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# **A Current High Schooler's View of Tertiary Education**

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Angus Henderson

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# About Me

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# Some of the things that keep me busy:

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- Head Prefect at Otago Boys' High School
- Play Basketball and Volleyball
- Basketball Referee
- A Part of the School Production for Many Years
- But above all...
- Very Academic!
- Maths and Stats is my Thing.



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# How I Came to Discover my Pathway

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# Exposure...



Experiences such as the Rotary Science and Technology Forum



Talking to professionals and university lecturers



Influence from my teachers

## For me:

- Amazing opportunities such as Spacecamp, Young Enterprise, Spirit of Adventure, Rotary Science and Technology Forum
- Seeing amazing scientific research first hand
- Learning about the shortage of statisticians everywhere
- The versatility of a degree in statistics and/or data science
- Everyone has data!

**But What are the  
Factors that Influence  
Others?**

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## **Five Key Influential Factors:**

1. Exposure to Industry

2. “Successful” Career Pathways

3. High School Subjects/Teachers

4. Financial Factors

5. Current Global Climate

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# 1. Exposure to Industry



# Exposure is Key...

- This is the MOST IMPORTANT factor!
- Students like myself need to see and experience careers!
- Talking to experts in different areas
- Visiting different tertiary institutions and employers
- Opportunities like science forums, university open days, hands on, etc.

## For me...




Seeing actual statisticians  
and statistics  
teachers/lecturers



Talking to them



Exposure was the key for  
me to find my pathway.



**We still value the face-to-face experiences the most!**

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## **2. “Successful” Career Pathways**

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# What does society view as “successful”?

- Obviously, doctors, engineers, lawyers, scientists.
- Huge surge in computer science/software engineering
- Increasing number of boys dropping out to enter trades. Lots get apprenticeships or go to polytechnic thanks to fees free. Successful!
- Tourism, although a massive industry, still seen as unsuccessful
- Good career pathways potentially avoided as not seen as “successful”

# Family and friends also influence this...

- We know parents are very influential
- However, often lag behind in what new pathways can be successful
- Leads to many kids my age leaning in towards med, law, engineering when they maybe shouldn't (not necessarily a bad thing but...)
- Still can give their children/mates exposure to different areas



### **3. High School Subjects/Teachers**

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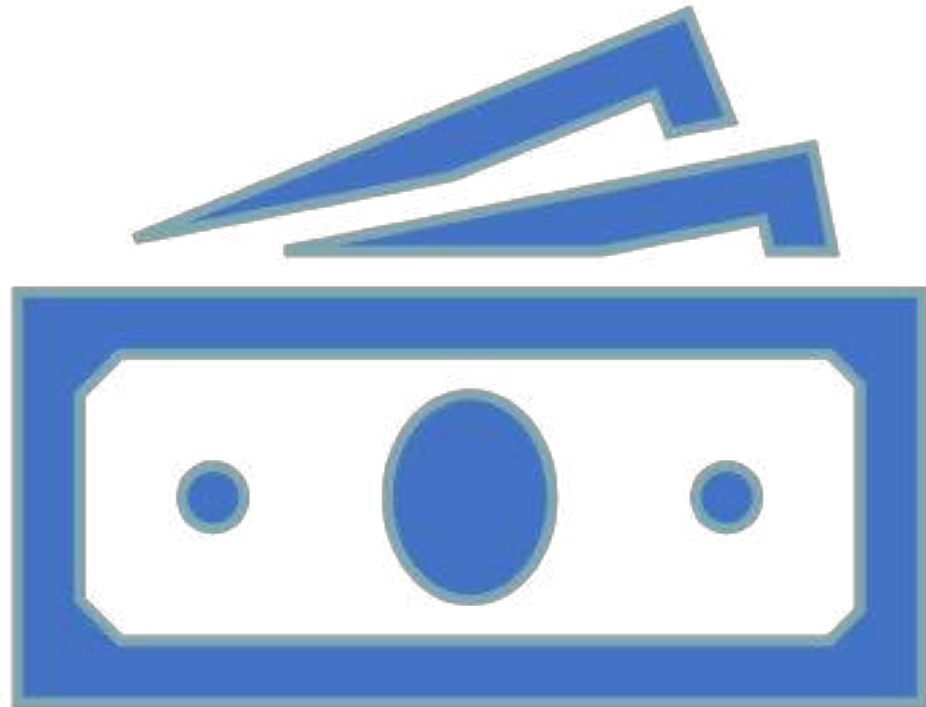
## **Similar to friends and family...**

- Many tertiary courses have required subjects
- NCEA doesn't show where the subjects can lead to though! So many don't know why they need Maths, English, Physics, etc.
- High school teachers are incredibly influential, especially great ones
- Their opinion of different careers can have a huge impact

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## 4. Financial Factors

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# Fees Free

- First year of tertiary free is hugely important to my age group.
- For many, it has been the deciding factor in attending university/polytechnic institutions.
- Obviously some who abuse it, but allows others to figure out career paths, life decisions, whether university is for them, etc.
- I think it is great! Definitely worth the spend despite those who don't make the most of it.

## **Other Finances:**

- Student loans are cheap.
- Rents are rising, so hard to attend universities away from home, especially Auckland.
- Student allowance again makes university more accessible.

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# 5. Current Global Climate

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## **Covid has altered the decisions of many...**

- Physical location has become much more important
- People are much less likely to move away for university
- Many have forgone potential scholarships overseas to stay home. My friend Hannah is a great example of this.
- Some are also unsure about halls of residence. If there is another breakout it will be a waste.
- Obviously tougher for tertiary institutions with no international students.



**To Recap:**

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## **Five Key Influential Factors:**

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2. “Successful” Career Pathways

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## Exposure to pathways is still king!

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- When it comes to discovering careers or deciding your future, the things you have experienced and been exposed to still play the biggest role!



# So what can be improved?

- Other organisations and tertiary institutions need to increase exposure to high school students
- Encourage students to go out and talk to people in different fields
- Make sure teachers and parents are educated around different career paths.
- NCEA needs to show where their subjects can lead to!

# What I would like you all to take away:

- These factors apply outside of just high school students
- If you get the chance to talk to someone about their future career paths, keep these 5 factors in mind. Being able to act as a source of clarity and experience is invaluable!
- Encourage youth to pursue every opportunity they can to get experience in different fields!

**That's it.  
Thank you so much!**

Any questions?