

Reshaping our ocea



"These patterns are inspired by different plants from across the Pacific islands. The history of these flora are interconnected with the histories of our Pacific voyagers. Like our ancestors, many of these species were carried by sea or wind to new environments, where they learnt to adapt and thrive. In our designs, these natural resources represent the resilience, strength and knowledge of our Pacific communities."

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Framing the oceanic cosmology: The horizon, the constellations.....3

Recognition of diversity and common Pacific values





Framing the oceanic cosmology, The horizon, the constellations

The *Te Kaitiaki* is guided by the Oceanic cosmological wisdom represented by the horizon (paerangi, vunilagi, tafalagi, iinga, uquna noka) and constellation (kalokalo, whetū, pupunga fetu'u, taulaiga o fetu). The horizon has for centuries defined the cultures, destinations and dreams of Pacific peoples from East to West and North to South. Rather than being seen as the edge of the world, the horizon was understood as the beginning of a much larger universe with limitless destinations and boundless opportunities by our great ancestral navigators who traversed the largest ocean in the world using the constellation of stars. The constellations, together with the horizon, have shaped the transcultural Oceanic identity, cultural world views, destiny and dreams which connected with our people, land, ocean, cosmology and indigenous knowledge.

Recognition of diversity and connection Pacific values

We recognize the diversity of Pacific cultures and their values and we outline here some which are broadly common but may be named, framed and understood differently in different places but form the guiding cultural lighthouse for the strategy.

Reciprocity: Giving, receiving, sharing in good faith

Relationships: Enriching cultural and social connects and networks

Service: Self-less commitment to others' wellbeing

Empathy: Recognizing and engaging with the humanity in others

Sustainability: Ensure continuity and community benefits

Respect: Recognition of mana, values and integrity of others

Humility: Being humble, simple, and appreciative of others above self

Spirituality: Connection with land, ancestral cosmology and divinity

The Pacific Strategy provides the vision to enhance Pacific innovation and engagement within the university and beyond from 2024 to 2030. It aligns with and contributes to the University of Canterbury

The first two Pacific Strategies, 2014 to 2018 and 2019 to 2023 provided a firm foundation for a unified Pacific approach and this Pacific Strategy builds on these as it responds to the fast changing circumstances inside and outside the University which have put more demands on Pacific students and staff as well as provide direction for future development. The term of the Pacific Strategy has been extended from four to six years (until 2030) to ensure that it is aligned with the time frame of both the UC Strategic Vision and the Te Rautaki Māori, Strategy for Māori Development.

Aotearoa New Zealand and the University of Canterbury (UC) are located within the broader Pacific region and indeed define themselves as part of Oceania. Thus it is indeed relevant that the university should have a strong Pacific focus and connection.

Ngāi Tahu, the University's Treaty Partner, has deep historical, cultural and cosmological roots and connections with the Pacific, which goes back for centuries and this makes UC part of the broader trans-Pacific cosmology. The Pacific community is committed to co-existing with and engaging with Te Tiriti and Māori community at UC.

The University has been a place where a number of very prominent Pacific leaders, scholars and professionals have been nurtured. While at times overlooked by the university, they continue to maintain sporting, cultural and economic ties between the Canterbury region and continue to thrive in their different fields.



Enrichment, empowerment, and enhancement of academic excellence; attainment of meaningful Pacific cultural

O r mission Deepening o r horizons, enlightening o r constellations

The Pacific Knowledge and Culture hub will provide inspiring and transformative leadership and support in:

- Enriching teaching and learning
- Delivery of innovative student services
- Sustainable and empowering cultural practices
- World class Pacific-focused interdisciplinary research
- Promotion and articulation of Pacific indigenous knowledge
- Advancement of ideas and practices which safeguard our wellbeing, environment and planet
- Transforming the university environment to be more structurally, academically and socially aligned with Pacific peoples' interests and aspirations in an equitable and inclusive manner.

O r h o e , o r constellation T o a r d s á c o n f t r e

T kanga 'enau fohé
There is strength in unity
(Tongan saying)

The Pacific Knowledge and Culture Hub (PAKC), under the leadership of the of Pro-Vice Chancellor Pacific provides the home for Pacific academic, research, students services and engagement programs at the university. PAKC is the umbrella configuration under which all the Pacific entities including the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies (MBC), the Pacific Development Team (PDT and the newly established Pacific Studies Program (PSP) come under.

1.1



Excellence in education Accessible, equitable, future-focused

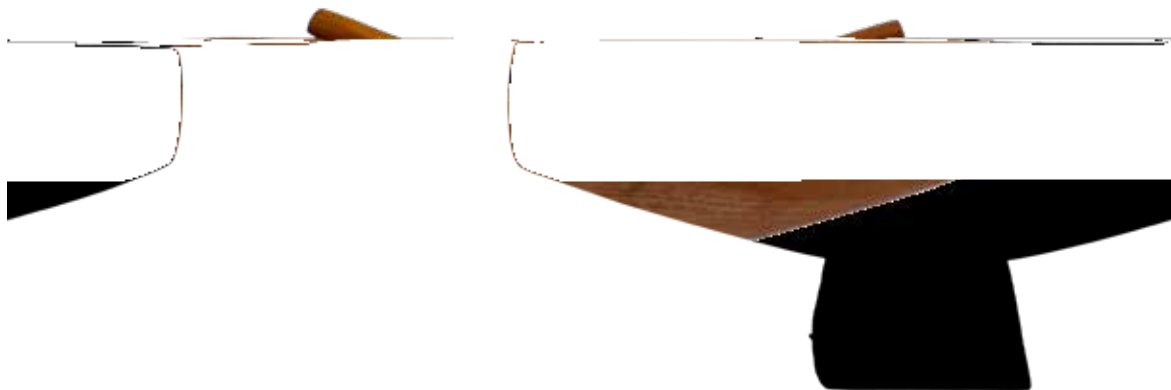
Te reirei bon te matau ae kookona

Education is a magic hook and key to knowledge

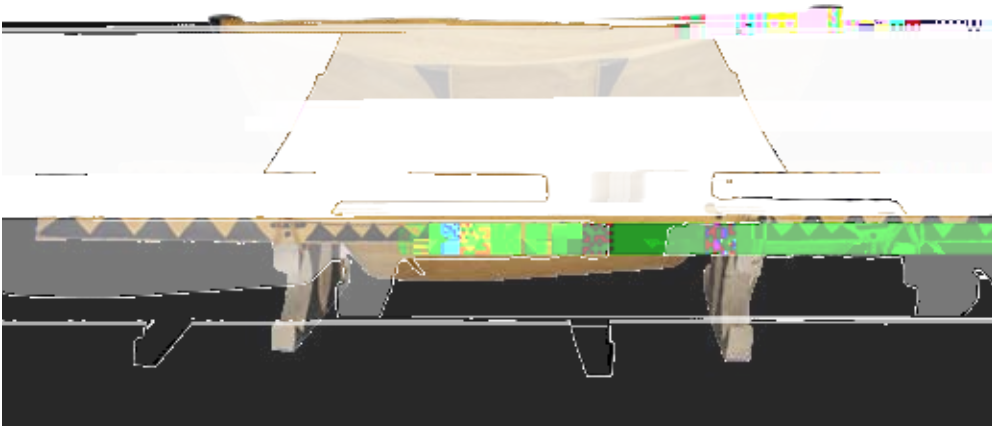
(I-Kiribati saying)

Modern education demands greater accessibility, flexibility and forward-looking approaches in the curriculum, pedagogy, philosophy and practice in ways which enrich knowledge, enhance intellectual capacity and develop professional skills necessary for the future transformation and wellbeing of society.

- 2.1 Ensure that PACS courses are designed and taught using effective pedagogies and curriculum which ensure enrichment of students critical thinking, understanding of other cultures, enhancement of globalized understanding and development of human empathy towards others.
- 2.2 Develop and support diverse and relevant teaching approaches which are accessible, flexible, future-focused, culturally responsive and interdisciplinary as well as engage with other Pacific scholars and entities from within and outside the university for provision of teaching and other resources.
- 2.3 Integrate teaching and research to weave together both theoretical and applied knowledge of the world, bearing in mind the diversity of Pacific cultures from East to West and North to South of the Oceanic continent, as basis for an inclusive, equity-based and innovative approach to Pacific Studies.
- 2.4 Design and implement the use of distance digital learning using various virtual medium together with community-based teaching to facilitate accessibility to various sections of the community within New Zealand, the Pacific region and internationally.
- 2.5 Collaborate with other universities in New Zealand, Pacific and internationally for external delivery of PACS courses.
- 2.6 Incorporate Pacific indigenous knowledge and worldviews into teaching with recognition of its significance in the modern world and work together with other faculties to do the same.
- 2.7 Recognition of the diversity of Pacific cultures from East to West and North to South of the Oceanic continent as basis for an inclusive, equity-based and innovative approach to Pacific Studies.
- 2.8 Make diverse resources (library, digital, physical) for teaching and learning readily available and easily accessible to lecturers and students.
- 2.9 Create space for community knowledge makers to be involved in relevant sections of the PACS courses.



Fakatili te lologa fou
Plant it, so its roots are firm and sustainable



People

North ring staff, thriving students

Staff development

To make a difference for the Pacific community, a safe cultural environment and enriching work culture to support staff and students wellbeing are important. Also a need for staff to be innovative and smart thinking about future plans, targets, strategies and outcomes in the context of changing circumstances and demands.

- 4.1 Establishment of the Pacific Knowledge and Culture Hub (PAKC) under the Pro-Vice Chancellor Pacific to incorporate all the major aspects of activities and support for the Pacific community at UC including the Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, Pacific Development Team, and Pacific Studies Program.
- 4.2 PAKC will engage with the Faculties and other university entities, Pacific community and other relevant stakeholders to increase the overall number of Pacific staff by 6-8% of the Pacific FTE in the period to 2030.
- 4.3 Develop initiatives to increase the number of Pacific professors to five by 2027 and increase the number of Pacific academics in faculties by 6-8% in the next 3 years.
- 4.4 Establish a comprehensive and well targeted Pacific staff development program to ensure that Pacific and non-Pacific staff members continue to develop their professional, skills and intercultural understanding regularly to the highest level.

Student participation

Facilitate and support student participation and empowerment.

- 4.5 Ensure representation of students voices and



Making a difference

Recruitment and retention

Igofa hokralatamo, lemowhatihuto kwahuvo.

Whati nosena li'gmilinayave

If you plant a tree, look after it well, it will then give you good fruit

(Papua New Guinea saying)

Recruitment and retention play a pivotal role in ensuring academic sustainability and achievement thus there is a need for considerable focus on ensuring increase in these areas.

- 5.1 Expand recruitment and retention efforts based on the PAKC Recruitment and Retention Strategy to ensure an annual increase of 10% of the Pacific student numbers to 2030.
- 5.2 Concerted effort to be made in the pastoral, support, academic programs and reporting tools to ensure an increase of 3% retention rate by 2026.
- 5.3 Continue to work closely with the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and faculties to engage and support an evidence approach for retention and equity that is relevant and culturally responsive for Pacific students.
- 5.4 Work closely with external scholarship providers and sponsors to ensure a sustainable level of funding and resourcing for Pacific students recruitment and retention.
- 5.6 Work closely with Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and other relevant university entities to provide support and engage in co-designing smart and targeted strategies in relation to mentoring, tutoring, support service and wellbeing to increase enrolment and retention.
- 5.7 Develop a targeted approach to enhancing transition of Pacific students (national and international) from pre-undergraduate to undergraduate and from undergraduate to postgraduate as well as transition into employment.



• Strengthening our connections Engagement in a diverse and changing environment

Provide strategic, effective and transformative connections locally, nationally, regionally and internationally to promote and enhance Pacific engagements and achievements in a diverse, changing and challenging environment.

- 7.1 Strengthen connections and collaborations with Pacific community groups and organizations within Canterbury and South Island in relation to provision of support and expertise in area of sustainability, education, health and other aspects of wellbeing.
- 7.2 Establish a Pacific Community hub within PAKC as outlined in the PAKC Community Engagement Strategy, as part of the „bring the community to the university and take the university to the community“ initiative.
- 7.3 Enhance relationships with Pacific community groups and organizations in New Zealand through support and expertise in area of sustainability, education, health and other aspects of wellbeing.
- 7.4 Develop and maintain relationships with schools around Canterbury, South Island, New Zealand and the Pacific to help facilitate community development partnership, educational outreach as well as student recruitment to UC.
- 7.5 Expand and deepen engagement with Pacific staff in New Zealand universities and research institutions for collaborative research projects, publication, joint teaching, staff exchange and resources sharing.
- 7.6 Deepen and expand relationship with universities in the Pacific region through joint publications, research, teaching, projects and community engagements.

7.7 Establish and sustain community networks with different countries around the Pacific region to help facilitate research, projects, recruitment and engagement with governments, regional organizations, local communities and civil society organizations.

7.8 Enhance connections with Pacific diaspora communities around the world and organize annual events to connect them.

7.9

Creativity Pacific Enriched cultural horizon

Ko toku tokiga e mau ai toku hikohikomaga Culture and knowledge consolidate learning environments (Tokelau saying)

Creativity and culture are important components of students and staff experience to balance and enrich academic work.

8.1 Through a network of former MBC Artist in Residence, set up a network of creative practitioners to promote Pacific art and artists to weave artistic and creative work into Pacific Studies teaching and research.

8.2 Initiate and support cultural programs for staff and students on campus to connect the different Pacific cultural groups and their respective cultural practices and worldviews.

8.3 Provide support for Pacific artists pursuing a career in creative arts including digital arts and other forms of artistic expressions.

8.4 Ensure increased visibility of Pacific art on the university campus to help create a culturally stimulating and enriching learning environment.





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