At a Glance

UC is ranked in the top 2% of universities globally

22,734 students enrolled in 2022
2,236 Māori students
670 Pasifika students
1931 International students
50,000+ in UCx MOOCs worldwide

The proportion of graduates in employment or further study was 95.3% in 2022

Our students have rated UC’s Teaching Quality at 90% and the Quality of the Entire Educational Experience at 78%

Our academic staff published 1,765 Scopus research outputs and increased external research funding from $48m to $58m in 2022

$44m invested across teaching, research and other revenue sources in capital expenditure across a range of construction, IT, educational and research projects
Supporting student success

Kia Angitu is UC’s student success programme that focuses on the early experiences of students at UC. It brings together a range of initiatives designed to remove barriers and create an environment that gives students the opportunity to thrive and succeed. The programme pays particular care and attention to the journey of students who are Māori, Pasifika, have disabilities, are first in their whānau to attend university, and students from low-decile schools.

Initiatives include, Analytics for Course Engagement (ACE) which provides real-time information on student engagement with online content; Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALS), a peer-to-peer programme bringing together students in regular study sessions; and Takere, a five-week academic programme and cultural live-in experience for first year Māori and Pacific students before they begin their studies.

Scholarship steers Māori and Pacific students towards academic success

Takere involves a five-week academic and cultural live-in programme and experience staying in a hall of residence over the 2023 summer break with other Māori and Pacific ākonga.

The name Takere comes from the whakatauki (proverb): “E kore e ngaro, he takere waka nui — we will never be lost; we are the hull of a great canoe”. Students are given provisions to store in the takere (hull) of their waka (voyaging vessel), ensuring they are better prepared for their academic journeys. This kaupapa (programme) is about preparing the students academically for tertiary study, while providing them with opportunities to navigate university systems and create relationships with the UC whānau (family) before they start university.
Our unique School of Product Design offers degree courses that combine Science and Engineering, Creative Design and Business. Graduates develop creative ideas and gain the practical business skills needed to commercialise new product ideas, while being respectful to natural resources.

UC also offers the Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability, a three-year degree preparing students to understand ethical, social, business and environmental justice issues that impact sustainability decision-making.

Funding for green hydrogen research given the green light

Five UC researchers’ Smart Ideas projects were funded at around $1 million each, and a Research Programme was funded at $11.8m by the latest Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Endeavour funding round. The funding supports UC projects to improve food security, increase green hydrogen storage, boost productivity of food, and create sustainable, low-carbon, seismically resilient concrete 3D-printed homes all while reducing carbon emissions.

A strong future for New Zealand green hydrogen

UC Civil Systems Engineering Senior Lecturer Dr. Jannik Haas says New Zealand has a wealth of highly renewable energy sources, such as wind farms, hydropower stations and geothermal energy. There’s also largely untapped potential for cost-effective solar farms here with a large amount of land available.

New Zealand also has some energy storage capacity through existing hydropower infrastructure, sustainable energy production through infrastructure such as hydropower plays an important role in making green hydrogen feasible. In combination, these factors make us a very attractive country for meeting the demands of generating green hydrogen, because we would have a steady supply through the different seasons of the year.

Their three-year project — in partnership with one of the leading energy modelling groups in Europe, at the German Aerospace Center (DLR) — last year received $2 million in funding from MBIE and €300,000 (NZ$478,700) from the German Ministry of Education and Research. Read more about the other research projects by following the QR code.

UC’s Commitment to Sustainability

The UC Sustainability Office | Tari Toitū te Talao is an on-campus hub for individuals and groups interested in how they can create positive change and promote sustainable practices within UC and its wider community. The office fosters a culture of people prepared to make a difference in creating socio-ecologically sustainable societies. The team organises events, communicates pathways for change, promotes sustainability, and supports a network of individuals and working groups across campus and the wider community.

Ranked among the top 80 universities globally for the 2023 Time Higher Education Impact Rankings, UC is committed to contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Global Goals are critical to ensure a better future for current and future generations, and for the planet.

UC is a Fair Trade campus recognised by the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand. Our unique School of Product Design offers degree courses that combine Science and Engineering, Creative Design and Business. Graduates develop creative ideas and gain the practical business skills needed to commercialise new product ideas, while being respectful to natural resources.

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About the Vice-Chancellor

Professor Cheryl de la Rey led the University of Pretoria, South Africa’s largest university, for almost 10 years before moving to Ōtautahi Christchurch to take the role of Tumu Whakarae Vice-Chancellor of UC in 2019.

She is known for her visionary, strategic thinking, which she developed as she moved up the academic ranks to Professor of Psychology, followed by 18 years of higher education leadership.

After an academic career in South Africa’s university sector, Professor De la Rey took up her first executive position, executive director at the National Research Foundation. Later she was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town and CEO of the Council on Higher Education.

Professor De la Rey has also served on a number of national and international committees and boards over the years, she is currently Chair for Universities New Zealand and a board member on New Zealand Qualifications Authority. She was vice-chairperson of the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the founding co-chairperson of both the Australia-Africa Universities Network and the South Africa-Japan Universities Forum. She was a board member of the International Council for Science, the University Social Responsibility Network and vice-chairperson of the Talloires Network, an international association of institutions committed to strengthening the civic roles and social responsibilities of higher education.

Office of Treaty Partnership

Kā Waimaero | Ngāi Tahu Centre was established in 2021 to acknowledge mana whenua Treaty partners and is believed to be a first for Aotearoa New Zealand universities. The Centre creates a tangible space that represents the partnership and works directly with the Vice-Chancellor to oversee the implementation of the partnership agreement and provide strong Māori academic leadership on a pan-university basis.

“The University of Canterbury is the sole University that has a Treaty relationship with tangata-whenua. Now that this relationship is established, our duty is to ensure it provides equitable access for Māori and our Pacific relations to a fundamental capital base that underpins our economy and wellbeing — knowledge.”

Professor Te Maire Tau
Ūpoko o Ngāi Tūāhuiriri
Pou Whakarae
Future focused to make a difference in the world

University of Canterbury is proud to offer the foundation of an excellent education and holistic learning experience, while ensuring our students are prepared to succeed and make a positive difference in the world around them.

Supporting tomorrow’s leaders

Celebrations for our 150th Anniversary started early by providing 150 Te Kakau a Māui scholarships, to cover full undergraduate studies. Our kaupapa (purpose) for this programme is about recognising that potential to be a future leader extends beyond academic success to values, skills and passion to make a difference to our communities. We need a broad range of talent and we as a university want to nurture that talent, provide mentoring and support to our scholarship students, and back them all the way.

Online learning

UC is committed to delivering accessible, flexible, lifelong learning opportunities for all. As part of this commitment, UC has recently launched a number of free Massive Open Online Courses and will continue to add new courses to this list. UC is also focusing on developing micro-credentials (short courses focusing on in demand, industry knowledge and skills) and full programmes that can be taken wholly or substantially online.

Work-integrated learning

At UC, students have the opportunity to turn theory into practice, by applying and building skills in real-world contexts with an internship or placement. Internships and placements are offered in many subjects including Arts, Education, Engineering, and Commerce. UC’s Faculties and Schools co-ordinate a range of internship, work experience and work-integrated learning opportunities.

UCx MicroMasters build skills for better workplaces

A free online learning resource, UC’s MicroMasters programme provides valuable insights into recruitment, performance and motivation at work, leadership, supporting employee wellbeing, and organisational change and innovation. People can enrol at any time, progress at their own speed and, for a fee, can choose to have their work certified. The only Organizational Psychology MicroMasters programme available on edX, it was specifically created to fill global demand.

Authentic learning and research on location

The University of Canterbury has an extensive network of field stations with a mandate for field services to provide quality opportunities for site specific teaching/learning and research.

The Cass Mountain Research Area consists of 1775 hectares of eastern South Island mountain land located in the Cass River basin, upper Waimakariri River catchment, North Canterbury. Sometimes referred to as the Cass Field Station or as the Cass Scientific Reserve, the research area is wholly owned and operated by UC. It is located on part of the land that was given to UC by the then Provincial Government as an endowment for the promotion of higher education. Its main purpose is to provide research and learning opportunities for UC staff and students.

The Westport Field Station is in the Westport township. The West Coast region is an area never more than 40 kilometres wide between the mountains and the Tasman Sea. It contains a geological wonderland of limestone forms and other curious rocks and is the only region in New Zealand where high quality bituminous coal is found. The region also offers a rich variety of ecological habitats.

The University of Canterbury Mount John Observatory is run by the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences at UC for the use of staff and students. Lake Tekapo’s spectacular, unpolluted night skies attract visitors from all over the world, as the location provides outstanding conditions for observations and discoveries of the southern sky. #darkskyreserve