

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

Primary Teacher Education.



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, overseas exchange, 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/primary

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

What is Primary Teacher Education?

Teaching at a primary level allows you to discover the potential of each child, encourage their learning (perhaps beginning a lifelong appreciation of it) and provide important relationships and experiences that will make a real difference to their lives.

For those people who are energetic, committed, creative, have good literacy and numeracy skills and enjoy working with kids, teaching is a positive and varied career to consider.



AT A GLANCE

94%

of Education graduates that are not in further study are employed (the highest of all UC fields)*

\$70k

a primary teacher with seven years' experience earns over \$70,000 (with \$4,000 allowance for curriculum specialists)**

2025

is the year by which the Ministry of Education aims to have every child and young person learning in and through Te Reo Māori+

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Primary Education degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that are transferable to a range of careers. These skills include:

- Knowledge of teaching and learning processes
- Thinking critically and creatively
- Initiating and challenging ideas
- Planning and organisation
- Patience and flexibility
- Knowledge of child development
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving
- Oral and written communication.

Opportunities to apply your learning in schools are available in this major, through community engagement, work-integrated learning (on placement) and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Primary Teacher Education graduates gain teaching and management positions in primary, kura kaupapa, intermediate, middle and area 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, advocacy, publishing, community work, politics and business.

Graduates can work anywhere from an early intervention centre to a university, a drama centre to the Ministry of Education.

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

* 94% of Education graduates, that are not in further study, are in part-time or full-time employment – the highest of all UC fields surveyed (2016 UC Graduate Destinations Survey)

** 2017 MBIE Occupational Outlook

+ www.education.govt.nz/our-work/overall-strategies-and-policies/moutereio

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Graduates of UC's Primary Teacher Education programmes will be eligible for provisional registration. This enables you to apply for primary teaching positions in Aotearoa New Zealand. See some examples of graduate jobs below.

Note: Some of the jobs listed may require postgraduate study. See the 'Further study' section.

Primary school teacher

- Plans and prepares educational lessons
- Teaches and assesses English, maths, science, technology, PE, health, arts and social studies with potential to lead in a curriculum area
- Helps develop children's social skills and self-management behaviours

Kaiwhakaako Māori | Māori-medium teacher

- Provides Māori medium education by developing te reo and tikanga
- Collaborates with whānau and iwi
- Prepares class plans, and sets and marks assessments

Special education / early intervention teacher

- Teaches children with diverse learning needs
- Evaluates special needs, working with whānau and teachers to develop suitable learning plans

Private tutor

- Develops a student's subject understanding
- Maintains knowledge of the curriculum
- Prepares students for assignments or tests

In-home educator

- Supports a child's development in the home
- Plans and supervises daily activities

Drama teacher / music specialist

- Teaches skills to individuals or small groups
- Plans lessons according to students' abilities
- Prepares students for exams or performances

Review / quality assurance officer

- Checks legality of a school's policies/practices
- Reports findings and makes recommendations
- Assesses use of funding

Child advocate, child support officer, fieldworker, community support officer

- Promotes well-being and conditions for children
- Works with children and their families to address education, care or social issues
- Tackles policies that negatively impact children

Vice principal

- Promotes the school's values, strategic plan and policies
- Develops initiatives that allow for optimum learning and teaching
- Provides leadership and fosters relationships

Entrepreneur & self-employment

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

What professional organisations can I engage with?

Connecting with professional bodies and organisations can help you to establish professional networks and learn more about different career options in your area of interest. Gaining valuable insight into a profession can assist in making informed career decisions.

- Te Riu Roa NZEI www.nzei.org.nz
- Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand www.teachingcouncil.nz
- New Zealand Association of Science Educators <https://nzase.org.nz>
- New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society www.nzeals.org.nz

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as 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.

Why do further study and what are my options?

Postgraduate study can facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, 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 career.

Master's and doctoral studies allow graduates to focus on an area of interest. Higher study is also a pathway to an academic career.

Graduates with no prior training can enter teaching via a one-year graduate diploma, postgraduate diploma or master's degree.

UC also offers higher qualifications in areas such as Hōaka Pounamu: Te Reo Māori Bilingual and Immersion Teaching and TESOL. For options visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Useful links

Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Te Taura Whiri | Te Reo Māori
www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz

Akonga Aotearoa Teach NZ
www.teachnz.govt.nz

Tukutuku Kōrero Education Gazette
www.gazette.education.govt.nz



Jamie



Ngāti Maru
Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Primary)
Studying towards a Master of Education
Primary teacher, Coromandel Area School

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I wanted to become a teacher because I feel like I have a lot to give. Growing up I had really great teachers and a really great upbringing. However, some children are not as lucky and I want to be that positive influence in children's lives on a day-to-day basis. This inspires me to teach!

Did you get any special opportunities at UC?

I was accepted to go on the Japan Study Tour through Sonoda Women's University. It was a fantastic opportunity and such a rewarding experience. I couldn't be more thankful to UC for providing a trip like this that opened my eyes up to a rich culture that really pushed me out of my comfort zone in many ways. This trip helped me find myself and grow as an individual.

How did UC's support services help you at uni and beyond?

The Māori Development Team's sense of manaakitanga was truly amazing! I felt very blessed to be part of such a caring and helpful community of people! Mauri ora.

UC has also inspired my love for te reo Māori – I admire the rich culture UC has and I hope to embrace this in my classroom.

UC really helps you to discover who you are and I have developed a sense of tūrangawaewae and pride about who I am and what I do.

What are your career goals?

Simply to not look at teaching as a job but to enjoy the challenging and rewarding experience that life is taking me on. I am doing my master's because I have a passion for learning as much as I can in order to benefit the tamariki of Aotearoa. My goals are to keep learning and to keep inspiring children every day!

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

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

More information

UC students seeking study advice.

Te Kura Whakangungu Kaiako | School of Teacher Education

We provide a range of qualifications at all levels. We are committed to providing exemplary programmes for teachers, supervisors, curriculum specialists, and other professionals pursuing careers in education. We deliver teacher training both on-campus and by distance.

P: +64 3 369 3333

E: education@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/education

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

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Te Rōpū Takawaenga | Student Liaison

Student Liaison provides intending students with information about the university system in general and the courses, qualifications, support and facilities available at UC.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: liaison@canterbury.ac.nz

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: auckland@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

