

Research and resources



UC was established in 1873 by scholars from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

It is ranked in the top 3% of universities worldwide with a global reputation for innovation and cutting-edge research.

Centres of research excellence

The University hosts three national research institutes — the Biomolecular Interaction Centre, the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour and the Quake Centre — and more than 25 research centres. See www.research.canterbury.ac.nz/rescentres.shtml

Research facilities

UC has a number of unique research facilities including a new Structural Engineering Laboratory, the High Voltage Laboratory, the Electron Microscopy Unit and the VisionSpace Virtual Reality Facility.

UC hosts high-performance computer facilities and NZi3, a research institute linking UC researchers with industry partners including Microsoft, IBM and HP.

Our University operates five coastal and mountain field stations, including the Mount John Astronomical Observatory which is part of the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. UC has a presence at New Zealand's Scott Base in Antarctica, is a Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) partner, and operates a field station in Nigeria as part of the Nigerian Montane Forest project.

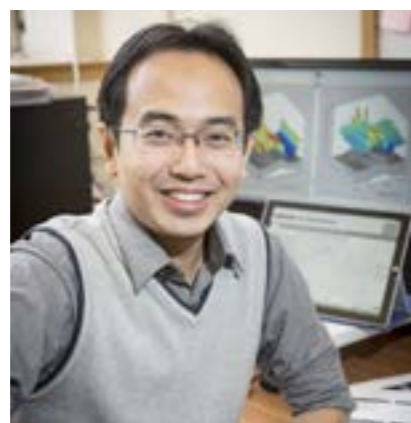
The University also houses the Logie Collection, an internationally recognised

collection of ancient artefacts, and a heritage collection including 100,000 Māori resources.

UC Library

The UC Library has a research collection of more than 1.9 million items, has access to over 45,000 periodicals (paper and electronic) and is accessible 24/7 online.

Dedicated librarians in UC's four libraries can assist you with a number of specialist materials and research updates. Find out more at www.library.canterbury.ac.nz



'The academics here are very knowledgeable and helpful. They are the leading experts in their field — I have learned a lot from them.'

Yeong Shiong Chiew

PhD in Mechanical Engineering; Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Canterbury

UC campus and beyond



UC offers a campus lifestyle with plenty of amenities, facilities and events on site.

A great place to study

The university is set on a spacious, tree-filled campus with lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories, computer suites, cafés and restaurants, a health centre and pharmacy, recreation facilities, childcare centres, bank machines and an art gallery.

UC has a lively and cosmopolitan community with approximately 16,000 students from over 80 different countries.

Support services

UC offers a range of excellent support services to assist PhD students, including specific orientations, mentoring, and career guidance.

Specialist services are available for Māori, Pacific and international students, and for students with disabilities.



UC can also assist with finding accommodation both on and off campus. Visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/accom

The Postgraduate Students' Association (PGSA) provides social support and organise events to help you meet other students.

For more information, see www.canterbury.ac.nz/future-students/get-the-support-you-need

Lots to see and do

Set in an innovative city, the largest in the South Island, Christchurch is an ideal place for those who enjoy urban life whilst being close to the outdoors.

By car or bus, UC's campus is 15 minutes from the city centre, 25 minutes from the city's beaches and 10 minutes from Christchurch International Airport.

Thermal hot springs, glacial lakes, seaside towns, forests, mountains and ski fields are all within a two hour drive of campus.

'My PhD has allowed me to stay up-to-date and be more reflective. I love that my research directly impacts on my job and I'm definitely a better educator as a result.'

Nicolette Paul

Studying towards a PhD in Music Intermediate and Junior Secondary Teacher, Christchurch

2016 PhD Information
Postgraduate Office

Research.





Achieving a PhD at UC

The University of Canterbury (UC) Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha has a thriving postgraduate research community, with over 800 PhD students from 60 nations studying across 80 disciplines. We invite you to join us!

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (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 students for a number of advanced careers.

What makes up a UC PhD?

Our PhD is a research-only degree (no coursework component), carried out under academic supervision and utilising world-leading facilities.

At UC you can gain a PhD in over 80 subjects within the Colleges of Arts; Business and Law; Education, Health and Human Development; Engineering; and Science (listed below).

In addition, we also provide you with the opportunity to gain further, transferable skills, to prepare you for a successful career

after completing your PhD, whatever that career may be. There is a wide range of skills workshops, focusing on communicating your research, networking, career planning, database skills and statistical analysis.

PhD study is normally a full-time occupation. The minimum period of enrolment is two years and students should normally complete the degree within four years. There is provision to apply for part-time study, in which case the minimum period of enrolment is three years and the maximum is seven years.*

International students

Completing a PhD as an international student in New Zealand offers you and your family a number of benefits:

- you are eligible to pay PhD tuition fees at the domestic rate, provided that you reside in New Zealand on a student visa
- your spouse or partner is eligible to apply for an open work permit valid for the duration of your course of study
- your dependent children are exempt from international school fees at state schools
- you are eligible to apply for a 12-month open work visa after graduation.

Visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/international

PhD subjects

- Accounting
- Antarctic Studies
- Anthropology
- Applied Psychology
- Art History
- Art Theory
- Astronomy
- Audiology
- Biochemistry
- Bioengineering
- Biological Sciences
- Biotechnology
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Chemical and Process Engineering
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Civil Engineering
- Classics
- Computational and Applied Mathematical Sciences
- Computer Science
- Cultural Studies
- Disaster, Risk and Resilience
- Earthquake Engineering
- Ecology
- Economics
- Education
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Engineering Geology
- Engineering Management
- English
- Environmental Science
- European Studies
- Evolutionary Biology
- Finance
- Fire Engineering
- Forest Engineering
- Forestry
- French
- Geography
- German
- Health Sciences
- Higher Education
- History
- Human Interface Technology
- Human Services
- Information Systems
- Japanese
- Journalism
- Law
- Linguistics
- Management
- Māori
- Marketing
- Mathematical Physics
- Mathematics
- Mathematics and Philosophy
- Mechanical Engineering
- Media and Communication
- Medical Physics
- Medical Physics (Clinical)
- Microbiology
- Music
- Pacific Studies
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Plant Biology
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Russian
- Science Education
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Speech and Language Sciences
- Statistics
- Taxation
- Transportation Engineering
- Water Resource Management
- Zoology

* Approval for international students to study part-time is only granted in exceptional circumstances and has implications on the status of their student visa.

Who are we looking for?

We invite applications from motivated students.

Entry requirements

Enrolment in a PhD requires completion of an honours or master's degree to a high standard (typically first-class or second-class division one). To enter directly into a PhD programme, you must have completed an independent research project/dissertation or thesis as part of your previous degree(s).

Applicants with qualifications from outside New Zealand must have been granted admission to the University. Our Admissions Team, in consultation with the host department, look at your qualifications and transcripts to ensure that you have the background required to complete a PhD. It is possible that you may be required to complete preparatory courses prior to or after admission into a PhD programme. In exceptional circumstances applicants without the typical academic background but who can demonstrate the ability to pursue a PhD may be admitted at the discretion of the Dean of Postgraduate Research.

How to apply

The application form can be downloaded from www.canterbury.ac.nz/admissions/forms

Supervision

Before submitting your application form, you must have been in contact with a potential senior supervisor who supports your application. Senior supervisors must be members of the academic staff at UC. Support from a supervisor does not guarantee admission to the PhD programme but applications will not be considered if a supervisor has not been approached and indicated their support.

Over 500 academics at UC have expertise in a large variety of topics. To identify experts in a given area, look at the research interests of academic staff on the University web page www.canterbury.ac.nz/deptcentres.shtml or the UC research directory UC Spark www.canterbury.ac.nz/spark

Potential supervisors are happy to be contacted directly to discuss potential research topics and availability as supervisors. If you are unable to contact a

potential supervisor then please contact the Dean of Postgraduate Research (postgraduate-office@canterbury.ac.nz) who may be able to assist.

English language

Prospective international students who have not completed their tertiary qualifications in the English language are required to provide evidence of their English language proficiency by means of an English language test result that is no more than two years old. We accept the IELTS (Academic) test – with an overall score of 6.5 or higher and no section lower than 6.0 – and the TOEFL Internet test – with a score of 90 or higher, and a minimum score of 20 for Writing. Other tests may be accepted on application. For further information see www.canterbury.ac.nz/admissions/international/english.shtml

Applying for admission

You can apply for admission prior to completing your qualifying degree and be given an offer of place, conditional on your satisfactory completion of the qualifying degree.

If you are an international student you can apply for admission prior to completing the English test but your offer of place would be conditional on meeting those English language requirements prior to enrolment.

Funding your study: UC Scholarships

There are a number of scholarships available to support PhD students at UC. These include UC Doctoral Scholarships that are awarded twice each year, with applications due in May and October. In addition there are a number of scholarships and grants 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 go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships

More information

E: postgraduate-office@canterbury.ac.nz
www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgrad
www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations

Cover image:

Eruera Prendergast-Tarena (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau-a-Apanui), completed his PhD in Management in 2014. Supported by a Doctoral Scholarship and a Fulbright Indigenous Scholar Award, Eruera's thesis on indigenous organisational design involved comparative work in New Zealand and the USA. See page 20 of the 2014 Research Report for an article about Eruera's investigation (www.research.canterbury.ac.nz/researchreport).

This image:

PhD student **Kathryn Darling** and **Professor Deak Helton** (Psychology) investigated memory and communication when rock climbing and showed that cognitive overload could affect search and rescue attempts in this environment.