

# TOP AUT BUSINESS SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR 2015

# AUT



**Professor Geoff Perry,**  
PVC & Dean  
Faculty of Business,  
Economics and Law  
AUT

It is my privilege to present the 2015 top achieving graduates from the AUT Business School.

These graduates have delivered outstanding academic performances in their chosen discipline. We see them as future leaders in local, regional and global communities.

They are the standard bearers who will help the AUT Business School achieve its vision of 'Transforming lives, transforming business'.

## UNDERGRADUATE - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS

### Matthew MacKinnon

Overall in the Bachelor of Business, Economics and Finance

### Xaviere Murray-Puhara

Top Māori graduate and top in Business Information Systems

### Angela Latu

Top Pasifika graduate

### Kelly Goddard

Accounting

### Zahra Bozorgi-Golafzani

Advertising and Marketing

### Lucy Brooking

Design

### Heather Butcher

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### Toni-Anne Patton

Human Resource Management and Employment Relations

### Lucian Simmons

Finance and International Business

### Sarah Remington

Management

### Jose Ago

Retailing

### Samantha Mayo-Smith

Sales

### Brendon Cao

Sustainable Enterprise

### Joanne Johnson

Co-operative Education

## POSTGRADUATE

### Emma Steven

Bachelor of Business with Honours, Marketing

### Marian Makkar

Master of Business, Marketing

### Rong Zhang

Master of Business, Marketing

### Susan-Lee Shoemark

Top Māori graduate in the Master of Business

### Nicole Stock

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

### Anqi Liu

Master of Applied Finance

### Chao Zhou

Master of Global Business

### Desiree Hee

Master of Marketing

### Liang Yan

Master of Professional Accounting

## 2015 PHD GRADUATES

### Swati Nagar

International Business  
*Internationalisation of NZ civil construction firms*

### Xuejun Wang

Accounting  
*Real earnings management*

### Katharine Jones

Marketing  
*Consumer brands and children's use of social media*

### Ivan Indriawan

Finance  
*Price formation of cross-listed stocks*

### James Mather

Economics  
*Ngāti Awa economic development*

### Ricardo Chacon Mestre

Economics  
*University as change agent*

### Margaret Elley-Brown

Management  
*Career as meaning making: women's lived experience*

### Thanh Son

Economics  
*Poverty reduction initiatives in Vietnam*

### Awinder Mohinder Singh

Business Information Systems  
*Adoption and assimilation of Internet Protocol version 6*

### Paweena Wanchai

Business Information Systems  
*User adaptation to complex Information Systems*

### Erwin Losekoot

Business Information Systems  
*Airport customer experience*

### Shilinka Smith

Accounting  
*Public sector performance management*

### Ibrahim Shafiu

Business Information Systems  
*Information security compliance behaviour*



## AUT postgrad studies spark business start-up

After excelling in AUT's Master of Business programme, Marian Makkar is now taking on a PhD and launching her own start-up.

Marian says the idea for her business, myTribeX, which allows businesses to make use of their customers' ideas and solutions, was sparked by papers she took during her master's studies.

"The idea behind the business is that we use the wisdom of the crowd to solve business decisions, generate innovative ideas, and improve customer satisfaction."

With her PhD research, Marian will be exploring the idea of collaborative consumption – the novel business model underpinning companies like Uber and Task Rabbit – and looking at new approaches to innovation driven by collaborative marketplaces.

"A lot of businesses aren't using their data very well. They look at what their customers do rather than digging deeper to understand why consumers act the way they do. With my research I'm looking forward to learning more about what drives people's behaviour."

**Marian Makkar**  
Master of Business graduate



## Co-operative Education and research skills prepare BBus grad to succeed

A rewarding work experience and his lecturers' original approach to teaching are two of the highlights for AUT Bachelor of Business graduate Matt MacKinnon.

Matt, who majored in economics and finance, is now working at BNZ as an institutional credit analyst, where he says he regularly draws on what he learned at AUT.

"AUT has set me up with specialised knowledge in finance and economics, but even more importantly, it has given me the tools to carry out research and fill in any gaps in my knowledge as I move through my career."

Matt says the experience he gained during his placement at Vodafone NZ has also been critical to his success.

"Going out in the corporate world teaches you the other half of the puzzle. I made a lot of connections and learned a lot from extremely talented people."

**Matt MacKinnon**  
Bachelor of Business graduate

