



2024-2027

Refreshed
AUTSA
Strategy

Introduction

This strategic plan is designed with all students at AUT in mind, encompassing the diverse needs, experiences, and aspirations of our vibrant student body. Whether undergraduate or postgraduate, domestic or international, every student's voice and well-being are central to AUTSA's Vision. Our initiatives aim to create an inclusive, supportive, and thriving community where every student can succeed and feel a strong sense of belonging.

AUTSA's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan builds on extensive engagement and consultation with students and key stakeholders to ensure it aligns with their needs and aspirations. In their commitment to maintaining a relevant and focused plan, the Board has conducted a comprehensive review and refresh, which has included consultation with Board, SRC and Operational team.

The following is the finalised Strategic Plan (V4), now presented for Board approval.





Purpose: Why does AUTSA exist?

**“To amplify student voices,
strengthen advocacy, and
champion student success and
wellness at AUT.”**

Vision: Where does AUTSA aspire to be in the future?

**“A thriving community of
students who feel equipped for
their future and to lead change
national and globally”**



Amplify the Student Voice

AUTSA is the platform for student voice at AUT. We understand each student’s experience is influenced by their identities, such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, disability, etc., and we will work towards ensuring all student voices are heard and barriers within systems are removed.

Students will enjoy a greater sense of belonging through community engagement, communication, inclusion, and student representation.

Year 1

Build Enduring Advocacy Structures

- 1.1:** Train and Empower Student Representatives supporting bicultural understanding within the university.
- 1.2:** Develop Comprehensive Student Feedback System actively seeking Māori voices in collaboration with TKT.
- 1.3:** Continue to Develop partnerships that honour Te Tiriti principles, collaborating with Māori stakeholders within AUT to co-design initiatives and advocacy efforts that support the unique needs and aspirations of Māori students.

Metrics (KPIs)

- 90% of SRC members complete training programs designed to improve their advocacy and representation skills.
- Increase student participation in feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, forums) by 20% compared year on year – aiming for 80%.
- Achieve 15% increase year on year engagement of AUT students in clubs and societies to foster a strong community aiming for 40%.

Year 2

Scale Engagement and Representation

- 2.1:** Expand student Advocating initiatives.
- 2.2:** Increase Student Representation Across University Boards.
- 2.3:** Establish Cross-Association Collaborations.

Metrics (KPIs)

- 100% of SRC members complete training programs designed to improve their advocacy and representation skills.
- Increase student participation in feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, forums) by 20% compared year on year – aiming for 100%.
- Achieve 15% increase year on year engagement of AUT students in clubs and societies to foster a strong community – aiming for 50%.

Year 3

Institutionalise Student Voice at AUT and Beyond

- 3.1:** Achieve recognisable Policy Influence and Implementation.
- 3.2:** Establish and maintain permanent and long-term Advisory Committees.
- 3.3:** Expand Student Representation in National Forums.

Metrics (KPIs)

TBC



Optimise Student Wellness

AUTSA is the student wellness advocate for AUT.

We will actively champion, value, and support well-being in mind, body, and spirit. We will offer support, information, and advice to enable every student to thrive. Students will be empowered to solve problems for themselves, to access advocacy, and to seek help from AUT and external health and wellbeing providers.

Year 1

Create awareness of AUT Wellness Programs

- 1.1:** Collaborate with all AUT initiatives for student connection that enables safe transition to university life recognising the significance of spiritual, physical, and community well-being.
- 1.2:** Expand current inclusive cultural awareness and engagement initiatives.
- 1.3:** Improve access to existing AUT services.

Metrics (KPIs)

- Host at least 2 wellness campaigns annually that cover various aspects of student well-being that have 50% attendance from students.
- Establish partnerships with at least 2 external organisations & AUT departments to support wellness initiatives.
- Increase student participation in wellness programs by 10% year on year.

Year 2

Scale Resources and Deepen Impact

- 2.1:** Develop and Launch a Comprehensive Wellbeing and Connection Platform.
- 2.2:** Introduce Specialised Support Programs for Key Groups and Expand Current groups.
- 2.3:** Pilot and evaluate Peer Support and Mentorship Campaigns to complement University programs.

Metrics (KPIs)

- 100% of SRC members complete training programs designed to improve their advocacy and representation skills.
- Increase student participation in feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, forums) by 20% compared year on year – aiming for 100%.
- Achieve 15% increase year on year engagement of AUT students in clubs and societies to foster a strong community – aiming for 50%.

Year 3

Institutionalise a Sustainable, Inclusive Health and Wellbeing Framework

- 3.1:** Agree and Formalise Partnerships with Internal External Wellness Providers ensuring student access is optimised and is consistent during their time with AUT.
- 3.3:** Expand Student Representation in National Forums.

Metrics (KPIs)

TBC

3



Foster Organisational Sustainability and Financial Resilience

AUTSA is financially resilient.

We will secure the financial resilience to be able to continue to provide services to students.

By fostering financial resilience, we can ensure our ability to support and advocate for students now and in the future.

Year 1

Establish Diverse Funding Streams through Strategic Partnerships

1.1: Forge partnerships with external organisations ensuring that funding relationships honour and support AUTSA's commitment to Māori students and values.

1.2: Develop and implement a funding and sponsorship framework that reflect the values of AUTSA.

1.3: Develop current stocktake and Benchmark of current financial position and scope potential options for financial diversification.

1.3: Improve access to existing AUT services.

Metrics (KPIs)

By June 2025 develop & implement a sponsorship framework that secures at least 2 new value-aligned partnerships within the first year, increasing sponsorship revenue by 20% and ensuring all agreements align with AUTSA's values.

Complete a financial stocktake and benchmarking exercise by June 2025 initiating at least 2 new diversified revenue streams within the next fiscal year to improve financial health metrics such as liquidity ratio and operating margin by 5%.

Year 2

Introduce and Scale Pilot Revenue-Generating Services

2.1: Launch pilot initiatives that provide value to students while generating revenue.

2.2: Fully implement sponsorship and funding framework University programs.

Metrics (KPIs)

Attain 25% of funding from alternate sources.

Year 3

Financial Independence through Non-University Revenue Sources

3.1 Annually embed revenue generating initiatives into AUTSAs annual plans.

3.2: Continue to implement the sponsorship and funding framework.

Metrics (KPIs)

Attain 35% of funding from alternate sources.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

We are deeply committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and are grounded in its principles of partnership, protection, and participation.

- **Partnership:** Working collaboratively with Māori to support and grow Māori success within our Organisation, the students we serve, and the world.
- **Protection:** Valuing and supporting the protection of taonga, including te reo Māori and mātauranga Māori.
- **Participation:** Creating opportunities for Māori students and staff to thrive, and for all students and staff to actively engage with te ao Māori.
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi guides our work as we build an organisation that embraces and reflects Aotearoa's bicultural foundation.



From AUT Strategic Plan – Kete



Student Centred

We put our students at the heart of our work and decision-making. We aim to create an inclusive and welcoming environment where all students feel supported, valued, and empowered to succeed.

Our approach to teaching and learning is responsive to the needs and aspirations of our students. We provide support, guidance, and opportunities for students to flourish academically, socially, and personally.

Career Ready

We are dedicated to equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to succeed in their chosen careers. Our teaching and learning practices are designed to develop adaptable, resilient, and skilled graduates who are ready to contribute to the world.

We work closely with industry, communities, and employers to ensure our graduates are prepared for the future of work and can make a positive impact.

Work Ready

We believe that every student should have the opportunity to gain real-world experience before they graduate. Our work-ready initiatives include internships, placements, and project-based learning that connects students with industry and community partners.

We support students in building their professional networks, enhancing their employability, and preparing them for the transition into their careers.

Outward Looking

We encourage students to be curious, engaged, and active citizens of the world. We promote a global perspective, and we foster understanding, respect, and appreciation for diverse cultures and communities.

Through international exchanges, study abroad programs, and virtual global experiences, we provide opportunities for students to broaden their horizons and connect with the world.

Connected

We foster a strong sense of connection and belonging within our student community. We provide a range of opportunities for students to engage with one another, develop friendships, and build networks.

Our campus is a vibrant and inclusive space where students can connect, collaborate, and support each other throughout their university journey. We believe that these connections enrich the student experience and contribute to a sense of community and shared purpose.