Planning your career

Choosing a career involves more than just finding out what is open to you. Knowledge about yourself is central to the process. It's worth looking at your personal goals, abilities, values, interests, and skills to relate study and career options to you. The suggestions here are only an aid to this decision-making process.

Most employers look for generic skills such as leadership, communication skills, interpersonal skills, customer-focus and the ability to work in and contribute to a team. Some of these are developed during your degree, while others have been developed through extra-curricular activity such as sports, community, or cultural groups. As more and more employers are developing jobs that are particular to their own environment, it is more difficult to provide a definitive list of possible career options. The ones that follow are illustrative rather than exhaustive. Some career opportunities may require graduate or postgraduate study or additional work experience.

Some career paths and degrees have recommended pathways from school. To download the 'Best Preparation for University' information sheet go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison/best_prep.shtml

What is Chinese?

The Chinese programme at UC provides a wide range of courses in both the language and the studies of Chinese literature, thought, tradition, culture and society. It is backed by a strong staff team specialising in language, linguistics, literature, philosophy, film and culture.

The Chinese language courses aim to develop language competence in modern standard Chinese in both its spoken and written forms. Students also learn about aspects of Chinese history and culture in the course of their study.

There are two first-year language courses, one catering for beginners in Chinese and the other for students who have studied Chinese at high school. A first-year course in Chinese civilisation is also offered.
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What skills have our graduates gained?

Through their Chinese degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that are transferrable to a range of careers, including:

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking Chinese
- Oral and written communication skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- A better understanding of the global interactions which shape contemporary society
- Thinking critically, creatively and challenging ideas
- Problem solving skills adaptable to differing contexts
- Research and computing skills

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom through work and other experiences also exist and can deepen your skills set and employability. Work and other experiences can also support and inform learning and skill development in the classroom.

Where have our graduates been employed?

Chinese graduates are found in many sectors including travel, tourism, transport, distribution, importing and exporting services, finance, banking, marketing, sales, public relations and advertising. They also find roles in educational institutions at all levels, media, publishing and entertainment companies, library and information services, and museums.

Chinese graduates are in high demand by local and central government, professional and research based organisations, as well as agencies dealing with trade, diplomacy, recruitment and social services. Many Chinese graduates become teachers, lawyers, accountants, engineers, business managers, and administrators.

Many UC students combine the study of Chinese with another degree in Law, Science or Engineering to enhance their career opportunities.

For more examples of employers who recruit UC students and graduates go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

For more information about UC student and graduate opportunities, go to UC CareerHub: www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz
What jobs and activities do our graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs including teacher, interpreter and a range of tourism roles.

Some of the jobs listed may require further study at postgraduate level. Postgraduate study can contribute to your employability. It enables you to extend your knowledge and skills, indicates your motivation and ability to persevere at a high level academically and can make you more competitive in the job market. Postgraduate study may be a prerequisite for certain jobs.

**Interpreter**
- Translates spoken language from one language to another, often simultaneously
- Maintains current knowledge of language trends

**Translator**
- Conveys the content of the source text into the target language
- Researches terminology or technical words
- Often works collaboratively as part of a team of translators

**Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)**
- Develop students’ reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and their understanding of how English works
- Works as a freelance language teacher working one-on-one with child or adult students
- Teaches local social and cultural norms to new immigrants

**Import/export broker**
- Assists with marketing activities
- Investigates and assesses overseas demand for goods
- Develops export/import networks and customer relationships

**Secondary school teacher**
- Prepares and delivers instructional activities and lessons in specialised subjects
- Observes and evaluates performance in order to provide feedback
- Develops and marks tests and assessments

**Policy analyst**
- Researches and analyses information to assist in policy planning and development
- Reviews and interprets existing policies
- Prepares and presents reports

**Tourism marketing officer**
- Researches consumer market and interests
- Manages customer networks and relationships
- Creates and maintains corporate brands and advertising media

**Travel agent**
- Provides travel advice
- Makes bookings
- Organises conferences

Entrepreneurship and innovation are increasingly becoming an important part of the world of work and should be considered as a career option. For more information about UC student innovation & entrepreneurship, related internships, scholarships, courses and activities go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

For further information on job titles, please see the latest UC Graduate Destinations Survey (www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)

For additional graduate destination information go to www.graduatecareers.com.au or www.prospects.ac.uk

What professional bodies and organisations do our students and graduates link to?

As they progress in their studies and into a career, our students and graduates often join professional bodies specific to their area of interest. These organisations offer graduates the opportunity to network and collaborate with others within the same community. Other relevant organisations are also listed.

- Export New Zealand (www.exportnz.org.nz)
- New Zealand Association of Language Teachers (www.nzalt.org.nz)
- New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters Inc (www.nzsti.org)
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Aotearoa New Zealand (www.tesolanz.org.nz)
- International Institute of Business Analysis (www.iiba.org)
- Social media networks, such as LinkedIn (including LinkedIn groups), Facebook and Twitter can provide avenues for students and graduates to keep up-to-date with current industry knowledge and ‘best practice’, networking opportunities, industry-related events and job vacancies.

What further study can I do after my degree?

It is possible to study at postgraduate and graduate level in subjects both directly and indirectly related to your degree. For a list of postgraduate and graduate study options, go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Related courses of study include the honours degree, and studies at masters and PhD level. It is also possible to do further studies in Chinese language and culture at universities in China. There are scholarships available from Asia 2000 Foundation each year.

Many Arts graduates do additional training in, for example, teaching, library, journalism or management or do double degrees with law or business subjects.

Postgraduate study can also lead to an academic career pathway in teaching and research. Carefully consider your motivation for study, how it fits in with your long-term career plans and whether it is likely to enhance your employment prospects.
These are not his only languages, however – he was first exposed to Russian while on a 10-month AFS student exchange programme in Hungary. ‘My host mother was an English and Russian teacher. I learned a lot of Russian from her and from the teachers at the school I attended. I can also speak and write semi-fluent Hungarian.’

Ewen chose to study at Canterbury ‘because it offered an ideal modern languages department… My classes are quite small and that makes for more enjoyable learning as opposed to hugely populated classrooms,’ he says.

‘All the teachers that I have had throughout my degree have been very helpful and resourceful.’

UC has recently set up a new exchange programme with the Lomonosov Moscow State University, and Ewen was one of the first students to take part. He spent five months in Moscow completing papers for his Honours degree, an experience he describes as ‘incredible’.

Originally from Colyton in the Manawatu, he adds: ‘Coming to UC was also a chance to experience student life away from home and to meet new people… The student lifestyle has been very entertaining, especially living with a great bunch of mates. Outside study, I would go to the gym and occasionally go for runs, watch the rugby, and spend time drinking with mates, riding dirtbikes and playing my guitar.’

As for the future, Ewen plans to take a master’s degree in international relations, before launching a career in that field.

‘I hope to have a career that will involve using my languages and representing New Zealand overseas.’