

What can I do with a degree in Criminal Justice?

Criminal Justice.



Career planning: what do I need to know?

Knowledge of yourself is important for career decision making. Start by looking at your personal goals, abilities, values and interests to explore study and career options that are relevant to you. Some of these may change over time, so it is important to self-reflect and evaluate your career on an ongoing basis.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness and teamwork. With technology and globalisation changing the nature of society, skills such as resilience, problem solving and adaptability are valuable at work as well as in life.

How can I develop these skills?

- Some skills are developed through your degree

- Extra-curricular activities can help, for example getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities. Whether it is undertaking an internship, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group – these activities will enhance your employability.

What else should I know?

The career options in this brochure are examples only and the list is not exhaustive. Some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional work experience. Some pathways and degrees have a recommended school background. Find more subject details at

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/law/criminal-justice

If this brochure does not answer your questions, talking to an expert such as a career consultant can help you to identify the next steps in your career decision making journey.

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

What is Criminal Justice?

Criminal Justice looks at the criminal justice process and the treatment of offenders and victims. It is a multidisciplinary field of study which seeks to fill roles across the sector including policing, courts, corrections and community initiatives.

Criminology, which is a subset within Criminal Justice, primarily focuses on the theory and sociology of crime and is often less concerned with practical issues. Criminal Justice, however, builds on academic theories of crime and its causes, before going on to assess the criminal justice process itself; the law, policies and institutions that make up this system.



Orientation Day 2021

AT A GLANCE

10097

Department of Corrections employees in Aotearoa New Zealand, 3% more than in 2019*

4101

Ministry of Justice employees in Aotearoa New Zealand, 68.8% of these are female**

14172

NZ Police employees in Aotearoa New Zealand with 28% of whom work in roles other than sworn officers***

* https://www.corrections.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/42273/Annual_Report_2019_2020.pdf

** <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/MOJ-2019-2020-Annual-Report.pdf>

*** [www.https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/annual-report-2019-2020.pdf](https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/publications/annual-report-2019-2020.pdf)

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their degree, Criminal Justice graduates develop valuable abilities that are transferable to a range of careers. These skills include:

- Applying a sense of justice and basic principles of fairness
- Problem solving and decision making adaptable to different contexts
- Understanding the core principles of Aotearoa New Zealand criminal law
- Understanding the causes and correlations of crime
- Understanding the principles of criminal justice and corrections
- Oral and written communication
- Presentation ability
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Indigenous and cross-cultural awareness
- Research and computing.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available in this degree, through internships and fieldtrips. These experiences deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

Where might graduates be employed?

A degree in Criminal Justice could prepare you for careers in all aspects of criminal justice, in particular, roles within organisations such as:

- New Zealand Police – employs over 14,000 people. Criminal Justice graduates can work in intelligence, policy analysis, communications, crime prevention or as a constable.
- Ministry of Justice – employs over 3,000 people delivering justice services. Criminal Justice graduates can work in everything from operational services to coronial services.
- Department of Corrections – a diverse mix of frontline and office roles across prisons and community corrections facilities to protect the public and reduce reoffending.

Your degree is also likely to be applicable to:

- Criminal justice policy
- Restorative justice
- Courts and legal services
- Offender rehabilitation
- Security and border control.

What jobs and activities could graduates do?

Criminal Justice graduates may be suitable for a range of jobs — see some examples below.

Note: Some of the jobs listed may require postgraduate study. See the 'Further study' section.

Customs officer

- Inspects imported and exported goods
- Searches ships and aircraft for prohibited cargo
- Assesses security risks

Prison programme/rehabilitation

- Facilitates programmes that target a specific rehabilitation need for offenders
- Educates and instructs offenders to help them succeed post imprisonment
- Motivates prisoners to make positive changes

Police officer

- Attends and investigates crimes and accidents
- Helps people in emergencies
- Gathers and documents evidence
- Educates the public

Police communicator, emergency call handler

- Captures vital information about an event
- Coordinates and monitors emergency response

Probation officer

- Provides reports to the courts assessing sentence suitability
- Supervises home and community based sentences
- Supports offenders to not re-offend

Coronial case manager

- Keeps the family of a person who has died informed
- Provides case management and administrative support to the coroners

Policy analyst / advisor

- Identifies and investigates issues and opportunities eg, in society, law or governance
- Interprets and consults on existing policies
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Immigration officer / manager

- Examines documentation, such as passports
- Approves or rejects entry into a country
- Arranges removal of immigration lawbreakers

Advocate

- Advises and represents individuals or groups
- Examines and drafts contracts
- Provides relevant information to clients

Youth justice manager

- Leads community-based youth justice teams
- Partners with whānau, iwi, police, youth workers, schools etc to solve youth offending
- Leads positive change in offenders and services

Court registry officer

- Serves court attendees and processes files
- Takes court and schedules proceedings
- Supports judicial personnel in managing cases

Entrepreneur & self employment

Entrepreneurship and innovation are an increasing part of the working landscape. Through generating a business idea, or getting involved in a start-up/business venture, you have the potential to create a work opportunity that aligns with your knowledge, skills, values and risk profile. To get started on how to establish, run and grow a new business, go to Te Pokapū Rakahinonga, Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Canterbury
www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce

What professional organisations can I engage with?

Connecting with professional bodies and organisations can help you to establish professional networks and learn more about different career options in your area of interest. Gaining valuable insight into a profession can assist in making informed career decisions.

- Te Kāhui Ture o Aotearoa New Zealand Law Society
www.lawsociety.org.nz
- Social Service Providers Aotearoa
www.sspa.org.nz
- The Australian Sociological Association
www.tasa.org.au
- The International Sociological Association
www.isa-sociology.org

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as www.linkedin.com and Facebook can help you to keep up to date with important industry developments and trends, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies. Following relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies and thought leaders is a great way to gain a deeper awareness of the industries that interest you. Social media presents an opportunity to build and enhance networks as well as to display your involvement in projects and any academic successes.

Why do further study and what are my options?

Postgraduate study can facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into an occupation, higher starting salary, and advanced research capability. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your career.

UC has a Graduate Diploma in Criminal Justice for graduates who have not studied the subject previously. A number of higher qualifications are offered in Human Services, Law, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology. For options and prerequisites see www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Danielle Moore celebrating her graduation with her Grandmother (Monica Waller)

Useful links

Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Ara Poutama Aotearoa Te Rōpū Rapuara
Department of Corrections
www.corrections.govt.nz

Ministry of Justice
www.justice.govt.nz

New Zealand Police
www.police.govt.nz

Charlie Boot



Bachelor of Criminal Justice
Master of Criminal Justice
Graduate Research Insights Advisor,
New Zealand Police

What have you been doing since graduation?

Since graduating I have been fortunate enough to begin working for the New Zealand Police in their Evidence Based Policing centre. The work has been challenging and extremely insightful, with plenty of opportunity to develop personally and work across a large array of projects.

What is a highlight of your career so far?

The highlight of my career so far is undoubtedly the opportunities presented to me through the New Zealand Police. Being able to work with a fantastic team and on world leading research that informs operational policing is an absolute privilege. I have the opportunity to travel, take internationally accredited courses and provide insight to contemporary criminal justice problems.

What are some of the challenges?

It was definitely a challenge jumping straight into the workplace from study and adapting to new styles of working. However, the BCJ and the Criminal Justice Master's program provided me with a fantastic set of practical and analytical skills that helped streamline this transition.

How do you hope your career will develop?

I am hopeful that this graduate role with the New Zealand Police will continue to develop my existing skill set gained from the Criminal Justice program and provide me with opportunities to make a difference in my communities. I am keeping an open mind to the future but I know that no matter where I end up, I want to make a difference in the Criminal Justice System. The New Zealand Police have an extraordinary array of job possibilities and I am excited to explore these as my career develops.

Read more online

Read more stories about our students' university experiences online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where graduates are now visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/get-started/why-uc/student-profiles/

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

More information

UC students seeking study advice.

Ture | Law

The innovative Criminal Justice degree at UC draws on internationally recognised expertise in Sociology, Criminal Law, Human Services, History and Psychology. The programme enjoys close links with employers in the crime and justice fields and there is scope for students to study while working. To find out more, come and speak with us.

T: +64 3 369 3555

E: law-enquiries@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/law/criminal-justice

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Te Rōpū Rapuara | UC Careers

UC offers intending and current students and recent graduates a wide range of services, including individual career guidance, seminars, career resources and student and graduate employment opportunities.

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Te Rōpū Takawaenga | Student Liaison

The liaison team provide advice to future students who are starting their degree for the first time. They can assist with information on degrees, scholarships, accommodation, and other aspects of university life. We have offices in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: liaison@canterbury.ac.nz

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: auckland@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

