

What can I do with a degree in Human Services?

Human Services.



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/hsrv

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 Human Services?

Human Services is referred to as the study of the professions. Human Services (HSRV) programmes and courses are now being taught at universities in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally, with human services among the fastest growing fields of employment.

Studying Human Services gives you the opportunity to learn research skills and choose courses in particular areas of study, maximising your ability to develop more focused career directions within your degree.

Students majoring in subjects such as Psychology, Law, Education, Management and Sociology also have the opportunity to strengthen the human service component of their studies by including HSRV courses.



AT A GLANCE

18%

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

30+

different career pathways within the police service, ranging from youth education to iwi liaison

27k+

registered charities in Aotearoa New Zealand

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Human Services degree, graduates develop a set of transferable skills that includes:

- Advanced oral and written communication skills
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Practical application of social theory
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Understanding the influences on contemporary society
- Problem solving skills
- An awareness and appreciation of diversity
- Synthesising and presenting information
- Research and computing.

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

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Human Services courses are designed for students wanting to pursue careers within fields such as:

- Education
- Law enforcement

- Health
- Community development
- Advocacy
- Social services
- Policy and governance
- Third sector work (non-governmental and not-for-profit)
- International organisations.

Public sector employers could be:

- District Health Boards
- Department of Corrections
- Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki
- Community Probation Service
- Whānau Ora
- Ministry of Social Development
- City councils
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Police
- Ministry of Education.

The pathways within UC's Human Services programme can influence career destinations and specialisation. They are: Health and family systems; Work and organisational systems; Youth development; Local and global community development; Violence and criminal justice systems.

** 2018 Public Service Workforce Data

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.

Youth worker

- Keeps young people informed and supported
- Nurtures relationships with youth and their networks
- Supports adolescent parents
- Plans activities and connects to resources

Social researcher

- Designs and develops research projects eg, around social issues such as housing or poverty
- Uses a range of methods to gain insight and analyse findings
- Writes and disseminates reports

Probation officer

- Manages and supervises offenders
- Makes offender risk assessments to identify the chance of recidivism and suitability for parole
- Monitors access to services and programmes

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

Community corrections officer

- Provides pre-sentencing assessments and assesses parole suitability
- Monitors those on parole or under supervision
- Provides access to services and programmes

Regional coordinator

- Administers groups or services in a region
- Runs events and develops member's confidence
- Builds connections with people and agencies

International aid worker

- Manages and assesses projects
- Supports long-term development
- Evaluates responses to emergency situations

Disabilities officer

- Provides support services to people with intellectual and physical disabilities
- Enhances their quality of life

- Organises leisure activities, trips and socialising
- Assists with day-to-day jobs and routines

Police officer

- Attends crimes, disturbances or accidents
- Responds to emergencies and keeps the peace
- Gathers and documents evidence
- Educates the public on security issues

Research analyst / advisor, market researcher

- Organises and conducts research
- Develops and tests theories, interprets results
- Writes reports, makes recommendations and publishes research

Human resources advisor

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

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.



- Social Equity and Wellbeing Network www.ccross.org.nz
- Social Services Providers Aotearoa Inc www.sspa.org.nz
- Ara Taiohi www.arataiohi.org.nz
- Research Association New Zealand www.researchassociation.org.nz
- International Social Science Council www.worldsocialscience.org

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 is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

Human Services graduates can progress into an honours, master's or PhD in the subject. These degrees provide advanced research and writing skills and allow the chance to specialise. Advanced study can also lead to an academic career.

Arts graduates may undertake further training in order to enter a career such as teaching, journalism, business management, social work, counselling, policy and governance, or Māori and indigenous leadership. For listings and criteria 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

Community Matters
www.communitymatters.govt.nz

Do Good Jobs
www.dogoodjobs.co.nz

Ministry of Social Development careers
<https://jobs.msd.govt.nz>

Awhina



Ngāti Kahungunu
Bachelor of Arts in Human Services and
Māori and Indigenous Studies
Acting House Supervisor, Department
of Health and Human Services,
Melbourne, Australia

What motivated you to study Human Services?

I have always enjoyed working with people and have always wanted to help people. When I was at primary school I would volunteer my lunch time to the disabled unit at the school, taking the kids into the playground or playing with the kids in the unit. So, choosing Human Services felt natural.

How has your degree helped with your chosen field?

My BA in Human Services and Māori and Indigenous Studies has been a major part in getting my foot in the door and being able to broaden my experience and share my knowledge. I have worked in the disability sector in Christchurch, Brisbane and now Melbourne since graduating.

Overall, the degree gave me the confidence to go out into the big world and apply the knowledge I had to my job. I believe my degree was the key to successfully securing my positions over other candidates. My career is flourishing and I am currently looking to move up to Operations Manager one day in the near future before I am 35 years old!

Can you tell us a little bit about your current job?

My position as Acting House Supervisor involves managing a community residential unit with six residents that require disability support along with the staff that work with the residents. The CRU is run 24 hours so we require two staff on at all times. I manage up to 12 staff and ensure that the residents are receiving a quality service and living their lives the way they choose with the support of staff.

What did you enjoy about your time at UC?

I really enjoyed the UC culture. There is so much support there to help you succeed.

Māori students should utilise the whare there; you meet great people, have awesome events, and everyone helps each other by giving the extra push needed to get you to the finish line.

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 and Political Sciences

Majoring or minoring in Human Services prepares graduates for positions in local, national, and global human service agencies, including in the third sector (not-for-profit organisations or NGOs) and government departments. We also offer the only postgraduate courses in Human Services in Aotearoa New Zealand.

P: +64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/human-services

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

