

University of Canterbury MBA Programme



Empowering professional and personal growth



Business School
Te Kura Umanga





“The co-teaching model utilised by UC’s MBA particularly appeals to professionals who are looking to bridge the gap between academic theory and business practice. It is ideal for those who value the application of learning in real-world settings and who seek to gain practical insights directly from industry leaders alongside academic learning. This approach enhances the programme’s ability to produce well-rounded business leaders who are prepared to navigate and lead in today’s complex and evolving business environment”.

Associate Professor Elsamari Botha, MBA Director



Developing Impactful Leaders

By bridging world-class education with deep industry insights, the University of Canterbury’s (UC) MBA shapes the mindsets and skillsets of leaders, readying them to make a difference and navigate contemporary business landscapes. Focusing on academic excellence, industry integration, future-focused leadership development, and student-centric experiences, the UC MBA caters to individuals seeking a comprehensive, globally recognised, industry-aligned business education. With its renowned reputation, world-class lecturers and industry experts, the UC MBA attracts the most able and ambitious students from around the world. A diverse staff and student body lends the programme a wide range of perspectives that enriches learning and further prepares students to have impact in their communities and organisations.

Triple Crown Accreditation

The UC MBA is accredited by AMBA, the global standard for MBAs. Only the top two percent of business schools internationally offer AMBA-accredited programmes. Te Kura Umanga | UC Business School is also accredited by AACSB and EQUIS. Only one percent of business schools in the world have attained all three.



Flexible and Accessible

The UC MBA is a one-of-a-kind programme that offers hybrid learning, with meaningful, on-campus experiences. Students have the flexibility to learn in the way that suits their lives best, from wherever they're based in New Zealand. All classes are made available both on campus and virtually.

The MBA can be completed in 18 months full-time, or up to 5 years part-time. This flexibility appeals to a wide range of full-time professionals, and those looking to make a career change.

The Most Industry-Integrated MBA in New Zealand

The programme's unique co-teaching model involves both an academic and an industry expert co-teaching each class. This ensures an industry-focused curriculum that combines theoretical knowledge with practical, real-world insight, making learnings immediately applicable to students' work environments.

The UC MBA is focused on industry-integration and delivering industry-relevant skills, achieved through networking events, in-class projects that are geared towards solving real-world problems and the capstone course in which students conduct a consulting project for a real client.

Internationally Connected

Through our network of other accredited MBA programmes globally, UC MBA students can not only participate in the International Study Tour, but also engage with other accredited Business Schools world-wide in exchanges and short courses.

An Immersive, Lifelong Learning Experience

Leadership sits at the heart of the UC MBA programme, crafted to bring together a diverse set of people and provide an immersive learning experience, including:

- Career and professional development is personalised to each student and their unique circumstances through one-on-one coaching sessions with top leadership coaches.
- Partnerships with governance and leadership bodies like the Institute of Directors NZ and Governance NZ offer unique opportunities for all UC MBA students and graduates.

- Topical industry discussions are held quarterly with the UC MBA 'Thought Leadership' series, the UC MBA and Executive Education Masterclass series, and UC MBA-focused breakfasts and social events.
- Upon completion of their MBA, students will be part of an exclusive network of alumni.
- A UC MBA Graduate Association membership provides access to lifelong learning and networking opportunities upon graduation.

One-of-a-Kind Alumni Benefit

UC MBA alumni can enrol in one free course each year through UC's Commitment to Continuous Learning (CCL) programme. A first for any New Zealand MBA. One free course per year provides an opportunity to stay up to date with the latest emerging trends and growth areas while upskilling the knowledge and expertise developed through MBA study.

Unique Course Offerings for Both "Fundamental" and Contemporary Business Contexts

The UC MBA was redesigned in 2019 to closely align with contemporary business needs, ensuring it includes both progressive and core global MBA content. This makes it an excellent choice for individuals seeking a modern, forward-thinking approach to business education.

With a range of electives and unique course offerings such as Digital Transformation, Marketing and Strategic Intelligence, and Agile and Innovation-driven Leadership, the UC MBA is well-suited for individuals interested in specific, cutting-edge areas of business management.

Scholarship Opportunities

There are UC scholarships available which help make the programme more accessible for rising talent who might be financially constrained. Our most prestigious scholarship, The Ben Gough Family Foundation Leaders Scholarship supports rising talent to undertake their MBA with the University of Canterbury. In addition, students can gain access to an exclusive leadership programme that will accelerate their growth as a leader and expand their thinking. Through



Is the UC MBA Right for You?

MBA Director Elsamar Botha says the UC MBA primarily appeals to aspiring and accomplished business leaders who are looking to upskill or make a career change through postgraduate study and gain relevant business connections and experiences.

“The majority of our students are doing this while working at the same time. It’s suitable for those with at least five years of work experience, with or without an undergraduate degree, who have a desire to be part of a globally recognised programme that focuses on innovation, digital transformation, and responsible leadership.”

its founders Ben and Penny Gough, The Ben Gough Family Foundation is committed to growing the capacity of Aotearoa New Zealand's business leaders.

Programme Structure

The UC MBA is structured in four core phases. As students progress through the programme, they will build upon each previous phase to result in a comprehensive degree that prepares them to be impactful leaders.

Course Descriptions

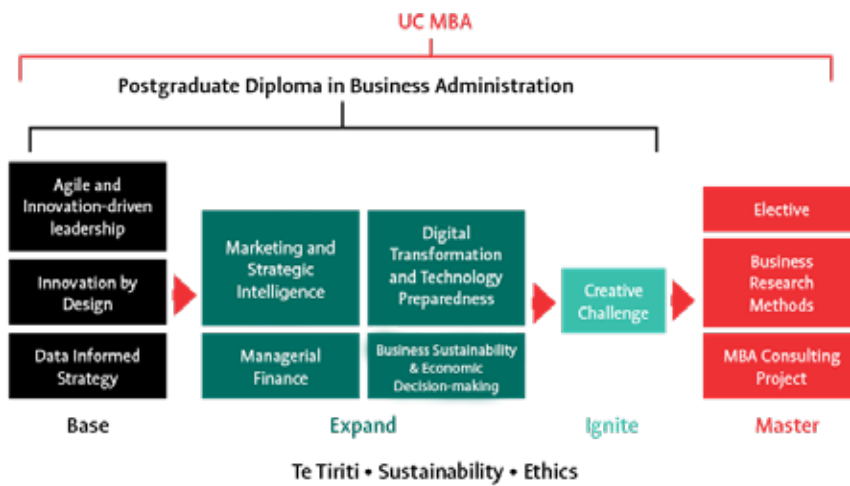
Base

MBAM610 Agile and Innovation-driven Leadership (15 points)

Contemporary leaders need new capabilities and mindsets for creating work-groups that can seize opportunities, overcome challenges, and create new value. These leaders build engaged, high performing teams that are characterised by rapid learning, resilience and innovation. This course provides leadership development through a blend of personal assessments, practice-related activities, reflection, coaching, and input from practising leaders. The goal is to promote leadership skills and self-awareness that equip students for an ongoing journey of growth and development as future leaders.

MBAM604 Data Informed Strategy (15 points)

Strategy is about making purposeful, explicit choices on how to build a sustainable competitive advantage and sustainable long-term profitability or impact. In this course, we will discuss various ways of thinking about organisational strategies, what tools are available to guide your thinking, and the importance of data and analytics for both the selection and implementation of such strategies. This course will prepare students to think strategically, to ask the right questions, to identify what data is needed to answer those questions, and how to transform data into meaningful insights in order to support decision-making.



MBAM603 Innovation by Design (15 points)

The human-centred design thinking approach is a people centric, collaborative, and experimental way of driving innovation to create customer value. It is a pragmatic approach that aims to nurture deep curiosity about an issue, unleash creativity in how to approach it, and ensure clarity when it comes to implementing solutions.

Expand

MBAM601 Digital Transformation and Technology Preparedness (15 points)

Organisations find themselves in a storm of new technologies and competitors. In collaboration with industry, this course provides hands-on opportunities to engage with the latest technologies such as blockchain, IoT and AI. It will enable students to make decisions on the adoption of the best technologies to support their organisation's digital strategy, delivering a breadth of functions for a superior user/customer experience.

MBAM615 Managerial Finance, Accounting and Governance (15 points)

This course explores how the analysis of a range of financial information is used to enhance managerial decision-making. It will look at how organisations raise capital and assess the performance of projects and investments. The course will provide students with a framework necessary to understand how important financial decisions are determined within a corporation. It will explore how a range of financial information

is used to gain insights and enhance managerial decision-making. The course will also examine how value is created for shareholders and other stakeholders in a firm through investment and financing decisions.

It will look at the ways organisations raise capital and assess the performance of projects and investments. The course will also emphasise cases for good corporate governance practice. The course blends theoretical aspects of managerial finance with industry practice, case studies, discussions, and financial modelling. The emphasis of the course will be on applying the financial concepts, tools, and techniques to solve real-world problems. Some working knowledge of Microsoft Excel will be useful for this course.

MBAM623 Business Sustainability and Economic Decision-Making (15 points)

This course will introduce students to a range of economic and sustainability principles. We discuss how economic principles shape the behaviour of individuals and organisations, and how these principles can help meet policy objectives effectively and efficiently particularly in resource and environmental management. We examine how thinking like an economist can provide a lens through which we can think about and improve the world. Understanding key economic principles like incentives, trade-offs, markets and costs and benefits, means making better organisational decisions, including sustainability ones. The course will also cover the principles of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria, and sustainability within a Māori and indigenous context.



MBAM622 Marketing and Strategic Intelligence (15 points)

Marketing and Strategic Intelligence is designed to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of marketing principles and the strategic application of business insights. Throughout the course, you will delve into the world of marketing principles, market research, and explore various data collection and analysis techniques, with a focus on quantitative methods. Students will gain insights into consumer behaviour, competitive intelligence, and the development of effective marketing strategies, encompassing segmentation, targeting, positioning, biases, and the marketing mix. Students are expected to leverage business, consumer, and market insights to make well-informed, data-driven business decisions. This course develops marketing expertise and cultivates the

ability to synthesise data into meaningful information that can inform business decision-making. As part of preparing students for working in a treaty partnership and equity context, and aligning with the UC Pasifika Strategy, the course facilitates applying marketing principles to ensure the lens and values of the community we're reaching are recognised.

Ignite

MBAM620 Creative Challenge (15 points)

This course focuses on 'students' as the project. Students will be provided with an opportunity to push their own boundaries and challenge their status quo by establishing a stretch goal, planning an intervention to address the challenge, and working to execute it. Students will have the support of a coach throughout the challenge.

Master

MBAM614 Business Research Methods (5 points)

This course prepares students to undertake a business research consulting project. Students will be guided in identifying the scope of a research project based on information required to address a specific business problem.

MBAM680 Consulting Project (45 points)

On completion of the core courses students will apply their knowledge to their MBA Consulting Project. The project involves working with an organisation to address a practical issue of strategic importance and create informed solutions. Students will be required to implement at least one of the proposed recommendations from their project, in consultation with the organisation.



Elective (10 points)

Every year, we offer multiple electives that allow students to master key areas of management and understand emerging trends, including (but not limited to):

MBAM624 Global Business: Advocacy, Influencing and Negotiation (10 points)

This course explores the framework for influencing and negotiation in international business and organisational development. The content incorporates business strategy, management psychology, legal, intellectual property, marketing, and supply chain perspectives. Course activities include seminars and discussions, accompanied by practical experience in preparing for and participating in a range of face-to-face negotiations.



MBAM625 Entrepreneurship (10 points)

The decision to start a business is made hundreds of times each week in New Zealand. In terms of frequency, it is followed by the decision to close a small business. Internationally, New Zealand has a relatively high rate of business start-up, but relatively few of these grow into significant companies. The aim of this course is to develop practical understanding of the opportunities and problems associated with the start-up and subsequent development of small businesses. This includes considering the unique Aotearoa New Zealand cultural, community, and business landscape for risks and opportunities in the start-up sector.

MBAM626 International Study Tour (10 points)

The study tour course focuses on business and strategy in an international context. The study tour incorporates industry visits and cultural experiences that assist in building awareness of the unique environment of international business. Drawing upon international best practice and established international business frameworks, students will deliver a report addressing an international business client's need.

In addition to these electives, we offer special topics throughout the year with international experts from UC's highly regarded Erskine Programme that enable them to come lecture at UC.

***Courses are subject to change. Complete course details will be provided at enrolment or on request.*

No degree? No problem

The UC MBA programme offers a PGDipBA pathway for aspiring and accomplished business leaders with 5+ years of experience, who are ready to take the next step in their career journey. You will attend the core eight courses (120 credits), with the MBA cohort. If you maintain a B average across these courses, you can transfer to the MBA programme to finish the final Master courses. Alternatively, you can graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration.

UC MBA Graduate Stories

UC's MBA produces well-rounded business leaders who are prepared to navigate and lead in today's complex and evolving business landscape.



Paul Dolan was principal of a primary school when he started his UC MBA and is now a business partner for a business consultancy.

“It’s been life changing. I’ve benefited hugely, not only from the lecturers and academic staff, but from my classmates. And I’ve made lifelong friends and business partners as a result of that study.”



Kirsty Tyro found the UC MBA's leadership training vital for giving her a strong sense of self-awareness and perspective in terms of how she leads others.

“It’s definitely put me into a growth mindset, and taught me to operate outside my comfort zone.”

The Ben Gough Family Foundation
Leadership Scholarship Recipient




The UC MBA helped Te Paea Paringatai realise and develop her strengths and see how she could apply them to her real life.


“I can’t put a dollar value on the relationships that I have formed. Every class and paper I did, I was able to relate back to my leadership role. The MBA’s done so much in terms of helping me understand what it is I’m bringing to the table. If you want options, if you want opportunities, then the MBA will enable that to happen.”

Contact us

If you have any questions or are ready to get your application underway, contact our team at mba@canterbury.ac.nz or visit our [website](#).

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