

What can I do with a degree in French?

French.



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/fren

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 French?

Knowing a second language increases one's employability in a global environment. French is a truly international language and is useful in travel, culture, trade, science and sport on several continents.

French culture is influential and its history fascinating. Studying French will offer students insight into the Francophone world, which unites diverse cultural, linguistic, socio-political and religious groups: from Canada and the Caribbean, to our neighbours New Caledonia and Tahiti, as well as many French-speaking nations in Africa.

The French programme at UC offers courses to 300-level in French language, as well as courses in French and Francophone culture, French society, French and Francophone literature, as well as French, Francophone and European film.



AT A GLANCE

29

countries have French as an official language

6

official languages of the United Nations of which French is one

1945

is the year that diplomatic relations between Aotearoa New Zealand and France began*

What skills have UC graduates gained?

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

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking French
- Well-developed 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.

Practise your skills at work or in France

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 French language and culture, including study exchange partnership programmes with three universities in France.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

A degree in French can lead to a variety of career options, for example:

- Focusing on language or linguistics-related fields such as immigration, language teaching, interpreting/translating
- Entering a vast array of sectors that value the transferable skills of an Arts or Commerce graduate, such as career consulting, librarianship, policy and governance, international relations
- A popular combination is the study of a European language such as French with that of a professional degree such as Law, Accounting or Teaching and Learning.

As one of the world's most important languages, French opens doors to careers in:

- Diplomacy
- Journalism, media and public relations
- Education
- Trade
- Tourism
- Research
- Culture
- Legal services
- Business.

* 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.

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

Secondary school teacher

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

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages

- 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

Investment banker

- Provides strategic advice and specialist knowledge to meet a client's financial goals
- Assists clients to increase profits, manage debts, raise capital and secure deals
- Works with other professionals eg, lawyers

Diplomat, foreign policy officer

- Promotes New Zealand's interests overseas
- Reports on affairs and develops foreign and trade policies
- Liaises with local authorities and negotiates agreements with other countries

Research analyst

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

Customer support consultant

- Provides the first point of contact for customers
- Engages and listens to customers
- Answers enquiries and discusses solutions

Librarian

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

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

- New Zealand Association of French Teachers www.nzafst.co.nz
- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakamāori ā-waha, ā-tuhi o Aotearoa The New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters www.nzsti.org
- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo Ingarihi Ki Iwi Reo Kē TESOLANZ www.tesolanz.org.nz
- Export New Zealand www.exportnz.org.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.

French graduates can progress into 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, Information Systems, or Business. www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Useful links

- Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
- Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz
- Embassy of France <https://nz.ambafrance.org/-English->
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade www.mfat.govt.nz

Charlotte



Bachelor of Arts in French and Political Science
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in European Studies
Principle Advisor – Integrated Strategy at Gisborne District Council

What motivated you to study the subjects you did?

I liked the variety of courses in a BA. It was nice to pursue a diverse range of interests under a single degree. I really liked French at school so I decided to continue with it at university. I decided on European Studies for my Honours due to the fact that I am interested in such a diverse range of topics. The course was interdisciplinary which allowed you the freedom to study things you love.

How does French tie in with European Studies?

I researched French-New Zealand political relations for my dissertation which was really exciting as it was not a widely researched area. It allowed me to use what I had learnt from my BA in French and Political Science. It was really cool being able to look at research material written in both French and English which allowed me to look at my dissertation from two totally different viewpoints in some cases.

What are your career goals?

I would love to work as a New Zealand diplomat in France or as an analyst for a government department. There are a ton of opportunities in the policy and governance space and my career

path can take so many different roads which is one of the things I love most. Continuing with French at university has provided me with so many opportunities already and it definitely increases the type and number of jobs I can apply for in the future.

Any notable achievements outside of your degree while at UC?

I tutored students in the beginner French courses at UC and I helped set up the Political Science club UCPolS, of which I was the Embezzler (Treasurer) in the following year. UCPolS was a lot of work at times but it was worth the time and effort I put in to see it still flourishing today. It is one of my university achievements that I am most proud of.

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's long-running French department offers a major or minor in French, and teaches language, culture and history courses. Language courses are suitable for those who cannot read or speak a word of French, and for those who have studied French at school.

UC hosts the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE), Aotearoa New Zealand's only research centre devoted to the study of Europe and the EU.

T: +64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/french

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

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)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

