

What can I do with a degree in German?

German.



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/grmn

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 German?

The German language is a leading world language, mother tongue of almost 100 million speakers. The German-speaking countries – Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein – form the largest language area in Central Europe. It is an important language of trade, with Germany being the third largest economy in the world.

Germany's influence has been growing steadily since the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989. German is a commonly used language in Eastern European countries and its influence has increased since the enlargement of the European Union (EU). There are about 17 million learners of German in the world – you could be one of them.

Knowledge of German can be vital to international work in the areas of science, engineering, business and tourism.



AT A GLANCE

\$1.7b

is the value of exports from Aotearoa New Zealand to Germany who is our largest market for venison*

#1

Germany is the EU's leading economy**

18–30

New Zealanders aged between 18 and 30 can apply for a 12-month working holiday visa for Germany**

What skills have UC graduates gained?

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

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking German
- Well-developed communication skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- 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 Germany

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 German language and culture, including study exchange partnership programmes.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

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

- Focusing on language or linguistics-related fields such as immigration, sales, language teaching, interpreting/translating
- Entering a vast array of sectors that value the transferable skills of an Arts or Commerce graduate, such as recruitment, librarianship, policy and governance, marketing, international relations, analytics, tourism, finance, and trade
- A popular combination is the study of a European language such as German with that of a professional degree such as Law or Teaching.

* www.mfat.govt.nz

** www.statista.com/statistics/959301/gdp-of-europes-biggest-economies

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.

Immigration officer / migration consultant

- Understands immigration instructions
- Assesses clients to establish their eligibility for visas or helps navigate migration processes
- Writes submissions and files applications

Customs officer

- Specialises in domestic and international markets or laws
- Inspects or coordinates mail, imported and exported goods
- Administers documentation and ensures adherence to the law

Front end / web developer

- 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

Recruitment consultant

- Advertises vacancies and recruits staff
- Advises on workplace policies and procedures
- May oversee staff development, health and safety, pay and reward etc

Secondary school teacher

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

Sales assistant

- Helps develop new markets or business
- Supports client relationships and presentations
- Implements sales and marketing strategies

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

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

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.

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

German 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, Applied Data Science, Marketing or Business. 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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
www.mfat.govt.nz

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
www.nzte.govt.nz



Jason



Studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in German with minors in History and European and European Union Studies, and a Bachelor of Music

What are your career goals?

To be recruited into the New Zealand Police.

Why study a degree first?

University is not just about finding a degree to get a job. It's also about finding yourself and seeing what you are capable of as an independent individual. As a young adult, you can take the initiative to balance your study and social life during your time at university.

What motivated you to study German?

I took it in high school and wanted to pursue and increase my knowledge in it and study it at a more advanced level.

I also chose to study at university as a back-up, meaning that should anything happen to me in the line of duty (as the Police is not the safest job), I have something to fall back on such as teaching German or Music.

What or who have you found helpful?

The facilities are fantastic. The online database of articles, books and journals is very useful and easy to use for assignments.

The staff in the libraries and the lecturers are very helpful and keep the students' interest up.

Any advice for others to achieve success?

I think it's best to take papers that you are genuinely interested in. It's important as a student to enjoy your time at university. Have fun and play around, but also make time to study hard and keep yourself grounded. Make the most of it as you only live once.

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.

Department of Global, Cultural and Language Studies

German studies at UC have a distinctive focus on embedding the culture and language in a context of European studies. Language courses are a mix of distance and on-campus studies, using the latest e-learning tools.

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. It attracts staff from around the world and fosters research on the EU that is regionally relevant.

T: +64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/german

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)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

