

# What can I do with a degree in Te Reo Māori?

# Te Reo Māori.



## What is Te Reo Māori?

He taoka te reo  
he kura pounamu  
iti kahuraki  
māpihi maurea.

The language is a treasure  
like a greenstone pendant  
That which I strive to possess  
And carry with me always.

The need to embrace te reo Māori as a living, everyday language is becoming more important for people of all walks of life in Aotearoa New Zealand. This subject enables people to explore their identity as New Zealanders and to pass on their passion for this language of Aotearoa to others.

Te Reo Māori is recommended for those who might work with Māori people, indigenous industries or roles that require bicultural and multicultural competency. Any student can take Māori language courses to support their studies.

## 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

- Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga | Māori Centre of Research Excellence  
[www.maramatanga.co.nz](http://www.maramatanga.co.nz)
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
[www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/maori-economic-development](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/maori-economic-development)

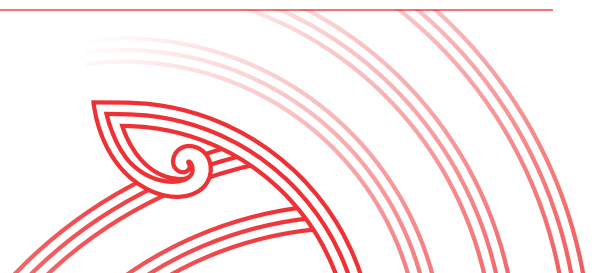
## Career and study information

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/te-reo-maori](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/te-reo-maori)
- 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 Te Reo Māori, graduates develop a valuable set of transferable skills. These skills can include:

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking te reo Māori
- Understanding of tikanga Māori values
- Ability to implement kaupapa Māori perspectives
- Well-developed communication skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Understanding the global interactions which shape contemporary society
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Problem solving skills
- Research and computing skills.

### Applied learning

Applied learning opportunities are available through arts internships, consulting projects (through the Māui Lab), and fieldtrips – Aotahi offers regular wānanga reo (language immersion field trips) to local marae for its language students. 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, 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](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 Aotahi: School of Māori and Indigenous Studies are found all around the world.

- Most professional career pathways want people to have had some exposure to Te Ao Māori
- The diverse Māori sector, spanning private business, tribal 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 eg, Whānau Ora
- Most professional service companies, such as lawyers, accountants, engineers, and clinicians are building their capability to engage with the Māori sector.

Te Reo Māori 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 | Policy analyst / advisor

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

### Kaiko 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

### Kaiko kura tuatahi | Primary school teacher

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

### Kaikawe kōrero | Reporter Kaipāho | Broadcaster

- Investigate and gather information for items
- Prepare scripts
- Report and present stories to the public

### Pūkenga whare wānanga | Lecturer

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

### Ētita / kaiwhakatika | Editor

- Plan and commission content for publication
- Liaise with other staff to oversee production
- Evaluate, edit and organise material for multiple formats — online and in print

### Kaitiaki | Librarian

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

### Kaitohotohu ākonga | Student advisor

- Give advice on academic processes, programmes or courses
- Help students access resources and services

### Kaiārahi | Guide / leader / mentor

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

### Kairangahau | Research advisor / assistant

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

### Kaiwhātoro | Outreach officer Kaitakawaenga | Liaison advisor

- Deliver outreach services within a community
- Provide information to individuals, whānau, caregivers and professionals
- Organise events and deliver presentations

### Kaiwhaka Māori | Interpreter, translator

- Translate conversations or rewrite text from one language to another
- Keep up-to-date with language trends
- Proofread translations
- Travel and present

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

- Bi-cultural educator
- Business support representative
- Early childhood teacher
- Rangatahi researcher
- Teaching assistant.

## Further study options

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

Many Arts graduates do further training in teaching, media, policy, librarianship or management.

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

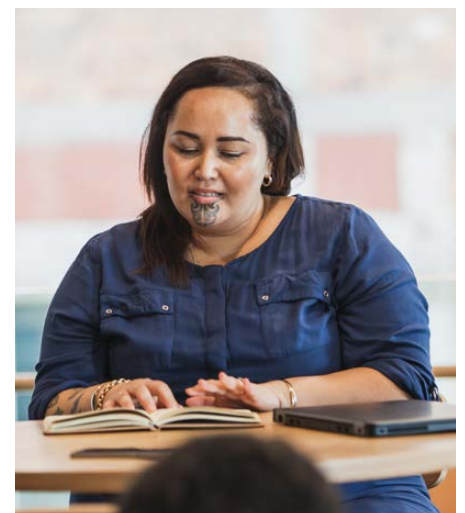
#### Learn more and gather career and study information

(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)



### Michelle

Ngāti Rangitīhi, Ngāti Raukawa

Takere Programme Lead, University of Canterbury

Postgraduate Certificate in Māori and Indigenous Leadership

Certificate in Strategic Leadership

Bachelor of Arts in History with minors in Te Reo Māori and English Postgraduate

### Why did you decide to come to uni and study te reo?

Post-earthquake reflections gave me the motivation to go back to studying after many years in the workforce. I want to become fluent in te reo so I can help contribute to the emerging te reo language.

### What did you like most about learning Te Reo Māori?

Learning it was enjoyable, especially when you are immersed in such a positive environment and you can practise speaking the language every day. I can't wait until I can converse fluently with other te reo Māori speakers. Learning te reo Māori has also enriched my understanding of te ao Māori and has strengthened my connection with my culture.

### How did you feel supported?

The Māori Development Team is awesome – they are always looking for ways to help you achieve. Kaiako and other te reo Māori students host café reo where you can get together and kōrero in a natural environment. Te Ao Mārama is a space that normalises speaking te reo Māori.

### Was mentoring worthwhile?

I found it really helpful to have someone guide me when I first started and I wanted to be able to do the same for someone else so I joined the MDT as a Tuakana mentor. It's awesome to

be able to help out other students. Being a mentor helped me build connections within the university. When the Māori Outreach Advisor role came up, my skills and abilities were already recognised, which helped my application.

### What motivates you in your work?

I have a passion for wanting to help rangatahi navigate their way through their teenage years. I originally came to university to become a secondary school teacher. The role I'm in now is my dream job that I never knew existed! So coming to UC opened up opportunities that I never knew were available. I love helping rangatahi Māori transition easily into tertiary education. I also love helping Māori reconnect with their iwi and re-engage in te ao Māori.

## 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)

