

The Department of Computer Science

David MacDonald

"I have just been accepted into graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley to complete my Masters in Computer Science as a Fulbright Scholar - I have no doubt that the international reputation of The University of Auckland and especially the Computer Science department has been crucial in me being selected for highly competitive scholarships and graduate programmes.

I completed a Bachelors of Science and Commerce programme majoring in Computer Science, Economics and Mathematics and throughout I was taught by staff passionate about teaching and research. The courses I took taught me both practical and theoretical skills in good balance which meant that not only could I construct software for use in industry but also that I understood the theoretical underpinnings of what I was writing. As an example, I recently worked on some software used by New Zealand schools that needed not just plain programming skills but also an algorithmic analysis ability, which I learnt in the algorithm courses, so I could construct a program which could complete in a reasonable time.

The department was also fantastic in providing me with support in obtaining industry experience with the CSI Academy Summer Program placing me in a real world organisation. Here I got to apply my recently acquired knowledge to create software which helped to visualise and document an organisations internal processes – this type of immersion is important in an industry that expects experience.

I have had no trouble finding employment before I go to Berkeley – I'm working on the development and deployment of distributed media processing systems and I am using what I learnt at University every day. The skills you learn from your time at The University of Auckland are widely sought after within the industry, and the qualification is recognised internationally by industry and Universities alike."

David graduated with a first class Honours degree in Computer Science in 2010, after previously completing a conjoint Bachelor of Commerce and Science.

