

Grace Dawson Pasifika Rep Candidate

Talofa lava, Kia ora and warm greetings! My name is Grace Dawson, and I am a first-year Bachelor of Agriculture student at Lincoln University, currently experiencing life in halls. This has allowed me to build connections and engage with people from a wide range of backgrounds, something I truly value.

Growing up on a dairy farm, alongside my involvement in netball and lacrosse, has sparked my curiosity about agriculture and the world around me. I am passionate about giving back through volunteering, whether donating baking to local businesses, umpiring netball, or helping neighbours with milking and farm work. At my core, I strive to achieve my very best, but I recognise that success is rarely achieved alone. It is the support of a community that enables us to reach our goals. I therefore want to uplift those around me and help my peers succeed alongside me.

Being of Pacific descent has not always been a simple journey, as finding and embracing identity can be challenging. However, rediscovering important parts of my culture has given me a new perspective and a deeper appreciation of who I am. I want to encourage other Pasifika students to explore and embrace their identities, recognising that cultural discovery begins with taking those first steps.

As Pasifika Representative, I hope to connect with students who may feel uncertain about where to begin and provide encouragement and support along their journey. I am motivated, organised and passionate about creating connections that encourage growth. I want to use this role to help build a strong and inclusive Pasifika community at Lincoln University, where students feel confident in who they are, supported by their community, and empowered to pursue their futures within the agricultural sector.