

What can I do with a degree in Japanese?

Japanese.



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/japa

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 Japanese?

Japan is one of the most influential nations in the Asia-Pacific region – culturally, diplomatically and economically. It is a key player in Aotearoa New Zealand's import and export, tourism and education markets and continues to be an attractive destination for graduates.

Aspects of Japanese culture have become popular in much of Asia, Australasia and America. These include animation, computer games, fashion, art, sport and spirituality. Learning the Japanese language helps you to do business with Japanese people and multinational companies, equips you for a job in Japan and opens up an understanding of a proud people with a long history and fascinating culture.



AT A GLANCE

\$8.8b

was the value of the total trade in goods between Japan and Aotearoa New Zealand in 2019*

70%

of Japanese companies are facing labour shortages and bilingual candidates with specialist knowledge are particularly in demand**

4

Japanese universities that UC operates a partnership programme with

* www.mfat.govt.nz

** www.online.goinglobal.com

What skills have UC graduates gained?

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

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking Japanese
- Well-developed communication skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- A better understanding of the global interactions which shape modern society
- Familiarity with both modern and traditional culture and society
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Problem solving skills
- Familiarity with the Japanese online environment and language-related software technologies.

Practise your skills at work or in Japan

Opportunities to apply your learning are available:

- An internship can deepen your working knowledge and employability – there are opportunities to do a full-immersion Japanese internship with a Christchurch-based company
- UC offers a number of options to immerse yourself in Japanese language and culture, including study exchange partnership programmes with Japanese universities.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

A degree in Japanese can lead to a variety of career options.

- Some graduates have gained Monbukagakusho (Japanese Ministry of Education) Scholarships for study and research in Japan.
- There are a number of programmes that employ Arts graduates to teach English in Japan. Many Japanese alumni join the Japanese Government's Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.
- Others have been employed by government departments such as the Japanese Embassy or Consular Office, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Government Communications and Security Bureau.
- There is a demand for teachers of Japanese in secondary schools and some graduates have gained jobs at tertiary institutions in New Zealand and Japan.
- Other graduates enter banking, import/export and legal industries or find jobs in multinational companies that have links with Japan. Some become translators or enter the tourism industry.
- Scientists, engineers, and computer science graduates who have achieved advanced Japanese language abilities have taken up research and employment opportunities in Japan and/or worked on Japanese-related projects.

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.

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

Tourism marketing officer

- Researches consumer market and interests
- Manages customer networks and relationships
- Creates and maintains corporate brands and advertising media

Language officer / consultant

- Outlines the sounds, words, structure, and vocabulary of a language spoken for organisational purposes
- Leads engagement and information sessions
- Translates and interprets

Immigration officer / consultant

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

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

Sales manager, key account manager

- Identifies and develops new markets or business
- Manages client relationships and presentations
- Implements sales and marketing strategies

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

- Te Rōpū Kaiwhakaako Reo o Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Language Teachers www.nzajlt.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.

Japanese graduates can progress into many higher programmes, from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers master's degrees in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Computer-Assisted Language Learning. Many allow you to carry out research or project work.

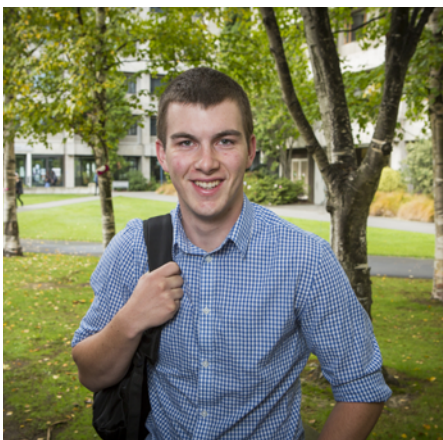
Graduates can also do additional training in areas such as Teaching, Marketing or Business Management. For UC qualification listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses



Useful links

- Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
- Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz
- Asia New Zealand Foundation www.asianz.org.nz
- The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme www.jetprogramme.org
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.mfat.govt.nz

Brennan



Ngāi Tahu
Bachelor of Arts in Japanese with minor in Linguistics

What motivated you to study your chosen subjects?

I was an exchange student in Japan and loved the language but also found I loved language in general. I originally set out for a Japanese and English double major, but have also found Linguistics and picked up Chinese.

What do you enjoy most about learning languages?

I love language learning because you can see the results easily and with each week I have new tools with which to communicate with a broader group of people. Linguistics has given me a better understanding of my English and helped me learn foreign languages with more ease. It has helped my communications skills; I feel I can get my point across to people more clearly.

Are there any benefits available?

I won the JSANZ national tertiary level Japanese speech contest in my first year where I spoke about my karate training. I'm a keen martial artist and have been doing Kyokushin karate for 15 years. I was awarded a free flight to Japan so I spent a couple of months there before my second year started.

Have you had any experiences that you would recommend?

I did an ARTS 395 internship working for Tony Oikawa's Kiwijana Ltd which is a company that provides educational and business experiences for Japanese and New Zealand university students. I found the experience to be incredibly enriching but very busy. I did lots of translation and interpretation work for Oikawa and got a good taste for how it will actually be in the workforce. I would definitely recommend an internship to other students. It will be hard work but it will most definitely be worth it.

What are your career goals?

I'd like to do something that involves language and making people's lives better somehow. I'm currently looking at interpreting in Japan.

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

UC's Japanese language courses are offered from beginner to postgraduate level. First-year students with advanced proficiency may be able to gain direct entry into upper-level courses. A placement test can be taken if you are unsure of your level.

A broad offering of non-language courses is available, including on literature, culture, geography, history, sociology, gender studies, film and theatre studies.

T: +64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/japanese

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

