

What can I do with a degree in Classics?

Classics.



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, 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/subjects/classics

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 Classics?

Classics is the study of the ancient Mediterranean world with a focus on Greece and Rome from the second millennium BC to around the fifth century AD — over 1500 years of astonishingly rich cultural history.

Study of the ancients involves learning about their languages (ancient Greek and Latin), literature, ideas, art, archaeology, and history. Classics is an international field that offers students a holistic understanding of the ancient world in all its diversity. It also gives students a keen lens through which to view the modern world for example: relations with indigenous cultures; concepts of democracy, theatre, and psychology; influence on architecture, administration, and law-making.

Classics at UC covers broad aspects of life in the ancient world such as athletics, slavery, gender studies, ethnicity, sexuality and more.



AT A GLANCE

9,500

one museum for every 9,500 people in Aotearoa New Zealand, one of the world's highest per capita*

370

ancient Greek and Roman artefacts in the Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities

40+

secondary school Classics teachers based in Waitaha Canterbury

What skills have UC graduates gained?

The successful study of Classics cultivates desirable skills employers want such as:

- Advanced communication skills, both written and oral
- Critical and rigorous thinking
- Interpretation, analysis and evaluation of evidence
- Constructing arguments
- Reasoning and problem solving
- Interpretation and analysis
- Research and computing skills
- Understanding of factors that shape societies
- A well-formed awareness of others' viewpoints and cultural identity.

Internships

Classics students can apply their learning outside the classroom through an internship, for example interning at the James Logie Memorial Collection of Greek and Roman artworks in the Arts Centre. Work on the material here can enhance research and practical skills of relevance to employment in museums, or as a curator, conservator, heritage or arts manager.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Classics graduates enjoy a wide variety of career destinations for example in media, policy and research, culture and heritage, teaching, community development and business.

Recent UC graduates have been employed in:

- Media and publishing groups
- Secondary schools
- Recruitment agencies
- Membership organisations
- New Zealand government ministries
- Museums and galleries
- New Zealand Police
- New Zealand Defence Force
- Tertiary institutions
- Legal services
- Churches and religious groups
- Charities
- Advertising and creative agencies
- Telecommunications
- Retail
- Operations and construction sectors.

For examples of employers who recruit UC students and graduates go to

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers

* www.teara.govt.nz/en/museums

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs — see some examples below.

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

Policy analyst / advisor

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

Librarian

- Categorises and catalogues library materials
- Selects materials for library use
- Helps customers find and use materials

Secondary school teacher

- Plans and delivers instructional lessons
- Evaluates performance and provides feedback
- Sets and marks assignments and tests

Curator

- Chooses display items at museums or galleries
- Manages collections and exhibitions
- Conducts research and communicates details

Historian

- Analyses sources to uncover the history of a period, place, person, group or aspect
- Publishes findings and shares knowledge
- Maintains historical records

Human resources / recruitment advisor

- Understands a business's personnel needs
- Advertises vacancies and recruits staff
- Advises on workplace policies and procedures

Archaeologist

- Preserves archaeological sites
- Carries out excavations
- Helps restore monuments and sites

Conservator

- Examines artefacts and their storage conditions
- Keeps records and identifies restoration work
- Cleans and repairs sensitive objects and recreates historically accurate finishes

Editorial assistant

- Proofreads material and coordinates changes
- Adds elements in production eg, graphics
- Answers publication queries

Intelligence officer

- Investigates whether people, places and events pose a threat to security
- Advises how to manage threats
- Cooperates with other agencies

Communications / media advisor, journalist

- Develops information, media and communication strategies
- Researches, writes, edits and produces content

Entrepreneur and CEO

- Develops an idea to form their own business
- Gets involved in a start-up

Entrepreneurship and innovation are an increasing part of the working landscape. Get started at www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting_started.shtml

UC Careerhub

UC students and alumni can find details of internships, scholarships, job vacancies and employability tips at www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz

What professional bodies can people link to?

As they progress, students and graduates often join professional bodies or organisations relevant to their area of interest. These organisations can provide regular communications and offer the chance to network with others in the same community.

- The Australasian Society for Classical Studies
www.ascs.org.au
- New Zealand Association of Classical Teachers
www.nzact.org.nz
- New Zealand Archaeological Association
www.nzarchaeology.org

Social media networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter can provide avenues to keep up-to-date with industry knowledge, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies.

Why do further study and what are my options?

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

Classics graduates can progress their studies from honours through to PhD level. Postgraduate study can also lead to an academic career pathway in teaching and research.

Many Arts graduates do additional training in teaching, journalism, policy, international relations, librarianship or management.

For UC qualification listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Useful links

UC Careers, Internships & Employment
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

UC Department of Classics
www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/classics

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities
www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/logie

UCSA Classoc Club
www.ucsa.org.nz/clubs

Lauren Buckeridge



Bachelor of Arts in Classics with a minor in
Art History and Theory
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Classics
Editorial Assistant, *New Zealand Listener*,
Bauer Media NZ, Auckland

Do you have any advice for prospective students?

Study what you love! Even though I wasn't sure where it could take me, my time wasn't wasted as I was excited to get to university every day and surround myself with my passion.

By developing my knowledge and enthusiasm, my strengths became apparent too. The more I studied Classics, the more I enjoyed it and saw great results — that snowball effect was a great motivator.

What was the highlight of your internship experience?

The Arts Internship was a great addition to my honours year studies, as it allowed me to be hands-on with material in the James Logie Memorial Collection. I saw the theoretical parts of my studies from a new and tangible perspective, which was incredibly valuable. Also, it was great to put the abilities and unique skills that I learnt during my internship onto my CV.

What do you like about your job?

Each day varies greatly from the next, and in the fast-paced environment of current affairs, I'm always busy. I love this aspect of my job, as I'm constantly learning. I've met some fantastic people and since I'm the main point of contact for the *Listener* I've heard some incredible stories too.

What are your career goals?

I'd like to stay in my role for a while, and see in what directions I could go. I really enjoy the media industry, so finding a position that combines my current industry with my passion for heritage and ancient art and architecture would be the ultimate goal.

I would like to take my postgraduate studies further, but I plan on travelling first to see the magnificent architecture I studied during my degree.

Read more online

Read Lauren's full story about her university experience online. UC alumni like Lauren make a difference in varied ways around the globe. For stories of graduates who are utilising their Arts skills visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/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.

Department of Classics
Te Rāngai Toi Tangata | College of Arts

The Department hosts one of the finest collections of antiquities in the Southern Hemisphere and Classics students have the chance to work with many artefacts up close.

Christchurch's rich Classical-oriented community includes the Department's base at the Arts Centre in town, a faculty of international experts, and the student-run club Classoc.

T: +64 3 364 2176

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/classics

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Careers, Internships & Employment
Te Rōpū Rapuara

CIE 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 3 364 3310

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

[UCCareersEmployment](#)

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Student Liaison
Te Rōpū Takawaenga

Student Liaison provides intending students with information about the university system in general and the courses, qualifications, support and facilities available at UC.

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) ext 93231

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison