



**Te Tāhuhu o  
te Mātauranga**  
Ministry of Education

# Summer Internship Programme



## Intern Testimonials



### Jaz Leota-AhHoi | 2019 Cohort

***“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. Jeremiah 29:1. No matter where you are at on your journey. Whether you find yourself in a challenge or cruising through, those obstacles and journeys you go through make you a better person.***

Mālo le soifua, my name is Jasmine (known mostly as Jaz). I grew up in Wellington and a proud afakasi (half-cast) with origins from Fakaofu, Tokelau. Aleisa, Nofoali'i and Eva, Samoa as well as New Zealand European heritage. I graduated at Victoria University of Wellington with a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Information Systems. Alongside my studies I juggled working full-time at the Ministry of Education. This was a challenge that I've hugely benefited from.

I began my journey with Ministry as an intern in the 2019 cohort under the Service Delivery team within Learning Support. A lot of my focus was on analysing data and reporting on students' attendance across Aotearoa. I am so glad I was immersed in this space as I have more of an understanding on the challenges students come across in Aotearoa. This has reshaped my thinking as I have grown an appreciation for the different journey's life brings. I was blessed to have a great manager with amazing connections, in which enabled me to shadow other teams that I had interest in. Through this I had a taste of the operations behind Learning Support Study Awards and Scholarships, and IT management.

After my internship I was blessed with a part-time opportunity in our HR team within People Capability before moving into my now permanent role in the Systems Team within People Capability, maintaining our HR systems, data integrity and reporting and other admin work. “O lupe sa vao ese'ese, ae ua fuifui faatasi” - We are from different parts of the forest but connected in one cause. We all may be from different ethnic backgrounds and have had different journeys, but we are all in this together to make a stamp for Māori and Pasifika people in the workplace.



## Tu'itavake Matu | 2023 Cohort

### *si'i tupu ai afi lahi | A small flame grows into a large fire*

Si'oto 'ofa kia te'eki moutolu kotoa pe, ko hoku hinga Tu'itavake Matu. I am a proud Tongan, born and raised in the mighty Tāmaki Makaurau. Hailing from a background of strong Tongan women and men that have guided and influence my decisions, which they still do in wanting to help and uplift our people. I studied a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in Human Geographies and Psychology.

I interned in the business group Te Pae Aronui, in the recently disestablished Parent, Information, and Community Integration Team, under Programme Delivery. The most valuable thing I learnt as my time as an intern was seeing Pasifika excellence in practice, my team delivered a ton of programmes geared towards supporting our Pacific learners and their parents, implementing an As and By Pacific approach to education, that focussed on the learner, and that they exist outside of education spaces, and how we breakdown those siloed barriers. These experiences have shaped how I see Pacific education and the future of it, that our practices and knowledges do hold value, but the biggest learning for me, was witnessing how these are practically implemented and how the community responds when they actively included in decision-making which highly benefits all parties involved.

A highlight of my upbringing was seeing my mother as a social worker, seeing her passion for helping young Pacific kids in difficult situations was endearing, but also hard seeing the struggles she had to deal with, but made me realise how important and necessary it is to support and nurture our kids and their futures, which is why I aspired to work in the community, especially in the spaces of human geographies and psychology.



## **Emily Newbury | 2023 Cohort**

### ***Whaowhia te kete mātauranga***

#### ***This whakatauki encourages us to fill our baskets with knowledge.***

This sums up my experience in the internship as I have been empowered to seek out opportunities to learn and grow and have learnt to feel excited about how much there still is that I have yet to learn! While it's important to recognise what you have learnt so far, it's equally important to continue to seek out opportunities to continue to learn about things that you might not know much about.

Kia ora! My name is Emily and I was lucky enough to work as an intern at MoE over the summer. I was born in England and then, when I was eight years old, my family and I moved to Tauranga New Zealand. I'm currently a fourth year student at Victoria University of Wellington studying a conjoint Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Political Science and International Relations).

I interned in the Te Haratau team, which works within the National Property Services business group. This team is working to implement the Te Haratau project which aims to list the quality of physical learning environments across Aotearoa to help enable learners to succeed. During my intern experience, I developed a much greater understanding of how decisions are made in Aotearoa and how Government operates. I have enjoyed learning how to apply the skills that I've gained to generate effective solutions to challenging, real-life problems that affect the lives of learners across Aotearoa. My team has been great at ensuring that I feel supported and empowered to bring my whole self to working in this space, and it has been amazing to see the direct impacts that my contributions have had.



## **Rico Feaunati | 2023 Cohort**

***Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini***

***Success is not mine alone, it is the success of a collective***

Kia ora! Ko Rico Feaunati tōku ingoa. I come from the beautiful villages of Fasito'outa and Faleasiu in Samoa and the small island of Mauke in the Cook Islands. I was born, raised and currently live in Pōneke. I am in my final year at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington completing a Bachelor of Commerce, double majoring in Marketing and International Business.

Te Pou Tuarongo in the System Performance team. Our focus was to lift and support the cultural capability within the Ministry of Education to create better educational outcomes for ākonga Māori and their whānau and give practical effect to Te Tiriti. During my time here I had the opportunity to be involved in many types of mahi and work with a diverse set of people. There is a wealth of job and career development opportunities in The Ministry and there is no shortage of amazing people who genuinely want to create a positive difference for our tamariki and rangatahi in Aotearoa.

I have enjoyed being able to learn new and unfamiliar skills and be surrounded by talented teams and individuals who continue to support me in these early stages of my career and so I am looking forward to continuing working at The Ministry.