I am a New Zealand born Samoan with my father having distant Scottish relations (hence my surname). I attended McAuley High School in Otahuhu, Auckland and enjoyed subjects like Science (Year 11), Physics and Biology (Year 12 and 13). Before heading to University, I thought of studying Medicine and becoming a doctor, but was afraid of the long years of commitment for study and wasn’t sure if I would be at a disadvantage having not taken Chemistry.

In the end, I studied a Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Auckland city campus and graduated in 2015. This led me to a career in the Transmission and High Voltage industry. I now work for Transpower Ltd who own, maintain and operate the National Grid (NZ’s electricity transmission system).

I found Science a strong subject for me in high school and this motivated me to further pursue a career in it. Once I identified what Engineering was in my Physics class, the aspect of designing and creating a solution that in turn provides for the community encouraged me to join this field, as it relates back to my values.

Pathway:
- Year 11-13 subjects: Science, Physics and Biology
- Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering – University of Auckland
Electrical Engineer

Electrical engineers specify, design and supervise the construction or manufacture of systems and equipment that produce, distribute and/or use electricity. They also maintain, operate and manage these systems and equipment.

Pay
Electrical engineers with one to five years' experience can earn $40K-$60K per year

Experienced electrical engineers usually earn $60K-$120K per year

Job opportunities

The chances of getting a job as an electrical engineer are good due to high demand for their services.

Secondary education
To enter tertiary training, a university entrance qualification (NCEA Level 3) is usually required. Useful subjects include maths with calculus, technology, physics and chemistry

Length of training
4 years training usually required