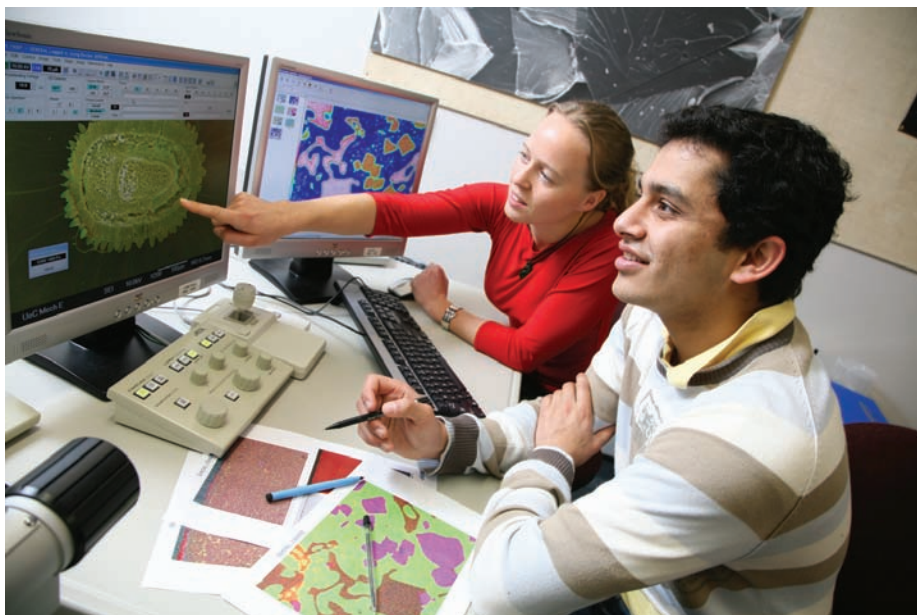


Considering postgraduate study?



There are a range of reasons why people undertake postgraduate study. Frequently this can be to do with skill and knowledge development for professional and/or personal reasons, and to increase employment prospects.

What is Postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study can be undertaken after you have completed your first undergraduate qualification. Postgraduate courses include: Honours degrees, Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas, Masters degrees and Doctors of Philosophies. For a full explanation of these qualifications at UC please refer to: www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses/postgradquals.shtml

How do I know if Postgraduate study is for me?

Understanding and reflecting on your motivations is an important starting point to determine whether postgraduate study is right for you.

Consider these questions below and reflect on your responses to them. You might like to discuss these questions with a career consultant, an academic member of staff in the department you wish to undertake postgraduate study in, a current or former postgraduate student, a family member and/or friend.

- Do I want to do postgraduate study because of love of my subject and doing research?
- If I undertake further postgraduate study, where might it lead me in terms of employment?
- Is the sense of achievement and accomplishment at having a postgraduate qualification a key motivating factor for me?
- Has an academic staff member suggested that I do postgraduate study? If yes, have I understood why they might have suggested it to me?
- Do I hope to get a better job in my area of interest if I do postgraduate study? If yes, have I explored what the entry requirements are to the types of jobs I am interested in pursuing and what type of postgraduate study might be best to undertake?

- Do I know what all of the postgraduate study options are?
- Am I unsure how to leave university and want to delay making a career decision?
- How strong am I academically? Do I have the ability and grades to undertake postgraduate study?
- Is the timing right?
- What else – if anything – do I need to do in order to make the decision?

Will Postgraduate study increase my employment prospects?

Postgraduate study enables you to extend your knowledge and skills, and is an indication of your motivation and ability to persevere at a high level academically. This contributes to your employability, making you more competitive in the job market. In some – not all cases – postgraduate qualifications can be a prerequisite for certain jobs. Consider the factors below as to whether postgraduate study will increase your employment prospects:

Apply the Career Decision Making Model (see page 3) and use the resources listed below it to consider your employment options. In particular look at what the job entry requirements are.

- Read reports produced by Universities including New Zealand UniGradStats No.3 for information on the employment status/destinations of graduates and postgraduates. See www.nzvcc.ac.nz
- Make your aspirations known, within your department and through attending conferences.
- Join professional associations in your field and build networks.
- Seek mentoring.
- Check out the labour (job) market on a regular basis and look at employment trends. See the following website: www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/student_graduate_employment/labour_market_information.shtml
- Prepare a business card with your name and contact details so when networking you can give it to potential future employers.