

## POINTS FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT

**Please consider using and/or adapting any points below you consider relevant to your own organisation or circumstances in your letter of support.**

- The Information Studies Programme at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka is the only master's programme in Aotearoa preparing graduates for a range of information professional positions in the nation's cultural heritage organisations and government departments and ministries.
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- We live in an age where information is the main strategic resource upon which individuals, organisations, communities and societies rely for economic growth and for well-being. Aotearoa needs professionals trained to help individuals and organisations navigate the information ecosystem.
- The programme is located at the heart of the government quarter: its proximity to the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa, Parliamentary Library Pāremata Aotearoa, Archives NZ Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga, government ministries and other key civic institutions ensures that it has deep and meaningful connections with information and cultural heritage organisations in Aotearoa.
- The programme plays a pivotal role in the development of highly skilled information professionals who contribute significantly to organisations and the broader community throughout Aotearoa.
- The programme trains and educates professionals who are at the forefront of preserving, organizing, and making information accessible to all.
- The programme's emphasis on Māori and other Indigenous focused content is integral to the values that our profession holds relating to mātauranga Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi issues - core competencies of our body of knowledge. This knowledge can only be learnt in Aotearoa, and the programme makes a significant and unique contribution to the Indigenisation and decolonisation of our institutions.
- It has always offered distance learning, supporting the education and professional development of information professionals throughout Aotearoa.
- The programme is a key partner in the NZLPP (New Zealand Library Partnership Programme) funded through the DIA to support the development and upskilling of the library and information workforce through tertiary scholarships. The programme is ongoing and aims to ensure that the information workforce is qualified and future ready. The closure of the Information Studies Programme will be huge set-back to this goal.
- The programme equips graduates with a range of skills essential to navigate the evolving information landscape, including:
  - ♦ a deep understanding of the principles of information management/library practice/ records management practice/archival practice, contributing to the advancement of library/information/archival services.
  - ♦ an appreciation of the need for effective access, use, retrieval and dissemination of information, and the skills to facilitate these in a range of contexts and for diverse user groups.

- ♦ practical in-demand skills in areas such as metadata management, collection development, database design, information retrieval, and user experience design.
- ♦ understanding of emerging technologies and digital resources, so embracing the digital transformation of our society, organisations, and individuals' lives.
- ♦ expertise for ensuring the effective organisation, retrieval, and dissemination of information within organisations and institutions.
- ♦ an understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing that enables them to provide services and resources to Māori and other Indigenous peoples in information related institutions, ensuring that Te Tiriti o Waitangi expectations are met.
- ♦ awareness of the importance of mātauranga Māori, and the role that information related institutions play in ensuring that taonga in the care of cultural heritage institutions are managed effectively and in keeping with tikanga Māori and are accessible to tangata whenua.
- ♦ knowledge and understanding of the ethical values underpinning information access and use, including the principles of intellectual freedom, privacy and equitable access to information for all in Aotearoa.
- ♦ the skills to provide information literacy instruction, empowering individuals to effectively navigate and evaluate information sources in an era of misinformation and fake news.
- ♦ understanding and expertise for the effective management, governance, and preservation of records and information thereby supporting good governance, transparency, and accountability across organisations in Aotearoa.
- ♦ knowledge of intellectual property and copyright, enabling them to navigate complex legal frameworks and ensure organisational compliance with copyright law and ethical practices.
- ♦ an understanding of the significance of safeguarding information responsibly and ethically to maintain public trust.
- ♦ community engagement and user-centred design principles for improving access to information for all, supporting the lifelong learning and well-being of individuals and communities.
- ♦ understanding of the importance and principle of the preservation of cultural heritage, ensuring access to the records and resources that define our collective identity as New Zealanders and promote cultural understanding.
- ♦ expertise in archival principles and practice, ensuring the long-term preservation and accessibility of records and resources.
- ♦ expertise to navigate complex digital preservation and curation challenges in an era where information is increasingly born digital.
- ♦ leadership and innovation skills to identify emerging trends, enabling information institutions and organisations to adapt to change.
- ♦ research skills that contribute to the advancement of the profession and ensure evidence-based decision making.
- ♦ networking and collaboration skills, connecting with other professionals across Aotearoa to develop effective and innovative practices that meet the evolving information needs of individuals, communities and organisation.