

What can I do with a degree in Education?

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/educ

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 Education?

Education is a multidisciplinary field of study with a focus on child and adolescent development and health, educational psychology, and the sociology, philosophy and history of education.

Students of Education gain a thorough understanding of human development across the whole lifespan and of teaching and learning processes. They also critically engage with how the education system works, who benefits and who is disadvantaged by it, and approaches which are helpful in addressing those issues.

A breadth of study takes you from discussions on educational inequalities and social justice issues in education to the exploration of inclusive education, critical curriculum studies, child and adolescent well-being and more.



AT A GLANCE

6th

Aotearoa New Zealand is ranked 6th in the world for Primary Education and Health*

88%

of education graduates were in their ideal employment or working in a step in the right direction*

3,000+

staff are employed in Ministry of Education[#]

* Out of 138 economies measured in the World Economic Forum's 'The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-17'

* 2018, 2019, 2020 UC Graduate Destinations Survey results combined

[#] www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/our-role-and-our-people/careers-in-education

What skills have UC graduates gained?

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

- An understanding of human development across the lifespan
- Knowledge of teaching and learning processes
- An awareness of bicultural commitments and practices
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Open-mindedness, tolerance and appreciating different perspectives
- Developing a commitment to community engagement, responsible citizenship and social justice
- Problem solving skills
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Planning and organisation
- Oral and written communication.

Opportunities to apply your learning are available in this major, through community engagement courses, internships, and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates with a major in Education have many and varied career opportunities available to them including work in:

- Government
- Special education
- Social service agencies
- Health and rehabilitation
- Advocacy
- Community development
- Not-for-profit agencies
- Business
- Tertiary sector
- Career consultancies
- Libraries
- Research.

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Graduates of this degree are employed in a range of jobs – see some examples below.

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

Education advisor / consultant

- Works with teachers to develop teaching programmes to increase student achievement
- Designs and creates teaching resources
- Assists with school implementation of new education priorities and policies

Special education / early intervention teacher

- Teaches children with diverse learning needs
- Evaluates special needs, working with whānau and teachers to develop learning plans
- Recommends and coordinates support services, treatment and therapy

Child advocate, community support officer

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

Guide / leader / mentor | kaiārahi

- Supports people to reflect biculturalism
- Identifies opportunities and reviews processes to achieve organisational Māori aspirations
- Connects with contributors, leaders and knowledge guardians

Policy analyst / advisor

- Identifies and investigates issues and opportunities eg, in society, law or governance
- Interprets existing policies and briefs leaders
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Careers counsellor

- Assists clients in developing career decision making and job search skills
- Provides information about education and training options
- Delivers career education seminars

Learning advisor, education platform director

- Develops learning resources or courses
- Uses technology to deliver training
- Advises how to develop skills

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages

- Assesses a student's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and needs

- Designs and prepares learning materials
- Presents lessons or tutorials

Librarian

- Categorises and catalogues library materials
- Selects materials for library use
- Helps customers find and use materials

Sports coach

- Assesses a person's strengths and weaknesses
- Advises how to optimise performance
- Inspires confidence, discipline, teamwork

Teacher (early childhood, primary or secondary)

- Designs learning environments and experiences
- Models bicultural competence and confidence
- Collaborates with whānau and professional colleagues to support students aspirations

Lecturer

- Prepares and gives lectures and tutorials
- Sets and marks assignments and exams
- Conducts research, writes and publishes articles

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 NZIE www.nzei.org.nz
- Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand www.teachingcouncil.nz
- New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society www.nzeals.org.nz
- New Zealand Association for Training and Development www.nzatd.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.

Honours, master's and doctoral studies in Education allow graduates to research an area of interest. Higher study can be a pathway to an academic career.

Graduates may choose to enter early childhood teaching via a one-year graduate diploma. For those interested in primary or secondary teaching, there is the option of a one-year graduate or postgraduate level qualification.

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

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

Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga Ministry of Education careers
<https://jobs.education.govt.nz>

André



Bachelor of Arts in Education with a minor in Human Services
School Teacher and Karate Instructor, Kyushu, Japan

What motivated you to pursue a degree in Education?

I was and continue to be professionally involved in coaching and wanted to academically study the psychological and sociological influences of how people learn.

What did you enjoy about it?

In addition to improving my teaching and coaching ability, studying Education at UC also broadened my understanding of social justice. When you consider that education and educators essentially function as the gatekeepers of society, the academic analysis of education becomes utterly imperative. This was an exciting aspect of studying Education, as it showed that educators can help to mitigate inequalities and, in doing so, contribute towards a better world.

What helped you the most?

The best thing about studying at UC was the quality of the lecturers. If you are serious about your studies, they take a real interest in your work and, more importantly, they offer feedback which is especially useful if you are considering postgraduate study.

What are your interests when you are not studying?

I have trained in traditional Japanese Shotokan for over 30 years. I have won 17 New Zealand titles and was a personal student of the late legend Tetsuhiko Asai.

How did you balance your martial arts career with study?

I think this is a question all serious athletes ponder on when they are looking at study.

I was too busy with study to travel during term times, so I trained hard every day for two to three hours and taught karate locally. I used the time in between semesters to give technical seminars in Australia, Italy, Germany, South Africa, England and Japan. My point is that I could continue to have a career outside university while keeping my grades in the 'A' range.

Why would you recommend this subject to others?

Studying Education at UC is a great choice. Even if you have a profession in education, school teaching, coaching or otherwise, the courses will enhance your understanding of learning and education in a wider social context.

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 Ārahi Ako | School of Educational Studies and Leadership

Everybody has a view of education, but students of Education at UC base their views on the best educational scholarship and research.

Our courses are designed to introduce students to an in-depth, interdisciplinary knowledge of how people learn and the role of education in human societies. Our introductory courses can be studied by distance.

T: +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

