

What can I do with a degree in Anthropology?

Anthropology.



What is Anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of humanity (the Greek word anthropos means 'human being'). You will study culture, society and the wide variety of ways in which people around the world live. By appreciating what humans have in common, and the fundamentals on which social life is based, comparisons across societies and observations about the nature of human beings can be made. In this sense Anthropology promotes considerable cross-cultural awareness and self-understanding.

Traditionally, anthropology concentrated on the study of non-western societies, but now students can expect to learn about a variety of things relevant to western societies, such as ethnic relations, migration, social change, environmental policies, human-animal relations, and the preservation of cultural resources.

Through Anthropology there is an opportunity to learn about our collective history and explore future issues like the evolving role of technology in our lives, power structures and systemic issues, and where our global culture might be heading.

Learn more

It is important to do some research when planning a future career. Speak with, ask questions of, and follow relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies, thought leaders and industry professionals to learn more about:

- Career opportunities, work environments and salary information
- Education and training requirements.

Examples of professional bodies

- Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa New Zealand www.asaanz.org
- Australian Anthropological Society www.aas.asn.au
- Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania www.asao.org
- New Zealand Archaeological Association www.nzarchaeology.org

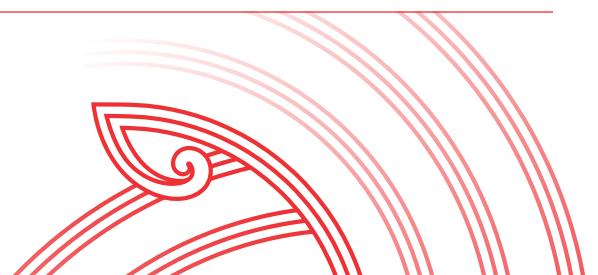
Career and study information

Some study pathways and degrees have a recommended school background, and some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional experience.

Gather helpful information from:

- Subject-specific content at www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/anthropology
- Job profiles on career websites like www.careers.govt.nz
- Job adverts/vacancy descriptions
- Industry professional bodies.

This resource is part of a set of brochures focused on subject majors; many can also be studied as minors.





What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Anthropology, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies. These can include:

- Holistic and contextual understanding
- An appreciation of cultural diversity
- Knowledge of cultural and ethnic changes, policies and resources
- Ability to show sensitivity to people
- An ability to see the world in different ways
- Thinking analytically, critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Logical and quantitative thinking
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving
- Effective oral and written communication
- Research and computing skills
- Time management, planning and organisation.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking, technological literacy, AI and big data.*

*World Economic Forum: www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where have graduates been employed?

Anthropologists are employed in sectors or institutions such as:

- Research
- Museums
- Education
- Community work
- Local and central government
- Non-governmental or not-for-profit agencies.

Due to their transferable skills, Anthropology graduates are found in a variety of destinations:

- International relations
- Media and communications
- Social work and support services
- Libraries
- High-tech industries
- Tourism
- Human resources
- Resource management
- Health.

The ability to see the world differently

Anthropology offers insights into many of the social issues and opportunities in Aotearoa New Zealand and the world today. Anthropologists therefore have an important role to play in areas of public policy, social equity, human rights, technological development, culture and behaviour.

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs — see some examples below.

Note: This list is not exhaustive, and some jobs may require further study, training or experience. It is recommended to start with the section 'How can I gain a sense of career direction?'

Social researcher

- Design and develop research projects
- Use a range of quantitative and qualitative methods to gain insight
- Analyse and interpret data and findings
- Write reports and briefings

Policy analyst / advisor

- Identify and investigate issues and opportunities e.g. in society, law or governance
- Interpret and consult on existing policies
- Prepare reports and recommend changes

Corporate anthropologist, ethnographic researcher, digital anthropologist

- Tailor products/services to people's needs
- Analyse human differences, appetite for change and interaction on behalf of a business
- Assess how culture can impact data and digital technologies (and vice versa)

Archaeologist

- Preserve archaeological sites
- Carry out excavations
- Help restore monuments and sites

Librarian

- Categorise and catalogue library materials
- Select materials for library use
- Help customers find and use materials

Marketing officer / manager

- Collect and analyse market insights
- Prepare and implement marketing plans
- Work with others to promote goods or services

Museum officer

- Plan museum programmes
- Ensure security of items and arrange logistics
- Inform museum visitors

International aid worker

- Manage and assess projects
- Support long-term development
- Evaluate responses to emergency situations

Data analyst

- Collect, analyse and interpret data
- Identify and forecast trends and needs
- Present information to assist decision-making

Curator

- Choose display items at museums or galleries
- Manage collections and exhibitions
- Conduct research and communicate details

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Arts facilitator
- Language teacher
- Digitisation technician
- Charity officer
- Community development worker
- Communications specialist
- Equity, diversity and inclusion officer
- Housing manager
- International aid/development worker
- Local government worker
- Market researcher
- Policy analyst
- Political risk analyst.

Further study options

Anthropology graduates can progress their studies from honours right through to PhD level. These degrees provide advanced research, writing and project skills. Postgraduate study can also lead to an academic career in teaching and research.

UC offers a range of conversion qualifications e.g. in Teaching and Learning, Art Curatorship, Health Sciences, Policy and Governance, Linguistics, International Relations and Diplomacy, Business, and Māori and Indigenous Leadership.

Further study may 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 options align with future career aspirations.

For further UC study options visit:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study

How can I gain a sense of career direction?

Understanding yourself and others is important to gain a sense of direction. This grows with experience; therefore, trying new things and reflecting on an ongoing basis is important.

Career planning checklist

Discover and reflect on:

- Your values, interests, strengths, abilities, and aspirations
- Your connection to whānau, people, and places
- Lifestyle preferences and location
- The skills you want to gain, use, or enhance

Engage in a variety of experiences to learn about:

- How you want to contribute to society, the environment, and global challenges
- The tasks, responsibilities and work environments you prefer
- Your work values, priorities and interests

Learn more and gather career and study information

(refer to page one of this resource)

- Speak with people working in careers that interest you; check the realities of a job/career
- Gather information from various sources

Identify your next steps

- Talking to a career consultant can help you to identify your next steps. Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers



What have other students and graduates done?

Explore career stories of students' university experiences and UC alumni who make a difference globally in varied ways.

Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/why-uc/our-students/student-stories



Rachel

Studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, Linguistics and Japanese

What do you enjoy about studying Anthropology?

I enjoy learning to look at the world with a different lens than the one that I have grown up viewing the world with. During your Anthropology courses, you will begin to catch yourself analysing the world around you and asking questions about things that most people take for granted. I really like looking at our culture in deeper and more meaningful ways.

What advice do you have for students who are considering studying it?

Going into the degree, you need to make sure you enter with an open mind and not to assume that you know all there is about the world. The role of an anthropologist is to question the assumptions that others make!

How was your exchange to Japan?

I got a PMSA (Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia) and a UC Exchange Scholarship for my 10-month exchange to Japan. I went to Kwasei Gakuin University in Nishinomiya. It was both a challenging and motivating experience. I think it is important as a student to go and experience living in another culture that is different to our own. It opens your eyes to different ways of looking at the world and gives you an insight to a different culture that textbooks and readings can never do. I highly recommend the homestay

experience as it will enable you to experience interactions with a local family in that culture that you would otherwise never get to experience.

What are your career goals?

In the future I want to become a teacher, potentially to students learning English as a second language in Korea or Japan. I would also like to conduct an anthropological study within South Korea which would be focused either on the Christian church culture there or the obsessive "saesung" fanbase of K-Pop idols.

Career guidance

Career services are available for future and current students, and recent graduates. To learn more, contact:

Te Rōpū Rapuara | Careers

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers

Helpful career insights

- Speaking with employers is key to finding opportunities; not all jobs are advertised
- Developing an online presence is useful as employers can search for future employees online
- Learning about recruitment patterns and where to find opportunities is important.

Study advice

Student Advisors at UC help with questions focused on starting, planning and changing studies. To connect with Student Advisors, visit:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-support

Future students – contact:

The Future Students team

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

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