

# What can I do with a degree in English Language?

# English Language.



## 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/english-language](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/english-language)

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 English Language?

Are you curious about how the English language works? Are you fascinated by the changes that have taken place in the English language over centuries of time? Or even how individuals vary their use of English from one day to the next, depending on social situation or communication medium? Ever thought about how a person's early experience of English shapes them? Or how and why Aotearoa New Zealand English differs from the language spoken in other English-speaking countries?

English Language studies aim to satisfy these curiosities and illuminate even further; focusing on the structure, functions and contexts of use of English. Students will learn about the sound systems and grammatical systems of English, and they will come to understand how English varies in different historical, geographical and social contexts.



## AT A GLANCE

---

45

countries where over half the population speaks English

---

70

muscles used to speak a single word

## What skills will UC graduates gain?

By majoring in English Language graduates develop a set of skills that are highly valued. These include:

- Advanced literacy and communication skills
- Knowledge of different kinds of language use, metalanguage and formal terminology
- Ability to acquire and record complex, diverse data
- Advanced analytical capability including analysis of quantitative data
- Understanding of the English language
- Critical thinking
- Oral and written communication
- Intercultural awareness
- Research skills
- Presentation skills
- Information technology skills including data manipulation.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available in this major. Undertaking an internship, for example, can deepen your skillset, your awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

## Where might graduates be employed?

English Language provides the foundation for any career which requires advanced communication skills and/or a detailed understanding of the English language, such as teaching, management, marketing, the media, research and publishing.

Increasingly, sectors such as healthcare and business are placing more importance on how competently employees communicate with customers or patients verbally and non-verbally.

Graduates may be employed in organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand or around the world, whether it's in a commercial language school, development organisation, government department, multinational company, volunteer organisation, educational or training institution, community language centre, or religious centre.

Graduates of this major often take up the opportunity to teach English in places such as:

- Asia eg, Vietnam, Korea, Japan and China
- South America eg, Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Costa Rica
- Europe eg, Czech Republic, Spain, England.

## What jobs and activities could graduates do?

English Language graduates share many of the same career destinations as graduates of Linguistics, and Media and Communication.

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

Examples:

### Secondary school English teacher

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

### Teacher of English to speakers of other languages

- Analyses students' reading, writing, speaking and listening abilities and assesses their needs
- Designs and prepares learning materials
- Presents lessons or tutorials; including on local knowledge and skills for coping in a new place

### English language tutor

- Plans lessons according to a student's ability
- Teaches students subject knowledge and skills
- Discusses progress with whānau or caregivers

### Early childhood teacher

- Educates and cares for babies and children
- Plans daily programmes and learning
- Develops early literacy, language, numeracy

### Primary school teacher

- Plans and prepares lessons and activities for children aged 5-13 years
- Teaches and marks subjects including English
- Develops children's social skills and behaviours

### Journalist / media / public relations

- Researches and produces stories for different types of media and purposes
- Interviews and consults people
- Selects accurate and relevant content for the reader, listener or viewer

### Publisher / editor

- Plans and commissions content for publication
- Evaluates, edits and organises material for multiple formats — online and in print
- Liaises with other staff to oversee production

### Entrepreneur and 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.

- The International Society for the Linguistics of English [www.isle-linguistics.org](http://www.isle-linguistics.org)
- The Linguistic Society of New Zealand [www.nzlingsoc.org](http://www.nzlingsoc.org)

- The Applied Linguistics Association of New Zealand [www.alanz.ac.nz](http://www.alanz.ac.nz)
- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo Ingarahi Ki Iwi Reo Kē TESOLANZ [www.tesolanz.org.nz](http://www.tesolanz.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, 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.

To become a teacher a graduate diploma or master's in Teaching and Learning is required. UC offers these postgraduate programmes and a number of others eg, in Computer-Assisted Language Learning, English, Linguistics, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. For qualification listings visit [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)

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Aotearoa New Zealand  
[www.tesolanz.org.nz](http://www.tesolanz.org.nz)

Teaching English abroad graduate jobs  
[www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz)



## Avalon Andrews



Bachelor of Arts majoring in Japanese and Linguistics

### Where did you discover your passion for language?

A high school exchange to Austria gave me a taste for different cultures and languages. Linguistics is incredibly interesting and really complements studying languages. When I was an exchange student it would have helped to have an understanding of the sounds I was trying to produce.

### What do you enjoy about language studies?

Both subjects have awesome lecturers who put in lots of effort and really try to help you out. Nowhere else would you find lecturers who are so willing to support you.

My classes can be quite interactive which I really like because you get more out of it. Linguistics is good because it has practical applications.

But most of all, it's incredibly fun and rewarding and can lead you to places you don't even realise.

### What opportunities have you had?

I went on the JENESYS 2.0 trip to Japan with two other UC students and it was a fantastic, fully paid-for trip. We were in Tokyo and then I was

placed in Tateyama city in Chiba. It was only two weeks but they made sure to show us a different, non-stereotypical Japan.

### What are your career goals?

When I graduate, I hope to be accepted into the JET programme which sends people over to Japan to be an assistant language teacher. They pay really well and it would help my language skills. I've only ever heard good things about the programme.

If I like teaching I plan to come back to New Zealand and try second language learning or high school teaching – or I will go for Intelligence Officer in the RNZAF. Although if I love it in Japan, I might stay there longer!

### 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.

Te Kura Mātāpuna Tangata | UC Languages, Social & Political Sciences

The Department bridges the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences. It has close ties with the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour and is a thriving international research hub. We offer qualifications at all levels and are happy to field enquiries from students.

T: +64 3 369 3377

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

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

### 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)

