Āwhina is the on-campus whānau for Māori students to work together to share knowledge, achieve academic success, and build strong communities and leaders.

At Āwhina, our kaupapa (goal) is to help students successfully transition from secondary education or work into tertiary education, and to provide academic support for Māori students enrolled at the University. Our experienced staff offer one-to-one advising and mentoring sessions, tutorials, study wānanga, and a range of workshops to help you achieve your study goals. Our culturally inclusive environment includes whānau rooms with computer facilities, study areas, kitchen facilities, and space to meet with peers or tuākana (older students).

Email: awhina@vuw.ac.nz

Website: www.wgtn.ac.nz/awhina

PASIFIKA STUDENT SUCCESS

The Pasifika Student Success team is the University 'āiga (family) who journey with all Pasifika students at the University. The team fosters learning and teaching communities in an environment that celebrates Pasifika cultures, is welcoming and safe, and is focused on academic excellence, personal growth, and wellbeing.

The Pasifika Student Success team can help you navigate your transition into tertiary study, with study spaces, support staff and mentoring programmes. The team engage with Pasifika students on campus and via various online platforms, such as Zoom, email, phone, and social media.

Email: pasifika@vuw.ac.nz

Website: www.wgtn.ac.nz/pasifika