

# What can I do with a degree in Taxation and Accounting?

# Taxation and Accounting.



## 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, study abroad, 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/taxationandaccounting](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/taxationandaccounting)

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)

## What is Taxation and Accounting?

Taxation is much more than interpreting and applying legislation. Societies need taxation in order to redistribute wealth, to provide for expenditure on public goods and services, as well as serve as a tool to influence behaviour.

Taxation is a core area within accounting and law, drawing together concepts from these disciplines, with those from economics. Knowledge and theories in other fields, such as history, psychology and sociology, are applied to help understand the impact of taxation on society.

Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and CPA Australia include taxation courses in their 'core' and 'accounting and/or business-related' academic requirements.



## AT A GLANCE

3.1%

increase in the number of accountants expected by 2023\*

\$102k–  
\$202k

is the amount senior level accountants can earn\*\*

## What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Taxation and Accounting degree, graduates develop a valuable set of transferable skills that includes:

- Logical and quantitative thinking
- Numerical confidence
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Practical application of knowledge
- Understanding of tax law and regulations.

Opportunities to apply your learning beyond campus are available through work-integrated learning (eg, internships) and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, working knowledge, and employability.

## Where have UC graduates been employed?

Studying taxation will equip you with the skills and knowledge to become a taxation specialist within the Accounting profession either as a:

- Commercial professional or
- Chartered accountant/Certified practicing accountant.

UC graduates have been employed in:

- Chartered accountancy firms, taxation experts and management consultants eg, KPMG, PwC, Deloitte, EY, BDO, Grant Thornton Hargreaves, Moore Stephens Markhams, Soutar & Associates, HC Partners LP, Staples Rodway, Crowe Horwath, Nexia New Zealand
- Parliamentary auditors eg, Audit New Zealand
- Government bodies and crown entities eg, Inland Revenue Department, Public Trust
- Banking eg, ANZ, Westpac, BNZ, Kiwibank
- In manufacturing, construction, information management, retail, logistics, software and more.

As a Taxation and Accounting graduate you will be able to work globally.

\* MBIE Occupational Outlook  
\*\* [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

## 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 further study. See 'Professional bodies' and 'Further study' sections on this page.*

### Tax consultant

- Engages in tax planning and transaction structuring
- Provides advice about tax obligations
- Ensures tax laws are complied with
- Advises large enterprises on cross-border tax issues

### Accountant

- Manages the flow of money through an organisation
- Reviews and analyses the performance of businesses, governments and other entities
- Provides financial advice to managers, entrepreneurs, business clients and governmental bodies

### Financial controller, finance manager

- Manages the finance team
- Oversees financial accounting and management reporting
- Analyses performance against objectives and recommendations for improvement

### Business analyst / consultant

- Generates financial and other information
- Reports on organisations, projects, contracts
- Analyses economic and business trends to inform decisions and protect interests

### Auditor, audit analyst

- Examines financial statements
- Provides evidence as to the accuracy of these
- Checks the legality of funding use

### Forensic accountant

- Examines illegal financial activity
- Analyses financial information and data for evidence
- Acts as an expert witness

### Internal auditor

- Carries out audits of systems
- Advises management of the strength and reliability of internal controls
- Reports to the board of directors

### Tax auditor

- Examines financial statements and tax returns
- Undertakes investigations and reviews
- Ensures tax deductions, income and credits are accurate and lawful

### Interest rate risk manager

- Helps clients to manage their interest rate risk
- Tailors solutions to meet client needs and goals
- Uses market insight and risk management strategies

### Entrepreneur

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce)

## What professional organisations can I engage with?

### Pathway to chartered or certified accountancy

Some Taxation and Accounting major students aspire to become chartered or certified accountants. The Bachelor of Commerce Taxation and Accounting major is a pathway to external

qualifications.\*\* In Australia and New Zealand, these qualifications are associated with joining one of the following:

- Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)  
[www.charteredaccountantsanz.com](http://www.charteredaccountantsanz.com)
- CPA Australia  
[www.cpaaustralia.com.au](http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au)
- ACCA  
[www.accaglobal.com](http://www.accaglobal.com)

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as [www.linkedin.com](http://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.

*\*\* Note: specific courses must be included in your degree. Speak to a Business Student Advisor.*

## Why do further study and what are my options?

For many Taxation and Accounting graduates study will be done while working under the guidance of a qualified chartered or certified accountant.

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.

UC offers an MBA for those with work experience, as well as honours, master's (including taught masters), and doctoral programmes in Taxation. Advanced study can lead to an academic career. For qualification listings visit [www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses)

## Useful links

Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers  
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)

Careers New Zealand  
[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

Ngā Kaitatau Māori o Aotearoa |  
National Māori Accountants Network  
[www.nkmoa.co.nz](http://www.nkmoa.co.nz)



## Rich McGill



Bachelor of Law and Commerce in Taxation and Accounting, and Finance Partner, PwC New Zealand, Christchurch.

### Why should a student at UC consider a career in tax?

The public practise of tax provides a great career option for those who like business and enjoy solving problems. Please don't assume a career in tax is just about completing tax returns and compliance processes (as smart software now takes care of the majority of that!). I've found a career in tax to be broad in nature, always changing and something that still regularly presents problems that are not easy to solve.

Being in private practice has also meant that I have been able to apply the discipline to help a range of businesses at all stages of size and complexity. When I say help, that doesn't mean dodge tax. The work we do is

very much focussed on helping our clients meet their compliance obligations through providing certainty often with the help of Inland Revenue through its rulings regime.

### What has your career looked like so far?

I graduated from UC way back in 2003 with conjoint degrees in Law and Commerce. From there, I joined the Tax team at PwC Auckland, where I also studied towards my CA and became admitted to the High Court. PwC also sponsored me to complete a Master in Tax at the University of Auckland which I studied part time while working. In 2007, I jumped at the opportunity to transfer to PwC's New York office where I worked for a couple of years before ultimately ending up back in Christchurch. While I started out as a generalist, I now specialise in international taxation, where I help mainly New Zealand based exporters navigate the tax rules associated with operating cross border.

### What are your career highlights?

I have had so many fantastic highlights over the years and I am massively thankful to PwC for giving me those opportunities. There are so many examples I can think of where we have really made an impact for a client that has helped catapult their business success. Working on such projects alongside the incredible team that is PwC has been immensely rewarding for me. In addition, the opportunity to live and work in New York was definitely a career highlight and I know many of

our team who have also completed international transfers would say the same. Lastly, another massive highlight has been the on-going flexibility that the career in tax and PwC has given me so that I can do big things outside of work (like completing the Coast to Coast in 2019). PwC is ahead of the curve in promoting flexible work practices.

### What advice do you have for someone considering taxation accounting as a career?

Tax is a broad practice area with plenty of opportunities to further your personal and professional goals. My advice is to embrace them, to be determined in growing your technical skills, particularly at the beginning of your career. With time and effort, get to know your clients business and needs. Finally, when given the opportunity to do something new, be it an overseas transfer or a chance to work on something you haven't done before, take it.

### 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](http://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 Accounting and Information Systems

The Department is made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff with a wide range of international experience. Their offices are located in the Meremere building. Often staff are busy; conducting research, which they build into their teaching and tutoring, and presenting at seminars and conferences. Come and speak to a Business degree advisor if you are interested in taking up Taxation and Accounting courses.

T: +64 3 369 3888

E: [studybusiness@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:studybusiness@canterbury.ac.nz)

### 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](mailto:careers@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://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](mailto:liaison@canterbury.ac.nz)

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: [auckland@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:auckland@canterbury.ac.nz)

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: [wellington@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:wellington@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison)

