

# What can I do with a degree in European and European Union Studies?

# European and European Union Studies.



## 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/eura](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/eura)

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)

## What is European and European Union Studies?

Studying Europe from afar provides a number of advantages – of perspective, comparative analysis and of isolation from short-term trends. Europe provides an important cultural and linguistic reference point to Aotearoa New Zealand in an increasingly global community. The European Union (EU) is New Zealand's most significant bilateral partner after Australia and is one of the world's leading political and trading blocs, with 27 member states and over 445 million people. European Union Studies involves the study of the institutional, legal, political, economic and social aspects of the development of the EU.

European and European Union Studies aims to offer a broad-based, interdisciplinary programme that embraces the studies of the institutional, legal, political, economic and social aspects of the integration process of the EU as well as the languages and cultures of Europe. The programme encourages the study of European languages within this framework.



## AT A GLANCE

**2019**

the year a report was commissioned reporting on Māori interests in the EU-NZ Fair Trade Agreement\*

**1<sup>st</sup>**

the EU is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest source of imports\*\*

**1999**

is the year the first political statement of cooperation between the EU and Aotearoa New Zealand was signed\*\*\*

\* [www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/EU-NZ-FTA/BERL-report.pdf](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/EU-NZ-FTA/BERL-report.pdf)

\*\* [www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz)

\*\*\* [eas.europa.eu/delegations/new-zealand\\_en](http://eas.europa.eu/delegations/new-zealand_en)

## What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their European and European Union Studies degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that includes:

- Developing attitudes of intellectual curiosity
- Written expression and sound logic in the development of a written argument
- Presentation and clarity in oral expression
- Research, analytical and critical thinking
- Bibliographical referencing
- Discussion of ideas and listening to others
- Information management.

### Practise your skills at work or in Europe

Opportunities to apply your learning are available:

- An internship can deepen your skillset, working knowledge, and employability
- UC offers a number of options to immerse yourself in European languages and cultures, including study exchange partnership programmes with universities in France, Germany, Sweden, Ireland and Spain.

## Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates with knowledge of Europe and the European Union have globally relevant skills and are well placed to work in such fields as:

- Foreign affairs, international trade and development
- Government service
- Business, tourism, law
- Not-for-profit
- Private multinationals with European interests.

UC alumni have been employed by:

- Governance bodies including: regional councils; the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Primary Industries, Justice
- International organisations eg, Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, other countries' embassies
- Non-governmental organisations
- Media eg, communications agencies
- Defence forces
- Research eg, UC National Centre for Research on Europe, Government Research and Communications Unit, universities abroad
- Education at all levels including universities in Europe, New Zealand and around the world.



## 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.*

### Ministerial coordinator

- Prepares and coordinates correspondence for government ministers
- Drafts official information requests
- Completes project work to help design and streamline processes and procedures

### Project coordinator / assistant, programme administrator

- Coordinates, tracks and reports on projects or programmes
- Manages project/programme documentation and budgets
- Understands project or programme plans and manages work streams

### 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

### Communications advisor

- Researches, writes, edits and produces content for various audiences and mediums
- Develops communication strategies
- Advises on media relations and PR budgets

### Iwi relations, international partnerships coordinator, relationship manager

- Liaises between organisations or groups of people eg iwi and regional councils, universities
- Supports a partnership or aligned systems for mutual or broader benefit

- Influences decision-makers, policy or strategy discussions and brokers solutions

### Journalist / reporter

- Researches and gathers information
- Interviews relevant people
- Writes reports/stories across media platforms

### Research advisor / coordinator / assistant

- Organises and conducts research
- Tests theories and interprets the results
- Writes reports and makes recommendations

### Tertiary lecturer

- Prepares and gives lectures and tutorials
- Sets and marks assignments and exams
- Conducts research, writes and publishes articles

### 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](http://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 Roopu Whakakotahi Whenua o Aotearoa United Nations Association of New Zealand [www.unanz.org.nz](http://www.unanz.org.nz)

- Export New Zealand [www.exportnz.org.nz](http://www.exportnz.org.nz)
- New Zealand Institute of International Affairs [www.nziaa.org.nz](http://www.nziaa.org.nz)
- Te Pūtahi Whakakakau Tūmatanui o Aotearoa Public Relations Institute of New Zealand [www.prinz.org.nz](http://www.prinz.org.nz)
- Project Management Institute New Zealand [www.pmi.org.nz](http://www.pmi.org.nz)

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as [www.linkedin.com](http://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.

European and European Union Studies graduates can progress into higher programmes, from honours through to master's and PhD level (in European Studies). These degrees offer a chance to conduct independent research.

A taught Master of European Union Studies is available at UC, as are master's in Policy and Governance, and International Relations and Diplomacy. Graduates may do extra training eg, in Teaching, Journalism or Business Management. [www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses)



## Useful links

Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers  
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)

Careers New Zealand  
[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
[www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz)

UC Exchange Programme  
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-abroad-and-exchange](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-abroad-and-exchange)

National Centre for Research on Europe  
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/ncre](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/ncre)

## Sae Won



Foundation Studies Certificate  
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Russian  
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Russian  
PhD in European Studies  
Research Professor, KU-KIEP-SBS EU Centre,  
Korea University, Seoul, Korea

### What does your job involve?

In my job, I teach courses and research about EU studies. My areas of study are EU identity, EU global perceptions, EU actorness, the EU's soft power, and critical discourse analysis.

I also manage Korea University's EU Centre in terms of its activities and events. Recently, our centre won the research grant from the European Commission (Jean Monnet Network) and I have a role as a General Manager for the project. Five universities from Asia-Pacific regions participate in this research project where we re-examine the relations between the EU and four Asian strategic partners.

### Why did you choose to study European Studies at UC?

During undergraduate study I had a passion for European languages and cultures. I enjoyed everything – every course I studied, each lecture was stimulating and exciting.

For postgraduate level, I wanted to learn more about Europe as a region and the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) at UC fosters students with lots of opportunities (internships, course fee scholarships and travel grants).

### What sort of topics did you study?

For my honours year I studied advanced Russian, Russian semiotic studies and did a comparative analysis between the novel and movie versions of 'Oblomov' and lexical theory.

For my PhD thesis, I investigated how the EU was represented in South Korea's three prestigious popular newspapers and their internet versions.

### What value did you get out of your involvement with the NCRE?

The most valuable part of my time at the NCRE was networking and seminars conducted by EU experts and elites. I really enjoyed the world-class experience with lots of different EU key figures (member states, diplomats to NZ, renowned scholars in that field) and students from many other countries. Your classmates will become valuable connections worldwide.

### 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](http://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.

Department of Global, Cultural and Language Studies

European and European Union Studies at UC offers two main areas of study:

- EU studies (insight into modern-day Europe's political, economic and social situation and the EU's international relations)
- Cultures and languages of Europe.

UC hosts the National Centre for Research on Europe, Aotearoa New Zealand's only such research centre. It attracts international visitors and fosters EU research that is regionally relevant.

T: +64 3 369 3377

E: [artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/european](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/european)

### 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](mailto:careers@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://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](mailto:liaison@canterbury.ac.nz)

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: [auckland@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:auckland@canterbury.ac.nz)

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: [wellington@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:wellington@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison)

