

Orla Fitzgerald

EDUCATION

Brown University, *B.A. Public Health, B.A Biology*, /3.56 GPA

Providence, RI | **Expected Graduation May 2027**

Relevant Courses: Neurobiology; Neurogenetics; Cellular & Molecular Biology; Public Health Nutrition; Epidemiology; Global Burden of Disease; Health Law & Policy; Physics; Physiological Pharmacology; Biostatistics/Data Analysis

Christchurch Girls' High School /Graduated with NCEA Level 3 Excellence Endorsement

Christchurch, New Zealand | 2017-2021

Relevant Courses: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Music, Statistics and Algebra, Physical Education/Sports and Exercise Science, Geography, History

SCHOOL AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND EXTRA-CURRICULARS

- Year 13 School Prefect 2021
- Head of Deans House Committee 2021
- NCEA Level 2, Level 3 Endorsed with Excellence 2020, 2021
- Academic Colours for Academic Excellence in NCEA Level Three 2021
- Academic Colours for Academic Excellence in Music NCEA Level Two 2020
- Peer Support Leader at Christchurch Girls' High School 2021
- Year 13 PTA Prize for Academic Excellence in Performance Sport 2021
- Sporting Colours for Excellence in Rowing, Cycling 2020, 2021
- Head Captain for Road Cycling 2021
- Vice-Captain for Rowing 2021
- Received High Performance Sport Scholarship–University of Otago Entrance Scholarship for 2022
- New Zealand Under 19 Rowing Team 2021, 2022
- New Zealand Under 21 Rowing Team 2023
- New Zealand Under 23 Rowing Team 2024 – World Champion
- Brown University Women's Rowing Team 2023-2027 (present)
- Academic Advisor for First Year Brown University Students 2025/2026
- Pre-Dental Society, Brown University — Active Member Currently

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Indevin Group Limited, Blenheim New Zealand - Vintage Cellar Hand December 2021 - February 2022
- New World Fendalton, Christchurch, New Zealand - Checkout Worker March 2022 - February 2023
- Cafe Waitress/Assistant Christchurch, New Zealand at Antler Garden Cafe April 2018 - June 2019
- Zephyrs Winery, Blenheim New Zealand - Cellar Hand: May - June 2023
- First-year Academic Advisor, Brown University - September 2025 - Present

TECHNICAL SKILLS/ ATTRIBUTIONS

- **Epidemiological Research & Analysis** – Experience with case-control and cohort study methodologies
- **Data Analysis** – Familiarity with public health data interpretation
- **Scientific Writing** – Developed through WRIT-designated courses in Public Health and Neuroscience
- **Health Policy & Advocacy** – Experience researching rural dentistry policies and public health issues
- **Global & Nutritional Health Knowledge** – Explored through coursework and independent research in epidemiological childhood diabetes and obesity patterns
- **Biological & Molecular Sciences** – Strong foundation in **cellular biology, molecular mechanisms of disease, and neuroscience** through extensive coursework in biology and public health at tertiary level

RESEARCH/ PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Brown University — Neurogenetics Research (*Paper can be made available upon request*)

Providence, Rhode Island | Spring Semester 2025

- Conducted an in-depth literature-based research project on **Fragile X Syndrome**, examining **FMR1 gene silencing, CGG repeat expansion, and downstream effects on synaptic plasticity**
- Synthesized findings across **mammalian and *Drosophila* genetic models** to evaluate conserved neurogenetic mechanisms
- Analyzed emerging therapeutic approaches, including **mGluR5 modulation and metformin**, within a neurogenetic framework
- Authored a comprehensive scientific paper integrating molecular genetics, neurobiology, and translational research and presented my work to the class

Brown University — Public Health Research for Global Burden of Disease Class

Providence, Rhode Island | Fall Semester 2024 (*Paper can be made available upon request*)

- Conducted a population-level research analysis on type 2 diabetes prevalence and ultra-processed food consumption among Māori communities in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Examined the intersection of nutritional epidemiology, food systems, and structural inequities influencing metabolic disease risk
- Synthesized national health datasets and peer-reviewed literature to evaluate dietary patterns and diabetes outcomes
- Authored a comprehensive research paper proposing culturally informed, policy-relevant nutrition interventions

Brown University — Health Policy Research (Dental Public Health)

Providence, RI | Spring Semester 2025 (*Paper can be made available upon request*)

- Authored a policy brief analyzing **access to dental care in rural Mississippi**, with emphasis on **provider shortages, Medicaid coverage gaps, and workforce distribution**
- Evaluated state and federal **oral health policies**, including scope-of-practice laws and public insurance reimbursement structures
- Assessed evidence-based policy interventions to improve **oral health equity**, such as expanded dental workforce models and incentive programs
- Produced a concise, policy-oriented briefing integrating **epidemiologic data, legal frameworks, and health economics**

