



Experimental cages in ponds near the Cass field station. Photographer: Hamish Greig.

University of Canterbury

The University of Canterbury is one of the most prestigious universities in New Zealand, founded in 1873 by scholars from Oxford and Cambridge. Over the subsequent 138 years the University has developed an international reputation for academic excellence in both teaching and research. It is an internationally known and top-ranked research university.

The University is set in a spacious suburban campus. Lecture theatres, research centres, libraries, laboratories, studios, computer workrooms, halls of residence and a host of other student services and facilities are all located on one site.

The University of Canterbury operates BlueFern, a High Performance Computing (HPC) facility available to staff and students. It is also home to NZi3, the National Information and Communications Technology Innovation Institute, a national teaching and research facility.

The University has the most extensive network of field stations of any New Zealand university, including stations at Kaikoura, Cass (pictured above), Westport, Harihari (South Westland), the sub-Antarctic Snares Islands and Antarctica, and New Zealand's premier astronomical research facility at Mount John, Tekapo. We also operate a field



station in Nigeria as part of the Nigerian Montane Forest Project. These field stations offer a wealth of fieldwork opportunities for postgraduate students.

The University's Central Library is the largest library in the South Island. It is supplemented by five specialist libraries in other parts of the campus. Specialist information librarians are available to help students find research materials in all formats and for one-on-one consultations. Five computer suites, each equipped with the latest technology, are open 24 hours for student use.



'Everything about UC's College of Education has been wonderful. It is the best place for me to fulfil my academic dreams.'

Alice Wong
Studying towards a PhD in Education

Christchurch, New Zealand

Christchurch is an ethnically diverse city offering an exciting and easy lifestyle for students. With a population of almost 400,000, Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island and the second largest in the country.

Located on the east coast and near the Southern Alps, the city is close to both the sea and the mountains, offering a huge range of recreational options.

Christchurch is a very accessible city with an international airport providing direct flights to New Zealand and international centres just 10 minutes drive from the University.

Christchurch is currently undergoing a major rebuilding so students attending UC have an opportunity to be part of a moment in history as the city transforms itself into one of the world's most modern and sustainable cities.

Home to a number of key sectors including engineering, biotechnology, electronics, software engineering, agriculture, education, forestry, nutraceuticals, Antarctic research and tourism, Canterbury is a leading centre for innovation, research and technology.

The University is just minutes away from the cafes and bars in Riccarton and the largest shopping mall in the South Island.

From the city it is only a short drive to the rugged beauty of Banks Peninsula, the historic French town of Akaroa, the



thermal resort town of Hanmer Springs, the mountains and bush of Arthurs Pass National Park, and the seaside settlement of Kaikoura for whale watching.

The best thing about being a student in Christchurch is that you become a member of an amazing student body with an international reputation for its generous community spirit.

More information

Postgraduate Office
postgraduate-office@canterbury.ac.nz
www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgrad



PhD programme



PhD student John Stowers uses a small helicopter as part of his research into unpiloted aerial vehicles.

University of Canterbury PhD programme

The University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, invites applications from students to undertake PhD research.

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) involves extensive, sustained and original research in a subject of your choice with the results being presented in a thesis. A PhD is normally the highest academic qualification available. It is a mark of intellectual ability and independence, critical thinking, self-discipline and commitment. A PhD prepares you for an academic career, as well as many other career opportunities.

A PhD thesis must meet recognised international standards and present results that make a significant contribution to the discipline of the field of study. PhD research is carried out under expert supervision. The University of Canterbury offers its PhD in *81 subjects.

Doctoral enrolment can occur on the first day of any month. PhD study is regarded as a full-time occupation throughout the calendar year. The minimum period for full-time PhD enrolment is two years, with completion normally within four years. There is provision to apply for part-time study, with a minimum enrolment period of three years and completion within seven years.

For PhD regulations and guidelines go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgrad

How to apply

To be eligible to enter UC's PhD programme, you must have gained a research-focused honours or master's degree with good grades. Students who hold qualifications gained outside of New Zealand will need to apply for ad eundem statum, in order to have their overseas qualifications assessed. In exceptional circumstances applicants without the typical academic background, who can demonstrate the ability to pursue a PhD, may be eligible for enrolment at the discretion of the Dean of Postgraduate Research.

Prior to applying for entry to the PhD programme, you should contact a potential supervisor to ensure that the University has expertise in your intended area of research.

*For a full list of PhD subjects go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses/grad_postgrad/phd.shtml

A list of staff members and their research interests can be found on the department pages of the University's website and via the UC Spark website at www.canterbury.ac.nz/spark

To apply for entry into UC's PhD programme, download the relevant enrolment form from www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgrad

You will need to provide the specified documentation with your application, most importantly a brief outline of your proposed research. This enables the relevant department to assess whether they can provide suitable supervision and resources to support your area of research.

International students

The University of Canterbury has a diverse student body with PhD students from over 60 nations. UC's international students are provided with a wide range of services. These include transport from the airport, assistance with finding suitable accommodation, an orientation programme for new students, use of an on-campus health centre, a mentoring programme, friendship linkages with New Zealand families and assistance with English language.

For more information about UC's services for international students go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/support

English Language requirements

International students are required to provide evidence of their English language proficiency. The University only accepts TOEFL, IELTS and Cambridge English Test results which are no more than two years old. Below are the minimum English language levels which students require to successfully complete their studies.

- IELTS test – a score of 7.0 or above with no section lower than 6.5;
- TOEFL internet test – a score of 100 or above (minimum scores of 23 Listening, 23 Reading and 22 Writing);
- Cambridge CPE - a score of 8.0 or above.



'The contacts that I made during my postgraduate studies have been invaluable during my career since.'

Nick Murray

*Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
PhD in Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Senior Transmission Engineer,
Mighty River Power*

Scholarships

The University offers a number of scholarships to support PhD students.

The UC Doctoral Scholarships are awarded twice each year, in May and October. Other scholarships and grants are available to PhD students to assist with specific research costs and with travel either to conduct research or to attend International conferences.

For more information about doctoral scholarships and other grants go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships

Many PhD students also manage to obtain some teaching assistant (TA) or research assistant (RA) work within their academic department.

Support services

The University of Canterbury offers a range of excellent support services to assist students to survive and thrive at university.

These include academic orientation, study skills courses, career guidance and specialist services for Māori, Pacific and international students and students with disabilities. The UC Mentoring programme is designed to help new students adjust to university life. Child care, health care and recreation facilities are also available on campus.

The students' association (UCSA) is both politically and socially active and supports a huge range of clubs, and organises regular festivals and campus entertainment.



The Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) works closely with the Postgraduate Office to organise workshops, seminars and social events for postgraduate students. Events include the annual Postgraduate Conference and the Postgraduate Ball. These are great opportunities for you to meet and socialise with other postgraduate students from across the University's disciplines.