

# What can I do with a degree in Māori and Indigenous Studies?

# Māori and Indigenous Studies.



## What is Māori and Indigenous Studies?

Kia ora koutou, tātou katoa.

Nau mai, haere mai, kia rongo koutou i ngā kōrero a ō tātou mātua tīpuna kua huri ki tua o te ārai, ā, mā koutou ō rātou tūmanako rangatira e whakatutuki mō te ao e huri nei.

Māori and Indigenous Studies is a broad subject that seeks to understand the culture, knowledge and philosophies of Māori and indigenous peoples and their economic, political and social realities. These studies are central to education, public policy and cultural competency in Aotearoa New Zealand's bicultural and multicultural landscape as well as connecting with indigenous peoples worldwide.

## 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

- Te Mana Raraunga | Māori Data Sovereignty Network [www.temanararaunga.maori.nz](http://www.temanararaunga.maori.nz)
- New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment [www.nzaiia.org.nz](http://www.nzaiia.org.nz)
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga [www.heritage.org.nz](http://www.heritage.org.nz)
- Te Puni Kōkiri [www.tpk.govt.nz](http://www.tpk.govt.nz)

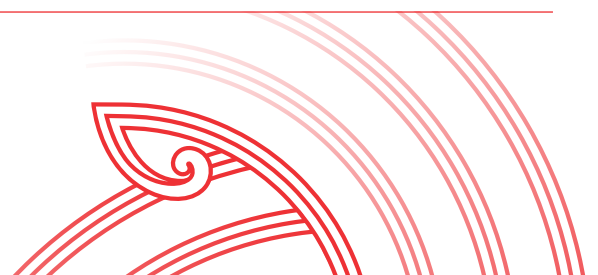
## Career and study information

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/maori-and-indigenous-studies](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/maori-and-indigenous-studies)
- Job profiles on career websites like [www.careers.govt.nz](http://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 Māori and Indigenous Studies, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies. These can include:

- Understanding of tikanga Māori values
- The ability to implement kaupapa Māori perspectives
- Analysing complex textual and cultural phenomenon
- Understanding of the influences on contemporary society
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Writing persuasively
- Research and computing skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- The ability to communicate with a variety of audiences.

### Applied learning

Applied learning opportunities are available, for example Arts internships, consulting projects (through the Māui Lab) and fieldtrips. These experiences can deepen graduates' skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

### 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 is 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](http://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?

Graduates of Otago: School of Māori and Indigenous Studies are found all around the world. Examples of specific employment sectors in Aotearoa New Zealand are:

- Most professional career pathways want people to have had some exposure to te ao Māori
- The diverse Māori sector, spanning private business, iwi organisations, Māori land incorporations and a raft of 'third sector' health, education and social services
- Central and local government organisations have roles dedicated to working with Māori communities and/or addressing Māori interests e.g. Whānau Ora
- Most professional service companies, such as lawyers, accountants, engineers, and clinicians are building their capability to engage with the Māori sector.

Māori and Indigenous Studies alumni are valued in such sectors as:

- Governance including public policy
- Education
- Criminal justice
- Health
- Social services.

## 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?'

### Kaitātari kaupapa | Advisor / policy analyst

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

### Kaiārahi | Mentor / guide / leader

- Support people to reflect biculturalism
- Identify opportunities and review processes to achieve organisational Māori aspirations
- Connect with contributors, leaders and knowledge guardians

### Kaitiaki taonga | Conservator

- Examine artefacts, taonga and their storage
- Keep records and identify restoration work
- Clean and repair sensitive objects and recreate historically accurate finishes

### Kaiatawhai whakaora taonga | Curator, collection manager

- Select taonga for display at museums/galleries
- Manage documentation and conduct research
- Provide access to collections, and field queries

### Kaiwhakahaere | Manager / assistant manager

- Oversee the effective use of resources
- Responsible for certain aspects or overall operation of an organisation or unit
- Plan, budget, supervise, advise, implement, solve problems, and initiate ideas

### Kaiako kura tuarua | Secondary school teacher

- Prepare and deliver learning experiences in specialised subjects
- Understand the learning needs of rangatahi, observe progress to personalise support
- Promote the wellbeing of rangatahi

### Kaiako kura tuatahi | Primary school teacher

- Plan and prepare learning experiences for 5–13 year olds
- Teach and track learning of English, maths, science, technology, health & PE, the arts, social studies, and languages with potential to lead in a curriculum area
- Help develop children's social skills and self-management behaviours

### Resource management planner / officer

- Review and implement policy initiatives and submissions on a region's natural resources
- Ensure adherence to environmental regulations
- Process resource or building consent requests

### Pūkenga atawhai | Māori health worker

- Provide cultural support to the tangata whaiora, their whānau, the clinician and service
- Improve service delivery to these groups

### Pouherenga kōrero o-mua | Historian

- Analyse sources to uncover the history of a period, place, person, group or aspect
- Publish findings and share knowledge

### Pūkenga whare wānanga | Lecturer

- Prepare and give lectures and tutorials
- Set and mark assignments and exams
- Conduct research, write and publish articles

### Kairangahau | Research advisor / assistant

- Organise and conduct research surveys
- Test theories and interpret the results
- Write reports and make recommendations

### Kaimahi taiohi | Social / youth / case worker

- Provide support for individuals and whānau
- Build trust and link people to resources
- Write reports and coordinates budgets

### Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Bi-cultural educator
- Business support representative
- Rangatahi researcher
- Research and creative development consultant
- Teaching assistant.

## Further study options

Māori and Indigenous Studies graduates can progress into a number of higher programmes from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers a postgraduate certificate and master's in Māori and Indigenous Leadership.

Many Arts graduates do additional training in teaching, journalism, policy, international relations, librarianship or management. Postgraduate study can lead to an academic career pathway in teaching and research.

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/why-uc/our-students/student-stories)



### Caitlin

Studying towards a Master of Teaching and Learning endorsed in Primary

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Māori and Indigenous Studies

Bachelor of Arts in Māori and Indigenous Studies and Te Reo Māori

### What motivated you to study your chosen subjects?

I undertook a BA because I wanted to learn te reo and learn about Māori culture. I pursued a BA with Honours to extend myself and my abilities, to question assumptions, and look below the surface.

### What did you learn as a part-time research assistant?

I was a UC research assistant for a year and a half, working for Professor Jeanette King in Aotahi on two projects. The Tuhiinga Māhorahora project involved transcribing and analysing the writing of Māori immersion primary students. The Comparative Language Input Project was an international project investigating the speech of teachers in indigenous language immersion programmes and involved transcribing and analysing the speech of a Māori immersion teacher.

Through this work I increased my understanding of linguistic analysis, learnt how to use various software programmes and improved my reo. I also gained contacts and workplace experience.

### How have your studies helped you in teaching?

My career goal is to become a primary school teacher. My studies in Māori and Indigenous Studies and Te Reo Māori have been invaluable as a student teacher. In all the schools I have visited, there is an attempt to promote te reo Māori and Māori culture. However, not all have the knowledge to do so and I've been able to support my teachers and peers in this area. I've also been informed that my knowledge of Te Reo Māori and Māori and Indigenous Studies makes me highly employable.

### How would you sum up your uni experience so far?

I've loved everything. It has challenged my beliefs, I have met some amazing people and I feel I have a broader outlook on life.

### Do you have any words of advice?

Keep an open mind and push past the fear. Turn up, talk to classmates and take advantage of all available opportunities. You can do the bare minimum and get awarded a piece of paper or you can fully participate and be transformed.

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

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers](http://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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-support)

### Future students – contact:

The Future Students team

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

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

### First year students – contact:

Kaitoko | First Year Student Advisors

T: +64 3 369 0409

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

### Continuing students – contact:

Toi Tangata | Arts

T: +64 3 369 3377

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

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/arts](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/arts)

