

Work in the Canterbury region



A number of University of Canterbury graduates seek work in the Canterbury region as their studies draw to an end. How easy it will be for you will depend, in part, on the type of work you are seeking and on how you approach your job search.

565,800 (June 2010 estimate) people usually live in Canterbury region. The Canterbury region population ranks 2nd in size out of the 16 regions in New Zealand and has 13.0 percent of New Zealand's population. (Source: <http://www.stats.govt.nz>) Industries that have employed the most people in the Canterbury region over the past five years (and are predicted to continue to do so in the future) include agriculture, business services, telecommunication services, electrical and electronics engineering and manufacturing, food and beverage manufacturing, health services, tourism and hospitality. The Canterbury region has a growing and ageing population. As a result several industries expected to keep growing and requiring skilled staff in-line with Canterbury's population growth include the health services, infrastructure (particularly electricity and gas supply) and transport services. (Source: www.careers.govt.nz)

Just over 85% of businesses in Canterbury employ 5 or fewer staff. (Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2008) As a result, job opportunities in the region in smaller companies and organisations could exist through accessing the 'hidden' job market. (See page 11 to learn more about tapping into the 'hidden' job market).

Some steps you can take to find work in the Canterbury region include:

- Accessing the Your Career section of the regional daily newspaper *The Press* in the Wednesday and Saturday editions.
- Registering with Careers, Internships & Employment's UC CareerHub. See www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz. Some of the employers who use UC CareerHub to publicise vacancies and events have opportunities based in Canterbury.
- Drawing up a list of organisations that you'd like to work for in Canterbury (See the process of how to research an organisation on page 14) and make unsolicited applications to those organisations (see page 11 to learn more about tapping into the 'hidden' job market).
- Considering joining a relevant professional body, as such bodies often have local branches that organise seminars and events. Attending these can be a great way of building your network of contacts and letting people know that you're job hunting.
- Looking at the websites below for labour market information/employment trends, types of employers and/or work opportunities in this region. See:
 - Canterbury Development Corporation www.cdc.org.nz
 - Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce www.cecc.org.nz
 - New Zealand Manufacturers & Exporters Association www.mea.org.nz
 - Career Services www.careers.govt.nz/
 - Google CINCH to access Community Information Christchurch through Christchurch City Libraries.
 - Department of Labour www.dol.govt.nz