

Best Preparation for University

What subjects should I take at school?

This is a guide to the school subjects that are useful preparation if you want to study certain subjects at University.

Most subjects do not require a specific background from school. For other subjects it may take you longer to complete the degree without the suggested background.

For all subjects and qualifications students need to be competent in the use and understanding of written and spoken English. Subjects such as English, Classics, History, Geography or Economics are useful in learning these key skills.

Detailed information on each subject can be found in UC's Undergraduate Prospectus or at www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects

If you do not have a strong background in certain science subjects Science Headstart Preparatory courses are available each summer prior to enrolment to help you. For more information visit www.cbe.canterbury.ac.nz/bridging/headstart

If you have any questions about preparing for university study you should discuss them with your school careers adviser or a member of the University of Canterbury Liaison Team (freephone in NZ 0800 103 109).

Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Any Arts subject can be started at first-year university level without previous study, but subjects such as Classics, English, History, Geography or Economics are useful.

- **Economics:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **English:** English is extremely useful
- **Languages:** A background is useful, but not essential as beginner courses are available
- **Management Science:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **Mathematics:** Mathematics with Calculus is strongly recommended. Statistics and Modelling is also extremely useful
- **Social Science subjects:** Statistics and Modelling is useful
- **Statistics:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended



- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)

Any Commerce subject can be started at first-year university level. Previous study of Accounting and Economics is useful but not required. A good standard of oral and written English communication is important for all Commerce subjects. Mathematics with Calculus and/or Statistics and Modelling are recommended for all Commerce subjects. In addition for the following majors:

- **Economics and/or Finance:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **International Business:** A background in a foreign language is beneficial, but not essential as beginner courses are available

Bachelor of Education (Physical Education)

- Biology, English and Physical Education are extremely useful
- A good background in another academic subject is useful as students must also specialise in a second teaching subject in their degree
- Involvement and interest in working with

- young people and physical activity is helpful
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (BE(Hons))

- Mathematics with Calculus, Physics and Chemistry are all essential
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.
- Direct Entry to either 200-level courses or First Professional Year (Year 2) is possible with excellent Level 3 results.

Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

- Excellent practical art ability is essential
- Two Practical Art subjects are strongly recommended (Note: Graphics is not considered a Practical Art subject)
- A background in Art Theory and Art History is useful
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Forestry Science (BForSc)

- Biology, Chemistry and Statistics and Modelling are extremely useful

- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

- A good standard of oral and written English is important as Law requires excellent language skills including the ability to express yourself in writing
- Subjects like Art History, English, Drama, Economics, Māori, Languages, History and Classical Studies give students good writing, research and analytical skills which are extremely useful
- No prior knowledge of law is assumed.

Bachelor of Music (MusB)

- **Music** to NCEA Level 3 or equivalent is essential for most courses
- **Composition:** good musical literacy and notational skills are required, previous experience in the writing and performance of your own music is recommended
- **Performance Music:** a strong theoretical and practical musical background is essential
- Excellent academic skills are required
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

- **Biochemistry:** Biology and Chemistry are recommended. Physics, Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are useful
- **Biology:** Biology is recommended. Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are useful
- **Chemistry:** a background in Chemistry is strongly recommended, Biology, Physics, Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are useful
- **Computer Science:** Mathematics with Calculus and/or Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **Economics:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **Finance:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **Management Science:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- **Mathematics:** Mathematics with Calculus is strongly recommended. Statistics and Modelling is also extremely useful
- **Physics (including Astrophysics):** Physics and Mathematics with Calculus are essential
- **Statistics:** Mathematics with Calculus, and Statistics and Modelling are strongly recommended
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.



Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

- Any Arts or Social Science subject such as English, Classics, History, Geography or Economics is useful
- Statistics and Modelling is useful for advanced study
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Speech and Language Pathology (BSLT)

- Biology is recommended
- English or Māori is useful
- A science background to at least NCEA Level 2 is strongly recommended
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Sport Coaching (BSpC)

- Biology and Physical Education are useful
- English or another subject demonstrating good communication skills is very useful
- Community involvement, coaching, refereeing, people skills and experience in dealing with young people is very useful
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood) (BTChLn(EarlyChildhood))

- Early Childhood teaching is a full academic degree that requires excellent preparation
- English, Mathematics and Māori are extremely useful

- Science to at least Level 2 is extremely useful
- Community involvement, people skills and experience in dealing with children is very useful
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Primary) (BTChLn(Primary))

- Primary teaching is a full academic degree that requires excellent preparation
- English, Mathematics and Māori are extremely useful
- Science to at least Level 2 is extremely useful
- Community involvement, people skills and experience in dealing with children is very useful
- A good standard of oral and written communication is important.

Contact

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This information was correct at the time of printing and is subject to change.

Check www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison/best_prep.shtml for the most up-to-date information.