

What can I do with a degree in History?

History.



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/history

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 History?

History is more than the study of the past; it is a living creative act. History explores past events in order to inform us about who we are and what is happening today. History gives us our cultural roots. It helps us understand ourselves, our neighbours, our nation, other cultures and the world, enabling us to become truly global citizens. We learn a lot from history, and this knowledge helps us to avoid the mistakes of the past and make better decisions for the future, just as we learn from our own experiences.

Studying History supplies students with the skills to analyse complex evidence, present evidence-based arguments and put things in perspective. Such skills developed from studying History can be applied in many careers, as well as to all walks of life.



AT A GLANCE

9,500

one museum for every 9,500 people in Aotearoa New Zealand, one of the world's highest per capita*

18%

of Aotearoa New Zealand's workforce is employed by the public sector**

79%

the Waitangi Tribunal has released reports on 79% of Aotearoa New Zealand's land mass†

* www.teara.govt.nz/en/museums

** 2018 Public Service Workforce Data

† As of October 2015, 40th Anniversary of Waitangi Tribunal www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz

What skills have UC graduates gained?

History graduates have a distinctive mix of skills which are useful in almost any job involving discovery, analysis, interpretation, independent thought and communication. These include:

- Thinking critically and creatively
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Oral and written communication
- Research
- Digital and computing skills
- Problem solving skills
- Ability to make balanced, impartial judgements
- Consideration of multiple perspectives, materials and outcomes.

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

Where have UC graduates been employed?

History graduates enjoy a variety of destinations. Recent UC graduates have been employed in:

- Heritage organisations eg, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Archives New Zealand
- Publishers eg, Reed Business Information Australia, PocketGuide
- Media outlets eg, APN News & Media, TVNZ
- New Zealand government eg, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Justice, and Business, Innovation and Employment; the Treasury; Parliament; Department of Internal Affairs; the New Zealand Defence Force; Inland Revenue
- Treaty of Waitangi administrative bodies eg, the Waitangi Tribunal Unit, Office of Treaty Settlements
- Education eg, tertiary sector and high schools
- Non-government organisations eg, Asia New Zealand Foundation
- Not-for-profits eg, NZCare Disability
- Regional councils and affiliates eg, Wairarapa District Health Board, Auckland Council, Environment Canterbury
- Public and private organisations in other countries eg, Australia, the UK, the USA
- Private companies in tourism, archaeology, insurance, legal, IT, and other sectors.

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.

Historian

- Analyses sources to uncover the history of a period, place, person, group or aspect
- Publishes findings and shares knowledge
- Maintains historical records

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

Librarian

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

Communications / media advisor, journalist

- Develops information, media and communication strategies
- Researches, writes, edits and produces content

Archivist

- Stores and organises materials
- Advises organisations on what to keep and how
- Maintains and updates databases

Museum officer

- Plans museum programmes
- Ensures security of items and arranges logistics
- Informs museum visitors

Heritage manager / advisor

- Organises the maintenance, renovation and conservation of heritage buildings
- Markets the building to attract visitors
- Gains income from commercial use eg, events

Author / writer

- Researches and writes stories, articles, scripts, poems, instructions or plays to entertain/inform
- Works with a publisher or producer to promote and disseminate it

Publisher / editor

- Plans and commissions content for publication
- Edits and organises online and print materials
- Liaises with other staff to oversee production

Research analyst / advisor / assistant

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

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.

- New Zealand Historical Association www.nzha.org.nz

- Professional Historians Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa www.phanza.org.nz
- Canterbury Historical Association www.chf.org.nz
- Te Rangapū Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa New Zealand Society of Genealogists www.genealogy.org.nz
- Te Kete Kōrero-A-Waha O Te Motu National Oral History Association of New Zealand www.oralhistory.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, 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.

History graduates can progress their studies from honours through to PhD level. Postgraduate study can also lead to an academic career pathway in teaching and research.

Many Arts graduates do additional training in teaching, journalism, policy, international relations, librarianship or management.

www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Useful links

Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz

State sector jobs www.jobs.govt.nz

UC Arts Digital Lab <http://dh.canterbury.ac.nz>

Dan



Kāi Tahu, Kāti Mamoe, Waitaha, Rapuwai
Bachelor of Arts in English and History
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in History
Historian, Office of Treaty Settlements,
New Zealand Ministry of Justice | Tāhū o te
Ture, Wellington

What did your work involve with the Ministry of Justice?

I got to assist iwi with their claim and the settlement process. I researched and wrote about the history of Māori and Pākehā in 19th and 20th Century Aotearoa. I looked at history every day with a great team of historians; and the Turnbull Library and Archives NZ were just across the road!

How did UC grow your love for history?

I was a summer scholar on the www.voicesagainstawar.nz public history website team. It was an absolutely fantastic experience. I am a big fan of Christchurch's radical history! It taught me how to research and write, take on board feedback and improve my work, and why history (especially local history!) is so important.

The UC History Department and the Canterbury History Foundation also supported me to present at an Auckland GLAM conference; it was a great experience, and I'd highly recommend presenting your research at a conference if you get the chance. They also organised for me to review a book for the NZ International Review – definitely say yes to that opportunity if it arises, it's led to several more reviewing opportunities and several free books!

What do you recommend to prepare for being a historian?

Say yes to every extra opportunity that's on offer. Essays and marks are important, but it's the real-world experience that'll get you employed. Give presentations, write reviews, join local history groups, and try and get involved in one of those summer scholarship projects!

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.

Tāhuhu Kōrero | Department of History

If you are a student, teacher or just a lover of history, History has something for you. Our Department features a raft of interesting courses taught by established scholars. Students and staff can be part of an active network of history enthusiasts in Waitaha Canterbury and beyond.

T: +64 3 364 2176

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/history

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

