

What can I do with a degree in Russian?

Russian.



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/russ

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 Russian?

Russian is an important world language, spoken by some 150 million people, and is one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Russian culture is especially rich and fascinating.

With the opening of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union the world has become smaller. The most important parts of Russia industrially and strategically – East Siberia and the south-east Russian Far East, the regions closest to Aotearoa New Zealand – have opened up for independent trade, business and cultural contacts with Russia's eastern and southern neighbours. For the first time direct business contacts have become possible between Aotearoa New Zealand and Russia.

Many of the best western experts in Russian affairs started as Russian language and literature students; it is they who largely define western policies towards Russia in America, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.



AT A GLANCE

6

official languages of the United Nations of which Russian is one

1973

was the year a New Zealand Embassy was established in Moscow*

15k

Russian's are living in Aotearoa New Zealand

What skills have UC graduates gained?

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

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking Russian
- 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 Russia

Opportunities to apply your learning are available:

- An internship can deepen your skillset, working knowledge and employability
- Immerse yourself in Russian language and culture through an exchange programme, for example with the School of Translation and Interpretation at Moscow State University, which allows UC Russian students to spend a semester studying at Russia's oldest and largest university.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

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

- Focusing on language or linguistics-related fields such as immigration, diplomacy, sales, trade, language teaching, interpreting/translating, travel and tourism
- Entering any of the vast array of sectors that value the transferable skills of an Arts or Commerce graduate, such as policy and governance, transport, distribution, import/export, finance, sales, research, human resources, social services, media, publishing, entertainment, library and information services, and cultural heritage
- Graduates also find roles in educational institutions at all levels
- A popular combination is the study of a European language such as Russian with that of a professional degree such as Law.

For examples of recruiting employers go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers

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 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

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

Tertiary lecturer

- Prepares and gives lectures and tutorials
- Sets and marks assignments and exams
- Conducts research, writes and publishes articles

Publisher, editor, content specialist

- Plans, commissions or writes content to publish
- Evaluates, edits and organises material for multiple formats — online and in print
- Liaises with other staff to oversee production

Business advisor

- Prepares business plans, annual reports and other leadership documents
- Ensures that business processes are fit for purpose and continuously improving
- Advises, supports and connects stakeholders
- Builds capability of groups in an organisation

Entrepreneur and CEO

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 Association of Language Teachers www.nzalt.org.nz
- New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters Inc www.nzsti.org

- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Aotearoa New Zealand 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.

Russian 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 International Relations and Diplomacy. Many allow you to carry out research or project work.

Graduates can also do additional training in areas such as Teaching, Information Systems, Policy and Governance, 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

National Centre for Research on Europe

www.europe.canterbury.ac.nz

Ewen



Bachelor of Arts in Chinese and Russian
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Russian
New Zealand Ministry of Business,
Innovation and Employment, London

When did you first discover Russian?

I spent 10 months on an AFS student exchange programme in Hungary. I picked up Russian while living there as my host mother was an English and Russian teacher. I learnt a lot from her and from the teachers at the school I attended. I can also speak and write semi-fluent Hungarian.

How was your experience studying Russian at UC?

UC offered an ideal modern languages department. All the teachers that I had throughout my degrees have been very helpful and resourceful. My classes were quite small and that made for more enjoyable learning as opposed to hugely populated classrooms.

Did you manage to get over there as a UC student?

I studied at the Lomonosov Moscow State University for a semester as part of a new exchange programme opened up by my lecturer Evgeny Pavlov with the university in Moscow and the University of Canterbury.

How has studying Russian helped with your career goals?

I hope to one day have a career that will involve speaking foreign languages or working at an embassy representing New Zealand.

Now I use Russian at work and often have to phone people in Russia or Azerbaijan for verification purposes.

What are some of the benefits of learning Russian?

Russian is an important language to learn, especially as Russia is now very resurgent economically and politically. I've recently been to Georgia and Kyrgyzstan where I only used Russian and had a great time as opposed to being a typical westerner only knowing English.

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 offers the only major in Russian in Aotearoa New Zealand. Russian courses at UC have two main components: Russian language; and the culture, history and society of Russia and the former Soviet Union.

UC hosts the National Centre for Research on Europe, Aotearoa New Zealand's only such research centre. It attracts international visitors and fosters EU research that is regionally relevant.

T: +64 3 369 3377

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/russian

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

