

SHADOW A LEADER

22-26 JUNE 2026



WHAT IS SHADOW A LEADER?

At Auckland University of Technology, engagement and collaboration with organisations, professions, and the community are central to our mission, with a strong emphasis on providing industry learning experiences for students.

Shadow a Leader is an exciting initiative by AUT's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law. This programme offers AUT and Auckland secondary school students the unique opportunity to shadow an industry leader for a day.

Participants gain invaluable insights into the dynamic world of industry leadership and discover the essential skills and attributes needed to excel in their chosen careers. This immersive experience is designed to shape the future of aspiring young leaders of our industries.

SHADOW A LEADER IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Institute of Finance Professionals NZ Inc.

COVER LEFT TO RIGHT: MALAIKA TASNIA - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND BACHELOR OF LAWS, ARREN TARAU-EAGLE - GLENFIELD COLLEGE, ANNA CARDY - SOLICITOR (FAMILY TEAM) AND PENINA CLARK - SENIOR SOLICITOR (PROPERTY TEAM) AT TOMPKINS WAKE LAW FIRM, LUCY STREET - ST KENTIGERN COLLEGE

LEFT TO RIGHT: PRANAV GHAKAR - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, MAYA BABU - NORTHCOTE COLLEGE, DHYAN GADHIYA - MASTER OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, LETITIA KORTEGAST - TALENTS & EXPERIENCE SPECIALIST AT PORT OF AUCKLAND

WORKING IN TEAMS OF THREE

Shadow a Leader pairs an AUT business and law student with a Year 13 student and an organisation leader, allowing the students to 'shadow' the leader for a day. Since its inception in 2012, this initiative has grown to include over 100 teams of three each year.

AUT business and law students are encouraged to apply for this opportunity, with selections based on their final-year status in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, involvement in student clubs, leadership roles and academic recommendations.

Nominated by their schools for academic and extracurricular excellence, Year 13 students with a keen interest in careers in business, economics or law are selected for Shadow a Leader. These students often participate in entrepreneurial challenges or initiatives, such as the Young Enterprise Scheme.

Students will be informed of their scheduled Shadow a Leader day, including location details (building floor and address), meet-up time, contact information and any special requirements. The student teams are given full independence to navigate to the location, present themselves to the leader and connect with their 'buddy'.

LEFT TO RIGHT: VICTORIA CLARK - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, MAX HART - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, PAULINE SICAT - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, KEVIN VUONG - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, SHAILAN PATEL - EDUCATION MANAGER NZ AT MYOB

LEFT TO RIGHT: RENEE GAMBLING - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, JOEL EVERETT - GLENDOWIE COLLEGE, CHRIS QUIN - CEO OF FOODSTUFFS NORTH ISLAND



ON THE DAY

Shadow a Leader is offered for a single dedicated week mid-year, with organisations selecting a single day within this week that best fits their flexible working environment and availability. This approach allows leaders to choose a day that aligns with their schedule and on-site activities.

The day starts directly at the organisation, where students are responsible for independently meeting their leader or contact person. Throughout the day, students will follow their leader's activities, which may include:

- Planning and strategy meetings
- Client meetings and presentations
- Negotiation discussions
- Board meetings
- Product manufacture or factory tours
- Team building

The AUT Shadow a Leader team coordinates industry allocations, placement letters, and contact details to ensure every participant enjoys an inspiring day of shared learning.

LEFT TO RIGHT: VIBHUTI PATEL - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND BACHELOR OF ARTS, ISABELLA MONTENEGRO RAUBO - BARADENE COLLEGE, KAREN SHIRES - CHAIR AND PHIL TAYLOR - PARTNER AT PWC NEW ZEALAND, SHIVANA KUMAR - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, DANIEL MACFARLANE - AUCKLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL



AFTER THE EVENT

The day after their Shadow a Leader experience, all participating leader and students receive a short online survey.

Leaders are able to share key information on highlights and suggestions to continue improving this experience. Secondary students can express their interest in specific AUT programmes, ensuring they receive relevant information. Additionally, they are invited to attend AUT LIVE in August.

AUT students can credit their participation towards the AUT Edge Award. They may also have their profile story published on the AUT website, sharing their Shadow a Leader experience.



ABOVE - LEFT TO RIGHT: ROHIT SATI - MASTER OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, AMARJEET SINGH - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, FELICITY VILLAGRACIA - GLENFIELD COLLEGE, BENITA JAIKUMAR - ACG SUNDERLAND, STEVE FIELDING - EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER AT NETLOGIX

RIGHT - LEFT TO RIGHT: JIYA ARORA - BACHELOR OF BUSINESS, CAROL CHIN - CHAPTER CLIENT LEAD AT SPARK NEW ZEALAND LTD, TRAVIS FINDLAY - WESTLAKE BOYS HIGH SCHOOL



BE PREPARED

We invite all AUT and secondary school students, teachers, and parents to join an industry information session designed to help you make the most of this unique experience.

A link to this session will be sent out in advance to all students and teachers. These interactive sessions will include Q&A segments and cover essential topics such as CV writing, creating a LinkedIn account, and professional conduct and etiquette.

The dress code for Shadow a Leader is smart casual for AUT students and school uniform for secondary students. If a school uniform is not available, secondary students should also dress in smart casual attire.

Students will make their own way home from the day's activities at a time agreed upon with their leader.

GET INVOLVED

To express interest in participating as a student or organisation leader, please contact:

Annie Chant
Partnerships Manager
P: (09) 921 9999
E: annie.chant@aut.ac.nz

HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS SAID

Feedback from leaders

“The two students, Mana and Claire, were a delight to host. They were curious and interested. They asked lots of relevant questions and listened well. They were confident and interacted with lots of people across the business, making the most of the opportunity. I also really enjoyed being able to offer advice and share some of the things I’ve learned across my career with them.”

Kelly Skelton, Customer Experience Design & Standards Manager – Auckland Transport

“I enjoyed engaging with the students and hearing about what they are studying, their interests, where they want to go and how they are thinking about their careers. It’s also refreshing to be reminded of how we can all benefit from using a beginner’s mindset to think about things differently.”

Anne Chen, Global Product Manager – Fisher & Paykel Appliances

“Great participation from our student participants Ben and Pitou; they were proactive, mature and curious with great questions throughout the day. They also helped us brainstorm a real-time finance transformation problem!”

Carl Ferguson, Head of Finance Transformation – ASB Bank

“The enthusiasm of the students that joined me was a highlight – they were excited to learn as much as possible about the airline and the future of digital and the workforce with AI.”

Jon Murray, GM Architecture – Air New Zealand

“I was impressed by the maturity of the high school student. He was fully engaged, asked thoughtful questions, and shared smart ideas during the meetings I invited him to. He showed real curiosity and maturity well beyond his years.”

Sabine Roberts, Global Commercial Director – Les Mills International

Feedback from AUT students

“What stood out most was the opportunity to engage with a wide range of teams across the business. I was able to observe and connect with professionals in marketing, business operations, finance, data and legal, each offering unique insights into how their functions contribute to the firm’s overall success. It was inspiring to see the collaboration across departments and to learn how different skill sets come together in a corporate setting.”

Jospeh Sholji – Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Computer & Information Sciences
Shadowed Nikko Asset Management

“Meeting marketing professionals and being immersed in the process of knowing each product that the team I was in works with and the process behind every launch was great. Also seeing how my degree relates to their work was eye-opening.”

Cindy Gam-He Kuang – Bachelor of Business
Shadowed Fisher & Paykel Healthcare

“I enjoyed meeting the CEO, Sarah Wood, and learning about her job experience that led her to her role as CEO and hearing her advice to us as students. Also getting to go out with Nicole from the sales team to meet with clients from Bayleys – this was one highlight of the day because we got to see how realestate.co.nz actually makes their money and works with clients – it was really interesting to get to meet with different people.”

Olivia Lincoln – Bachelor of Business
Shadowed realestate.co.nz

“I really enjoyed shadowing leaders from different areas, including tax for large businesses, SME Tax, Audit, and People and Inclusion. One highlight was with the SME Tax team, where I saw how they work through real client documents like profit and loss statements and discuss what extra information is needed. It gave me a clear picture of how they solve problems and communicate with clients. I also found it interesting to learn how the People and Inclusion team helps create a positive culture across KPMG.”

Sukirtha Krishnalingam – Bachelor of Business
Shadowed KPMG New Zealand

Feedback from secondary school students

“Firstly, the placement was extremely on point. I feel as if there is nowhere else that could’ve benefited me and also related to my personal life more than CSP. My specific highlight was the raw exposure to what a daily routine looks like for such a professional setting. The various lessons brought to light are so crucial and will help me in the future of my business venture.”

James Sharrow – St Peter’s College
Shadowed Centre of Strategic Philanthropy

“A big highlight of my day was being able to sit down and speak with every team that contributed to the aspects of the company. From the CEO, marketing team, software team, and many more, I gained such valuable insight into what it takes to run a company with success, a good company culture, effective communication, and the right mindset. I also enjoyed being able to partake in everyday tasks of the executive assistant, whether it was just doing mundane tasks or cooperating in the daily operations.”

Tiffany Le – Botany Downs Secondary College
Shadowed OneReg

“I really enjoyed the experience, as it offered a wide variety of different jobs at ANZ and allowed me to understand a wide range of career pathways that finance can take you in the future, all in one business. By following over ten people on the day, I helped understand life at ANZ and in the industry, along with seeing how they work by being in their meetings and conferences.”

Ben Wright – Mount Albert Grammar School
Shadowed ANZ

“One of the biggest highlights for me was witnessing how the KPMG team worked together with such professionalism, warmth and respect. From the moment I arrived, I felt genuinely welcomed. Listening to Cameron’s words of encouragement and seeing strong leadership in action inspired me to keep striving to be the best version of myself. It was more than just shadowing leaders; it was an experience I’ll always remember. We got fed three times, and honestly, they had the best feeds ever! I really hope to experience more shadowing like this in the future as I move forward from here.”

Joana Tekori – Kelston Girls College
Shadowed KPMG New Zealand

“The highlight of my Shadow a Leader experience was going into meetings and getting a real understanding of how people work together and what kind of things are commonly discussed within a meeting. We also met with different individuals to discuss different aspects of the business, such as pricing, budgets and equipment. This allowed us to see how different departments work together. We were also able to see their newest product that hasn’t been released yet, which was amazing to see.”

Vanisha Bhana – Rangitoto College
Shadowed Les Mills International



LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA WANG – MACLEANS COLLEGE, ANNA FARRERA – PARTNER, LUISA KRAITZICK – PARTNER, ROSE TOOMAN – MARIST COLLEGE, AMELIA ONG – BACHELOR OF BUSINESS AND BACHELOR OF COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES CONJOINT PROGRAMME AT PEAD

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPANTS

Thank you to the following organisations and their leaders:

- AA New Zealand
- ADR Centre
- Air New Zealand
- Anthem
- ANZ
- ASB Bank Limited
- Auckland Community Law Centre
- Auckland Council
- Auckland Transport
- Bank of New Zealand
- BDO
- Bremworth New Zealand
- CDL Law Limited
- Centre for Social Impact New Zealand
- Centre for Strategic Philanthropy
- Chapman Tripp
- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
- Child Cancer Foundation
- Counties Energy
- Datacom
- Deloitte New Zealand
- Dilworth Trust Board
- EY
- Financial Markets Authority
- Fisher & Paykel Appliances
- Fisher and Paykel Healthcare
- Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited
- Foodstuffs North Island
- Foundation North
- Fujifilm Business Innovation New Zealand
- Gallagher Insurance New Zealand
- Gilbert Walker
- Goodman Fielder
- Hind Management
- Just Life Group
- JW Legal
- KPMG
- Lane Neave
- Les Mills International
- Microsoft
- Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
- MYOB
- Neptune Pacific Direct Line (NPDL)
- Netlogix
- New Zealand Story Group
- Nikko Asset Management New Zealand Limited
- OneReg
- Orbit World Travel
- Parkable
- Partners Life
- Pead PR
- Port of Auckland
- PwC
- realestate.co.nz
- Ricoh New Zealand Limited
- Russell McVeagh
- Spark New Zealand Ltd
- Spectrum Group
- Steel & Tube
- Tax Traders
- The Blues
- Tompkins Wake
- Tower Insurance
- TPT Group Holdings (NZ) Ltd
- Trust Investment Management Ltd
- Vector Limited
- Westpac New Zealand

AUCKLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Thank you to the following schools for taking part in the Shadow a Leader initiative:

- ACG Strathallan
- ACG Sunderland
- Albany Senior High School
- Alfriston College
- Auckland Girls Grammar School
- Auckland Grammar School
- Baradene College
- Botany Downs Secondary College
- De La Salle College
- Glendowie College
- Glenfield College
- Green Bay High School
- Howick College
- Kelston Girls College
- King's College
- KingsWay School
- Long Bay College
- Lynfield College
- Marist College
- Manurewa High School
- Mount Albert Grammar School
- Papakura High School
- Rangitoto College
- Sancta Maria College
- St Cuthbert's College
- St Kentigern College
- St Peter's College
- Takapuna Grammar School
- Waiheke High School
- Western Springs College
- Westlake Boys High School



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Environmental Impact, Facilities,
and Sports (specialist subject)
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