

Study Match

A Course Finder tool using AI

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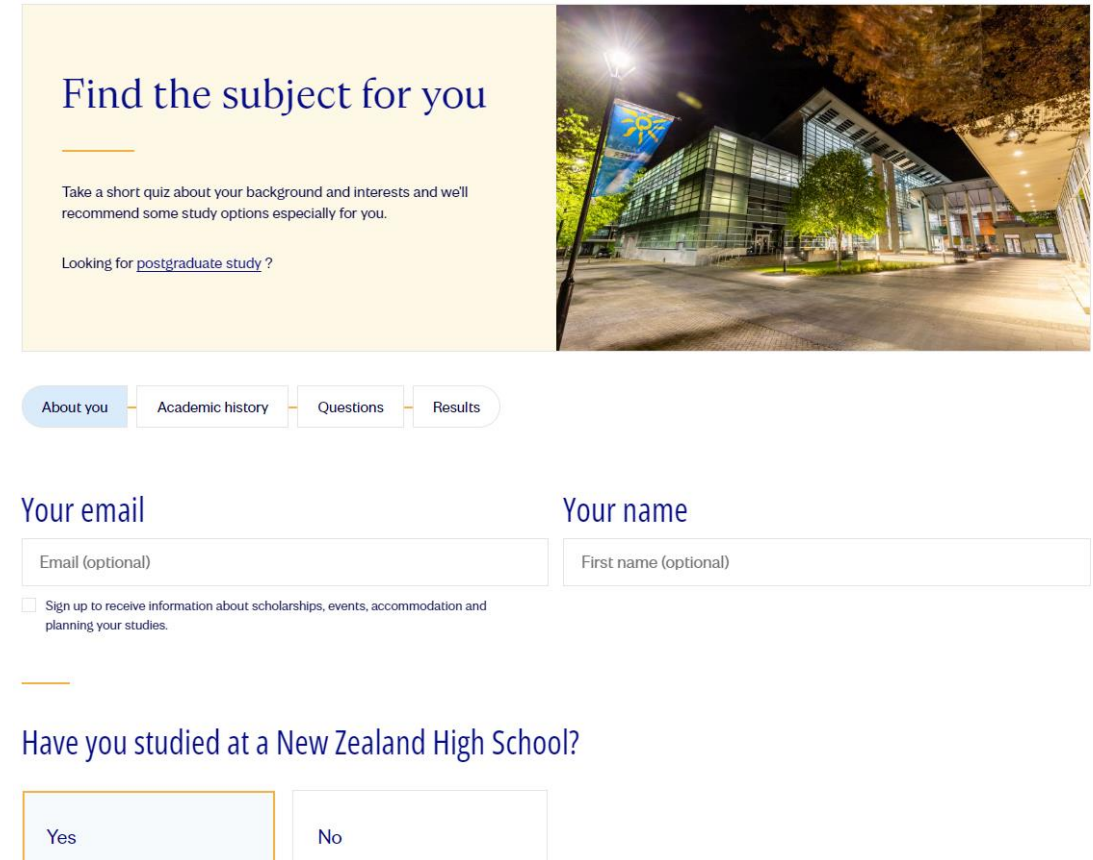


Introducing Study Match

- It is a tool to assist early-journey future students who want help exploring tertiary study options.
- With the large number of subjects available, maintaining a predetermined decision tree was impractical, particularly with changes to subjects that occur over time.
- AI is used to generate the results instead. The AI receives anonymised student responses, generates search keywords, and these keywords are then sent to a search package to return 10 results based on the subject pages.
- Subjects and subject content are then sent back to the AI to write a rationale.
- Many other Universities offer similar tools, but none offer this level of personalisation
- Student recruitment and ITS staff directly involved in design and development
- New tool supports their work, offers support to wider range of students, and provides pathways to further information and support
- Accompanies multiple other pathways for discovering subjects, including search and navigation

Testing Overview

- Automated testing – 19+ rounds of 1,000 inputs
 - Randomised and real data
 - All subjects returned
 - Distribution is reasonable
- User acceptance testing – stakeholders testing functionality
- Usability testing – in-person testing with students to assess usability and satisfaction
- Beta testing – distributing tool to students with survey for general feedback



The screenshot shows a web application interface with a yellow background. The main heading is "Find the subject for you" in blue. Below it, there is a sub-heading "Take a short quiz about your background and interests and we'll recommend some study options especially for you." and a link "Looking for [postgraduate study](#)?". A navigation bar contains four buttons: "About you" (highlighted in blue), "Academic history", "Questions", and "Results". Below the navigation bar, there are two input fields: "Your email" with a placeholder "Email (optional)" and "Your name" with a placeholder "First name (optional)". Below these fields is a checkbox labeled "Sign up to receive information about scholarships, events, accommodation and planning your studies." Below the checkbox is a question "Have you studied at a New Zealand High School?" with two radio button options: "Yes" (selected) and "No". To the right of the text is a photograph of a modern building at night with a flagpole in the foreground.

Find the subject for you

Take a short quiz about your background and interests and we'll recommend some study options especially for you.

Looking for [postgraduate study](#) ?

About you Academic history Questions Results

Your email

Email (optional)

Your name

First name (optional)

Sign up to receive information about scholarships, events, accommodation and planning your studies.

Have you studied at a New Zealand High School?

Yes No

Experience and lessons from testing an AI driven tool

- Automated testing on the AI is an essential part of testing, as it is impossible and impractical to manually test alone.
- Knowledge of the guidelines for the AI, both to test them and to frame the results, is also important.
- It was noticed that the LLM (large language model) handled inputs in Te Reo without any issues.
- Using “and”/”or” inputs make the input count as two separate inputs.
- When doing automated testing, while it is a very useful, there is a big difference between randomised testing and testing using real data.
- Capturing entries and recording them is very useful both for reproducing issues but also getting entered results for automated testing.
- Wording and restraints for inputs for the AI are very important. Along with the prompt.
- The AI was told to only use the subject page contents and inputs for generated text, not its combined knowledge on a particular subject.
- Using the exact same inputs will have similar but different outputs each time.

Questions

