

What can I do with a degree in Early Childhood Teacher Education?

Early Childhood 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/earlychildhood

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 Early Childhood Teacher Education?

Working in early childhood education will offer you a challenging and rewarding career. You will enhance the lives of infants, toddlers and young children, and provide support for whānau in the important task of parenting/caregiving. The early years of a child's life have a critical impact on their lifelong development; high-quality learning experiences within those years lay the foundations for all later learning.

Now is a particularly good time to get into teaching as there are many Teach NZ scholarships for students enrolling in Teacher Education programmes.



AT A GLANCE

91.5%

of children aged 4 years old are enrolled in early learning in Aotearoa New Zealand*

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*

100%

of employed UC Early Childhood Teacher Education graduates were working in a field directly relating to their study**

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Early Childhood Teacher 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
- Understanding of early childhood experiences and development
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Thinking critically, creatively and challenging ideas
- Planning and organisation
- Patience and understanding
- Oral and written communication
- Working in a team.

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

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates are likely to find roles in early learning centres or childcare centres. These organisations may be funded by the government, run as a business or part of a franchise, by a church or religious group, or even as part of a charity's work. They go by various names including:

- Early learning centres
- Nurseries
- Preschools
- Kindergartens
- Montessori schools.

Employment opportunities may also be found in a range of settings that value working with young children and their families.

Graduates may choose to specialise and work more closely with groups of infants, toddlers and young children with specific needs, such as Māori, Pasifika, gifted or disabled children. There are also international teaching opportunities, for example in the UK and Australia.

* Education Counts Annual ECE Census 2020

* www.education.govt.nz

** 2017, 2018, 2019 UC Graduate Destinations Survey results combined

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Graduates of UC's Early Childhood Teacher Education programmes will be eligible for provisional registration. This enables you to apply for early childhood teaching positions in Aotearoa New Zealand. As well as teaching, graduates have a range of career options. See some examples below.

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

Early childhood teacher

- Plans curriculum experiences that support and extend children's learning
- Educates and cares for children
- Records daily activities and charts progress
- Builds relationships with families

Kaiako kōhanga reo | Māori language nest teacher

- Teaches young children in a Māori language and culture-immersed setting
- Helps develop te reo and tikanga in children
- Collaborates with whānau and iwi

Early childhood centre director / manager / head teacher / team leader

- Manages the overall functioning of the centre including scheduling
- Oversees staff employment and development
- Builds and maintains community relationships

Early childhood centre assistant manager, assistant supervisor, deputy head teacher

- Supports the director or head teacher to manage aspects of the centre

Review / quality assurance officer

- Checks legality of EC centre policies/practices
- Reports findings and makes recommendations
- Assesses use of funding

Early childhood education mentor / educator

- Coaches ECE teachers and educators
- Builds networks and professional practice for those working in isolated settings eg, in homes

In-home educator

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

Hospital play specialist

- Assesses a child's experience of illness or trauma
- Ensures children remain active and socialise
- Encourages therapeutic play to help them cope

Special education / early intervention teacher

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

Teacher aide

- Adapts teachers' learning programmes to the needs of specific students
- Often works one-to-one or in small groups
- Helps children with personal care eg, medication

Child advocate

- 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

Programme coordinator, service manager

- Researches and plans programmes or services
- Coordinates staff and liaises with stakeholders
- Implements and evaluates programmes/services

Nanny

- Supports children's development in their home
- Plans and supervises daily activities

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.

- Early Childhood Council www.ecc.org.nz
- Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand www.ecnz.ac.nz
- Te Riu Roa NZEI www.nzei.org.nz
- Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand www.teachingcouncil.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.

Graduates with no previous training can enter the profession via a one-year diploma.

UC 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

Akona a Aotearoa Teach NZ www.teachnz.govt.nz

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

OMEP Aotearoa New Zealand www.omepaotearoa.org.nz

Aroha



Bachelor of Teaching and Learning
(Early Childhood Education)

What motivated you to study your subject and degree?

My mother was a teacher who also completed a Bachelor degree in ECE at UC. It was through visiting the centres she worked in and her passion that I discovered my own passion for children and was therefore, inspired to take on this career path at Uni so I could learn the skills and knowledge I needed to assist children in their growth and development in these crucial years of their lives.

What do you enjoy about your subject and degree?

I really enjoy this career path because it is so rewarding to be a part of children's growth and to build those positive relationships with children and their whānau.

Each day is new and exciting and to witness and be a part of their curiosity and exploration is truly a gift. I believe that we can learn so much from children.

What advice would you give to someone considering studying in your degree area?

Be open to the knowledge, information and opportunities that are available to you because there is always room to grow. Don't be afraid

to ask questions even when you think they are stupid. Make the most of the resources you have available to you including lecturers (they really do know what they're talking about). Enjoy uni, make the most of it and keep a hold of the passion that brought you into teaching in the first place.

What are your career goals?

I am in the process of looking into doing an additional year of study to gain a qualification for primary teaching. Currently I am absolutely loving teaching the younger ones however, I want to explore and further build on my teaching knowledge and career, as well as leave my future career options open for both age groups.

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

The liaison team provide advice to future students who are starting their degree for the first time. They can assist with information on degrees, scholarships, accommodation, and other aspects of university life. We have offices in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

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

