

What can I do with a degree in Secondary Teacher Education?

Secondary Teacher Education.



What is Secondary Teacher Education?

Secondary teachers work with young people in Years 7 to 13 (ages 11-18) in intermediate, middle, area and secondary schools. They teach one or more subjects and promote students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi, inclusive education, responsive learning and young people's wellbeing and aspirations are central to Secondary Teacher Education.

UC's pathway to becoming a Secondary Teacher requires an undergraduate degree with subjects that align with the national curriculum.

Subjects include English, science, technology, social sciences and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories, health and physical education, the arts, mathematics and statistics, and learning languages.

An alternative pathway is available for those experienced in and who want to teach Technology or Te Reo Māori.

For those interested in enrolling in Teacher Education programmes, search for available TeachNZ scholarships.

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 teachers to learn more about:

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

Examples of professional bodies

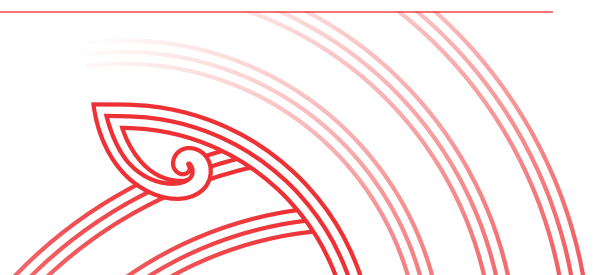
- Teach NZ www.teachnz.govt.nz
- Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand www.teachingcouncil.nz
- Te Wehengarua Post Primary Teachers' Association www.ppta.org.nz
- New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society www.nzeals.org.nz

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/secondary-teacher-education-pg
- Job profiles on career websites like www.careers.govt.nz
- Job adverts/vacancy descriptions
- Industry professional bodies.





What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying UC's Secondary Teacher Education qualification, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies, which can include:

- Bi-cultural competence and culturally responsive practice
- An understanding of how to engage and motivate young people to achieve their goals
- Ability to promote students' social, emotional, intellectual and physical development
- Knowledge of teaching and learning processes
- Interpretive, analytical and reflective thinking
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Time-management, resilience and adaptably
- Teamwork, planning and organisation
- Oral and written communication.

Applied Learning

Professional learning experiences (school placements) with community school partners are available. These experiences deepen graduates' skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, 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 and technological literacy.*

*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?

Secondary Teacher Education graduates gain teaching and management positions in secondary schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.

There are also international teaching opportunities, for example in the UK and Australia, or in international schools around the world.

As well as opportunities in the education sector, teaching skills of leadership, communication, coordination, responsibility and organisation are prized in many professions such as management, policy, publishing, community work, politics and business.

The contacts and experiences from teaching placements can often provide a good springboard into the working world.

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates of UC's Secondary Teacher Education programmes will be eligible for provisional registration, enabling them to apply for secondary teaching positions in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Graduates can teach anything from drama to French, physical education to statistics. There may be opportunities to get involved in school committees, extra-curricular student activities and take on leadership opportunities.

See some job 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?'

Secondary school teacher (English-medium and Māori-medium)

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

Private tutor

- Develop a student's subject understanding
- Maintain knowledge of the curriculum
- Prepare students for assignments or tests

Education advisor

- Work with teachers to develop teaching programmes to increase student achievement
- Design and create teaching resource materials
- Assist with school implementation of new education priorities and policies

Educator, kaiako

- In various settings i.e. museum, art gallery, zoo, life education charity
- Develop and facilitate engaging learning experiences
- Mentor, support and provide guidance
- Advocate for educational progress

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages, ESOL teacher

- Teach English skills, including speaking, listening, reading, writing
- Foster inclusive, culturally responsive learning experiences
- Monitor learning progress and personalise instruction

Special education needs coordinator (SENCO)

- Teach young people with diverse learning needs
- Evaluate special needs, and work with whānau and teachers to develop learning plans
- Recommend and coordinate support services, treatment and therapy

Review / quality assurance officer

- Check legality of a school's policies/practices
- Report findings and make recommendations
- Assess use of funding

Head of department or faculty

- Oversee specific academic department or related departments
- Focus on academic and administrative aspects of daily operations
- Report to higher-level administrators

Secondary school dean

- Assist in supporting learners who may be struggling academically
- Monitor attendance and attend to truancy
- Support teaching staff

Vice / deputy principal

- Promote the school's values, plans and policies
- Develop initiatives that allow for optimum learning and teaching
- Provide leadership and foster relationships

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Learning support teacher/advisor
- Instructional designer
- Play specialist
- Boarding manger
- Youth worker
- Guide / leader / mentor, kaiārahi
- Community development worker
- Education policy advisor
- Teacher assistant
- Teacher aide
- Physical activity activator
- Public programmes facilitator
- School liaison officer
- Supply teacher
- Project administrator.

Further study options

Postgraduate study options allow graduates to focus on an area of interest in Education or gain specialist knowledge in areas from Digital Education Futures, Inclusive and Special Education, Leadership, to Literacy and Tertiary Teaching. Higher study is also a pathway to an academic career.

Postgraduate study options are also available in areas such as Māori Bilingual and Immersion Teaching, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

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



Matt

Teacher, Middleton Grange School

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Secondary)

Give a brief description of what your job involves:

Educating young minds and passing on a passion for Chemistry

What do you find interesting about your job?

I get to shape the lives of young people and help them discover how amazing chemistry is. We also get to do exciting experiments (which often involve explosions!). I think humour is essential in the classroom, as well as being flexible. Sometimes my lesson goes in a totally different direction than what I had planned!

What are some skills you need to be a teacher?

I am constantly having to adapt to the modern learner. Thinking of new, creative ways to engage students and help them understand difficult concepts. You have to be able to relate to people and be passionate about your subject. You have to be a team player.

What advice would you give to someone considering becoming a science teacher?

It is a fantastic subject area. It appeals to a logical mind, and you can have a lot of fun!

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

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