



# Te Puna Matauranga

*...the well spring of knowledge...*

Centre for Information Technology  
Research Internship Conference  
2025, vol I

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# Foundations to Futures

The Level 5 Noho Marae IT Experience





# Tukua te kāhu mātauranga

## kia rere

let the embodiment of  
knowledge fly

# Our Team

## Te Kura Mo Te Hangarau Whakaaturanga Centre for Information Technology

### DIRECTOR

*Centre for Information Technology, Centre for Business, School of Media Arts, Centre for Education and Foundation Pathways*

At the Wintec Institute of Technology, our research strategy focuses on applied projects that address community and industry needs, delivering substantial real-world impact. We build strong relationships with local industries, communities, and iwi, while also engaging globally through our research network. Our staff collaborate both internally and externally to enhance research excellence and contribute at a national level.

The Centre for Information Technology emphasizes applied research and industry placements, providing students with vital hands-on experience. These opportunities include internships in diverse business settings and independent projects tackling real-world IT challenges. This research promotes in-depth study and innovation, making a significant contribution to the IT field. Guided by academic mentors, these initiatives ensure that students deliver meaningful solutions, effectively bridging academic knowledge and industry needs.



SAM  
CUNNANE

### TEAM MANAGER

*Centre for Information Technology*

The Centre for Information Technology at Wintec New Zealand is committed to applied research that benefits Māori and Pacific communities, local communities, our industry partners, and the broader research community. Our efforts strengthen our connections within the CITRENZ network, linking us with IT educators across New Zealand. Our team remains dedicated to producing impactful research, contributing to significant achievements in the New Zealand Government's PBRF.

Beyond research, the Centre focuses on providing students with practical experience through industry placements and projects. Our internship programme offers practical IT roles within various businesses, while independent projects allow students to address real-world IT problems under academic supervision. These initiatives not only enhance student skills and employability but also support local businesses and non-profits by meeting their IT needs—reflecting our commitment to both community engagement and professional development.



DR. BLAINE  
RAKENA



HAMIORA  
TE MOMO

## CENTRE RESEARCH LEADER

### *Centre for Information Technology*

Research within our Centre has pivoted in recent years due to shifting business and technology landscape, but we have remained vigilant and committed to engaging with the rapidly changing world of IT. While our research directions adapted to the shifting landscape, we remained vigilant and committed to engaging with the rapidly changing world of IT. This year, our Centre has concentrated on research areas such as AI generation, prompt engineering, large language models, machine learning applications, machine learning with cultural artefacts, mobile augmented reality, and Mātauranga Māori in IT pedagogy.

#### KEY TASKS

- Enhance Research Visibility
- Facilitate Research Events and Culture
- Strategic Research Development and Management

The Research Leader's primary responsibility is to foster and cultivate research within the Centre, including enhancing research visibility and awareness through our various initiatives, most notably our Research Wall. This wall, Te Puna Mātauranga Māori – *the wellspring of knowledge*, serves as a dynamic showcase of ongoing research activities within our Centre, highlighting significant research events throughout the year. Furthermore, the role of the research leader is to ensure our Centre's research objectives produce a balanced portfolio of both theoretical and applied research, leading to significant scholarly artefacts and outputs.



BASUNDHARA  
RAI

## INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS MANAGER

### *Centre for Information Technology Bachelor Internship/IT Projects Manager*

The Industry Relationships Manager (IRM) at the Centre for Information Technology (CfIT) at Wintec New Zealand, is dedicated to enhancing student experiences through Work Integrated Learning (WIL). Our WIL program provides valuable opportunities for students to gain real-world experience in IT roles, either through industry placements (internships) or industry IT projects. Internships provide students hands-on experience within businesses, while industry projects allow them to solve real IT problems independently, under academic supervision.

#### KEY TASKS

- Maintain industry partnerships
- Coordinate student placements and projects
- Facilitate industry engagement and collaboration

The IRM actively engages with local businesses and organizations to secure internship opportunities for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, enhancing their employability and industry readiness. We also collaborate with universities and training organizations to share insights and foster partnerships. The IRM's strategic engagement has strengthened connections with industry partners, facilitating diverse professional environments for our students and contributing to the growth of Waikato's technology landscape. Our commitment to WIL ensures students develop practical skills, supporting their transition into the IT industry.

## INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS MANAGER

### *Centre for Information Technology Postgraduate Internship/IT Projects Manager*

The Industry Relations Manager (IRM) for postgraduate IT programmes at the Centre for Information Technology (CfIT), Wintec New Zealand, plays a pivotal role in supporting students undertaking substantial internships or industry projects. These experiences require students to apply advanced IT knowledge to complex real-world problems, enriching critical thinking, strategic planning, and reflective practice within a professional setting.

The postgraduate IRM works with both industry and academic teams to ensure students are placed in environments where they can identify and define significant IT problems, evaluate appropriate technology solutions, and develop robust implementation strategies. Ongoing engagement and feedback support students in apply reflective practice to bridge academic knowledge with professional expectations. These efforts enhance student capability, contribute to industry innovation, and reflect the Centre's commitment to high-impact applied outcomes.

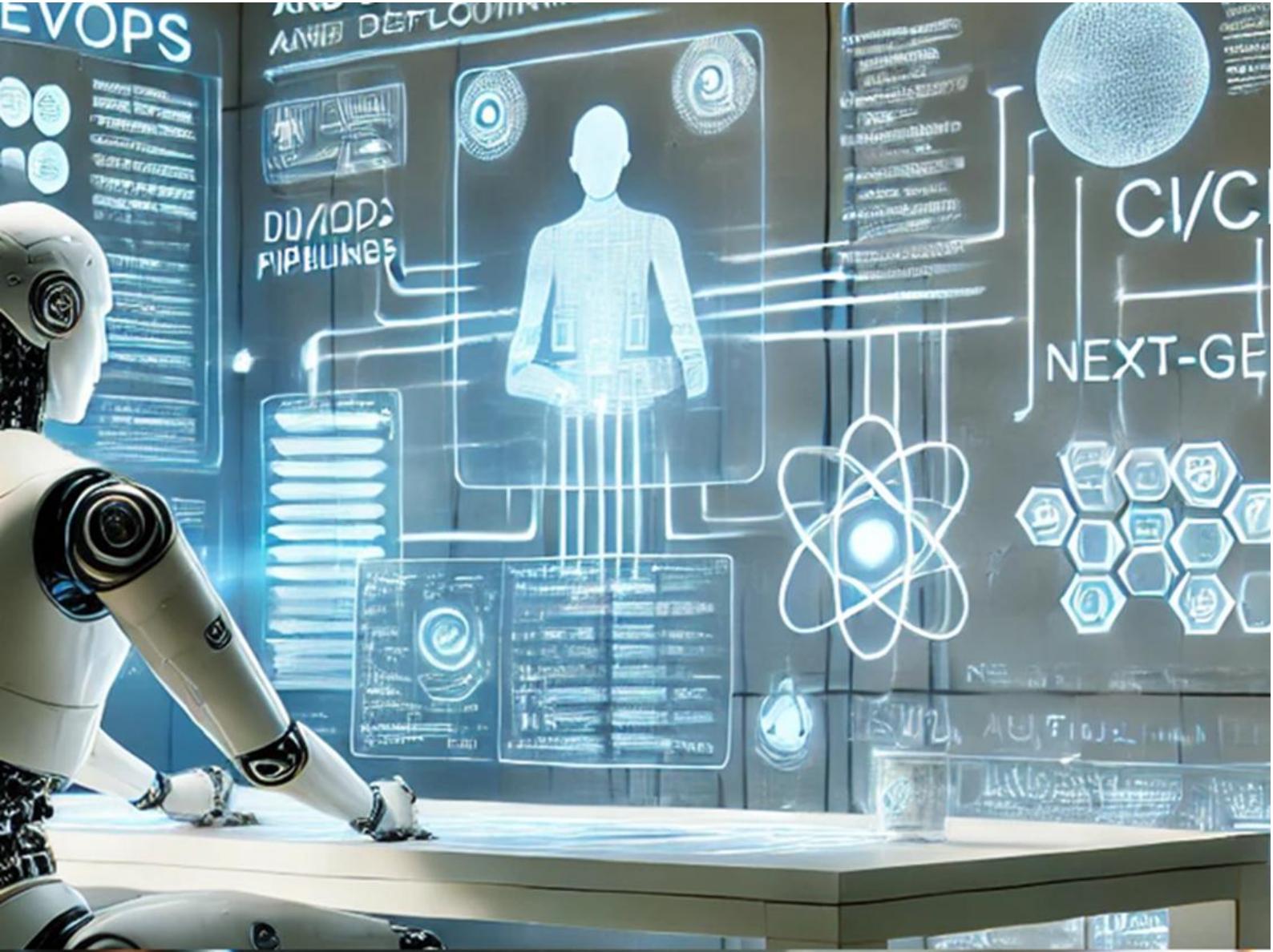
#### KEY TASKS

- Maintain partnerships with industry
- Align strategic project scopes with academic compliance
- Facilitate collaboration between postgraduates, industry, and staff



DR. ANURADHA  
MADURAPPERUMAGE





# Research

Begin with a thought, to transcend an evolution...

# Our Research Team

## TALKING CARVINGS & MATAURANGA MĀORI IN IT

### Research Focus

I am an Indigenous computer science researcher from Aotearoa, specialising in the integration of Mātauranga Māori cosmology and practices with mobile augmented reality (MAR), computer vision, geospatial awareness, and augmented reality (AR) annotations to create immersive cultural experiences. By using a combination of AI, ML, AR and MAR on cultural artefacts—specifically carvings on marae—I create a dynamic connection where it appears as though “carvings are talking to you”. This approach not only enhances the mobile cultural experience but is also pivotal to preserving cultural heritage and cultural sustainability.

I am committed to advancing Mātauranga Māori IT pedagogy by exploring Māori capacity building initiatives for creating frameworks that integrate indigenous knowledge systems into tertiary IT education. I advocate for the integration of AI-generated tools in educational contexts, researching and exploring practical strategies for teaching, learning, and delivery in the IT sector.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mobile Augmented Reality Cultural Heritage Development  
Machine Learning, AI Generated, Cultural Artefacts  
Mātauranga Māori in IT



**HAMIORA  
TE MOMO  
[RESEARCH LEADER]**

A portrait of Hamiora Te Momo with a semi-transparent overlay containing his research interests. The overlay includes his name, title, and a list of interests: Māori for Cultural Heritage, AI-driven Indigenous Computing, and Mātauranga Māori in IT. The text is in white and black on a dark background.

A portrait of Dr. Shantha Jayalal with a semi-transparent overlay containing his research interests. The overlay includes his name, title, and a list of interests: AI in Health, AI in Software Testing, and DevOps Applications. The text is in white and black on a dark background.

A portrait of Dr. Michael Bosu with a semi-transparent overlay containing his research interests. The overlay includes his name, title, and a list of interests: Machine Learning, Software Effort Prediction, and Data Quality. The text is in white and black on a dark background.

A portrait of Dr. Diab Abu-Jaiedah with a semi-transparent overlay containing his research interests. The overlay includes his name, title, and a list of interests: Deep Learning, AI in Software Testing, and Prompt Engineering. The text is in white and black on a dark background.



DR. DIAB  
ABUAIADAH

## PROMPT ENGINEERING AND IT

### Research Focus

My research focuses on innovative applications of prompt engineering, particularly within AI language models, to revolutionize white box testing. My research, conducted in collaboration with Dr Shantha Jayalal and Dr Michael Bosu, explores how prompt engineering can transform testing methodologies and tools. By automating test case generation, identifying critical code paths, and uncovering edge cases that traditional methods often overlook, our work aims to significantly enhance software quality.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Deep Learning  
AI in Software Testing  
Prompt Engineering

Prompt engineering enables us to influence AI for deeper code analysis, improving bug detection and overall software reliability. Our approach not only streamlines testing process but also introduces a new paradigm in how software testing can be conducted with greater efficiency and accuracy. My primary research interests include deep learning, software testing, and prompt engineering. Through these areas, I strive to contribute to advancements in software engineering that ensure more robust and reliable applications, ultimately pushing the boundaries of current testing practices.



DR. MICHAEL  
BOSU

## MACHINE LEARNING APPLICATIONS

### Research Focus

I specialise in Software Effort Prediction (SEP), Machine Learning (ML), and DevOps performance analysis to enhance software project outcomes through data-driven strategies. My research focuses on integrating SEP and ML to improve resource estimation and planning accuracy using historical project data, while also addressing data quality challenges that impact predictive reliability. This work supports more effective and efficient software development practices.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning  
Software Effort Prediction  
Data Quality

In parallel, I investigate DevOps methodologies, particularly the lack of standardised performance evaluation mechanisms. By identifying key performance indicators—such as Deployment Frequency, Time to Market, Change Failure Rate, and Mean Time to Recovery—through literature review and industry interviews, I aim to strengthen DevOps project success and productivity.

I also collaborate with Dr Diab Abuaiadah and Dr Shantha Jayalal on research into software testing, prompt engineering, and the use of AI in healthcare. Collectively, these efforts contribute to building smarter, more resilient systems in both software engineering and applied AI domains.

## SOFTWARE ENGINEERING MACHINE LEARNING

### Research Focus

My academic pursuit explores the integration of Prompt Engineering and Large Language Models (LLMs) to advance AI-driven software testing, DevOps performance, and healthcare applications. With a strong foundation in machine learning, semantic web, and web engineering, my research investigates how LLMs can enhance white-box testing, increase automation, and improve response accuracy in clinical decision support systems (CDSS).

Collaborating with Dr Diab Abuaiadah and Dr Michael Bosu, I am developing novel techniques to optimise software quality and testing reliability through advanced prompt engineering strategies. Our current studies evaluate ChatGPT's consistency and accuracy using the 2025 ESC guidelines for hypertension and blood pressure, aiming to build greater clinical trust.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

AI in Health  
AI in Software Testing  
DevOps Applications



DR. SHANTHA  
JAYALAL

I also explore DevOps metrics—such as change failure rate and time to recovery—to assess and improve delivery efficiency. My work also advances semantic web interoperability, supporting intelligent system development that bridges software engineering, AI, and health technology innovation.

## AI IN HEALTH AND DESIGN SCIENCE

### Research Focus

My research focuses on the integration of advanced data analytics, machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI), data mining, and design science to address complex, high-impact challenges, particularly in health informatics. I am especially interested in how predictive modelling, survival analysis, and algorithmic design can support real-world clinical decision-making and improve patient outcomes.

Currently, I am developing a Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) to predict diabetes-related complications using patient data provided by Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. This research applies enhanced design science methodologies alongside machine learning and survival analysis techniques to create a system that is technically robust, practically implementable, and responsive to the cultural and healthcare needs of New Zealand's diverse population.

My work contributes to the broader field of AI-driven healthcare by uncovering demographic patterns and health inequities within large-scale datasets. It aims to enhance CDSS frameworks by embedding data mining and ML techniques to support data-driven, equitable, informed decision-making across clinical environments.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning  
Health Informatics  
Artificial Intelligence



DR. ANURADHA  
MADURAPPERUMAGE  
[NEW RESEARCHER]



JOHAN  
ONGCHANGCO  
[NEW RESEARCHER]

## DIGITAL TWINS OF ORGANISATION AND AI

### Research Focus

My research advances information systems toward achieving the value promise of good governance. I focus on developing Digital Twins of Organizations (DTOs), creating virtual models that simulate and optimise processes. An ongoing investigation demonstrates how DTOs can enhance data-driven decision-making and operational efficiency. I also investigate AI-assisted process mining to uncover inefficiencies, improve workflows, and support compliance with organisational policies. This approach strengthens transparency and accountability by identifying performance gaps and guiding continuous improvement.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Digital Twins of Organisations (DTOs)  
AI Process Mining  
IS Infrastructure

In addition, I design IT infrastructures aligned with governance frameworks such as COBIT, COSO, and ISO/IEC 27001. These standards promote the development of secure, resilient systems capable of adapting to change.

Together, my research supports the creation of intelligent and ethically governed information systems that meet the evolving needs of institutions and organisations, fostering more effective and sustainable decision-making practices.

**Johan Ongchangco**  
SASM, FTE 0.2

**Research Interests**

- Digital Twins of Organisations (DTOs)
- AI Process Mining
- IS Infrastructure

2025 – Research: "Digital Twins DOT's"

My research advances information systems toward good governance. I explore Digital Twins of Organizations (DTOs) to create virtual models that optimize processes and support data-driven decision-making. I investigate AI-assisted process mining to enhance workflow analysis, identify inefficiencies, and ensure compliance with risk management frameworks. Additionally, I design IT infrastructures aligned with governance frameworks like COBIT, COSO, and ISO/IEC 27001 to promote transparency, accountability, and resilience.

**Dr. Anuradha  
Madurapperumage**  
SASM, FTE 0.2

**Research Interests**

- Machine Learning
- Health Informatics
- Artificial Intelligence

2025 – Research: "AI in Health and Design Science"

I am a researcher specializing in Data Science, Machine Learning, and Artificial Intelligence, with a strong focus on innovative health informatics and design science. My work contributes to advancing AI-enhanced data science, particularly in applying ML techniques to health datasets. My research aims to uncover demographic insights and patterns within Aotearoa's population, driving data-driven decision-making in healthcare.

**Hohepa Mangu**  
ASM, FTE 0.1

**Research Interests**

- Kaupapa Māori Pedagogy
- Mātauranga Māori in IT Education
- Tauria Success Strategies

**New Researcher**

This research focuses on Mātauranga Māori and how it can be part of IT education, with a focus on Māori concepts like whakanāhaua/tautau (connection building) and takiwai te reo (peer mentoring). I'm looking at how these approaches help taonga (students) stay engaged and succeed, especially through whānau, mātauranga, and mātauranga māori.

**Our Part-Time Researchers**

**Alex Yu**  
SASM, FTE 0.1

**Research Interests**

- Game Dev, Computation
- Game-Based Creative Writing
- Collaborative Solving

My research integrates game-based learning with computational thinking to enhance writing and problem-solving in primary students. Game-based learning fosters creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and cognitive growth, creating a dynamic environment that encourages active learning.

**New Researcher**

Te Kura mō te Hangarau Whakaauturanga  
Centre for Information Technology

WINTEC

# Emerging Researchers

## MĀTAURANGA MĀORI IN IT EDUCATION

### Research Focus

My research explores how Mātauranga Māori can be meaningfully integrated into Information Technology (IT) education. I focus on Māori concepts such as whakawhanaungatanga (relationship-building) and tuakana-teina (peer mentoring) to understand how they support student engagement, wellbeing, and academic success.

A key aspect of my work involves examining the role of noho marae experiences, where students are immersed in culturally grounded learning environments. These settings promote collective learning, strengthen identity, and foster supportive peer relationships. Through this research, I aim to develop more inclusive teaching practices that reflect Māori worldviews and enhance outcomes for Māori learners in IT education.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Kaupapa Māori Pedagogy  
Mātauranga Māori in IT Education  
Tauira Success Strategies



HOHEPA-ROPATA  
MANGU  
[NEW RESEARCHER]

## GAME DEVELOPMENT CREATIVITY

### Research Focus

My research integrates game development with computational thinking to support writing and problem-solving skills in primary school students. I explore how game-based learning can serve as an effective educational tool, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

By engaging students in designing and interacting with games, I aim to create dynamic learning environments that encourage active participation and deeper cognitive engagement. This approach not only enhances core academic skills but also supports digital literacy and resilience in problem-solving. My goal is to empower young learners through playful, purposeful learning experiences that make complex concepts more accessible and meaningful.



ALEX  
YU

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Machine Learning  
Health Informatics  
Artificial Intelligence

# Ki Tua o Paerangi: Emerging IT Event Horizons

## Online Symposium, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2025



Like the ebb and flow of knowledge, where light and shadow converge, research is a journey beyond the horizon, continuously revealing new possibilities. As IT expands into new realms, we navigate the interplay of light and shadow, weaving together computing, pedagogy, AI, cybersecurity, analytics, mātauranga Māori, ethics and beyond. This symposium marks a point of transformation—where ideas emerge, innovations take shape, and the digital future is redefined.

# Our Journey into Tomorrow

## *Ki Tua o Paerangi: Emerging IT Event Horizons*

Our first collaborative online symposium marked a significant milestone in our shared commitment to IT-empowered research. In partnership with Toi Ohomai and the Wintec Information Technology sectors, this symposium served as a platform to explore, question, and reshape how we approach AI, IT Tertiary Training, Māori IT Pedagogy, and Digital Technology futures that lay ahead.

Like the ebb and flow of knowledge, where light and shadow converge, research is a journey beyond the horizon—constantly revealing new forms of understanding and possibilities. Our symposium theme, *Ki Tua o Paerangi*, draws from this imagery, inviting researchers to navigate the emerging intersections of computing, AI, decision support systems, analytics, mātauranga Māori, and ethics.

More than just a presentation forum, the event was a collaborative space where relationships were formed, ideas were nurtured, and the digital horizon was redefined through shared insight. The table that follows outlines the order of proceedings and the diverse topics explored.

Order of Proceedings	Title
Dr. Shantha Jayalal (Wintec)	Clinical Decision Support Systems with GPT Models
Dr. Michael Bosu (Wintec)	An Investigation into DevOps Performance Indicators
Dr. Diab Abuaiadah (Wintec)	Using AI for Software Testing
Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage (Wintec)	Decision Support System for Predicting Diabetes Mellitus Complications
Johan Onchangco (Wintec)	Towards Digital Twin of an Organisation (DTO): A Road Map for Wintec
Kaveeta Dutt (Toi Ohomai)	Ākonga perceptions of the value of their relationships with Kaiako
Bruce Tuhakaraina (Toi Ohomai)	Enhancing IT Education through Secondary Tertiary Partnerships
Alex Yu (Wintec)	Game-Based Writing Development
Hamiora Te Momo & Hohepa Mangu (Wintec)	Investigating the Impact of Noho Marae on Ākonga-Centred Learning Communities in IT
Hamiora Te Momo (Wintec)	Awhi Whanau, Awhi Iwi (AWAI): Helping Whanau and Tamariki in Crisis (with Massey Uni)
	Anthropomorphising Whakairo: Creating Living Realities through Augmenting Carvings

**Whakawhānaungatanga**

Getting to know one another share Name, Title & Area of teaching

Toi Ohomai IT (Staff) Kaveeta Dutt

Wintec IT (Staff) Dr Blaine

**Group 1**

- Dr Shantha Jayalal
- Dr Michael Bosu
- Dr Diab Abuaiadah
- Dr Anuradha Madurapperumage
- Johan Onchangco

**Break Time Group 2 – Starting At 10:30**

- Kaveeta Dutt
- Bruce Tuhakaraina
- Alex Yu
- Hamiora Te Momo & Hohepa Mangu
- Hamiora Te Momo

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

- Kaiako relationship with Ākonga has a significant effect on Ākonga engagement in academic undertakings.
- Whilst majority of the participants were generally satisfied with the pastoral care and academic support provided by their Kaiako, a small number of Ākonga 'Disagreed' or were unsure of how to respond to the survey questions.
- Insights gained will enhance future teaching and learning strategies for improving Ākonga relationships with their Kaiako.
- This research might provide a pathway for colleagues from other disciplines who are also interested in learning more about their Ākonga and strategies which enhance their success.
- The survey questions used in this research could potentially be used by Kaiako when seeking feedback on their own teaching practices.

**How Are We Investigating This?**

```

graph TD
    A[How are we investigating this?] --> B[Surveys at three stages pre, during, and post workshop, with feedback loop (iterative)]
    B --> C[Workshop, interview staff, keep year 12 (pre)]
    C --> D[Workshop, interview staff, keep year 12 (post)]
    D --> E[Participate data triangulation, ethnography, participant observation]
    E --> F[Participate Level 2, CTE students and staff, keep year 12 (post)]
    F --> G[Participate Level 3, CTE students and staff, keep year 12 (post)]
  
```

© Dr. Shantha Jayalal, 14th April 2023, Virtual Symposium, Toi Ohomai & Wintec IT Centres



# Internships

## IT Projects

# Our Interns & IT Projects

Our Semester One and Two, Internship IT Projects Work Integrated Learning initiative is made possible through the support of our external stakeholders. The collection of reputable industry partners enables our students to apply their skills in real-world situations. The following table is the list of stakeholders who contributed their valuable time and efforts towards our internship and IT project students.

Stakeholder	Stakeholder
• Hamilton City Council (HCC)	• Te Wānanga o Aotearoa
• CfIT (Wintec)	• Thrill Capital
• Knowledgeware Limited	• NIWA
• iSim Limited	• GDC Digital Solutions
• Sports Science (Wintec)	• Waikato Regional Council (WRC)
• GDC Consultants Limited	• Straker Limited
• MEARTANZ Project	• ITS (Wintec)
• Fusion Networks	• Pearl Innovation
• Bridged IT Services	• REGEN Computers
• Fonterra	• Sports Club
• AppleFix & Tech Engineers	• Gallagher

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester One

*Business Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

*Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage*

**Abstract:** During my internship at GDC Consultants Ltd., I served as a Business Analyst on the Workforce Management System (WFM) Development Project. My role involved gathering and analysing business requirements, creating documentation such as SRS and supporting Agile practices through sprint planning and backlog management in JIRA. I collaborated with stakeholders and developers to ensure project alignment and functional clarity.

### KEY TASKS

Requirement Elicitation

Document SRS, User Stories and Use Cases

Agile Support, Mapping, Workflow, UAT Documentation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aruna-lakshmana-doss-b2673a38/>

I also designed process flows, defined user stories with acceptance criteria, and created the user acceptance testing document. Security features like role-based access and Multi-Factor Authentication were documented. This internship helped me apply Business Analysis skills, strengthen my Agile understanding, and contribute to a scalable, secure workforce management solution.



ARUNA LAKSHMANA  
DOSS



DEVINA  
PAI

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL: Semester One

*Digital Services*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** At Hamilton City Council, I was tasked with addressing a growing backlog in IT service tickets and improving digital storage during a major system migration. I conducted ITSM analytics using advanced Excel techniques to uncover trends in ticket volume, response time, and user behaviour. Insights were presented through data visualisations to support decision-making.

Collaborating with senior managers, I cleared a significant backlog and created a knowledge base for recurring issues. Simultaneously, I recovered over 2TB of storage by decluttering SharePoint, reviewing high-versioned files, and safely disposing of outdated content. I earned certification in Nintex Process Manager, enhancing my process documentation skills. This internship demonstrated data-driven problem solving, service delivery, and digital optimisation within a government organisation.

### KEY TASKS

ITSM Trend Analysis, Backlog and Management Efficiency

SharePoint Optimisation & Recovery, Policy-Compliance

Developed Knowledge Base, Improved IT Efficiency

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/devinapai>



HIMANSHU  
BHADRI

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester One

*Front-End Software Developer*

*Internship: Postgrad Diploma in Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** During my internship as a Front-End Developer at GDC, I worked on a Workforce Management System, focusing on building responsive and user-friendly interfaces using React and Bootstrap. My role involved designing and developing dynamic UI components, ensuring cross-browser compatibility, and integrating frontend elements with backend services through RESTful APIs.

### KEY TASKS

Developed Responsive UI components using React and Bootstrap

Integrated Frontend with Backend using RESTful APIs

Collaborated with design and backend for seamless workflow

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/himanshu-bhadri-718719256/>

I collaborated closely with backend developers and UI/UX designers to align with project requirements and ensure seamless data flow. This experience allowed me to strengthen my skills in component-based architecture, API integration, and modern front-end development practices. Additionally, I gained practical exposure to agile methodologies and professional development workflows, enhancing both my technical capabilities and collaborative experience in a real-world software development environment.

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester One

*UX Designer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** During my internship as a UX Designer at GDC Consultants, I was responsible for designing a scalable Workforce Management System to improve internal project, task, and employee management. My role involved conducting user analysis, competitor analysis, wireframing, prototyping, and delivering a design handover for development. I worked closely with stakeholders and the product team to ensure the solution aligned with business needs and user expectations. Tools used included Figma for UX/UI design and Jira for efficiently managing tasks in an agile work environment. I applied industry-standard UX methodologies such as progressive disclosure and design critique to ensure the final product was both functional and intuitive. This experience strengthened my skills in design thinking, problem-solving, and professional communication while also helping deliver a product that added genuine value to the business.

### KEY TASKS

User Analysis and Competitor Analysis

UX/UI Design for Workforce Management System

Design Handover & Developer Support

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shihansabir/>



SHIHAN  
SABIR

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester One

*Software Engineer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** During my internship at GDC Consultants, I worked as a backend developer on a Workforce Management System (WMS) designed to streamline employee tracking, project assignments, and budgeting processes. My primary responsibilities included developing and deploying RESTful APIs using Node.js and Express.js, implementing secure user authentication with JWT, and designing efficient MySQL database schemas. I performed extensive testing using Thunder Client and Postman to ensure the reliability and performance of each endpoint.

### KEY TASKS

Developed and deployed RESTful API's (Node.js, Express.js)

Deployed MYSQL schemas for Efficiency, Security, and Scalability

API Testing for Integration with Postman & Thunder Client

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/anuththara-kavindi/>



ANUTHTHARA  
GAMAGE

I collaborated closely with the frontend team to enable smooth integration across the system. The internship allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world context, strengthen my technical skills, and deliver a secure and scalable backend solution that met the organization's requirements and added long-term operational value.



PUJA  
BHANDARKAR

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL: Semester One

*Business Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** During my internship with the Digital Services team at Hamilton City Council, I completed over 270 hours contributing to critical IT operations. My primary responsibilities included documenting the restructuring of SharePoint sites to enhance accessibility and usability, efficiently managing IT Service Management (ITSM) incidents and service requests to support daily operations and developing a comprehensive knowledge base to improve information sharing and user support.

This experience provided me with valuable insights into public sector IT systems and strengthened my skills in technical documentation, IT support processes, and digital knowledge management within a collaborative, real-world professional environment.

### KEY TASKS

Documenting and Restructuring SharePoint

Managing ITSM Tickers and Providing Solutions

Building FAQ Knowledge Base for ETA Ticket Optimisation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/puja-bhandarkar-rao-533b63b1/>



JESSIE  
MOSEN

## KNOWLEDGEWARE LIMITED: Semester One

*Software Engineer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Hamiora Te Momo

**Abstract:** During my internship at Knowledgeware Limited, I contributed to developing and enhancing Kerkee—an AI-driven, secure team chat application. My objectives were to build skills in C#, ASP.NET, and MVVM architecture while learning to apply best practices in security and deployment. I tackled challenges such as refactoring hardcoded connection strings into Azure Vault, implementing tokenization, and configuring Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) to protect sensitive data. I improved user experience by adding features like auto-save, multi-line chat input, and AI model selection. Throughout the internship, I documented my work thoroughly to support future developers. Key learnings included mastering Blazor view binding, advanced debugging, dependency injection, and understanding server configurations. I also honed my confidence in tackling complex technical issues and collaborating with team members. This internship solidified my understanding of secure, scalable web development, leaving me better prepared for real-world software challenges while adding tangible value to the Kerkee project and team.

### KEY TASKS

Azure Vault Security, Tokenization, Role-Based Access Control,  
Enhanced UX with AI Model Selection Multiline Chat

C#, ASP.NET, MVVM, Blazor Integration & Documentation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessie-mosen-48411330b/>

## SPORTS SCIENCE (WINTEC): Semester One

*Lead Business Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Basundhara Rai

**Abstract:** During my internship, I served as the Lead Business Analyst at the Wintec Rotokauri Sports Science Centre for a Data Visualization Project. The project focused on developing an interactive dashboard to help the coach and athletes to gain a better understanding on the performance data and support an evidence-based decision-making analysis. I focused on improving the communications and collaborations among all stakeholders.

Throughout this project, I used tools such as JIRA, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp, Outlook and Power BI to support the project management and data analysis. This experience deepened my understanding of how Business Analysis practices can add value to the project coordination and help translate business needs into practical data solutions.

### KEY TASKS

Business and Stakeholder Requirements Gathering & Scoping

Workflow Analysis for Process Improvement and Efficiency

Project Alignment with Technical and Business Strategies

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/fdeluna/>



FRANCESCA  
DE LUNA

## NIWA: Semester One

*Network & Systems Engineer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Stewart Hardie

**Abstract:** During my internship with the National Weather Institute of Atmospheric Research (NIWA), I focused on improving network security, resilience, and connectivity within advanced technological environments. I implemented Zero Trust Network Access (ZTNA) to enhance cybersecurity by enforcing strict identity verification and reducing implicit trust across the network, replacing outdated on-premises VPN infrastructure. I also configured a long-range network for Tolypella, an autonomous boat project, enabling reliable communication and control systems essential for autonomous navigation.

In addition, I developed and tested a disaster recovery strategy to ensure network availability during outages, minimising downtime and preserving data integrity. My time at NIWA provided valuable experience in implementing, testing, and deploying enterprise-level IT systems, and strengthened my understanding of secure network architecture, real-time system communication, and business continuity planning in mission-critical environments.

### KEY TASKS

Zero Trust Network Access

Autonomous Boat Communication Network

Network Outage Disaster Recovery

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/raineroberts/>



RAINE  
ROBERTS



DARRWIN  
DELAPERLE

## TE WĀNANGA O AOTEAROA: Semester One

*Business Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Hohepa-Ropata Mangu

**Abstract:** During my internship as a Business Analyst, I was responsible for identifying inefficiencies within internal operational workflows and proposing actionable improvements through structured analysis. I engaged with stakeholders to gather business requirements, mapped current-state processes, and performed gap analyses to highlight areas for enhancement. By applying critical thinking and analytical frameworks, I translated stakeholder needs into clear documentation and strategic recommendations. I also supported the development of future-state process models and participated in validation sessions to ensure alignment with business objectives. This experience deepened my understanding of business analysis methodologies and strengthened my ability to deliver insights that drive informed, data-backed decision-making in dynamic organizational environments.

### KEY TASKS

Requirements Gathering  
Analysis  
Automation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/darrwindelaperle-78b2121ab/>



PRATHAM  
PATEL

## KNOWLEDGEWARE LIMITED: Semester One

*Data Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Hohepa-Ropata Mangu

**Abstract:** During my internship at Knowledgeware Limited, I played an active role in developing a financial data visualisation solution for a confidential client in the fund management sector. The project, centred on the creation of Financial Fund Performance Dashboards, was designed to convert complex transactional data into clear, interactive insights using Power BI. With Azure Data Lake providing secure and scalable data storage, a structured ETL process was implemented to support accurate, real-time reporting. Although initial integration with Azure presented challenges, alternative workflows using DBeaver ensured data integrity and continuity.

The project followed both Agile and SDLC methodologies, allowing for iterative development while maintaining structure. Ultimately, it strengthened financial oversight, improved reporting accuracy, and established a scalable model for future analytics solutions.

### KEY TASKS

Developed Power BI Dashboards using ERPNext and Flat Files  
Designed ETL Pipeline with Power Query, Azure Data Lake  
Mitigated Power BI Integration Issues

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/patelpratham/>

## WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL: Semester One

*Software Engineer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Joshua Aguilar

**Abstract:** During my internship with Waikato Regional Council (WRC), I was tasked with developing a module replacement for the Fulcrum field data collection system using Survey123. I began by reviewing documentation from a previous Proof of Concept and understanding how modules were migrated to the ESRI platform. I learned to build smart surveys using XLSForm, incorporating complex logic, and validation constraints. I structured the Hydro module application to match existing workflows, with an emphasis on usability and alignment with WRC standards. I tested form performance, refined layouts, and ensured accurate data collection. I documented each stage, producing a technical handover guide, a user-focused training document, and a migration solution report. My work helped progress WRC's environmental monitoring modernisation and ensured the tools I created could be maintained and expanded by future staff or developers.

### KEY TASKS

Migrating Fulcrum Environmental Data to ESRI Platform

Created XLSForm-Based Survey123 Forms with Validation Logic

Reported Findings and Contributed to WRC Knowledge Base

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stewart-austin-nz/>



STEWART DEANE  
AUSTIN

## TE WĀNANGA O AOTEAROA: Semester One

*Business Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Hohepa-Ropata Mangu

**Abstract:** During my Business Analyst internship at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa (TWoA), I collaborated closely with the programme development team on key initiatives supporting digital transformation and educational innovation. My work involved in-depth research on AI-powered documentation tools, online learning platforms, and project management systems to inform strategic improvements. I contributed to the design of a new AI and computing course, aligning it with current industry trends and learner needs. Additionally, I developed a visual blueprint of the program development life cycle using Excel and Miro to support clearer planning and communication. Through this experience, I became familiar with tools such as PowerApps, SharePoint, Miro and WordPress, further expanding my technical proficiency. This internship strengthened my capabilities in business analysis, research, stakeholder collaboration, and digital solution design—equipping me with practical skills valuable for industry partnerships and future roles in technology-driven environments.

### KEY TASKS

Information Gathering and Analysis for Programme Development

Collaborated on Digital Automation Initiatives

Created Programme Development Blueprint

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/neethu-kochayyathu-sivendran-09593031b/>



NEETHU  
KOCHAYYATHU  
SIVENDRAN



MASIHULLAH  
AZIZI

## CFIT (WINTEC): Semester One

*Software Engineer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Basundhara Rai

**Abstract:** During my internship as a Software Engineer, I contributed to the development of an Industry Internship System designed to manage student applications and industry placements. My main responsibilities included implementing a multi-step internship application form using Vue 3 and Element Plus, with full validation and dynamic field handling. I also worked on the backend using Egg.js and MySQL to build secure APIs for user authentication, email verification, and password recovery. Throughout the project, I collaborated with my team, followed version control best practices using Git and GitHub, and used Postman to test various backend scenarios. This project enhanced my understanding of full-stack development and helped me apply my technical skills to solve real-world problems in an industry-focused environment.

### KEY TASKS

Developed Multi-Step 3 Form with Validation

Implemented Egg.js Authorization API with OTP Validation

Aligned Frontend-Backend Logic and Tested APIs in Postman

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/masihullah-azizi/>



NATASHA CLAIRE  
PINKERTON

## CFIT (WINTEC): Semester One

*Game Developer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Johan Onchangco

**Abstract:** For my project, I developed an online 2D platformer game where the player leaps between platforms inside a volcanic environment to reach an escape portal. Along the way, players can collect coins, and their progress is tracked through a functional login, save, and load system. The game was designed to be deployed online using Unity WebGL, ensuring accessibility from any browser. I implemented features such as a level reset button and a main menu button to improve the user experience.

Although additional features like hazards are planned for future updates, the current version provides a complete gameplay loop. This project helped me strengthen my skills in Unity development, user interface design, and implementing data persistence using PlayerPrefs.

### KEY TASKS

Created Game Login Functions

Created functional Save and Load Features

Deployed Online Game Access using Unity WebGL

## SPORTS SCIENCE (WINTEC): Semester One

*Data Analyst*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Basundhara Rai

**Abstract:** I worked as a Data Analyst intern on a polo sports project, where I focused on analysing athlete performance data to support training and strategic decision-making. Collaborating closely with coaches and team members, I ensured that the insights I provided were aligned with their requirements and practical needs. I utilised Excel, Power BI, and Python for data cleaning, analysis, and visualisation, while GitHub Actions and Kaggle Notebooks supported automation and workflow management. The outcome was the development of clear, interactive dashboards that showcased key performance metrics such as speed, distance, and acceleration, enabling coaches to make informed, data-driven decisions on player training and performance strategies. This experience not only enhanced my technical skills in data handling and automation but also strengthened my communication and problem-solving abilities.

### KEY TASKS

Data Transformation and Analysis

Created Interactive Dashboards using PowerBI

Workflow Automation, Automated Data Driven Tasks

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gagandeep-kaur83/>



GAGANDEEP  
KAUR

## ISIM LIMITED: Semester One

*Software Engineer & Technical Artist*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Alex Yu

**Abstract:** During my internship with iSim, I investigated and documented common issues that arose when exporting 3D assets from Blender to Unreal Engine 5 (UE5). These included objects importing incorrectly, missing textures, and irregular skeleton mesh wireframes. To support the team, I created a series of visual guides designed to prevent these problems occurring in future projects. I also conducted a SWOT analysis comparing animation workflows between Blender and UE5, and developed a working example using Control Rig in UE5 to animate a drone's propellers. My documentation is now part of iSim's internal knowledge base and serves as a reference for future work.

This internship helped me to develop a structured approach to problem-solving and gave me the confidence to communicate and explain new design processes.

### KEY TASKS

Diagnosed and Documented Blender to Unreal Engine 5 Export Issues

Developed SWOT Analysis Comparative Animation Workflows

Built a Drone Propeller Control Rig in Unreal Engine 5

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mollyhottman/>



MOLLY  
HOTTMAN



KIM  
JUNG

## KNOWLEDGEWARE LIMITED: Semester One

*Data Engineer & UI/UX Design*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Hohepa-Ropata Mangu

**Abstract:** During my internship at Knowledgeware Limited, I contributed to two key areas: automating financial transaction handling and redesigning UI/UX for client-facing applications. I developed a C#-based data integration tool to convert and upload journal entries into ERPNext via REST API, enabling a more efficient and accurate bookkeeping process. On the UI/UX side, I created responsive design systems using Figma, aligning with MudBlazor components to support both desktop and mobile platforms. Through Agile workflows, I participated in standup meetings, feedback cycles, and handover process, gaining hands-on experience with Software Development Life Cycle phases.

This internship strengthened my technical skills and taught me the importance of communication in cross-functional teams. I gained confidence in applying academic knowledge to solve real business problems.

### KEY TASKS

Automated Financial Data Integration  
UI/UX Design for Web and Mobile Apps  
Documentation and Team Collaboration

## *Internship and IT Projects in Listing for Semester One*

In addition to the featured profiles, we acknowledge the many talented students who, while choosing to remain private, have made invaluable contributions to the Internship IT Projects initiative. Their dedication behind the scenes have been essential to our collective success. We commend all our interns for their commitment to advancing the Centre's mission through their technical expertise. The table below lists students who have completed their internships and IT projects.

Stakeholder	Student
Waikato Regional Council	Logan Webster
iSim Limited	Hamish Getty
CfIT (Wintec)	Thomas Michael Karam
Knowledgeware Limited	Callum Mackenzie
Knowledgeware Limited	Jed Japp Thomson
Sports Science (Wintec)	Conrad Peterson
Thrill Capital Game Dev	Kadin Reece Torr

## CFIT (WINTEC): Semester Two

*Full Stack Web Developer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Johan Ongchangco

**Abstract:** This project involved developing a user-friendly, browser-based Industry Relationship Management (IRM) platform designed to streamline the coordination of internships and student placements at WINTEC. The system features role-specific Graphical User Interfaces (GUI) for Students, Interns, Staff, and Administrators, each tailored to provide relevant functionality such as CV and profile submissions, internship management, and CMS (Content Management System) control.

### KEY TASKS

Website Hosting with Content Management System

Workflow Investigation and Process Optimisation

Website UI/UX Design and Enhancement

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/harin-ramji/>

Built with modern web technologies—Vue.js for the frontend, Egg.js for the backend, and MySQL for database management—the platform simplifies the entire internship process from application to completion. Key features include transparent viewing of student applications and client access to CVs. Overall, the system enhances efficiency by centralising internship data, automating workflows, and providing real-time insights into placement progress for all participants.



HARIN  
RAMJI

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester Two

*Quality Assurance Engineer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

**Abstract:** During my internship at GDC Consultants Ltd, I contributed to the quality assurance of a Workforce Management System (WFM) designed to improve project creation, budgeting, task assignment, and timesheet tracking. My responsibilities included conducting manual testing, such as functional, positive, negative, and UI testing, to ensure the system met business and user requirements.

I gained hands-on experience in automation testing using Cypress and JavaScript, developing and executing automated test scripts based on the Page Object Model (POM) to improve test efficiency and maintainability. I was responsible for bug reporting using Jira and managing documentation in Confluence, including test plans, summary reports, and tool evaluations. This internship enhanced my technical and analytical skills and deepened my understanding of Agile testing practices.



MINOSHI  
PERERA

### KEY TASKS

Functional, Positive, Negative Testing, and UI Testing

Automation with Cypress & Java Script

Bug Reporting, Test Planning, and Test Documentation

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/minoshiperera/>



PRINCE  
DESAI

## GDC DIGITAL SOLUTIONS: Semester Two

*Full Stack Web Developer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

**Abstract:** As part of my internship programme for the Master of Applied Information Technology at Wintec, I developed a Workforce Management (WFM) System for GDC Consultants, an engineering and architectural company in New Zealand. The web application improves how staff record timesheets, manage projects, and track budgets through an intuitive and secure interface.

I built the front end using React and Redux-Saga, and the back end with Node.js and Express, integrating services like Xero for payroll and Dropbox for document management. This project helped me apply my technical knowledge to a real-world business problem, strengthen my skills in full-stack development and API integration, and gain practical experience in creating scalable software solutions for industry use.

### KEY TASKS

Response UI with Open-Source Libraries

Integrating Web APIs with Redux and Redux-Saga

Optimised System Performance and Response Times

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/prince-desai-11b1b8251/>



MERLIN  
JOSE

## CFIT (WINTEC): Semester Two

*IT Project Management Lead & Quality Assurance*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Basundhara Rai

**Abstract:** During my internship with CfIT at Wintec, I served as a Project Manager and Tester for the Industry Relationship Manager (IRM) and Rasai App projects. I coordinated sprint planning and communication with the team and supervisor to ensure deliverables met quality and timeline expectations. I organised stand-up team meetings and in-person meetings once a week and to enhance collaboration and progress tracking. Using Jira, I tracked project progress, maintained documentation, prepared SLA, and supported effective team workflows.

As a Tester, I designed and executed functional, system, and user acceptance tests, performed API testing with Postman, and logged issues via Jira. I also created storyboard, supported demo preparation, and verified deployments to ensure a smooth handover and reliable system performance.

### KEY TASKS

Plan, Manage, and Organise Sprints with Weekly Standups

Manage, Track, and Report Issues in Jira

Design, Managed, and Actioned Test Cases

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/merlin-jose-65aa07358/>

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester Two

*Backend Developer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

**Abstract:** During my internship with GDC Consultants Limited, I worked as a Backend Developer on the Workforce Management System project. I designed and developed RESTful APIs for role-based authentication, timesheet, task, invoice, and reporting modules, while optimising the database structure. I used Node.js, Express.js, MySQL, Visual Studio, Postman, and GitHub for development, testing, and API management.

### KEY TASKS

Backend API Design and Development

Systems Design and Architecture

Systems Maintenance, Testing, Performance, and Improvements

LinkedIn: [\[munasingha-03312426/\]\(#\)](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nilusha-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

I created high-level architectural and sequence diagrams to maintain best development practices and implemented stored procedures and Cron schedulers for automated reporting and real-time notifications. I also refined API signatures to improve maintainability and carried out comprehensive testing to ensure quality, scalability, and readiness for staging and UAT environments.



**NILUSHA MIHIRANI  
MUNASINGHA**

## GDC CONSULTANTS LIMITED: Semester Two

*Quality Assurance Engineer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

**Abstract:** As part of my internship with GDC Consultants, I led QA Automation and Test Architecture for a custom Workforce Management System, intending to deliver a fully functional UAT-ready solution. I designed and implemented integration and system-level testing strategies using manual testing and Cypress for frontend and backend automation. I created test strategy documents, API automation scripts, and detailed test case specifications. I managed test planning in AgileTest and defect tracking in Jira.

Throughout the project, I identified and documented over 30 bugs, including 7 critical issues that impacted system performance and core functionality—such as login failures, data sync errors, and workflow breakdowns—which were resolved through regression cycles. This internship strengthened my skills in automation, architecture, and collaborative development in a real-world enterprise setting.

### KEY TASKS

API Automation Script Implementation

Automative and Manual Testing

Strategic Test Documentation and Testcase Specifications

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/clysonvarghese/>



**CLYSON  
VARGHESE**



GAUTAM  
SHRESTHA

## STRAKER LIMITED: Semester Two

*AI-Assisted Full Stack Web Developer*

*Internship: Postgraduate Dip. of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Michael Bosu

**Abstract:** The redevelopment of Straker Ltd.'s legacy web application was carried out using Replit, an AI-powered cloud development platform, to enhance maintainability, scalability, and user experience. This project demonstrated the efficiency of AI-assisted software development, significantly reducing build and debugging times through Replit's real-time code suggestions and automation features.

### KEY TASKS

AI-Powered Cloud Platform (Replit) for Website Redevelopment

Improvements in Scalability and User Experience

Demonstrate AI-Assisted Software Development Efficiency

LinkedIn: <https://nz.linkedin.com/in/gautam3491>

The modernised application includes a reactive frontend, robust backend logic, and integrated database connectivity. Development followed a structured approach using the MoSCoW methodology to prioritise core features. The final solution is maintainable, high quality, and cost-effective, addressing the technical debt of the legacy system. This project validates the use of AI-augmented tools in professional practice, aligning the client's technology infrastructure with contemporary software engineering standards.



DIVYA  
JYOTI

## MEARTANZ PROJECT: Semester Two

*Business Intelligence & Compliance Analyst*

*Internship: Postgraduate Dip. of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** During my internship with the MEARTANZ Project under Andrew Buchanan-Smart, I served as a Business Analyst, Business Intelligence Analyst, and Security Compliance Advisor. I contributed to developing an implementation plan for a searchable Music Repository by leading requirements gathering, defining scope, and documenting user stories with acceptance criteria using MoSCoW prioritization. I modelled processes through BPMN and use case diagrams, created a project delivery plan with milestones, dependencies, and a Gantt chart, and facilitated UAT planning.

As a BI Analyst, I analysed client datasets and proposed KPI dashboards. In the security domain, I integrated CIS-lite controls for access, encryption, and audit compliance. This experience strengthened my analytical, documentation, and project coordination skills using Trello, Miro, Power BI, and CIS-Lite frameworks.

### KEY TASKS

Requirements Gathering, Scope Definition, User Story Analysis

Project Management, Workflows, BI Dashboards

CIS Compliance with RBAC, Encryption, and Audit Logs

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/divya-jyoti-6339b6117/>

## APPLEFIX & TECH ENGINEERS: Semester Two

*Data Recovery Analyst*

*Internship: Postgraduate Dip. of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Prateek Gupta

**Abstract:** During my internship with AppleFix & Tech Engineers, I investigated the leading causes of data loss and disk failure, focusing on modern SSDs and file systems such as APFS and NTFS. I assessed various leading data recovery programs available on the market and conducted a practical comparative study of their tools. I created controlled data-loss scenario cases and measured how successfully each program restored lost data to evaluate performance and effectiveness.

My findings provided clear, evidence-based recommendations on the most suitable recovery software for specific failure types, helping make the data recovery process quicker, more reliable, and confidence-driven.

### KEY TASKS

Investigate Data Loss and Disk Failure Causes

Critical evaluation of Data Recovery Methods and Tools

Analysed Results and Summarised Key Findings

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/altaf-hussain-b24233150](https://www.linkedin.com/in/altaf-hussain-b24233150)



ALTAF  
HUSSAIN

## TE WĀNANGA O AOTEAROA: Semester Two

*IT & Business Analyst*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Basundhara Rai

**Abstract:** As an IT and Business Analysis Intern at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa (TWOA), I worked on two projects: Te Arawai and Tokokauneke. My responsibilities included system documentation, workflow mapping, survey creation, certificate template configuration, and IT setup to enhance project processes and user experiences. I gained hands-on experience with Arlo, SurveyMonkey, Miro, SharePoint, and Jira, including updating SharePoint sites and mapping processes in Miro.

I also developed user guides, verified system integrations, and ensured data accuracy and compliance with organisational policies. Collaborating with team members and participating in karakia improved my communication, cultural awareness, and analytical skills. Overall, this internship strengthened my technical, documentation, and project management abilities in a culturally grounded learning environment.

### KEY TASKS

Mapped Workflows and Integrated Arlo with Survey Monkey

SharePoint Site Content Updates and User Documentation

Performed Business Analysis with Project Requirements

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kamali-ratnayake-43a74340/>



KAMALI  
RATNAYAKE  
ARACHCHILLAGE



JEET  
HITESH

## KNOWLEDGEWARE LIMITED: Semester Two

*Software Engineer (Full Stack Developer)*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Joshua M Aguilar

**Abstract:** During my internship at Knowledgeware Limited, I contributed to the full software development lifecycle to build a cross-platform application using C# and .NET MAUI, following MVVM architecture and secure-by-design principles. I worked from initial requirements and an MS Access prototype through to solution design, infrastructure setup, and implementation. I configured development environments, managed certificates and keys, and selected appropriate frameworks and NuGet packages to support full-stack development.

I integrated PostgreSQL via Entity Framework Core, Azure Blob Storage, and external APIs like OpenAI. Working within an Agile delivery framework, I maintained high levels of collaboration and documentation. This experience strengthened my technical capability, problem-solving, soft-skill and overall ability to deliver practical, secure solutions within a structured, team-oriented environment.

### KEY TASKS

C# Apps with PostgreSQL Cross-Platform Development

Agile Teams Collaboration with DevOps Backlogs and Boards

Wiki DevOps Documentation Portal Handover

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeet-khoda>



KAJAL RIENKUMAR  
SONI

## MEARTANZ PROJECT: Semester Two

*Full Stack Developer*

*Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** This project, developed for Andrew Buchanan-Smart, involved the full-stack development and integration of a web-based information system designed to manage and visualize structured data efficiently. The system was built using React for the frontend and Django REST Framework for the backend, with a MySQL database supporting data storage and retrieval. My primary role focused on creating a responsive and intuitive user interface, integrating backend APIs with database models, and ensuring seamless communication between system components.

Emphasis was placed on building a secure and scalable architecture by applying minimal CIS security standards and optimizing both frontend and backend performance. Through this implementation, the project demonstrated strong alignment between usability, data management, and system reliability, offering a cohesive and secure platform suitable for real-world IT applications.

### KEY TASKS

Responsive Frontend Development with UI Design

Database Models with backend API Integration

CIS Security Implementation and Compliancy

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kajal-soni-9b3055171/>

## MEARTANZ PROJECT: Semester Two

*Database Developer & Software Tester*

*Internship: Postgraduate Dip. of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

**Abstract:** As a Database Developer and Software Tester for the MEARTANZ project, under Andrew Buchanan-Smart, I was responsible for designing and implementing a relational database to support the project's data driven functionality. My key tasks included developing an Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD), building a normalized MySQL database schema, and applying data validation with MySQL Workbench.

### KEY TASKS

Database Design and Implementation with MySQL Workbench

Data Preprocessing and Integration with Power BI

Functional, Regression, and API Tests using Postman

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dulashadeveni/>

I also performed data preprocessing with Power BI and DAX queries to clean, merge, and transform raw datasets before integration. Additionally, I prepared and executed functional, regression, and user acceptance test cases, along with API sanity testing using Postman. This internship enhanced my technical expertise in database design, data analytics, and software testing, while improving my collaboration, analytical, and problem-solving skills.

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL: Semester Two

*Network & Cloud Systems Support*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Stewart Hardie

**Abstract:** During my internship with Hamilton City Council, I gained hands-on industry experience through two key projects. The first project involved supporting a large-scale DNS migration, which required careful planning, coordination, and communication through the Council's change management process. I also assisted with Aruba Access Point mapping to optimise network infrastructure. The second project focused on developing a method to store live sensor data and integrate it with a Copilot AI agent to notify users of outages in real time. This required extensive research, troubleshooting, and testing to ensure reliable flow and performance.

Overall, this internship enhanced my technical, analytical, problem-solving, and soft skills I learned from the Centre for Information Technology at the Waikato Institute of Technology.

### KEY TASKS

Migrate DNS Records to Azure

Support consistency of AP placements on Aruba

Developed AI Copilot Agent to monitor network

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/josh-campbell-6b0816320/>



DULASHA DEVENI  
PATHTHINI WASAM



JOSH MARK  
CAMPBELL



UDAY PRATAP  
SINGH

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL: Semester Two

*Information Management & Compliance Analyst  
Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology  
Supervisor: Basundhara Rai*

**Abstract:** As part of my internship with the Information Management & Compliance Platform at Hamilton City Council, I worked on the Protected Records Review – Class 8 (Governance and Democratic Representation Records) project. My role focused on collecting, organizing, and analysing council meeting records to identify data duplication and improve record accuracy. I used Python scripting to extract Council Meeting data (Agendas, Minutes & Reports) from the Council website and compiled metadata from SharePoint repositories into structured Excel sheets. I conducted duplication analysis on Council meeting and general folders and created Power BI visualizations to present duplication trends and data distribution. My work supported compliance with the Public Records Act 2005 and contributed to enhancing the reliability, accessibility, and efficiency of Hamilton City Council's digital record management. This was a joint internship project with Rajitha Gunasekara.

### KEY TASKS

Organised council records with Python and SharePoint  
Performed Duplicate Analysis on SharePoint Storage  
Power BI Dashboards Visualisation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/uday-pratap-singh-036ba11a0/>



RAJITHA  
GUNASEKARA

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL: Semester Two

*Information Management & Compliance Analyst  
Internship: Master of Applied Information Technology  
Supervisor: Basundhara Rai*

**Abstract:** During my internship with Hamilton City Council's Digital Services team, I contributed to the Protected Records Review – Class 8 project by applying advanced data analysis and automation techniques. I developed Python scripts in Google Colab for council web data extraction, conducted large-scale data cataloguing in SharePoint, and performed duplication analysis across multiple repositories. Using C#, I built a standalone application to automate file duplication detection on the HCC file server.

I further utilized Power BI to visualize and present analytical insights to stakeholders. This internship strengthened my technical proficiency in Python, C#, Power BI, and data governance practices while enhancing my ability to manage and optimize digital information systems in a government environment. This was a joint internship project with Uday Pratap Singh.

### KEY TASKS

Data Extraction with Python Web Scraping Scripts  
C# Standalone App for Duplication, Detection, and Automation  
Power BI Dashboard Visualisation

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rajithayag/>

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL: Semester Two

*Network & Cloud Systems Support*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Stewart Hardie

**Abstract:** During my internship with the Hamilton City Council Cloud and Network Team, I contributed to two projects and supported Network Engineers with some business as usual (BAU) tasks. The first project involved migrating DNS records from various vendors to Microsoft Azure. This involved planning, communication, configuration, and coordination through the change management process. For the second project, I moved on to developing an AI-based monitoring tool. This involved writing PowerShell Scripts to extract data from a web portal, exporting this to a database, and training an AI Agent to retrieve the data at the request of a user. This required a lot of problem solving and authorisation requests for various systems to communicate with each other. Additionally, I helped with some tasks such as mapping access points in the various facilities that the Digital Services Network Engineers support.

### KEY TASKS

DNS Migration to Microsoft Azure

Designed and implemented an AI-based Monitoring Solution

Mapped Access Points in HCC Facilities

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JOSHUA DAVID  
SORENSEN

## CFIT (WINTEC): Semester Two

*IoT Systems Architect*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Stewart Hardie

**Abstract:** In collaboration with Jiaben Wang, we co-developed a smart lighting control system that integrates both hardware and software components. Together, we created an IOT solution using ESP32 microcontrollers, sensors, and cloud services to enable intelligent lighting automation and multi-platform control.

During our project, I successfully developed the smart lighting system using the ESP32 microcontroller. Specifically, I used the Arduino IDE for programming the interface to implement both manual control and sensor-based automatic control of LEDs. Using the MQTT protocol, I connected the ESP32 to the OneNet cloud platform, enabling online device monitoring and data analysis. I compiled detailed technical documentation including deployment guides and code repositories, laying the groundwork for future project expansion. Our project is now ready for integration into future IoT curriculum teaching.

### KEY TASKS

Arduino IDE Software and Hardware Integration

Establishing connection with the OneNet Cloud Platform

Technical Documentation and Maintenance Guidelines

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/haowei-ye-672427353/>



HAOWEI  
YE



JIABEN  
WANG

## CFIT (WINTEC): Semester Two

*IoT Data & Cloud Engineer*

*Internship: Bachelor of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Stewart Hardie

**Abstract:** In collaboration with Haowei Ye, we co-developed an intelligent lighting system. Together, we designed an IoT solution using microcontrollers, sensors, hardware, software, and cloud services to achieve automated dimming, scheduling, and intelligent lighting control.

My contribution towards our project focused on creating a cloud-based data storage platform using Google Colab as the central database for real-time data uploading. I designed a web dashboard to display the collected data in an interactive and organized format for easy monitoring and analysis. By integrating Wi-Fi data transfer, cloud storage, and online visualisation, our project demonstrated a complete IoT workflow from data collection to cloud management. Our work showcased the effective use of ESP32 technology in developing smart IoT systems with practical cloud-based monitoring and data visualization capabilities.

### KEY TASKS

Website Dashboard Visualisation Development

ESP32 Microcontroller WiFi Data Capture

Google Colab Real-Time Database Hosting

## *Internship and IT Projects in Listing for Semester Two*

We recognise the continued contributions of our Semester Two interns and acknowledge those who preferred not to be profiled. The following table lists students who completed internships and IT projects.

Stakeholder	Student	Stakeholder	Student
CfIT (Wintec)	Aidan Luke	Fonterra	Michael Nelson
ITS	Andrew Gatenby	CfIT (Wintec)	Minseong Kim
CfIT (Wintec)	Ankit Ankit	Fonterra	Morgan Hodgson
Gallagher	Arohaina Bagley	CfIT (Wintec)	Nitish Rana
Sports Club	Arun Kurian	Pearl Innovations	Prabhdeep Singh
CfIT (Wintec)	Arun Pradhan	Gallagher	Rehan Tharindu
CfIT (Wintec)	Bailey Couchman	REGEN Computers	Ryan Quinn
Gallagher	Caleb Borst	GDC Consultants	Shanal Rathnaweera
Thrill Capital	Ethan Peebles		
CfIT (Wintec)	Fadi Lazar		
Fusion Networks	Honza Andrews		
ITS	James Howard		
iSim	Jonty Nguyen		
Pearl Innovation	Krish Jariwala		
iSim	Logan Polaczuk		
iSim	Louryn Nathan		
Bridged IT Services	Mansimmar Singh		
iSim	Mathew Herbett		
CfIT (Wintec)	Mathew Stimpson		
iSim	Melissa Wood		





Making  
the right  
Connections



# Helping whānau

## and tamariki in Crisis Situations

Massey University, Albany &  
Centre for Information Technology, Wintec | Te Pūkenga  
Collaboration

# AWAI - Our Collaboration

*E tipu e reā mo ngā rā o tō ao —  
Thrive in the day destined to you*

Now in its second year, the AWAI - Awhi Whānau, Awhi Iwi research collaboration, led by Professor Fiona Te Momo from Massey University Albany in partnership with the Centre for Information Technology at Wintec | Te Pūkenga, continues to explore digital solutions grounded in Māori values to support Tamariki, whānau, and iwi. Building on the first year's outcomes, this phase continues to examine prototype submissions to identify emerging themes that inform new research propositions.

Four central themes are emerging: implementation limitations, implementation strategies, cultural and indigenous UI design, and user context in designing for children and teenagers in high-stress or vulnerable conditions. These findings deepen understanding of how Māori worldviews can authentically guide digital innovation while addressing challenges in social services and community wellbeing, contributing to equitable and culturally aligned digital systems across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Our 2025 Semester One and Two COMP709 Mobile Development students built on this unique opportunity to lead AWAI's initiative by designing, developing, implementing, and showcasing an Information and Crisis Quick Response Prototype App. Through a Work Integrated Learning and Project-Based Learning framework, adapted to reflect Māori-themed assessments within the Mātauranga Māori in Information Technology (MMIT) pedagogy, students collaborated in mātauranga Māori whānau groups to produce their final product. The table below outlines each group and its members.

## Semester One

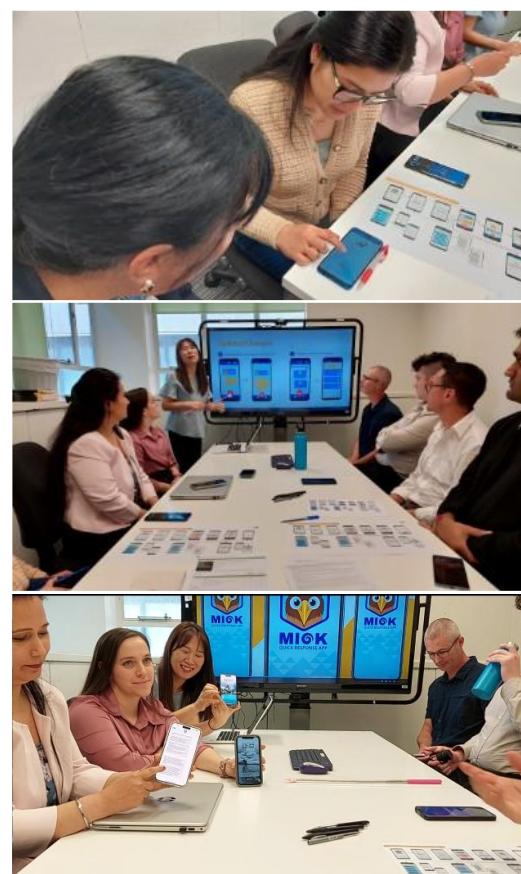
Manaaki Rangatahi	Kakapo Kaitiaki
• Arohaina Bagley	• William Armstrong
• Bailey Couchman	• Krish Manish Jariwala
• Mathew Herbert	• Jeet Hitesh Khoda
• Minseong Kim	• Arun Kurian
• Aidan Luke	• Tharindu Rehan
• Louryn Nathan	• Shanal Rathnaweera
• Ethan Peebles	• Prabhdeep Sachdeva
• Mathew Stimpson	• Jonty Southcombe-Nguyen
	• Melissa Wood

## Semester Two

Rōpū Tahi Taupānga
• Angus Bruns • Koell Cresswell • Hamish Gibbard • Kooti Harris • Aumkumar Navinbhai Patel



PROF. FIONA  
TE MOMO



The  
Bill  
Gallagher  
Centre

# Masters Research

Whakatōkia tō ara,  
whakatutukihia te mauri ora  
Forge your path, achieve life's success



# Our Masters Students

Our Master of Applied Information Technology prepares students for advanced IT roles through substantial research for doctoral studies, and project research, emphasizing industry readiness with opportunities for internships. We equip graduates with the expertise needed for leadership roles in areas such as business intelligence, data analytics, IT management, and software development. The following profiles showcase master's students who have shared their experiences and discoveries with our research community.

## ***Predicting Uber Passenger Pickup Patterns Using Machine Learning***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** This research focuses on optimizing Uber's operations by addressing challenges in resource allocation and service efficiency. A predictive model was developed to forecast passenger demand by integrating temporal, spatial, and environmental factors. The study applies machine learning techniques, including Random Forest and XGBoost, to analyze historical data and identify high-demand zones and peak times. Additionally, the research enhances Uber's driver notification system, aiming to reduce response times and improve service quality.

### ***Research Question***

Does incorporating temporal, spatial, and environmental variables enhance demand prediction accuracy and operational efficiency in urban mobility systems?

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gamith-de-silva-69007146/>

The findings demonstrate that incorporating external variables significantly improves demand prediction accuracy and operational efficiency. This leads to increased driver productivity, higher customer satisfaction through reduced wait times, and provides policymakers with actionable insights for urban planning. The research presents a scalable framework for optimizing ride-hailing services and contributes meaningfully to the field of urban transportation.



**GAMITH CHANDULA  
DE SILVA**



DANA  
ROXAS

## ***Job Applicants' Perceptions of AI Interviews: A Sentiment Analysis and Topic Modelling***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into recruitment processes, understanding how job applicants perceive AI-driven interviews is critical to evaluating their effectiveness and acceptance. This research aims to explore these perceptions by analysing comments from Reddit. A total of 3,143 comments were scraped using Python and Reddit API. Sentiment analysis was conducted using VADER to categorize comments as positive, negative, or neutral, while topic modelling using LDA identified key themes. Data was analysed using Python with libraries such as NLTK. Results showed that 43.4% of the comments were negative, 32.1% positive, and 24.5% neutral. Four main topics emerged, with three reflecting negative sentiment and one showing a mixed sentiment. This study highlights applicants' concerns and the critical need for organizations to improve systems and processes regarding AI interviews.

### **Research Question**

RQ 1. What are the job applicants' sentiments regarding AI interviews?

RQ 2. What topics are associated with the perceptions of AI interviews among job applicants?

LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/puja-bhandarkar-rao-533b63b1>



DIMITRI  
WELLAGE

## ***Identifying Best Prompt Engineering Technique (PET) and LLM for Ransomware Risk Management Queries***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Micheal Bosu

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** The aims of this research were twofold: (1) to compare the accuracy of responses generated by various LLMs on ransomware-related queries, identifying whether certain models (e.g., GPT-4, Claude, etc.) provide superior performance; and (2) to evaluate the effect of different prompt engineering techniques (Input-Output, Chain-of-Thought, Tree-of-Thought) on the accuracy of LLM responses in the ransomware risk management context.

These objectives reflect a comprehensive inquiry into both which AI model and how the querying method influence the quality of cybersecurity guidance provided.

### **Research Question**

Which prompt engineering technique and LLM yield the most Accurate results in detecting and responding to ransomware related queries?

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## ***A Comparative Study of ML Models for Lung Cancer Diagnosis: The Effect of SMOTE on Imbalanced Data***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** Class imbalance is a critical challenge in medical datasets where the minority class often represents life-threatening conditions like cancer. This study examined the effect of using SMOTE to balance the Survey Lung Cancer Dataset before training machine learning models. The models were evaluated on both imbalanced and SMOTE-balanced data, and results showed that balancing improved overall performance, especially in reliably identifying cancer cases.

However, not all aspects of model performance improved consistently, indicating that the impact of balancing can vary. These findings highlight the need for data balancing and multiple evaluation methods to build fair and reliable models.

### ***Research Question***

How do different machine learning models perform in predicting lung cancer when trained on imbalanced versus balanced data?

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/meththaniranasinghe/>



**METHTHANI  
RANASINGHE**

## ***Forecasting Hydro and Wind Energy Generation in NZ's Power System using SARIMA and ANN Models***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Diab Abuaiadah

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** Renewable energy is the backbone of New Zealand's power grid. Accurate forecasting improves grid efficiency and stability. Using SARIMA and ANN models, this study focused on short-term wind and hydro energy forecasting. It used 519 weeks of data from NASA POWER and the EMI system (2015–2025), covering both the North and South Islands. Experiments were conducted using Python on the Anaconda platform. Forecasting models were trained and tested using time-encoded features, historical energy output, and climate variables. Performance was measured using MAPE. Results show ANN outperformed SARIMA. For wind forecasting in the North Island, ANN reduced MAPE to 23.40%, while for hydro forecasting in the South Island, ANN achieved 4.72%, slightly outperforming SARIMA (4.97%). The study demonstrates ANN can enhance renewable energy forecasting in New Zealand.

### ***Research Question***

RQ 1. Which model, SARIMA or ANN, more accurately predict renewable energy generation in NZ under climate influence?

RQ 2. Which climate-related features enhance SARIMA and ANN predictive accuracy for wind and hydro power forecasting?

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/nuwan86/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nuwan86/)



**NUWAN  
SAMARASINGHE**



PUJA  
BHANDARKAR

## ***Comparative Analysis of Ensemble ML Models for detecting early stages of Coronary Heart Disease***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** Coronary heart disease (CHD) remains the leading global cause of death. Traditional linear models fail to capture the complex, non-linear relationships among risk factors, creating demand for predictive tools that shift diagnosis from reactive to proactive. This study compares three ensemble Machine Learning (ML) models—Random Forest (RF), eXtreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost), and Light Gradient Boosting Machine (LGBM)—using 1,000 real-world patient records. Without hyperparameter tuning, all models overfitted, achieving 100% training accuracy but under 33% test accuracy. RF showed greater robustness (33.0%) than XGBoost (24.5%) and LGBM (22.5%), supporting its superior variance reduction mechanism. Results highlight the need for K-Fold Cross-Validation and Grid Search to improve generalisation and establish reliable CHD risk prediction for clinical application.

### **Research Question**

What are accuracy levels of Random Forest, XGBoost, LGBM ML models, and which of these are the better fit while detecting diseases?

LinkedIn: <http://linkedin.com/in/puja-bhandarkar-rao-533b63b1>



DEVINA  
PAI

## ***Evaluating the Predictive Impact of Lifestyle Features on Type 2 Diabetes Prediction***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** This study improves early detection of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) by integrating clinical and lifestyle data to address gaps in existing predictive models. Using a dataset including stress, sleep quality, and physical activity, rigorous feature selection and machine learning methods were applied. The Random Forest model achieved the best performance, with 96.07% accuracy and a ROC-AUC above 0.96. Results highlight the value of combining lifestyle and clinical factors for holistic prediction. The strongest predictor was the combined effect of stress and sound sleep, emphasising lifestyle management in T2DM prevention. Overall, integrated data-driven models enhance early diagnosis, support proactive intervention, and strengthen healthcare decision-making.

### **Research Question**

RQ 1. How consistent are feature selection methods in identifying key lifestyle predictors of type 2 diabetes?

RQ 2. Which features improve ML predictive performance?

RQ 3. Which model performs best with lifestyle and clinical data?

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/devinapai/>

## ***Cross-Crop Evaluation of CNN, SVM and Random Forest Models for Crop Pest and Disease Detection***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Anuradha Madurapperumage

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** This paper develops a deployable 20-class crop-disease classifier using a compact transfer-learned CNN (MobileNetV2/EfficientNet-B0, 224×224). Training follows two phases: head-only warm start at a higher learning rate and partial unfreezing with ReduceLROnPlateau and EarlyStopping to stabilize generalization. To separate representation from decision rule, linear SVM and Random Forest baselines are trained in parallel on 1280-D CNN embeddings after StandardScaler?PCA (~256). A fixed ?1.5k-image validation split and saved artifacts ensure reproducibility. Results show ~95% validation accuracy for the CNN (micro-AUC ?0.998; macro-AUC ?0.989), with SVM close behind. Calibration via temperature scaling and threshold sweeps yields clear operating policies and selective compute. Main limitations: single-site validation and class imbalance.

### ***Research Question***

RQ 1. How do CNN, SVM, and RF models compare on macro-averaged accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 across five crops?

RQ 2. What is each model's per-image latency, throughput, size, parameters, and peak RAM on GPU and edge-like CPU?

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## ***Feature Selection Optimisation for Improved Disease Prediction Accuracy***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Micheal Bosu

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** Heart disease remains a leading global cause of death, highlighting the need for accurate and interpretable predictive models. This study compares traditional and advanced feature selection techniques to enhance heart disease prediction. Five advanced methods (Boruta, mRMR, SHAP, PSO, GWO) and five traditional methods (ReliefF, RFE, LASSO, Chi-square, PCA) were applied to four benchmark datasets. Five machine learning algorithms—Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine, Random Forest, KNN, and XGBoost—were evaluated using accuracy, F1-score, and ROC-AUC metrics. Results reveal that both feature selection categories achieve comparable performance, with Logistic Regression and SVM showing stability. Key predictors such as age, cholesterol, thalach, and oldpeak influence outcomes, supporting transparent, data-driven diagnostics.

### ***Research Question***

How do different categories of feature selection methods affect the predictive accuracy of heart disease prediction models?

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**DARRWIN  
DELAPELIE**



**NEETHU  
KOCHAYYATHU  
SIVENDRAN**



DEEPALI  
GOYAL

## ***Evaluating Online Engagement Types and their Impact on Academic Performance in Personalised Learning***

*Master of Applied Information Technology*

Supervisor: Dr. Shantha Jayalal

Status: Completion in 2025

**Abstract:** This paper will focus on online student engagement and academic performance in personalized learning settings. Three engagement indicators, including time spent watching videos, quiz attempts and forum were tested with an extent of 10,000 anonymized records against a composite performance score. Correlation and regression tests indicated that there were weak correlations with coefficients close to zero which showed that behavioural engagement had minimal predictive effects on achievement. Although these variables are based on the available literature, they were not sufficient to account for the differences in performance. The research concludes that research on the topic ought to incorporate the factors of cognitive and emotional engagement in order to come up with more comprehensive models of learning achievement in adapting learning systems.

### **Research Question**

Which types of online engagement most influence student academic performance in personalised learning environments?



**Ko tō mōhio  
te mauri o tō kaha**

**Your knowledge, is the essence to your strength**

# Matauranga Māori in

IT



**Skills Extending  
Past, Present, and Future**



Dr. Monika Sońta

Assistant Professor

## Research Interests

- Connectivism & Social Construction of Technology
- Community of the Mind
- Low code Social Innovation
- Organizational Creativity

2024 - Visiting Scholar

2024 - Research: "Creativity is Intelligence having fun..."

Indeed, this statement summarizes my research focus. I am researching low code technologies that provide access to digital empowerment (low code as social innovation); on creativity and curiosity that empower people to accelerate learning; and communication in the age of AI in context of Connectivism and shaping reality around SCOT (Social Construction of Technology).

Kozminski University

Department of Management in Networked and

Information Systems

In association with Wintec J. Te Pūkenga, Aotearoa New Zealand

Te Kura mō te Hangarau Whakaauturanga

Centre for Information Technology

KOZMINSKI UNIVERSITY



# Kia mau tonu te ahi kā

*keep the fires burning*



Hamiora Te Momo

PASM, C/IT Research Leader

Research Interests

- MAR for Cultural Heritage
- AI-Driven Indigenous Computing
- Matauranga Māori in IT

## Sustaining our international relationships

# Kozminski University

Te Kura mō te Hangarau Whakaauturanga

Centre for Information Technology

# Continuing Partnerships

## *Indigenous IT in International Waters*

In May 2025, the Centre for Information Technology had the privilege of reconnecting with Dr. Monika Sońta, from Kozminski University, Poland, to participate in European Union Week 2025 in Warsaw. This pan-European initiative, titled “*Strengthening European Competitiveness – European Innovation & Foresight Bootcamp*”, brought together policymakers, academics, and students to explore innovation, technology, and education. The program featured thematic lectures, workshops, and collaborative sessions led by experts, including the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, and Professor Marcin Piąkowski from the World Bank.

As part of the agenda, our Centre's Research Leader, Hamiora Te Momo, presented “*Innovation in Aotearoa, New Zealand: Indigenous Approaches, Sustainability, and Community-Based IT Innovation*” in an online session. He highlighted how Māori knowledge systems and kaupapa Māori frameworks inform technological innovation, emphasizing relational, culturally grounded, and sustainable approaches. Current projects discussed included AWAI – Awhi Whānau & Awhi Iwi, supporting Māori families affected by domestic violence, Wintec IT student research contributions to Massey University, and the MMIT pedagogy framework embedding Māori themes in IT education. He also addressed ethical and spiritual dimensions, including Indigenous data sovereignty, accessibility, and culturally responsible design.

The presentation prompted reflection on how Indigenous perspectives can inform global innovation strategies, offering European audience's practical insights into balancing technological advancement with community engagement, ethical responsibility, and cultural integrity in Aotearoa. This engagement builds on our ongoing international collaboration with Dr. Sońta and Kozminski University, reconnecting pathways for shared research, cross-cultural learning, and collaborative pedagogical initiatives.



DR. MONIKA  
SOŃTA

KOZMINSKI UNIVERSITY



*The Kiwi of Aotearoa and the Eagle of Poland move together – one grounded in the land, the other scanning the skies.*

*Two worlds, two perspectives, two visions in balance – united in purpose.*



# Te Kura Mo Te Hangarau Whakaaturanga

*Centre for Information Technology*

Te Kura Mo Te Hangarau Whakaaturanga is dedicated to providing dynamic and industry-relevant IT education. Our programmes are designed to meet the rapidly evolving needs of the information technology sector, ensuring that graduates are not only qualified but also equipped with practical skills and professional capabilities essential for the modern workplace.

## **About the Centre**

We understand that today's employers seek more than just academic qualifications; they want professionals who can utilise information and communication technology to solve real-world problems. Our courses, developed in collaboration with industry partners, offer a broad spectrum of computing and IT topics, including software engineering, data science, network infrastructure and architecture, cyber security, data analytics, professional communication, programming, web engineering, project management, and more. This variety allows students to specialize in areas that align with their career goals benefitting from hands-on experience in specialist laboratories.

## **Our Programmes**

We offer a diverse range of undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate programmes designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed in today's IT industry. With our curricula emphasizing hands-on learning, real-world applications, and close collaboration with our industry partners we keep our programmes relevant and aligned with current technological industry trends. Students benefit from personalized learning plans, work-based experiences, and internships that foster professional growth and industry connections.

- New Zealand Certificate in Information Technology
- New Zealand Diploma in Information Technology Technical Support
- Bachelor of Applied Information Technology
- Graduate Diploma in Applied Information Technology
- Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Information Technology
- Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Informatics
- Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Information Technology
- Master of Applied Information Technology

## **Future Outlook**

Our Centre remains committed to continuous improvement, focusing on curriculum relevance, student support, and strong industry partnerships. We aim to expand our national and international outreach dedicating to equity and high-quality education positioning our graduates are well-prepared for successful careers in the ever evolving IT digital age landscape.



# Upgrade your mind build your IT future

## Contact Us

For more information about our programmes or to enrol, you can contact us at:

### **City Campus**

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(Centre for Information Technology)  
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Hamilton

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