














Meet the Te Puna Ako team:

	<p>Abha Chitalia Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaison: Computing, Electrical and Applied Technology</p>	<p>In my role as an Academic Advisor, I enjoy working with teachers in developing courses with an all-inclusive approach towards providing students with the wide array of skills necessary to succeed in life, and a rich environment that brings a culturally diverse approach to classroom interaction. My areas of expertise include assessment and moderation, including unit standards.</p>
	<p>Fiona Dalton Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaison: Environmental and Animal Sciences</p>	<p>Kia ora tātou. I enjoy working with teachers in their ongoing mission to find ways of engaging students in interesting and useful learning. My main aim is to support the creation of learner-centred environments which enable staff to effectively share their expertise and enable students to achieve learning outcomes and have a positive study experience. To me, this means ensuring that learning is fully inclusive and accessible, assisting in the application of relevant digital tools, and helping to check that learning tasks, assessments and learning outcomes are aligned so that students can navigate their courses successfully.</p>
	<p>Howard Norton Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaison: Applied Business, Architecture</p>	<p>Kia ora te whānau. My interest is in the use of ICTs that are fit for purpose and enhance the learning experience. In particular, I'm interested in how eLearning tools can be used for interaction and collaboration. I'm also passionate about the cultures and stories of our students as research suggests engagement and motivation increase when our learners feel their culture is valued within the classroom.</p>
	<p>James Oldfield Manager, Digital Learning</p>	<p>I am particularly interested in the effect of mobile BYOD devices on the student learning experience. My preferred teaching style is based upon constructivist pedagogies, and I have a passion for helping others to create engaging learning experiences for their students.</p>

	<p>Jocelyn Williams Manager, Te Puna Āko (Joce)</p>	<p>Kia ora tatou! I love being Manager of Te Puna Ako because I get to use the full range of my learning/teaching and broad academic leadership experience to date, in partnering across multiple teams to help keep our learning and teaching practices up to date. Unitec has been the biggest part of my professional life. As a young'un I was a high school teacher for 8 years; later I took up part-time lecturing work at Unitec teaching Communication in a range of programmes. This led to roles as Programme Leader, senior lecturer, and HOS. I took up other roles elsewhere - Academic Director in the PTE sector and then in a role very similar to my current one, at MIT. Both of these deepened my knowledge and broadened my perspective on learning and teaching, yet Unitec drew me back. The people - students, colleagues - past and present. The whenua. I've been here through so much change, but so much endures... especially the values and the way they are so present and lived every day; everyone so focused on our learners. I'm privileged to be part of the talented Te Puna Ako team. My current focus is academic integrity and Gen AI - keeps all of us busy! Mā te wā!</p>
	<p>Mark Smith Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaisons: Healthcare and Social Practice</p>	<p>My role in Te Puna Ako is to collaborate with teachers to create better learning experiences. These experiences at Unitec are situated in professional practices and shaped by the chosen profession. With this in mind, my work involves conversations with teaching staff on how to design curriculum, assessment and learning in their areas of expertise. We work together to improve learning and teaching to prepare students for their chosen professions and to develop their professional identity.</p>
	<p>Rhiannon McNamara Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaisons: Trades and Services</p>	<p>The classroom is my <i>happy place</i>, whether as a teacher or as a student. I enjoy collaborating with colleagues to provide learners with a student-centred, collaborative learning experience. Supporting others is what I do well, so I enjoy getting alongside other teachers to learn about their areas of expertise and learn how I can support them in their teaching. I aim to provide bite-sized chunks of training to enable others to upskill in the technology needed to deliver their courses.</p>

	<p>Rosario Iguin Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaisons: UPC, Creative Industries</p>	<p>I work in partnership with Unitec's teaching staff to help develop their capabilities to be effective, engaging and empowering educators who will then, in the spirit of ako and Te Noho Kotahitanga values, provide our learners with positive learning experiences to enable them to reach their full potential and achieve successful educational outcomes. Some of the ways I support teachers are with curriculum development, developing learner-centred lessons that embed real-world skills, and finding ways to use technology to enhance teaching and learning. My focus is on how to best assist teachers within their context, but with the learners in mind and heart of our collaboration – a journey that I thoroughly enjoy</p>
	<p>Sharnell Aumua Academic Advisor</p>	<p>I am a passionate advocate for digital solutions that empower learning and thrive on exploring new avenues to revolutionise learning experiences. Through collaboration, I aim to foster inclusive environments where collective teaching goals are achieved.</p>
	<p>Sacha Garrity Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaison: Bridgepoint</p>	<p>Tēnā tātou katoa. I am passionate about collaborating with teachers, sharing knowledge and enhancing their professional growth to create dynamic and inclusive learning spaces. I believe that digital tools when used purposefully can be a powerful way to ensure that learning is accessible, engaging, and tailored to the diverse needs of all taura. Poipoia te kākano kia puāwai (nuture the seed and it will bloom).</p>

	<p>Joy Hooper Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaison: Building Construction and Engineering</p>	<p>Kia ora te whānau. I am a lifelong learner, committed to fostering positive relationships through meaningful conversations with teachers / kaiako and schools. Whether through coaching, mentoring, or offering thoughtful advice, my goal is to empower educators to deliver the best possible outcomes for their learners. As an experienced educator and Project Manager, I am passionate about the power of reflective practice to aid continuous improvement and using blended approaches to motivate and drive positive change.</p>
	<p>Olaug (Ollie) Gardener Academic Advisor</p> <p>Liaison: Community Studies</p>	<p>Kia ora! I enjoy helping subject matter experts translate their expertise into engaging learning experiences. As a Unitec alumna myself, I'm excited to be back contributing to the institution that started my own learning journey. Working at the intersection of learning and technology, I collaborate with teachers to create meaningful learning experiences that prepare students for their chosen professions.</p>
	<p>William Lu</p> <p>eLearning Support Moodle Echo360 bookings</p>	<p>I believe in promoting best practice in the use of high-quality multimedia material and Web support to ensure students achieve their learning objectives and receive a positive and memorable experience. I am highly experienced in using Moodle within teaching environments and I am committed to assisting academic staff to deliver quality educational experiences to their students.</p>
<p>DCE Academic Manager, TPA Digital Learning Lead</p>	<p>Professor Martin Carroll Jocelyn Williams James Oldfield</p>	<p>TPA Administrator Moodle Support</p> <p>Judith King William Lu</p>