

What can I do with a degree in Early Childhood Teacher Education?

Early Childhood Teacher Education.



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/earlychildhood

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 Early Childhood Teacher Education?

Working in early childhood education will offer you a challenging and rewarding career. You will enhance the lives of infants, toddlers and young children, and provide support for whānau in the important task of parenting/caregiving. The early years of a child's life have a critical impact on their lifelong development; high-quality learning experiences within those years lay the foundations for all later learning.

Now is a particularly good time to get into early childhood teaching as there are many Teach NZ scholarships for students enrolling in Early Childhood Teacher Education programmes.



AT A GLANCE

96.7%

of children under 5 years old are enrolled in early learning in Aotearoa New Zealand⁺

9/10

early childhood education providers use te reo Māori^{*}

98%

of UC EC alumni were employed in a job that was 'ideal' or a 'step in the right direction' within 7 months of graduating^{**}

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Early Childhood Teacher Education degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that are transferable to a range of careers. These skills include:

- Knowledge of teaching and learning processes
- Understanding of early childhood experiences and development
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Thinking critically, creatively and challenging ideas
- Planning and organisation
- Patience and understanding
- Oral and written communication
- Working in a team.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available in this major, through community engagement, work-integrated learning and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates are likely to find roles in early learning centres or childcare centres. These organisations may be funded by the government, run as a business or part of a franchise, by a church or religious group, or even as part of a charity's work. They go by various names including:

- Early learning centres
- Nurseries
- Preschools
- Kindergartens
- Montessori schools.

Employment opportunities may also be found in a range of settings that value working with young children and their families.

Graduates may choose to specialise and work more closely with groups of infants, toddlers and young children with specific needs, such as Māori, Pasifika, gifted or disabled children. There are also international teaching opportunities, for example in the UK and Australia.

For more examples of employers go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers

⁺ Ministry of Education, December 2016

^{*} 2015 Education Counts report

^{**} 2013 and 2015 UC Graduate Destination Surveys combined

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Graduates of UC's Early Childhood Teacher Education programmes will be eligible for provisional registration. This enables you to apply for early childhood teaching positions in Aotearoa New Zealand. As well as teaching, graduates have a range of career options. See some examples below.

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

Early childhood teacher

- Plans curriculum experiences that support and extend children's learning
- Educates and cares for children
- Records daily activities and charts progress
- Builds relationships with families

Kaiako kōhanga reo | Māori language nest teacher

- Teaches young children in a Māori language and culture-immersed setting
- Helps develop te reo and tikanga in children
- Collaborates with whānau and iwi

Early childhood centre director / manager / head teacher / team leader

- Manages the overall functioning of the centre including scheduling
- Oversees staff employment and development
- Builds and maintains community relationships

Early childhood centre assistant manager, assistant supervisor, deputy head teacher

- Supports the director or head teacher to manage aspects of the centre

Review / quality assurance officer

- Checks legality of EC centre policies/practices
- Reports findings and makes recommendations
- Assesses use of funding

Early childhood education mentor / educator

- Coaches ECE teachers and educators
- Builds networks and professional practice for those working in isolated settings eg, in homes

In-home educator

- Supports children's development in the home
- Plans and supervises daily activities

Hospital play specialist

- Assesses a child's experience of illness or trauma
- Ensures children remain active and socialise
- Encourages therapeutic play to help them cope

Special education / early intervention teacher

- Teaches children with diverse learning needs
- Evaluates special needs, working with whānau and teachers to develop suitable learning plans

Teacher aide

- Adapts teachers' learning programmes to the needs of specific students
- Often works one-to-one or in small groups
- Helps children with personal care eg, medication

Child advocate

- Promotes well-being and conditions for children
- Works with children and their families to address education, care or social issues
- Tackles policies that negatively impact children

Programme coordinator, service manager

- Researches and plans programmes or services
- Coordinates staff and liaises with stakeholders
- Implements and evaluates programmes/services

Nanny

- Supports children's development in their home
- Plans and supervises daily activities

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 organisations relevant to their area of interest. These bodies can provide regular communications and offer the opportunity to network with others within the same community.

- Early Childhood Council
www.ecc.org.nz
- Early Childhood New Zealand
www.ecnz.ac.nz
- New Zealand Educational Institute
www.nzei.org.nz
- Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand
www.educationcouncil.org.nz
- New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society
www.nzeals.org.nz

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, 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 career.

The Bachelor of Teaching and Learning with Honours allows graduates to focus their studies.

Graduates with no previous training can enter the profession via a one-year diploma or master's.

UC offers higher qualifications in areas such as Specialist Teaching, Hōaka Pounamu: Te Reo Māori Bilingual and Immersion Teaching, and TESOL. For options visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Useful links

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

UC College of Education, Health and Human Development
www.canterbury.ac.nz/education
Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Teach NZ
www.teachnz.govt.nz

Education Gazette Jobs
www.edgazette.govt.nz/Vacancies

OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand
www.omepaotearoa.org.nz

Rachael Houde



Bachelor of Teaching and Learning
(Early Childhood)
Teacher, Huntsbury Preschool, Christchurch

Where did you discover a passion for early childhood education?

I used to work part-time as a librarian for a toy library. This was an amazing platform from which I was able to gain knowledge and experience in children's development. I had thought about furthering my education for a long time but lacked the confidence to start a degree and I also thought that it was too late for me to start a career.

So what made you take the leap?

With some support and encouragement I enrolled! I was also motivated to role model lifelong learning to my own children and hopefully inspire them to work hard and achieve their goals as well.

What are your career goals?

My long-term goal was to obtain a position in a community-based preschool where teachers and families work together and I have been so fortunate to secure a role at a place that respects families as educators.

I am also working with supportive, experienced teachers that are mentoring me as I work towards full registration — I feel I am so supported as a graduate!

What are your day-to-day activities as a teacher?

My job entails providing a nurturing, caring and inclusive environment. I provide interesting and challenging surroundings that promote lifelong learning — there is a strong focus on building reciprocal relationships with each child, engaging their imagination and promoting their self-efficacy. I am also involved in all aspects of the preschool including policy revisions and selecting resources.

Do you have any advice for prospective students?

Achieving your dreams is a truly satisfying accomplishment. If you dream of making a difference to children's education and work hard then it is possible.

Read more online

Read Rachael's full story about her university experience on our website. UC alumni like Rachael make a difference in varied ways around the globe. For stories of graduates who are working in early childhood education 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.

UC School of Teacher Education
Te Kura Whakangungu Kaiako

The School of Teacher Education provides a range of qualifications at all levels. We are committed to providing exemplary programmes for teachers, supervisors, curriculum specialists, and other professionals pursuing careers in education. We deliver teacher training both on-campus and by distance.

T: +64 3 369 3708

E: educationadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/education

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

[UC Careers Employment](#)

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

Te Rāngai Ako me te Hauora

UC EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT