Student experience

A decade of student leadership
This year the University celebrated 10 years of providing students with award-winning leadership programmes. Since they were piloted in 2008, the University’s two leadership programmes, the Victoria International Leadership Programme and the Victoria Plus Programme, have both played a central role in developing future leaders by recognising students’ involvement in extracurricular activities that help shape engaged local and global citizens.

Over the past 10 years, more than 7,000 students have participated in either one or both of the programmes, allowing them to take part in a range of community engagements, volunteer activities, seminars, networking opportunities, and international conferences.

Increase in international students
The first trimester of 2018 saw 32 percent more international undergraduate students begin studying at the University compared with the same period in 2017. This is the third consecutive annual increase in international undergraduates at the University, reflecting its growing reputation as a globally ranked capital city university.

The University has also seen a more than 10 percent increase in new international Master’s, postgraduate diploma, and postgraduate certificate students. As well as established markets such as China, the United States, and Europe, the University has gained students from new regions such as Latin America and Russia.

Students sharing their views
In February, the University launched myView, a blog where students can share posts about life on and off campus. So far there have been more than 50 posts on topics including life in halls of residence, developing healthy money habits, dealing with culture shock for international students, and events around the city.

www.myview.co.nz

Investing in the future
In August, the University launched Great Futures, a new philanthropic scholarship programme aimed at significantly increasing the support available to students. Great Futures aims to more than double the University’s philanthropic scholarship funds by 2020 and allow capable students to reach their full potential by removing the financial barriers that could prevent them from going to university or making the most of opportunities while they are studying.

Great Futures will support more students who face increased barriers to participation and achievement in tertiary education, including Māori, Pasifika, and refugee-background students.

Well positioned for change
A report by Victoria University of Wellington researchers found that Wellington and graduates working in the city are well positioned to navigate technology-driven upheavals. Called It Takes a City to Raise a Graduate, the report was prepared by the University’s Working Capital project and is based on nearly 90 interviews with Wellington managers, human resource specialists, and recent graduates from a range of businesses, the public sector, and not-for-profit organisations. The report highlights Wellington’s compact size and its benefits for networking and communication between employers and tertiary institutions.

Safety first
2018 saw continued success for the ‘safety bus’ service provided by the Accommodation Service and Campus Safety to take students from halls of residence to the city and back. On Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights, a bus drops students from Te Puni Village and Weir House to Courtenay Place and after midnight two shuttle vans offer all residents a ride back to their hall. The service regularly returned around 250 students to their halls of residence, improving safety for residents and reducing noise issues for neighbours.

Global village
Four students from Victoria Business School joined 35 others from across the world for a Social Economic Enterprise Development programme run by the School of Business Management at the Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia. The programme involved the students spending a week in an Indonesian village to experience the daily life of local villagers and to help develop, market, and distribute a new product for the village.