

A portrait of Stephanie Tapungu, a woman with curly brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark grey zip-up jacket over a blue and white patterned top. The background is a light-colored wall with vertical wooden slats. The top right corner of the image has a black rectangle with the letters 'AUT' in white. The top left and right sides of the image have a purple pattern of overlapping circles. A large purple circle is on the right side, containing a quote and Stephanie's name and title. A dark grey circle is on the left side, containing text about her scholarship and a quote from her. The bottom left corner has a purple banner with the website and hashtag.

AUT

“I want to give people the voice they deserve.”

Stephanie Tapungu
Doctor of Philosophy candidate

Stephanie Tapungu says she is truly honoured and blessed to have been awarded the New Zealand Pacific Scholarship to come to AUT to complete her PhD in communication studies.

“This is not only an opportunity, but a blessing for me to be here, and to have my children and husband here with me.

“If anyone else is thinking of applying for a scholarship and coming to AUT – you have to go for it! Have the courage to go out and try to fulfil your dreams. You are good enough.”

Stephanie decided to come to AUT due to the reputation of its School of Communication Studies. She is currently splitting her time between Auckland and Papua New Guinea, where she collects data for her studies.

“I’m researching the relationship between journalism and public relations in Papua New Guinea. I hope to shed light on how journalists are treated in my country, and capture some experiences for people to appreciate their contribution to our country. I want to give journalists, as well as public relations people, the voice they deserve.”

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