



# SOMALI GRADUATE JOURNAL

Profiles of Somali Graduates and Undergraduate Students in New Zealand

2009

In 2008-09 38 Somali students graduated from universities and other tertiary institutes in New Zealand. One hundred and seventy two others are currently going through their tertiary studies.

In this Journal you will read the Somali graduates' success stories, their current employment or career aspirations and their involvement in the community.

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ABDIRIZAK ABDI

## editor's message

**In this intro,** I like to dedicate my first few thoughts reflecting on last year's inaugural Somali Graduate Journal (Waikato edition).

Following on the well celebrated launch of the first edition in Hamilton and the ensuing distribution of copies of the journal to Somali communities all over New Zealand, schools with Somali students, refugee resettlement agencies, attendees at the National Refugee Resettlement Forum and to some key Government officials, the journal brought to the surface the hidden successes of the Somali community in New Zealand albeit the journal being Hamilton focus.

The journal not only educated many people who otherwise would have little knowledge about the Somali community's success in education but also made an impression on the Somali community as a whole in terms of realising the achievers within themselves and taking stock of their success. They celebrated in high acclamation of the journal.

Now turning to this new and exciting edition in 2009, I must confess I am feeling overjoyed at this one – for one, it is about telling the successes of the wider Somali community in New Zealand as apposed to last year's Waikato region.

This makes the Somali Graduate Journal a national annual publication from now on. That is so exciting!

Secondly, success comes in many forms. And with that in mind, the new edition includes a section on Somali-owned businesses in New Zealand.

In Somalia where was no state welfare system for people to fall back on at the time of unemployment, people had to rely on

themselves for their livelihood. Small retail shops selling food, clothing and jewellery were very common form of business for many Somalis.

Now it seems that this hidden entrepreneurial skill is finally starting to emerge in the Somali communities in New Zealand. This is another sign of Somalis integrating well into New Zealand as setting up a business in a new country is harder to achieve.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The production of this journal has been supported by many people and they deserve to be acknowledged here.

Our huge thanks goes to Wintec for their sponsorship of this publication for the second time. Anna Carter, Public Relations Manager at Wintec who is our main contact at Wintec has been extremely supportive.

Also the fact that the graduate profiles have had to be collected from all over New Zealand and in some cases from Australia for those who have gone there to work, meant a team effort was required to ensure we got as many graduate profiles as possible. To this end, I acknowledge the support and the efforts by the Somali community leaders in New Zealand. Special thanks to Mahad Warsame (Auckland Somali Community leader), Liban Yusuf (Wellington Somali Youth Group) and Hassan Haji (Christchurch) for collecting the profiles from their regions. Also PEETO's assistance is much appreciated.

**For enquiries about this journal, feel free to contact me at [abdirizak@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:abdirizak@slingshot.co.nz)**

# purpose

After the success of the inaugural Waikato edition last year, it has been decided to extend the content and distribution of the Journal nationally in order to provide the opportunity to tell the success stories of our communities throughout New Zealand.

The Journal is an annual publication profiling each year's graduates and other community successes that are often hidden somewhere. The purpose is to celebrate the educational successes of our community and promote a greater understanding of the progress, activities and contributions made by Somali graduates in New Zealand and to encourage our community to embrace education.

The Waikato edition was celebrated not only by Somalis in Hamilton but Somali communities throughout New Zealand who appreciated the Journal initiative and the subsequent effect it had on the whole community. Many people including even Somalis were surprised at the high number of graduates and undergraduate students in the Hamilton community, although similar success stories could have been uncovered in other cities where Somalis live. Now time has come that the whole story be told.

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# graduates in focus

In 2008/09, 38 Somalis graduated from around New Zealand. While the majority are profiled in the journal, it is to be noted that we could not contact a number of graduates for various reasons including some being overseas. We have also included in the journal the profiles of some graduates from previous years who were not profiled in last year's edition.

So the total number of graduates profiled in this national publication is 45.

In listing the graduates, we have used the region these graduates live or have lived as opposed to the particular tertiary institution they have attended. For example, some graduates who normally live in Hamilton may have done their tertiary education at Dunedin but we have listed them under the Hamilton list for simplicity reasons.

The table below gives the number of Somali graduates per region from 1997 to 2009.

Total number of Somali graduates 1997-2009	Region
37	Waikato
26	Auckland
15	Wellington
19	South Island
<b>Total: 97</b>	

# HAMILTON

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Mohamed Abdullahi	BSocSci (Econ. & Political Studies)	University of Waikato	2009
Sadeeq Farah	Bachelor of Social Science	Wintec	2011
Faduma Salat	Bachelor of Science	University of Waikato	2012
Abdirahin Sheikh	BSc (Computer Science)	University of Waikato	2010
Saynab Gohe	Bachelor of Health Studies	Wintec	2010
Faduma Hussein	Dip. Early Childhood Education	Wintec	2010
Ahmed Farah	Dip. Science & Technology	Wintec	2009
Hodan Farah	Bachelor of Nursing	Wintec	2010
Sahra Mohamed	Bachelor of Nursing	Wintec	2010
Sadiyo A Hassan	Bachelor of Management	University of Waikato	2010
Naema Abdi Awad	Bachelor of Management	University of Waikato	2011
Abdizaiz Hashi	Bach. of Management (Accounting)	University of Waikato	2011
Shamake Yusuf	BSocSci (Human Resources)	University of Waikato	2010
Ali Farah	Dip IT & Business	Wintec	2012
Aden Jelle	Bachelor of Management	University of Waikato	2010
Ismail Mohamedi	BSocSci (Human Resources)	University of Waikato	2009
Aqil Farah	Dip Business Administration	Wintec	2010
Sulaiman Sheikh	Bach of Architecture (Quant. Survey)	Wintec	2010
Abdirahman Ali	Bachelor of Science	University of Waikato	2009
Ahmed Mohamed Ali	BSc (Computer Science)	University of Waikato	2010
Aliyah Omar	Diploma of Tourism	Wintec	2010
Fadumo Abdirahman	Bachelor of Education	University of Waikato	2009
Ahmed Abdi Osman	BSc (Computer Science)	University of Waikato	2011
Nasteho Omar	Bachelor of Science	University of Waikato	2011
Abdi Mire	Bachelor of Business	Wintec	2010
Harakat Ali	Bachelor of Social Science	University of Waikato	2011
Fardowsa Hashi	Dip Science Technology	Wintec	2011
Hassan Mohamed	BSc (Computer Science)	University of Waikato	2010
Mohamed Jelle	Bachelor of Science	University of Waikato	2011
Jamal Hashi	BSc (Computer Science)	University of Waikato	2011
Saynab Aden	Social Service	Wintec	2011
Shukri Aden	Dip in Business Administration	Wintec	2010
Ikran Awad	Dip in Health Sci & Technology	Wintec	2011
Mohamed Osman	Bachelor of Social Science	University of Waikato	2012
Naima Aden	Business Computing & Admin	Wintec	2011
Munera Sheikh	Bachelor of Management	University of Waikato	2012
Khadra Mohamed	Bachelor of SocSci (Public Policy)	University of Waikato	2011

# HAMILTON

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Abdinasir Ahmed	Bachelor of Management	University of Waikato	2012
Rooble Mohamed	Bachelor of Law and Social Science	University of Waikato	2012
Ismail Mire	BSc (Technology)	University of Waikato	2011
Miski Ahmed	Dip Health Science	Wintec	2010
Nimo Habbad	Dip Science Technology	Wintec	2010
Ismail Awad	Bachelor of IT	Wintec	2010
Abdifatah Abdullahi	Bachelor of Management (Accounting)	University of Waikato	2011
Muna Abdullahi	Bachelor of Law and Management	University of Waikato	2012
Saeed Hashi	Bachelor of Science	University of Waikato	2010
Abdigani M Abdi	Bachelor of Law and Management	University of Waikato	2011
Abdikadir M Ahmed	Bachelor of Law and Electronic Commerce	University of Waikato	2011

# Farhan first graduate in family

After fleeing Somalia with most of his family, spending four years in a refugee camp, then arriving in Hamilton in the middle of winter with little English and only a smattering of formal education, you'd imagine that going to university would not be high priority. But for Farhan Osman it was.

On May 5 he'll be the first member of his large and extended family to graduate with a university degree. For his Bachelor of Arts, Farhan majored in political science and screen and media, and one day he'd like to work in foreign affairs.

"I was 18 when we arrived in New Zealand in 2002 and I spent a year at Melville High School. After that I did a Foundation Studies course at Waikato University. I really had no idea what I needed to know to study at university, I only knew that I wanted to do it."

People told him he'd never do it. "But the more people said I couldn't do it the more determined I was to prove them wrong." He applied for and was accepted on a BA course.

"It's very hard doing anything in New Zealand without

having good English, and that's the thing I've found hardest. Somali is a spoken language, it only started to be written down late last century, so I was attracted to screen and media and the oral language associated with that."

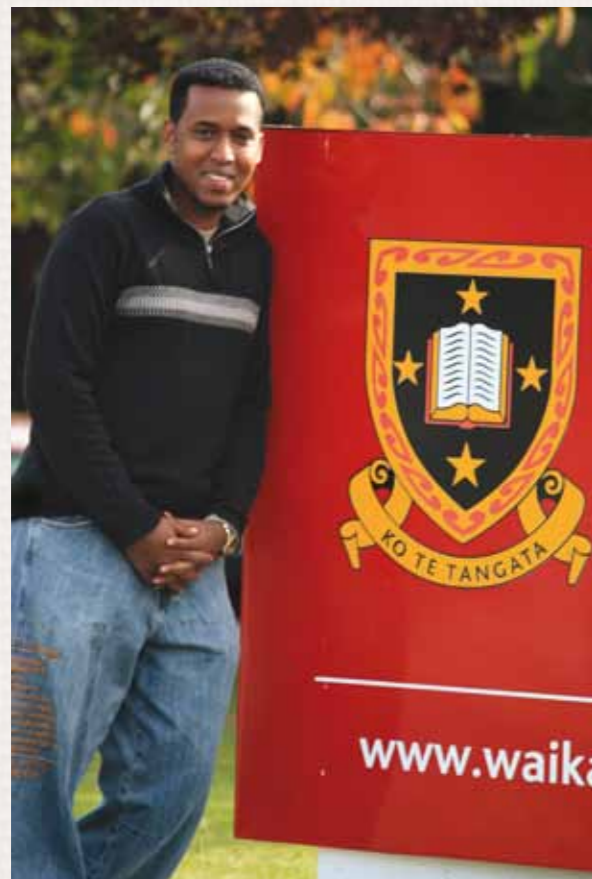
Waikato University's Associate Professor Geoff Lealand from Screen and Media Studies says Farhan was in a number of his courses and was genuinely interested in his subjects, not just about passing. "He would call by my office, always wanting to know more. He was interested in his current surroundings and how what he was learning could be applied. I was impressed by him."

Farhan Osman took a demanding third year screen theory paper that Professor Dan Fleming taught in 2007. "For a Somali student, the theory involved must have seemed very foreign and at times impenetrable," says Fleming.

"Farhan would always be in the small group of students who gathered with me after each lecture to ask questions and share their ideas. I was struck right away by the gracious manner in which he would sometimes express confusion over a point I'd made without ever suggesting that I'd not explained it clearly enough! Gradually I realised that he was developing his own distinctive grasp of the ideas. Answering his always insightful questions became a pleasure I looked forward to after each lecture." Fleming says Farhan was absolutely determined to learn new things, not just to get a degree but out of a genuine sense of intellectual curiosity.

Farhan is currently looking for a job. He worked part time during his studies, he's done voluntary work at Hamilton's Refugee and Migrant Centre and is often called on by friends and family to translate. "I think, now I have a degree I'd like to get some work experience using what I've learned, and one day, when Somalia becomes more stable, I'd like to return there to work."

There are 12 children in Farhan's family, eight of them are in New Zealand, and, inspired by their big brother, two of them are now studying at Waikato, one doing computer science and the other studying public policy and labour studies. All his New Zealand-based family will be at his graduation.



FARHAN OSMAN

# Abdulaziz Ali Mohamed

**Name:** Abdulaziz Ali Mohamed

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Hamilton's Fraser High School

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** Bachelor of Applied Social Science (Social Work)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC)

**Place of employment:** Child, Youth and Family.

## Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I came to New Zealand in 1997 and had an ambition of completing tertiary education. I was dumped in an education system that I did not understand how it worked and struggled with the language. My mathematics teacher once pointed out that I was good at mathematics but the language was a problem for me.

In 1998 at the age of 15 I had my first part time job and since then had never been without a job. I either had a part time job or full time job. In 1999 I left school with no formal qualifications.

After couple of years I decided to go back to studying and achieve my ambition of completing a tertiary qualification. As I had been involved with voluntarily helping the community e.g. advocating for them with WINZ, Immigration, Police and justice system etc, I decided to train as a

social worker.

I have completed my following qualifications to get into the social work field.

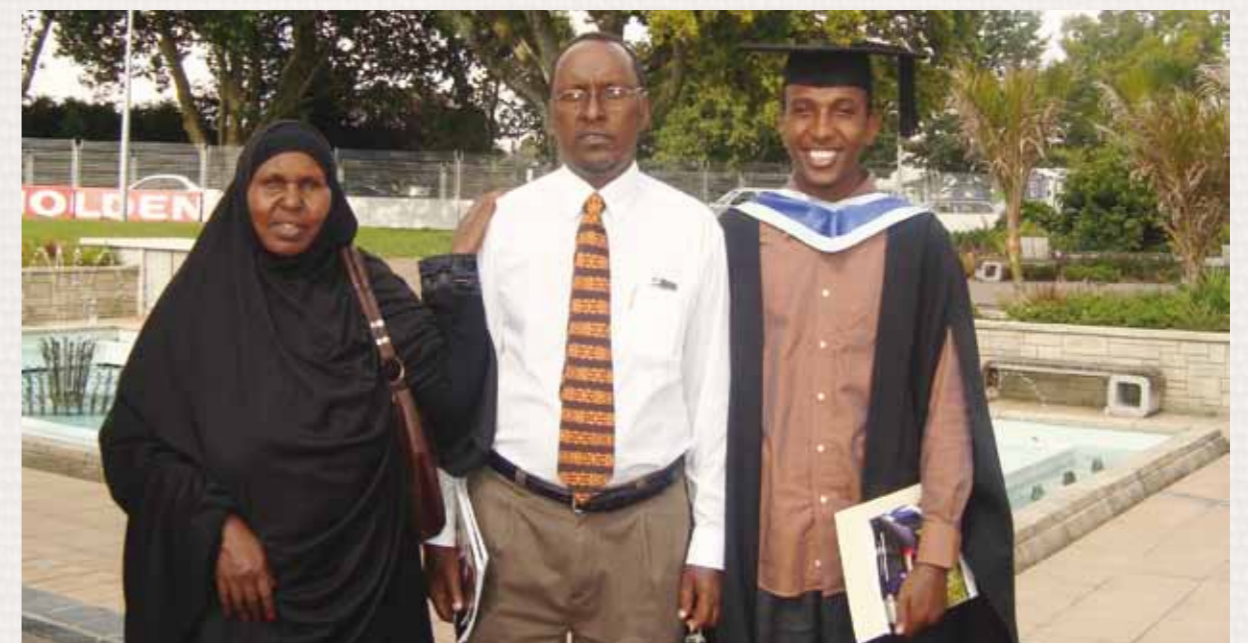
1. Bachelor of Applied Social Science (Social Work) – 2009
2. Diploma in Social Work (level 6) – 2008
3. National Diploma in Social Work (level 6) – 2008
4. National Certificate in Computing (level 3) – 2006
5. Certificate in Social Services (level 4) – 2009
6. National Certificate in Social Services (level 4) – 2009

Upon completing my social work degree I applied for my current job.

Despite being at a time where people were losing jobs due to the recession, I succeeded in my first job interview. It was not easy securing this job as I had to compete with a big number of people for three vacant positions. Two of the applicants were on a temporary contract and seeking one of these three vacant permanent positions. I feel secure now and I feel confident.

## Community involvements and interests

I regularly take part in community activities e.g. I attend Hamilton mosque for prayers. I had volunteered for Refugee Services to help with their resettlement programmes for refugees and this involved regularly visiting a new refugee family and helping them with their needs.



ABDUL SHARING HIS GRADUATION DAY WITH HIS MOTHER AND UNCLE

## Farhan Osman

**Name:** Farhan Abdi Osman

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** Melville High School – Hamilton 7th form

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Arts: Political Science, specialisation international relations, and Screen and Media

**Name of tertiary education institution:** University of Waikato

**Place of employment:** Currently looking for a job.

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I always wanted to gain a tertiary qualification. I chose my degree because it had subjects that interested me.

Many people thought I would not be able to achieve it and that only made me even more determined to succeed.

**Community involvements and interests**

In Hamilton we have a good community. In the last two years I have been involved in the community, being on the Executive Committee of the Waikato Somali Friendship Society, doing the weekly Somali community radio show and being involved in the Waikato Student Association which was formed in 2007.

My aim is to share my knowledge with my community.

**Advice:** don't allow anyone to tell you that you can't achieve your goals – yes, you can.



FARHAN OSMAN

## Ifrah Abdullahi

**Name:** Ifrah Abdullahi

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** Hamilton Girls' High School

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Science

**Name of tertiary education institution:** University of Waikato

**Place of employment:** Waikato Pathlab.

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I graduated from the University of Waikato with a Bachelor of Science. I currently work at the Waikato Pathlab's haematology department, as a technician. I feel fortunate to have found this position so soon after graduating, especially as it sets the foundation for my ultimate goal of becoming a genetics researcher.

I have come a long way from where I started 12 years ago. Arriving in New Zealand as a 12 year old, the biggest challenge that I faced was learning English and adapting to a new country.

The schools I attended are Fairfield Intermediate School and Hamilton Girls' High School. I was the sort of student who went to school to have their lunch and see their friends. So by the time I graduated from high school I was in a state of confusion because I knew I wanted to work in a laboratory environment but what I didn't know was how to get there and what was required for me to be able to get into tertiary studies. So at the end I found out that I could do Foundation courses which enabled me to gain the necessary skills to undertake university studies.

**Advice**

The advice I would like to give to my community is that you don't have to do exceptionally well in high school to succeed in university. In other words, don't hesitate to go to university on the basis that you didn't do well in high school.

I have noticed that a lot of youth in our community are confused about what to study at university. So I'd recommend that students do background research on the fields that they are interested in.

Furthermore, I'd like to remind the parents to be supportive of their kids and keep them on track. It's a long journey and you need to be there for them and remind them to be patient and to be mindful of their goals. I know from

personal experience how difficult it is to keep going when you're mentally exhausted. You just want to get it over and done with. My family and friends were always there to support me and remind me that it's only a matter of time before I finish and that I need to stay focused.



IFRAH ABDULLAHI

## Fatima Abdirahman

**Name:** Fatima Abdullahi Abdirahman

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1998

**High School:** Hamilton Girls' High School

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Bachelor of Education (primary teaching)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** University of Waikato

**Place of employment:** Just finished my degree.

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I like helping people. That is why I chose to be a teacher. I hope to teach soon and start making a difference for our young generation, including our Somali children.

Education has been a big influence in the way I think about the world and how I relate to people.

I hope to be able to inspire our Somali students who are currently in high school and those who are thinking of going into tertiary education in the near future. Let's embrace education.



FATIMA ABDIRAHMAN

## Fartun Aden

**Name:** Fartun Aden

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Hamilton Girls' High School

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Diploma in English Language Teaching

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC)

**Place of employment:** Currently looking after my two small children

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I have always wanted to become a teacher as this is a profession that suits my personality. I am an outspoken person and can get along with people of all ages and backgrounds. I love children. I come from a big family and I suppose that is where I got my passion for children.

In 2004 I got my first qualification after high school which was a certificate in Early Childhood Education. I had

intended to further my study in this field but marriage came along and I somehow got distracted for a while. I returned to tertiary study three years ago but instead of the ECE area I had started off with, I was encouraged to do Diploma in English language teaching. My motivation was to help my own community by using my qualification. Having good English language skills are very important for new communities. I know this from a personal experience. When I started school in New Zealand, I had no English and this was very frustrating as I didn't what was going on. Although as a child, I was able to pick up the language much faster than an adult person may be able to do, yet it wasn't an easy ride. There were times I had no clue what the teacher or the children in my classroom were talking about.

Although I am not teaching right now because of my two small children who need all my attention and energy, I hope that in the near future I will be in a position to use my qualification for the benefit of my community.



FARTUN ADEN

## Saed Awad

**Name:** Saed Awad

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1995

**High School:** Hamilton's Fraser High

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Diploma in Sports and Recreation

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC)

**Place of employment:** Own fitness club in Perth, Australia

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I am passionate about my career choice. Playing sports, particularly soccer, has been a major part of my growing up in Hamilton. I played soccer for the schools I attended and for the local soccer clubs.

When I completed my Diploma in Sports and Recreation from Wintec early this year, I took up an opportunity to put my learning and passion to a good use.

I currently work in Perth, running my own business as a personal trainer – it is franchise business with Fitness leading health club in Australia. It is worldwide health club in 17 countries.

What I do and offer to my clients and people interested in personal training is to ensure people get results from their training so that they can make the most of their time in the club, keep their training interesting with different exercises and techniques to keep them on track. Progress means results, and results mean motivation to strive for that next level of maximum result. Yeah I enjoy my work and achieving results with my clients.



SAED AWAD

## Farhiyo Ali

**Name:** Farhiya Ali

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** Hamilton

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** BSc (Computer Science)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Waikato University

**Place of employment:** Melbourne

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

Finishing my degree in 2009 was a big highlight for me. I enjoyed my years of study at Waikato University as I learned a lot about myself in terms of what I could achieve. I am now in Melbourne with the rest of my family where I work in my field of study.

Studying for a tertiary qualification is not easy for people whose English is not a native tongue but that is not an excuse not to try to get a good education. Not having education is much harder to cope with than the extra challenges we second language people have to face.

## Idiris Abdi Haji

**Name:** Idiris Abdi Haji

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Fairfield College, Hamilton

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Bachelor of Health Science

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University

**Place of employment:** Australia

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I arrived in New Zealand in 1997 and went to high school in Hamilton.

I moved to Dunedin in 2004 to study at Otago. I graduated with a Bachelor of Health Science from Otago University in 2008.

I am now enjoying the fruits of my years of hard study. Education is important if you want to have a good career, quality of life and make valuable contributions to society.



## Najah Aden

**Name:** Najah Aden

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Fairfield College, Hamilton

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Education

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago

University

**Place of employment:** Australia

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I have a Bachelor of Education from Otago University.

My education journey started when I arrived in New Zealand in 1997 as a young boy with my family. I went to high school in Hamilton where my family still lives.

For now I am enjoying being in Australia where I have a job but I intend to go back to Hamilton to be near my family and teach in one of the schools in the city. I know my Somali community will benefit from someone with a teaching qualification.

## WELLINGTON

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Najib Sofe	BCA (Accting, comm law, money & finance)	Victoria University	2010
Ismael Jimale	BSc (biotech), BCA (management, international business)	Victoria University	2010
Ummy Amin	BA (soc., education, development)	Victoria University	2010
Abaas Sheikh	BCA (Accounting, info tech)	Victoria University	2012
Fuad Farah	BCA (Ecommerce, info systems)	Victoria University	
Farhiyo Elmi	BA (Education)	Victoria University	2011
Abdirizaq Yusuf	BCA (HR, comm law, management)	Victoria University	2011
Deeqo Maolin	BA (Pol sci, international relations)	Victoria University	2011
Fitah Jimale	BCA (Management, comm law)	Victoria University	
Isse Mohamad	BCA (Management, HR, marketing)	Victoria University	2009
Abdirahman Sheikh	Bachelor of Social Work	Massey University	2011
Yusuf Qaliif	BBS (Finance, economics)	Massey University	
Adan Dirshe	BBS (Info tech)	Massey University	2010
Anwar Muridi	BBS (HR management)	Massey University	
Caydarus Sheikh	NZ Diploma in business	Pacific Training Institute	2009
Farhiyo Abdullahi	BBS (HR)	Massey University	2010
Farida Abdullahi	BBS (English, classical studies, Dip teaching)	Victoria University	2010/11
Abdifitah Jimale	BCA (Management, info sys, accting)	Victoria University	2011
Mohamad Adan	BCA (Accounting)	Victoria University	2011
Rahmo Adan	BA (Economics, development)	Victoria University	2011
Hamdi Adan	Certificate in nursing	Massey University	2009
Fetah Muqtar	Health science	Massey University	2009
Samsam Dahir	Accting, Dip business	Wellington Institute of Technology	2009
Abdinasir Saed	Info tech	Wellington Institute of Technology	2009
Fadumo Salad	Bachelor of nursing	Wellington Institute of Technology	2012
Hassan Ahmed	B Computing, Dip comp. service	Wellington Institute of Technology	2011/12
Khalid Bulle	Certificate in film making	Natcoll	2009
Yurub Adan	BCA (Accounting, info sys)	Victoria University	2012
Kalid Amin	Degree in film studies	Victoria University	2010

# WELLINGTON

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Mustaf Sheikh	BA, BTM (Pol sci, int relations, tourism management)	Victoria University	2009/10
Sahra Farah	Degree in nursing	Wellington Institute of Technology	2011
Radiya Nor	BCA (Accounting, info sys)	Victoria University	2011
Ayan Nor	BCA (Marketing, Pharmacology)	Victoria University	2012
Sayid Nor	Engineering	Victoria University	2010
Mahamad Muqtar	BCA (Computer science)	Victoria University	2013
Adam Qalif	Engineering	Victoria University	2013
Bilan Gurey	NZ Dip management	Wellington Institute of Technology	2010
Mohamed Ade	NZ Dip management	Wellington Institute of Technology	2010
Fardosa	Hospitality	Wellington Institute of Technology	2010
Farhiyo	Bachelor of nursing	Wellington Institute of Technology	2011
Kowsar Nor	Bachelor of nursing	Wellington Institute of Technology	2011
Ayan Dualle	Bachelor of counselling	Wellington Institute of Technology	2010
Yasir Ismail	BCA (Computer science)	Victoria University	2010
Kowsar Ali	BA (Soc, development)	Victoria University	2010
Sacida Sheikh	BCA (Marketing, economics)	Victoria University	2012
Warsame Hassan	Information Tech (IT)	Wellington Institute of Technology	2010
Faduma Guled	Bachelor of nursing	Wellington Institute of Technology	2010

## Liban Yusuf

**Name:** Liban Yusuf

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** Cashmere High School, Christchurch

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** Bachelor of Tourism Management, and BCA (Marketing)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Victoria University, Wellington

**Place of employment:** Student Job Search – university (student recruitment consultant)

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I am a graduate from Victoria University, in Wellington, with a Bachelor of Tourism Management and a BCA in Marketing. I arrived in Christchurch in 1995 with little English background, having spent a few months in Kenya. I attended Cashmere High School. I am now working and studying part-time towards an Honours in Marketing. At the

same time, Liban is an active member of the Somali Youth Group in Wellington.

### Community involvements and interests

I am an active member of the Somali Youth Group in Wellington, playing leadership roles in various initiatives. I enjoy being part of this group because they are a group that got together for the purpose of helping their community and making positive contributions.

### Personal remarks

I believe our youth can achieve many things in New Zealand. We face many hurdles in life such as intergenerational issues, culture shock, language barriers, and many other things that are common for new settlers. But we must not forget that education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. The ticket to better employment opportunities, integration and prosperity is in our hands.



LIBAN YUSUF

## Ahmed Sofe

**Name:** Ahmed Sofe

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1999

**High School:** Wellington

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Accountancy (2007), Bachelor of Business Studies (Honors) (2009)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University, Wellington

**Place of employment:** Ernst & Young Group Ltd.

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

My education journey commenced at a refugee camp in Ethiopia, where I attended Primary and Intermediate school. Upon arrival in New Zealand on 10 February 1999 as a 13 year old I continued through secondary school.

My earlier years in New Zealand were challenging as I was exposed to new culture, education system, and language. Often there were times that I felt like a deaf person sitting in a crowd of people in the classroom. At the time I was at 5th form I picked up the language and things started to turn around for me. At my 6th form year I studied accounting at school where I then made the decision to pursue the subject at a tertiary level and eventually as a career.

I have chosen Accounting because I always had an interest in business. I also enjoyed the analytical and the challenging aspect of accounting. Upon graduating from secondary school in 2003, I enrolled at Massey University with a Bachelor of Accountancy degree. My first year or so at university was quite challenging, however, through courage and inner motivation I succeeded. During my studies at University I gained excellent grades in most of my accounting papers.

In 2007 I graduated from Massey University and obtained Massey University Deans award for outstanding academic performance. In addition, I obtained letters of commendation for high academic performance from the School of Accountancy and College of business heads during my five years at tertiary education. What made me proud is not only the excellent academic performance but also the fact that I have established and formed an excellent relationship with my lecturers and peers at the university. I achieved this academic success while I was also undertaking other activities outside university life. During my tertiary studies I have



AHMED SOFE

been involved in a wide range of extra curricular activities. While studying, I worked part-time, volunteered as a budget advisor, tutored at university in a number of accounting papers, and volunteered within my community. Early 2008 I obtained an Auditing job with Ernst and Young – one of the big four Chartered Accountants firms in the world. Prior to that I was employed by Massey University as Exams and Assignments Marker.

### Community involvements and interests

My involvement in community activities began early 2006, when I was offered a financial administration role in Wellington Somali Council. As a refugee youth who went through the New Zealand education system I witnessed the challenges faced by youth upon entering the system. Since then I was one of the founders of the Somali Youth Focus Group. Its purpose is to alleviate the challenges faced by Somali youth in Wellington region and New Zealand. The youth group comprises talented young Somalis who went through the education system in New Zealand, who are eager to provide service to their community. As a youth group member I was a co-author of a research report about Somali youth in Wellington published by Victoria University. The purpose of the research was to evaluate the educational needs of Somali youth in New Zealand.

## Hussein Sheikh

**Name:** Hussein Sheikh

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** Kenya

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)/Double Major in Accounting and Commercial Law

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Victoria University, Wellington

**Place of employment:** Department of Labour

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

My career interests when I was in secondary school was engineering or law. I later realised that this career choice was less attractive to the increasingly commercial world. So I opted for accounting and something similar to what I originally wanted to pursue, which is commercial law.

My current role as an Auditor with the Department of Labour is both interesting and challenging. It is not just the number crunching that I enjoy, but it also involves system improvement, operational reviews and consulting. It is quite satisfying.

### Community involvements and interests

I helped the establishment of the Wellington Somali Council, and volunteered services to the community to ensure the wellbeing of the Diaspora in Wellington.



HUSSEIN SHEIKH

## Mohamed Hassan

**Name:** Mohamed Hassan

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Bachelor of Business Information Systems, Diploma Business Computing and Business Certificate

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University, Wellington

**Place of employment:** Squiz.net

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I have always wanted to challenge myself and eager to get higher education. Information Systems has been my educa-



MOHAMED HASSAN

tional and career choice because IT advances every time and continuously develops new things. My highest achievement so far was completing my studies and I intend to carry on in the future as well so that I can be a role model to the young Somalis.

I'm currently working for Squiz.net which is Web based Company that uses Content Management System (CMS) solutions to the corporate, government, educational, not for profit and cultural sectors.

### Community involvements and interests

My interest is to see our community become people can do or contributing something in terms of educational, working and so on to this wonderful country because there are so many negativity surrounding Somali Community in New Zealand basically through the media and other organisation considering Somalis are inadequate and hard to integrate. They said Rome wasn't build in a day, so as Somalis or any other community came to New Zealand it takes a time to adjust and integrate but it's a difficult of not getting a fair go. I still work as a volunteer with Wellington Somali Council and became a board member. This is my contribution of helping other Somalis who are in need and it's hard to ignore these kinds of issues.

### Advice

I believe in education and I like to encourage our Somali youth to seek knowledge.

## Abdi Sofe

**Name:** Abdifatah Sofe

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1994

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Cisco Certified Network Associate

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Cisco Network Academy

**Place of employment:** I run my own company, The Dream Factory, which is an internet and computer repairs centre, and mobile phone repairs service.

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

In high school I took computer studies as one of my school subjects, my passion and interest for technology and the internet grew from learning how it all works. Whether it was connecting machines together or learning how internet communication works around the world, I found it very fascinating.

In my 7th form year I was awarded the (Australasian Schools Computer Skills Awards) a competition run by the University of New South Wales in Australia. Following on from this I went on to pursue and complete my CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) qualification and Microsoft Systems Administrator qualification. While studying I was working part-time in a large computer warehouse. After completing my studies in 2005 I had began full time employment the following year when I began working for an ISP (Internet Service Provider) company based in Wellington.

Now I have setup and run my own business (The Dream Factory), with services including Internet & Computer Repairs and Mobile phone repairs. I'm also planning on running computer literacy and technology classes aimed at teaching how computers work and the use of modern computer technology.

### Community involvements and interests

Through my involvement in the Somali Youth Focus Group and the Wellington Somali Council I was a part-time Office Administrator for the council. Before this I was a volunteer tutor at our Ethnic Youth Study Centre in Wellington. Some of my other involvements have included interpreter and advocacy support. While in the youth group I helped

to develop the community website and put it up online.

I had been a co-researcher in the 2008 (Steps for Success) post-graduate research report in partnership with Victoria University and the Wellington Somali Council. The report we published looked at ways for maximizing and exploring academic success in regards to the transition period between high school and university for the students in our local community.

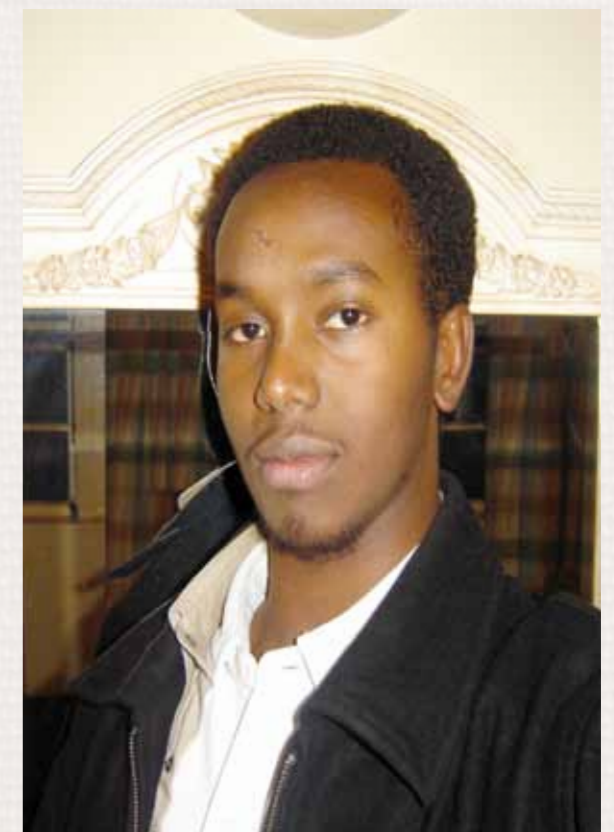
We looked at some of the elements which affect student's achievements. What were the challenges they faced, one being that the whole concept of the education system here was totally different. What were some of the challenges a young person experiences when they attend school for the first time. We also looked at some of the influences or obstacles a student faces when it comes to motivation, studying and achieving academic success.

### Favourite advice

Find your dream and your talent, every human has one, no matter where they're from.

### My favourite Somali quote

Live a mortal, but leave a legend behind.



ABDI SOFE

## Malyun Malaakh

**Name:** Malyun Malaakh

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** NaeNae College, Lower Hutt

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Bachelor of Nursing

**Name of tertiary education institution:**  
Whitireia, Wellington

**Place of employment:** Wellington Hospital

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

A significant key to success is to begin with a good plan and then take the correct action. In saying this I knew that I always wanted to be a nurse and in order to do that I had to work hard in high school. I commenced my study straight away from high school and completed it in three years.

I work at Wellington hospital as a registered nurse. I am really passionate about my career. It gives the opportunity to make a difference in people's life everyday and offers the opportunity to challenge myself as well as enhance my knowledge.

I really enjoy interacting with people and nursing offers me that. I never get bored at work because every day is rewarding and is a learning environment.

I gained my success from the help of Allah, my mother and my providers. Sharing my goals with my mother has enabled me to become a strong young woman and helps me to set out further goals in the future.

### Community involvements and interests

I also work as a translator in the hospital for some of the older Somalia's who do not speak English. This opportunity offers me the chances to speak in my original language as well to help alleviate the anxiety that most people present when they enter a new environment. My goals for the near future are to complete postgraduate and master papers in health. I hope by sharing this reflection about my study with the rest of my fellow Somalis will allow us to work together more effectively and build strong and supportive relationships.



MALYUN MALAAKH

## Abdi Bihi

**Name:** Abdi Bihi

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Development Studies, MDS

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Institute of Geography, Victoria University, Wellington

**Place of employment:** Ministry of Education.

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I am one of those Somalis who came to New Zealand with overseas tertiary qualifications.

I obtained my first graduate degree in Linguistics & Literature at Mogadishu University and hold two postgraduate degrees in development studies and international relations obtained from Universite de Droit et de Science d'Aix-Marseille III in France and Victoria University. My thesis on refu-

gee resettlement in New Zealand was very well received by the sector.

My professional background in Somalia was as a public servant. I also had some teaching experience in primary and tertiary levels of education. I was working for UNHCR prior to my arrival in NZ.

Before starting my current position at the Ministry, I worked at a local secondary school as a bilingual support person. I have participated in the DOL lead Refugee Voices research project as a research supervisor for several research associates in the Wellington area.

### Community involvements and interests

Community development is one of my main interests.

I have been involved with the activities of Somali community associations, as well as Muslim and refugee support organisations. Such organisations include Wellington Somali Community, NZSRIN, IMAN, Hutt Valley Trust, FI-ANZ, RMS Board, etc.



ABDI BIHI

# AUCKLAND

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Fartun Salaad	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2011
Fatima Mohamed	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2011
Ilhan Salaad	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2009
Luul Omar	Bachelor of Health Science (Dental therapy and hygiene)	AUT	2010
Marian Hassan	BA (Law and Political Studies)	Auckland University	2010
Lucky Abdi	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2012
Ahmed Kheyr	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2012
Nura Mohamed	Bachelor of Business (Economics)	AUT	2009
Omer Hassan Hamud	Bachelor of Business (IT and Human Resource Management)	AUT	2009
Ridwana Ahmed Hussein	Bachelor of Science (Biomed)	AUT	2012
Sahur Omer	BA (Sociology and Political Studies)	Auckland University	2009
Fardoso Mohamed Abdiasiz	Bachelor of Business	AUT	2010
Sadiq Ali Yusuf	Bachelor of Business	AUT	2010
Sharmaake Sabriye	Bachelor of Business	AUT	2009
Aisha Hadi	Bachelor of Nursing	AUT	2011
Sharmake Mohamud	Bachelor (Medical Laboratory Science)	AUT	2009
Amal Hashi	Bachelor of Nursing	AUT	2010
Burhan Ali Yusuf	BA (Psychology and Human Resource Management)	AUT	2010
Ayaan Haji Said	BHScience (Psychology and Health Promotion)	AUT	2011
Abdiqani Mohamed Muse	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2012
Abdirisaq Jama Ahmed	Bachelor of Engineering & Commerce	Auckland University	2011
Yusuf Abdule Yusuf	BA Law and Psychology	Auckland University	2010
Caalim Yusuf	Bachelor of Health Science	Auckland University	2012
Mohamed Sheikh	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2012
Fatxi Mohamed	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2011
Mohamed Hussein Salad	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2011
Hassan Shireh	Bachelor of Social Work	Auckland University	2010
Hussein Hadi	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2011
Abdirizaq Warsame	BSc (Medicinal Chemistry)	AUT	2011
Osman Warsame	Bachelor of Information Systems (IT)	AUT	2010
Ashwaaq Mohamed	Bachelor of Social Work	Auckland University	2010
Falis Aden	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2011
Qadar Hassan	Bachelor (Medical Laboratory Science)	AUT	2011

# AUCKLAND

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Hani Abdulle	Bachelor of Health Science	Unitec	2012
Asia Hadi Ibrahim	Bachelor of Nursing	AUT	2012
Mohmud Hassan	Diploma of Electronic Engineering	Unitec	2010
Kayse Jailane	Bachelor of Health Science	Unitec	2012
Jalani Mohamed Farah	Bachelor of Business (Finance and Accounting)	AUT	2009
Hamze Mohamed Farah	Bachelor of Health Science	AUT	2010
Luul Adan Hussein	Bachelor of Nursing	AUT	2011
Ugaso Adan Hussein	Bachelor of Nursing	AUT	2011
Nimo Shariif	Bachelor of Nursing	AUT	2012
Fuad Botan	Bachelor of Business (Finance)	AUT	2009
Abdullahi Warsame	Bachelor of Electrical Engineering	AUT	2010
Ibrahim Abdulkadir	Postgrad Diploma in Public Health (Epidemiology and Bio-statistics)	Auckland University	2010
Mahad Warsame	Bachelor of Business	Open Polytechnic	2010
Fuowzi Botan	Bachelor of Business (Finance)	AUT	2010
Hibaaq Mohamed Abdi	Bachelor of Health Science	Auckland University	2011
Mohamed Abdi	Bachelor of Social Work	Auckland University	2012

## Abdihakim Ali

**Name:** Abdihakim Ali

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2001

**High School:** Auckland

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting and Management

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Auckland University of Technology

**Place of employment:** ABC International



ABDIHAKIM ALI

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I had always had a dream of achieving tertiary education.

Having tertiary education is a requirement if you want to have a meaningful employment and a satisfying career. You have to prove to a potential employer that you have the skills they are after and a relevant degree gets you noticed. Employment is competitive game and you have to stand out from the crowd. I am very proud of what I have achieved in New Zealand. I now have a satisfying job. My future is in my hands.

### Advice

My advice for my fellow Somali students is: make sure you take advantage of the many opportunities available in New Zealand and go after your dream. Don't blame anyone else – it is what you want in life and what you do about what you want. The choice is yours really.

## Ayanle Jama

**Name:** Ayanle Jama

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1994

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Applied Science in Agribusiness and Master of Marketing in Supply Chain Logistics

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University

**Place of employment:** AVTEQ Locomotive manufacturer



AYANLE JAMA

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I come from a structured family with disciplinary study environment that shaped my early days of study mentality, thanks to mum and dad.

I finished high school in Somalia with no English and after hard entry exam I got into Gahayr university of Somalia. I had to study Italian language because it was the only language available to study at university. Unfortunately, in my second year at university, I had to run with my life because of the 1991 Somali civil war and went into Kenya refugee camp with no hope of study again. But thanks God I was so lucky to be part of a small group of Somalis who came to New Zealand through the annual refugee quota. I started to rebuild my life and I went to Lynnfield high school in Auckland to learn English. Then I went into bridging programme at UNITEC Polytechnics and was later accepted into a Diploma in Horticulture Science at UNITEC. I always dreamed to have a degree and after first my year in my diploma programme I applied to enroll into Massey University's Bachelor of Applied Science major in Agribusiness. I grew up in a family farm business and my early choice of study was based on how I could help my family to alleviate poverty; being role model and being the best farmer in the community through creating integrated value chain market-based products with social objectives of income earning opportunities.

I am glad to have patience and resilience to cope with so many difficulties in life such as being a refugee background person with English as a second language, having to fit into new environment and new culture.

Here I am a respected loving family man with a supply chain career. You can have a big dream and please believe in, you can achieve it.

I am so proud to make my parents so proud to have me and I am so proud to have educated myself and achieved my dream to be a professional and a good citizen.

### Community involvements and interests

I am an active member of our Somali community and always got involved in youth empowerment initiatives and make them to be useful into the community. I am always interested to be part of community development programs and contribute towards better life for all humanity.

## Salah Diriye

**Name:** Salah Diriye

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1994

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Social Work and Diploma in Community and Social Work

**Name of tertiary education institution:**

Te Wananga/Unitec

**Place of employment:** Ministry of Social

Development (Child, Youth and Family). Position: Senior Practitioner

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I came to New Zealand in 1997. It was not easy to resettle and adapt to my new home country. I had difficulty adjusting to New Zealand weather especially the winter, as it was too cold comparing to where I came from. After six months of my arrival in New Zealand, I started full time



SALAH DIRIYE

work at the Pacific Flight Catering as a sealing machine operator at the Auckland Airport. My aim was to get a local experience and meet with Kiwis at the workplace and improve my communication skills before undertaking any further study. In 1999, I enrolled one-year bilingual tutor training program at the Unitec, and I completed in 2000. In 2001 I started working with West Auckland Home Tutor scheme on a part time basis. I was also working as a liaison person between refugee communities and schools. I was part of a refugee support team who supported the teachers, students and parents. Then, I worked as a bilingual behaviour support worker with Somali students in primary and intermediate schools in Auckland alongside the Resource Teacher and Learning Behaviour (RTL) team.

In 2001, I enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Practice at the Unitec New Zealand. The first year of the degree was not easy. However, I decided to study part time instead of fulltime as I was working. In 2004, I exited with Diploma in Community and Social work. In December 2004, I started working with Child, Youth and Family as care and protection social worker. In 2008, I enrolled at Te Wananga University to complete my degree, which was not easy while working fulltime plus family and community commitments. I graduated with my Bachelor of Social Work (Biculturalism in Practice) in 2009.

What always keeps me going to achieve my dreams is that I believe if anyone can do I can do it. I am a professional member of New Zealand Social Work Association. Also I am a registered senior practitioner.

I believe our younger generation can achieve much more than they are currently achieving, if their parents could provide more support and be part of their educational journey.

**Community involvements and interests**

Since I came to New Zealand in 1997, I have been fully involved with Somali Community in Auckland and I have been one of the key advocates for the community to make sure that they settle well in their new home country and their voices to be heard. I also encourage and help them to fully participate in the wider New Zealand communities and to fulfill their responsibilities and obligations as new citizens in New Zealand.

## Abdirashid Waberi

**Name:** Abdirashid Waberi

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Business majoring in accountancy, completed in 2004; Graduate diploma in Business Studies with accounting endorsements, due to complete in 2010.

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University

**Place of employment:** Currently studying.

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

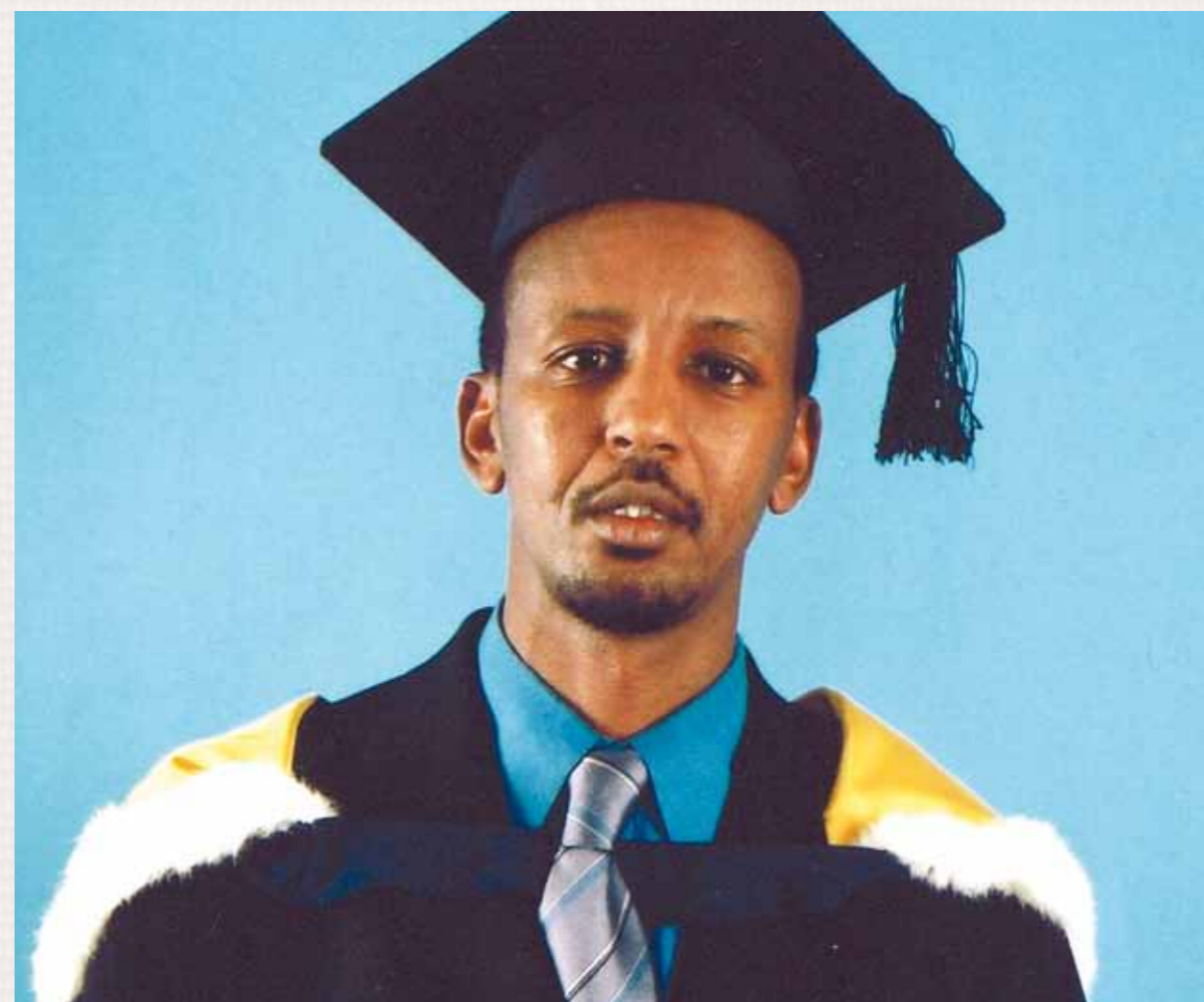
One of the reasons I emigrated from Somalia to New Zealand was to get a tertiary qualification from one of the New Zealand tertiary Institutions.

When I came to New Zealand in 1997, I started to do a certificate in business level 2 at Auckland University of Technology and the reason I chose this programme was to understand the education system of New Zealand as it is different from Somali education system. I completed my certificate in 1998.

Then I moved to Palmerston North to do BBS Majoring in accountancy which I successfully completed in 2004.

I am currently doing graduate diploma in business studies with accounting endorsements at Massey University and I expect to complete it in the first semester of 2010. The reason I am doing this programme is to satisfy the requirements of New Zealand chartered accountants in order to be a member of New Zealand chartered accountants.

I also enrolled in Masters Degree in Accountancy at Massey University which I hope to finish in 2011.



ABDIRASHID WABERI



## Shukri Abbi

**Name:** Shukri Abbi

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1993

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Master's of Audiology

**Name of tertiary education institution:**

Auckland University

**Place of employment:** Director and Principal

Audiologist at ABI Hearing in Melbourne

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

When I graduated from my undergraduate degree in BSC from the University of Auckland, it was a big highlight. It was even a bigger highlight when I graduated with my Masters degree in Audiology from the same university. Both were important achievements and highlights and still are. Without these achievements I won't have been where I am now. I now work as Audiologist full time and happy with my role as Audiologist. I work both in the public sector at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and also run my own private practice working as audiologist in the local community.

**Community involvements and interests**

I am currently a member of the Rotary Club of North Melbourne. This involves helping the local community through volunteer work and fundraising activities.



SHUKRI ABBI

## Isse Ahmed

**Name:** Isse Ahmed

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2001

**High School:** Kenya

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BEngTech) majoring in telecommunications.

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University

**Place of employment:** Currently studying.

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment and I always strive to succeed in whatever I do. Education has always been on my mind and I am pleased with my achievements so far.

I am currently doing a postgraduate diploma in Computing & Information Science Technology at Auckland University of Technology. (2 more papers remaining to finish off)

**Community involvements and interests**

Throughout my time in New Zealand, I have always been an active member in community activities especially in youth development such as sports, home work centres as well as counselling.



ISSE AHMED

## Ahmed Jama

**Name:** Ahmed Jama

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1993

**High School:** Mt Roskill Grammar School

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Information Systems and Computing. Bachelor of Information & Communication Technology

**Name of tertiary education institution:**

Universal College of Learning

**Place of employment:** AISIN Australia PTY Ltd

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I arrived in New Zealand in 1993 and I went to Mt Roskill Grammar School. At high school, I developed an interest in the information technology area. I pursued my interest to a tertiary level.

My qualification has enabled me to find a job that I enjoy doing. I now work as a Telecommunications Engineer with broad experience in both business and consumer lines.



AHMED JAMA

## Shirwa Jama

**Name:** Shirwa Jama

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1993

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Engineering (Telecommunications Engineering)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University

**Place of employment:** Telstra.

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

After graduating from Massey with my Bachelor of Engineering, finding a job was easy. I have since worked as a contractor in a number of telecommunication companies such as Ericsson, Nokia Networks and Aircom International.

My areas of study are: advanced circuit theory, electronics, electromagnetism, power electronics, signal processing, probability theory, theory of distributions, algorithms and computer science.

I am very proud of my achievements and I believe all my Somali fellows can achieve their goals too if they put their mind and efforts into achieving their goals.

Everyone has a goal in life. Don't just dream about it, do something about it.



SHIRWA JAMA

## Mohamed A Ali

**Name:** Mohamed A Ali

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2001

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Master's of Engineering – First class honours.

**Name of tertiary education institution:**

Auckland University

**Place of employment:** Telstra

**Education and career choices, achievements and highlights**

I have been in New Zealand since 2001 and during this period I have achieved my education dreams. I now hold Masters of engineering and I work for Telstra as an engineer.

My job involves working both in New Zealand and Australia so I do travel a lot between the two countries. I am enjoying my work.

New Zealand is a country where you can achieve your educational goal and I am very proud of being a kiwi who is contributing to the country not one that is a burden.



MOHAMED A ALI

## Najma Sallad

**Name:** Najma Sallad

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1998

**High School:** Auckland

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Diploma in Business

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Unitec

**Place of employment:** ANZ Bank.



NAJMA SALLAD

## Deeqo Salaad

**Name:** Deeqo Salaad

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1995

**High School:** Auckland

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Nursing

**Name of tertiary education institution:** AUT

**Place of employment:** Melbourne Hospital.



DEEQO SALAAD

## Jamilo Aden

**Name:** Jamilo Aden

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1992

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** BSc in chemistry and postgraduate diploma in chemistry

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University and University of Melbourne

**Place of employment:** Mimotopes Pty Ltd

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I am the first Somali female who graduated from Otago University or any other university in NZ.

I always wanted to be a doctor. It was my career choice to learn science and to cure and help people.

I graduated from the chemistry faculty in majoring organic chemistry. Natural product synthesis was my choice of study to support drug design development in major pharmaceutical companies.

I have continued further my studies in this field in doing post graduate diploma in organic chemistry.

I am not a doctor but I am so proud to help the doctors to get effective drugs.

Today, I am part of a dedicated chemistry peptide team who works at Mimotopes who provide medicinal

chemistry support to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in the client's drug discovery efforts.

### Community involvements and interests:

I am not that active in the Somali community but rather involved with one on one contact in the community to support nutritional food intake and the lifestyle values. I always give advice and support to women about their health food intake especially in the early stage of pregnancy and the wellbeing of the mother and her child.



JAMILO ADEN

## Ahmed Mohamed

**Name:** Ahmed Mohamed

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** Master's in Pharmaceutics

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Auckland University

**Place of employment:** ADHB, University of Auckland School of Pharmacy.



AHMED MOHAMED

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

I am a former graduate from Otago University, currently finishing my Masters in Pharm.

My research project is on targeting celecoxib and mesalazine to the colon using Particular Drug delivery. I have previously worked for Alpha pharmaceutical in the area of research and Development. We worked on modification of generic drug formulations and new chemical entities.

My advice to my fellow Somali is to have patience and be committed to your long term goals.

We should eradicate from our minds the infectious tribal diseases that have destroyed our country.

We must respect our elders and community leaders and be kind to the weak and less fortunate of our community

### Community involvements and interests:

I am actively involved with the community and volunteer for the Auckland Somali Community. I enjoy playing Indoor and outdoor soccer.

## Abdigani Mohamed

**Name:** Abdigani Mohamed

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** Mt Albert Grammar School (Year 12)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** BSc Pharmacy.

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University

**Place of employment:** Pharmacist in own business.

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

When I came to New Zealand in 1996, I enrolled at Mt Albert Grammar School as a year 12 student. This was

my first experience of New Zealand education system. This was a good foundation for me as I learned a bit about what studying at a university level would be like.

After finishing high school, I went to Otago University to study pharmacy.

I now have my own pharmacy in Papatoetoe, Auckland and I enjoy being my own boss.

### Community involvements and interests:

I like to contribute to my community in anyway possible. Currently I am involved in children's programmes teaching their culture and good values.



ABDIGANI MOHAMED

## Liban Elmi

**Name:** Liban Elmi

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** Diploma in Business Computing

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Auckland University

**Place of employment:** Telstra, Helpdesk Break Fix (Qantas project).

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

I've completed my diploma in business computing at AUT but didn't have much luck with the type of positions I was interested in here in Auckland.

After months of extensive search, I decided to go to Sydney Australia where I had the opportunity to reach my potentials through a variety of positions and have developed many new skills.

I currently work at Telstra as a desktop support technician.

### Community involvements and interests:

My interests are playing soccer, basketball and watching all sorts of sport. I also enjoy reading newspapers and IT related magazines.



LIBAN ELMI

## Farah Jama

**Name:** Farah Jama

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1995

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor in Business/Accounting/Master of Business.

**Name of tertiary education institution:**

Unitec/Monash University, Australia

**Place of employment:** Minister of Finance, Puntland State, Somalia.

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights

I have completed a Bachelor of accounting at Unitec and that was my stepping stone into a Masters degree in accounting achieved later in Australia.

I have always enjoyed accounting as a career and have worked as an accountant at a number of jobs.

Now I am pleased that I am using my qualification for the benefit of my people back home in Somalia where there is a greater need for qualified people like myself.

### Community involvements and interests:

I have always had an interest in community activities and playing a key role in supporting the resettlement process for my Somali community both in New Zealand and Australia. I was a leader for the Somali community in Auckland in 1999-2002.



FARAH JAMA

## Maymun Elmi Sahal

**Name:** Malyun Elmi Sahal

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Diploma in Business/Diploma in Management

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Auckland University of Technology - AUT

**Place of employment:** MSD

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

After high school, I wasn't sure what to do so I did a bit of background search on the fields that I was interested in including management and marketing. I then applied and got into certificate in business at AUT.

From there on, I pursued a career in management and completed double major diploma in management and business.

I currently work fulltime as a customer service representative at MSD. I have high hopes of returning to

university to do a year of degree in business or marketing in the coming year. What got me through my studies was the constant moral support from my parents and those around me including friends and lecturers at the university; therefore I'm very grateful to have had that support.

### Community involvements and interests:

My interests are rather long but simple, my favourite ones are reading, especially the Quran and Islamic text books. I also like travelling, attending lectures or Islamic conventions, netball and spending time with family and friends.

I'm currently involved with the Roskill swimming programme for the Muslim women, which is going great Alhamdulillah.

# SOUTH ISLAND (Christchurch and Dunedin)

NAME	FIELD OF STUDY	EDUCATION PROVIDER	GRAD. YEAR
Anwar Ahmed	BA (Mass communication), BCom (Marketing)	Canterbury University	2011
Faduma Hassan	Bachelor of Education	Canterbury University	2012
Liban Elmi Farah	BCom (Marketing, management)	Canterbury University	2010
Rahma Elmi Farah	Bachelor of nursing	C'church Poly Inst of Tech	2011
Faduma Mohamed	Bachelor of nursing	C'church Poly Inst of Tech	2011
Ahmed Abdulkadir Osman	BCom (Management)	Canterbury University	2012
Nawal Mohamed Hussein	BA (Psychology)	Otago University	2011
Bahja Hassan Ibrahim	BCom (HR development)	Canterbury University	2011
Abdirisq Yusuf	BCom (HR management, industrial relations)	Victoria University	2011
Abdirahman Osman	BCom (Economics & accting, Info sys)	Canterbury University	2011
Amina Mohamed	BA (Psychology)	Canterbury University	2010
Mona Darwish	BCom (Accting, Info sys)	Canterbury University	2011
Mohamed Darwish	BCom (Management)	Canterbury University	2011
Abdullahi Hussein	BCom (Accting, Info sys)	Canterbury University	2011
Sahra Mohamed	BCom (Accting, Info sys)	Canterbury University	2011
Maryan Ali Mohamed	Bachelor of nursing	Otago University	2011
Ayan Abdi	BA (Sociology)	Canterbury University	2011
Hibo Darwish	BCom (Management)	Canterbury University	2011
Samira Ahmed	Bachelor of health studies (Pharmacy, Pharmacology)	Otago University	2011
Mohamed Hassan	BCom (Econ & accting, Info sys)	Canterbury University	2009
Ahmed Hassan	Bachelor of Engineering	Canterbury University	2011
Mohamed Abdirahman	Bachelor of Science	Otago University	2011
Ahmed Abdullahi	Business law	Otago University	2010
Barlin Nur Abdi	ECE	Canterbury University	2010
Lul Aden	ECE	Canterbury University	2010
Nasteha M Hussein	BSc (Pharmacology and Microbiology)	Otago University	2010
Dahabo M Jama	Bachelor of Health Science	Otago University	2012
Ifrah Mohamed	BCom (International Relations)	Otago University	2012
Mustafe Abdulkadir	BSc (Agriculture)	Lincoln University	2010

## Bilan Hassan Haji

**Name:** Bilan Hassan Haji

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1998

**High School:** Hagley College (Christchurch)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Commerce in Management

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Canterbury University

**Place of employment:** Currently studying

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

My experience in high school was good; I loved my high school and teachers. My proudest moment was doing a Philosophy paper at University of Canterbury while in my final year of high school.

My mum and dad motivated and inspired me to do well. They always expected us to be top achievers, so that pushed me to work hard. My psychology teacher in high school also motivated me: he pushed me to do the philosophy paper and he helped me a lot during it.

I started another degree because management is an area which I'm interested in. I also work for Nawawi Center, a Muslim organisation in Christchurch, and most of the work I do for them involves managerial elements.

What drives me is seeing what our parents are going through. They came to a country where they don't speak the language, know the culture, customs, or even the people. Seeing how they work hard to provide for us really inspires me.

**My advice for Somali parents** is to never discourage your children. I think it's important for our community to be specialised in different areas. Yes, we need doctors and nurses but we also need scholars, police officers, lawyers, teachers, builders, and engineers, so support your children in what they want to do.

Education doesn't stop at school with the teachers, you have to do your part too. I have yet to hear of a Somali parent involved in the PTA of their children's school.

Also, get together with families who have successful kids. That way both families can support each other in keeping their kids successful and the kids can motivate each other.

**My advice for my fellow students** is to have balance in your life. Have fun with your friends but also study hard, there is a time for everything. Also learn your deen (religion), yes it's important to have education but have your eyes on the next world too.

**My advice for my Somali community** would be to make something of yourself and don't be lazy. In life God has given people rights over you and society's right over you is that you support yourself and your family. As citizens of New Zealand, we also have to contribute something towards its development and through that contribution we can develop our own country and others like it.

### Community involvements and interests:

I am currently involved in Susac which is our Somali university club in Christchurch and the Nawawi centre. We have a lot of talented guys and girls in the Somali community who are amazing leaders here in Christchurch so I would also like to support them in getting the work done, especially with Susac.

I have a lot of plans for the future, in terms of education I want to finish my BCom and go back to do my honors in Political Science. I really want to study Islamic governance too, and to use what I learn from western and Islamic governance to do developmental work in Somalia and other places. I also want to do work in creating an understanding between the Western world and Islam. I would also love to establish a Muslim NGO, to try to get Muslims to be active in issues affecting the globe.



BILAN HASSAN HAJI (centre)

## Mohamud A Osman

**Name:** Mohamud A Osman

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** Christchurch

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Health Science

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University

**Place of employment:** Currently doing Master's degree

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

I graduated from Otago University and I did Bachelor of Science Majoring in Anatomy and now I am doing my Masters in Public Health.



MOHAMUD A OSMAN

My graduation was sensational and the best of all was looking at my parents' eyes and knowing that they were proud of me. That was what made it special. I am a self driven person but my parents have always supported and encouraged me.

### My advice for my fellow students:

Don't you dare give up, the road of education is not made of roses, it will be ups and downs, but whatever it is don't give up keep going learn from your mistake, setup goals and achieve it, and before and after everything remember Allah and be a good muslim, practise your deen and be really really nice to your Mother.

### Community involvements and interests:

I'm currently the Vice-president of Otago University Muslim Student Association, as for Somali community well I help whoever needs me basically.

## Halima Nur Abdi

**Name:** Halima Nur Abdi

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** Egypt/Christchurch

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Food Science

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University

**Place of employment:** Currently doing Master's degree

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

I have graduated from University of Otago with Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Microbiology and Food Science. Currently I'm doing post graduate diploma in Laboratory Technology at Christchurch Polytechnic Institution of Technology (CPIT).

I didn't like my high school that much as I had transferred from Arabic high school in Egypt. Some of the teachers were to a certain extent helpful but I had to work extra hard due to the language barrier.

What motivates me is to have a better future and my brother Abdiul-Khadir has been always there for me to give me any advice regarding my studies if I needed any.

### Community involvements and interests:

I'm currently the Vice-president of Otago University Muslim Student Association, as for Somali community well I help whoever needs me basically.



HALIMA NUR ABDI



## Abdulqays Ahmed

**Name:** Abdulqays Ahmed

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** Refugee camp in Kenya

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Canterbury University

**Place of employment:** Currently doing Master's in International Relations

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

My mom told me to make something of myself; I also wanted to build a good future for myself and everybody that I know.

My graduation experience was amazing. The feeling of when you're walking into the hall is amazing.

Every morning I ask myself what motivates me, I guess you can say my ambition. The way I want to gain knowledge and my need to want to change the world for the better.

I decided to study Political Science as I thought I would do better in it and that motivated me. I always had a lot of questions even before I went to university, questions like "why did World War 1 start?, why did the second World War happen?," and Political Science is the only subject that addresses these questions. I also like dealing with people and Political Science is the area for that.

My goal...well firstly, I have a dream job (which is the

Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand) maybe after than I would like to get the Secretary General position in the United Nations. In terms of a long-term plan, I would like to be a University Professor.

In ten years time my goal is having a position in the United Nations, maybe also being involved in the New Zealand Parliament, I don't like being a politician, but I would like to be involved in some level. I would also like to work with New Zealand Aid (NZAID) in the development of Africa. I would pretty much like to be in a position to change the world.

### My advice for my fellow students:

My advice for my fellow students would be to work hard; they should know the choices they make now lead to consequences that will affect them in the long term. They should also take advantage of the opportunities they have and make the most of them. Some will say studying is not easy, but nothing in life is easy.

### My advice for Somali parents:

My advice for the Somali parents is to encourage your kids to get educated up to university and not just high school. Many parents are not educated but they still need to be an example and set up an environment at home where education is valued. They can also help by giving education material like books. When parents do not help their children financially at university it can get discouraging.



ABDULQAYS AHMED

## Hassan H Ibrahim

**Name:** Hassan H Ibrahim

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1998

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Master of Philosophy in International Development Studies (2004)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Massey University. Currently completing PhD in Education

**Place of employment:** Ministry of Education

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

My interest lies in education and development both at individual level as well as a country level. My tertiary qualifications are on those two subjects. I am very pleased to see a lot of our community members specially our youths succeeding in education. I think we can build

on this success and encourage more youths to get into the tertiary education. I have written an article in this journal about the value of education to society in the hope of raising awareness of the importance of education among our Somali community.



HASSAN H IBRAHIM

## Ayan Mohamed Hussein

**Name:** Ayan Mohamed Hussein

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** New Zealand

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

Bachelor of Science and Postgraduate in Public Health

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

I always wanted a career in health sciences but little did I know a single elective paper in my final year will completely open a new career path for me.

I got fascinated by how social variables such as social class, gender, ethnicity and culture determine the distribution of health and illness within societies. So what better way to learn how health systems are organised and managed and how global forces influence health system performances, than studying Postgraduate in Public Health at Otago University?

I enjoyed my studies and I am looking forward to doing my Masters in Public Health.

### Community involvements and interests:

I would love to positively contribute to my community in any way possible particularly, promoting healthy lifestyle.

I am currently involved in promoting Tertiary Education among our school leavers.



AYAN MOHAMED HUSSEIN

## Abdullahi Galbet Hussein

**Name:** Abdullahi Galbet Hussein

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Hagley College (Christchurch)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**

BCom (Finance), BSc (Economics)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Canterbury University

**Place of employment:** Australia (Accountant)

### Education and career choices, achievements and highlights:

I never felt a sense of belonging and engagement in high school. I could not wait to finish as I always wanted to pursue higher academic learning. I enjoyed my academic experience. My family's support was very important for me. They endowed me with praises and encouragements. Personally I could not ask for more.

As for the future, I would like to reach my full potential. My career aim is to be become a policy advisor or consultant.

My advice for my fellow Somalis is: think about your religion, family and your country in all your actions. As for the Somali parents, Somali parents do the best in their ability for their kids. I would like to see more involvement in their kids' life.

## Mohamud A Diiriye

**Name:** Mohamud A Diiriye

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1996

**High School:** Hagley College (Christchurch)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** BSc

(Electrical engineering)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Canterbury University

**Place of employment:** Australia (Electrical Engineer)

## Hamdi Abdirahman

**Name:** Hamdi Abdirahman

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1998

**High School:** Hagley College (Christchurch)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Bachelor of Nursing

**Name of tertiary education institution:** CPIT  
(Christchurch Polytechnic)

**Place of employment:** Starship Hospital, Auckland

## Farhiya Abdulkadir

**Name:** Farhiya Abdulkadir

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1998

**High School:** Hagley College (Christchurch)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:** BSc  
(Physics)

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Canterbury University

**Place of employment:** Master's student (medical physics)

## Abdulkadir Osman

**Name:** Abdulkadir Osman

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 2002

**High School:** Somalia

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Master's degree in Political Science

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Canterbury University

**Place of employment:** Bilingual tutor at Hagley College

## Sadia Hassan

**Name:** Sadia Hassan

**Year of arrival in NZ:** 1997

**High School:** Hagley College (Christchurch)

**Programme of study/qualification gained:**  
Bachelor of Science majoring in Nutrition

**Name of tertiary education institution:** Otago University

**Place of employment:** Currently am doing my final year of Pharmacy

# Somali-owned businesses in New Zealand



## Internet café opens in Wellington

**Abdifatah Sofe** has just opened the first Somali-owned internet café, computer and mobile repair business in Wellington.

He knows how challenging it is to start a new business in this economic environment, but he is determined to succeed.

Abdifatah is an asset to his Somali community in Wellington, being involved in many of the Wellington Somali youth activities. He is very proud to have played key roles in his community.



## Education and enterprise in Hamilton

**A Somali-owned** Halal butchery is located in Clarkin Road, Hamilton.

The Dayib family, as is widely known in Hamilton, are enterprising high achievers in education. Six members of the family have gained tertiary qualifications since arriving in New Zealand.

They are indeed a model family for the Somali community.



## Second food business for Dayib family

A new kebab shop has just been opened by the Dayib family.

It adds to their butchery business, mentioned on the previous page.



## Business finds market for spices in Hamilton

Bulk food and spice Haven is the newly opened business in Hamilton owned by Hani Jelle.





## Butchery business meeting community needs

**Another** Somali-owned butchery business in Hamilton.



## Papatoetoe pharmacist serving the community

**Abdulgani**, a Somali pharmacist serving in his Papatoetoe pharmacy.





## Household goods for NZ's Muslim people

A Somali garments and other household items shop, catering to the Somalis and other Muslim people in the Mt Roskill suburb of Auckland.



## Computers and more in Mt Roskill

**G W Computer Sales and Services** in Mt Roskill, Auckland, sell computers and accessories. This computer trained Somali also provides photocopying service, key cutting and an internet café.





ARDO IS CONGRATULATED BY FRASER HIGH SCHOOL'S MARTIN ELLIOTT FOR HER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS.

## a bright future

### ARDO ABDULLAHI IS AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS

**Ardo Abdullahi** came to Hamilton, New Zealand, in 1998 from Kenya with her mother and eight brothers and sisters.

She started school at Fairfield Primary and, as a five-year-old refugee, initially faced the challenge of learning English as a second language.

With the help of one-on-one intensive ESOL classes she has developed into a competent English speaker and a high academic achiever.

This year Ardo was awarded a gold medal for her outstanding NCEA level one results in 2008 at Hamilton's Fraser High School where she achieved a high distinction in History and a distinction for Biology.

Armed with a positive attitude and a high level of maturity, Ardo has overcome challenges and made the most of all the opportunities that have

been offered to her. She credits her academic success to her mother, her teachers, and her personal motivation. "This is my chance to go and make something of myself, and I take that seriously, because I think if I was somewhere else, I wouldn't get that."

After completing her secondary education, Ardo plans to go to university to do a Social Science degree majoring in political science, history and economics. She hopes to become a Foreign Policy Officer and has an interest in working for the United Nations in the future.

Ardo is an inspiration to all students. When asked what advice she would give to other refugee students, her response was heartfelt and astoundingly positive. "Do the best you can and don't settle for anything less. Do it for yourself, your family, and your people." – *by Phillipa Adam*

## Wellington Somali Youth Group

Youth make up a large proportion of the community and face many of the same barriers and difficulties experienced by other members of the community and also the added challenge of integrating into the education system. Many struggle to make it through the education system and a large number of them fail due to a lack of sufficient support from school and at home. There is however a growing number of Somali youth coming through the New Zealand education system who are well integrated, know the language, systems and are achieving well. These talented youth represent a huge potential resource that if harnessed by the community could greatly assist in its development and integration. The risk though is that because these youth have achieved integration so well there is the real possibility that if not guided to community participation and service, and educated about its benefits they could be lost to the mainstream, and possibly adrift from their community and culture.

In November 2007 a group of Somali youth came together under the supervision of the Wellington Somali Community and formed the first Somali youth group in Wellington. The youth group was formed to increase youth participation in the Wellington Somali Community and in its activities, and to also look at the issues facing the Somali youth. The idea being that, as youth, they know their issues better than anyone else and are more likely to know what kinds of solutions are going to work. From this youth group the problems with the youth in the community were discussed and a youth mentor program identified as the best model for addressing these issues.

The number of projects the youth group run and organized with the help of the wider youth and the elderly members of the community is as follows:

### KEY PROJECTS

- Mentoring program/research report (conjoint with Victoria University of Wellington)
- Graduation Function
- 1st of July (Somali Independence Day Celebration)
- National youth networking trip
- Sports

### MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Ahmed Sofe  
Abdi Sofe  
Farhia Abdullahi  
Isse Mohamud  
Fuad Farah  
Umulkheir Amiin  
Liban Yusuf



# Somali University Student Association of Canterbury (SUSAC)

PRODUCTIVE YOUTH, PLANTING THE SEEDS OF TOMORROW.  
CENTRE FOR RESOURCEFUL YOUTH AND HARMONIOUS COMMUNITY.

The Somali University Student Association (SUSAC) is a University of Canterbury social club founded to unite all Somali students through a variety of fun social, educational, and community activities. As a club, we endeavour to support all Somali students at the University and the wider Somali youth in Christchurch.

## VISION

To enabling Somali youth to achieve their aspirations in New Zealand while feeling sense of belonging without losing the Somali co-values.

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide academic, socials and psychological support for the ever-growing Somali students at the University of Canterbury and high school students in Christchurch
- To provide guidance and support to university students

and high school students to retain and foster the Somali co-values to create a positive image of what it is to be a Somali living in New Zealand for the Somali youths

- To give support to university and high school students to overcome barriers
- To research and identify barriers and concerns confronting Somali youth in Christchurch and work to develop appropriate solutions to overcome these barriers

## ACTIVITIES

- Conduct ongoing meetings and get-together for the university and Somali youth
- To conduct training and workshop to empower Somali youth become leaders /facilitators
- Train senior students to take on mentoring roles
- Establish positive contacts with university students at large, Somali secondary age students, and similar Somali youth network in New Zealand and overseas.

# New Zealand Somali Research & Information Network Trust

INTRODUCING THIS NEWLY-FORMED TRUST...

The NZSRIN is a not-for-profit Trust established to collect and share information on the Somali Diaspora in New Zealand with the goal of contributing to positive settlement experiences for Somalis in New Zealand and increased intercultural understanding.

The Trust is headed by Abdullahi Mohallim who has more than 30 years of overseas experience having lived and worked in North America and Europe where a larger population of Somalis live.

One of the immediate plans the Trust is currently under-

taking is the establishment of a website on which cultural, historical and educational information about the Somalis can be obtained. The website will also host the Somali graduate journal and provide a forum for the Somali students and the community in New Zealand to discuss their settlement experiences. The website will be ready before the end of the year.

In the meantime if you require more details about the aims of the Trust, feel free to contact Abdullahi Mohallim by email: [almohallim@yahoo.com](mailto:almohallim@yahoo.com)



TRUSTEES OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOMALI RESEARCH & INFORMATION NETWORK TRUST. Back row, left to right: Abdullahi Mohallim, Hassan Adam, Hassan Ibrahim, Ismail Gamadid. Front row, left to right: Ismail Ibrahim, Abdi Bihi, Adam Awad and Abdirizak Abdi. Absent: Asad Abdullahi, Dr M Siyad and Dr Ibrahim Hagi.



# Community discussion

## RESETTLEMENT PERSPECTIVE

My name is Khadra Mohamed and I would like to share with my Somali fellows my perspective in resettlement. In other words what it means to me to be a successfully resettled person in New Zealand.

Resettlement is such an important topic as it is constantly applied to people from refugee backgrounds like myself. Policy makers, government departments and NGOs use the term when discussing or initiating policies and programmes aimed at addressing the resettlement challenges faced by both the newly arrived refugees as well as former refugees.

Resettlement is a two way process: giving and receiving. I came here as a teenager or what is termed as the 1.5 generation. I didn't speak English when I arrived here in 1999 having spent my childhood years in refugee camps in Kenya and missing out on many years of schooling as we had to move from camp to camp.

Coming to New Zealand was an opportunity to catch up with missed opportunities in education and other areas of life development. I had only one year of high school in New Zealand but later enrolled into tertiary programme after improving my English.

### Key to successful resettlement:

- Language and education
- Employment
- Local knowledge
- Access to information
- Making friends
- Participating in the wider communities
- Feeling a sense of belonging (not only in your own community but also in the wider community)
- Feeling a sense of being at home
- Experiencing a wide range of employment situations

- Financial independence (not being dependent on benefit)

### The advice I would give to my Somali community is:

Get out there and explore what is out there. Be part of the wider community, make friends with the local community; volunteering is a good way of meeting new people and getting into employment. Your first job may not be what you want or pay well but may help you to get where you want.

It is also important not to dwell on the past or events back home as NZ is our home now and what happens here affects our lives more than elsewhere. Being a forward looking person not a backward looking one is important

### My advice for the Somali parents is:

With the right support and self-drive you can change your situation. Your life is in your own hands, take ownership of your future and the future of your family.

Having education and employment yourself as a parent makes your children look up to you as a positive role model and the host community's perception of us depends on what we do or don't do.

**Question:** historically Somalis are known to be entrepreneurial but that has not been a feature in our community in New Zealand whereas Somalis who have resettled in countries such as Kenya, South Africa, and Zambia have established successful businesses and are envied by the locals.

What is the barrier here? Is it unfamiliar business environment that is holding us up or are we too scared of failure?

# Solution in education

The Terms "refugee and migrant" are not identity but rather are descriptions given to people who left their homes as a result of unfavourable external pressure (s) placed upon them. Also while Resettlement in its broader definition portrays challenging process, it can be even more complicated for groups like Somalis whose language, culture and religion are significantly different from the dominant society in the receiving country.

Despite the challenges and complexities it presents, resettlement to a third country can also present new opportunities which would have been beyond some refugees' reach if a refugee inducing factor did not occur. These opportunities include the attainment of higher educational qualifications and other skills which can enable people to achieve social and economic wellbeing.

Education was always a key factor for people throughout the history of society; its demand has increased considerably in recent decades because new skills and information have become more crucial as a result of globalisation.

In New Zealand Education is one of the levers for lifting the New Zealand economy, therefore, Somalis integration with New Zealand society is shaped by the extent to which Somalis can gain the skills needed to achieve social and economic wellbeing. There are many other reasons that justify Somalis in New Zealand to make education a top priority. These include:

Consider ourselves a resources base for our home country. We have come from a country where there had been no functional education system for over two

decades. This led to a large number of Somalis youth to miss education and became child soldiers which are the only livelihood mechanism they can employ. There are also many others who have drowned in the ocean while pursuing education and better living conditions.

Many Somali youth who were lucky enough to get resettlement into a generous country like New Zealand also did not make good use of the opportunity given to them. These two factors leave us with the question of who is going to take responsibilities for the future of our people and our country. It is also important to remind ourselves that lack of education was the major contributing factor of our nation's destruction. Lack of education, which includes Islamic education, is also a strong supporter of the current chaos and anarchy in Somalia.

Employ education as a tool for sustaining our identity: I strongly believe there is a strong correlation between how well we can maintain our Somali identity and the Islamic co-values and the level of education we attain. Education achievement enables us to be well abreast with the global events and to put strong safeguards to prevent ourselves from the challenges they can present to us

Finally, I would like to suggest that the attainment of the above is not the sole responsibility of the young people; however, it requires all segments of the communities to exert equal pressure.

### HASSAN IBRAHIM

PhD candidate

## Wintec (Waikato Institute of Technology)

Wintec is one of the largest institutes of technology in New Zealand, and has more than 30,000 full-time and part-time students studying at its three campuses in Hamilton city and satellite campuses in Thames, Otorohanga and Te Kuiti. Wintec also has an office in Beijing, China.

Its programmes and qualifications are nationally and internationally recognised and its degrees have equal status to those from universities.

Wintec's strong links with industry and business give it the ability to offer relevant, tailored employment related education and training that meet changing market needs. Its degree programmes include Media Arts (Bachelor Honours and Masters), Midwifery, Nursing, (Bachelor, Masters and Postgraduate) Business Studies, Engineering, Technology, Information Technology, and Sport and Exercise Science (Bachelor and Masters) to a wide range of full and part time courses for those already in the workforce. Wintec is also a recognised leader nationally in the delivery of on-line distance education for those unable to attend regular classes for reasons of geographical access of other commitments.

With seven campuses throughout the region and a history spanning more than 80 years, Wintec is proud to be an integral part of the region, serving the needs of students, employers and the wider community.

Whether you're a potential student, an employer, industry group or community organisation, the institute looks forward to working with you to build a stronger community.



**Wintec**  
WAIKATO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Te Kuratini o Waikato