Why should I study Computer Technology?

- You will have the skills to implement innovative computing solutions for new situations.
- You will understand the world’s most advanced computing and network technologies, and know how to harness their power effectively to meet the needs of industry and society.
- You will be studying at Waikato, the first home of New Zealand’s connection to the Internet and one of the leading network research institutions in the world.
- You will gain a qualification that allows you to join an industry that has a strong demand for new workers and high rates of pay for computer technology specialists.

Career opportunities

There are three main areas that computer technology specialists work in:

- **Computer hardware.** Although most PCs are made in Asia with chips designed in the US, there are companies all over the world designing specialised hardware for particular situations. This includes a significant number of New Zealand companies. Products include embedded systems, industrial controls systems, communications hardware, specialised peripherals and mobile devices such as GPS and digital radios. Careers include hardware design, firmware and software programming, test and measurement, requirements analysis and product support.

- **Systems software.** Most medium and all large organisations have specialised computer servers and other resources that require management. Careers include system design, capacity planning, system administration, systems programming, security, installation and support.

- **Computer networks.** These are now pervasive and require people to support and improve them. There are now many public operators in New Zealand, from international telecommunications carriers to local Internet service providers. In addition many organisations run their own networks within their premises, between their sites and to their partners. Careers include network design, network installation and support, wireless system design and installation, network security, performance test and measurement and network application development.

Background required

Our first year papers do not require any previous experience with programming, although prior familiarity with computers is helpful. Since you will study Intro to Algebra, Intro to Calculus, and Intro to Statistics, you will need a reasonable mathematics result with either Calculus or Statistics at NCEA Level 3 (or its equivalent).