

What can I do with a degree in Chinese?

Chinese.



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/subjects/chin

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 Chinese?

China is one of the world's oldest civilisations and is, in the twenty-first century, the most heavily populated nation in the world, with nearly 1.4 billion people. China has been Aotearoa New Zealand's fastest growing market for international visitors.

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world. It is an official language in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore and a common community language in Malaysia and Indonesia.

By developing competency in the Chinese language, students will gain insight and access to Chinese culture. Understanding the society and culture of this historic yet modern nation is becoming increasingly important as China overtakes more traditional western nations in terms of economic power, cultural relevance and international influence.



AT A GLANCE

80+

direct flights operate between Aotearoa New Zealand and China each week during high season*

186

UC students have travelled to China on the MGMT 228 Chinese Business Practices and Culture study tour since it began

\$20.1b

the amount of exports New Zealand sends to China in goods and services*

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Chinese degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that includes:

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking Chinese
- Oral and written communication skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- A better understanding of the global interactions which shape contemporary society
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Problem solving skills
- Research and computing skills

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

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Learning about influential languages and cultures is advantageous for many careers around the world as graduates are increasingly required to be culturally competent, globally aware and ready to work internationally.

Chinese graduates are in high demand by:

- Local and central government, in such departments as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Professional and research-based organisations
- Tourism, transport and related industries
- Educational institutions
- International traders, import/export businesses
- Business, finance and law firms.

Lawyers, accountants, engineers, managers, teachers and other professionals with Chinese skills and knowledge can find work in Aotearoa New Zealand, China and other Asian countries.

* www.mfat.govt.nz

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.

Interpreter

- Translates spoken language from one language to another, often simultaneously
- Keeps abreast of up-to-date meaning of words
- Researches specialist topics, travels with groups and presents to different audiences

Translator

- Conveys the content of the source text into the target language
- Researches terminology or technical words and language trends
- Often works collaboratively as part of a team of translators

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages (TESOL)

- Assesses a student's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and needs
- Designs and prepares learning materials
- Presents lessons, including on local knowledge and skills for coping in a new place

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

Tourism marketing officer

- Researches consumer market and interests
- Manages customer networks and relationships
- Creates and maintains corporate brands and advertising media

Immigration officer / migration consultant

- Understands immigration instructions
- Assesses client eligibility for visas
- Helps navigate migration processes for individuals or organisations
- Writes submissions and files applications

Secondary school teacher

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

Import / export broker

- Assists with marketing and sales activities
- Investigates overseas demand for goods
- Builds networks and customer relationships

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 Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo o Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Language Teachers www.nzalt.org.nz

- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakamāori ā-waha, ā-tuhi o Aotearoa New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters Inc www.nzsti.org
- Te rōpū kaiwhakaako reo ingarihi ki iwi reo kē tesolanz www.tesolanz.org.nz
- Export New Zealand www.exportnz.org.nz
- NZ-China Trade Association www.nzcta.co.nz

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 a specific occupation, and advanced research capability. It can also lead to an academic career. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

Chinese graduates can progress into many higher programmes, from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers master's degrees in Linguistics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Computer-Assisted Language Learning. Many allow you to carry out research or project work.

Graduates can also do additional training in areas such as Teaching, Marketing or Business Management. For UC qualification listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Useful links

- Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
- Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz
- Asia New Zealand Foundation www.asianz.org.nz
- Confucius Institute UC www.ci.canterbury.ac.nz

Sam



Bachelor of Arts in Chinese and Political
Science and International Relations

Bachelor of Commerce in International
Business

Business Lending Specialist at ANZ

Why did you choose your degree?

Business is such a flexible and versatile degree in many sectors around the world. I also studied Chinese language to combine the two, making the most of China's growing influence in the world.

UC's focus on shaping graduates to be more bicultural and globally aware was also a big drawcard for me.

How was your exchange to China?

I was fortunate enough to be awarded a Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia valued at \$12,000 to cover the costs of a semester-long academic exchange at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.

Whilst living there, I had the opportunity to be immersed in a culture so different to ours and to learn how the Chinese live, learn and work. I was also able to build my then very basic Mandarin skills into a more rounded and confident conversational tool.

How did it inspire you?

I developed a passion for China and learned how its future is very much a big part of New Zealand's future.

Upon returning I was appointed President of a student-run, non-profit organisation at UC called Global China Connection, which essentially aims to build New Zealand-China relations through professional and networking initiatives.

Do you have any advice for new students?

Go on exchange! Anywhere around the world. But in particular I'd encourage them to choose somewhere outside their comfort zone. Go somewhere with a different culture and different language to New Zealand because you'll learn so many new skills and an appreciation for different cultures.

What are your career goals?

In the area of business, I'd love my career to involve acting as a bridge builder between Chinese and New Zealand business culture, either based here or in China.

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/getstarted/whyuc/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.

Te Kura Mātāpuna Tangata | School of Language, Social & Political Sciences

UC provides a wide range of courses in both the language and the studies of Chinese literature, thought, tradition, culture and society. It is backed by a team of staff specialising in language, literature, philosophy, film and culture.

The Chinese language courses at UC aim to develop language competence in both spoken and written forms. No previous knowledge of the Chinese language is needed.

Students are eligible for a range of scholarships, including funding for studies based in China.

+64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/chinese

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)

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www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

