

What can I do with a degree in Forestry Science?

Forestry Science.



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/engineering/schools/forestry/bachelor-of-forestry-science

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 Forestry Science?

If you care about the management of natural resources and are interested in being part of a huge worldwide industry, of particular national relevance to Aotearoa New Zealand, then forestry could be for you.

The Bachelor of Forestry Science is a professional degree offered by the Kura Ngāhere New Zealand School of Forestry. It is an interdisciplinary degree that prepares graduates for managing forest resources by combining the study of core science courses with management, commerce, and technologies.

Forestry Science graduates are highly sought after by employers and follow exciting and rewarding career paths. As a graduate, you can choose a career in commercial forestry, conservation and restoration ecology, research, or policy and planning in Aotearoa New Zealand or overseas.



AT A GLANCE

1 billion

the number of trees the government has committed to planting by 2028*

31%

of Aotearoa New Zealand's land is covered by forests**

**\$110K–
\$150K**

the amount a senior forestry scientist can earn***

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Forestry Science degree graduates gain a skillset that includes:

- Problem solving and decision making
- Project management and teamwork
- Qualitative and quantitative skills
- Awareness of health and safety
- Awareness of environmental and sustainability concerns
- Economic and commercial awareness
- Computing skills and applied geospatial techniques
- Bicultural competence.

Experiential learning

Students undertake 90 days of practical work experience as part of this degree. This provides you with industry understanding and the confidence to apply your skills. Learning and networking also take place during field trips and an industry project.

The School has exchange programmes which allow students to complete one or two semesters of their BForSc studies abroad..

Where have UC graduates been employed?

UC Forestry Science graduates have been employed in a number of organisations such as:

- Forestry companies eg, Rayonier/Matariki Forests, Nelson Forests Ltd, PF Olsen, Juken New Zealand
- Plantations eg, Summit Northern Plantation
- Forest management eg, Hancock Forest Management, NZ Forest Managers, Timberlands, New Zealand Forestry Ltd, Forest Owner Marketing Services, Forest Management NZ
- Log supply and timber products eg, Forests for New Zealand, Pan Pac Forest Products
- Logistics eg, Asset Forestry
- Government bodies eg, Ministry for Primary Industries, Department of Conservation, Te Uru Rākau
- Primary industry companies eg, agriculture
- Biosecurity eg, AsureQuality
- Infrastructure eg, Eastland Group, Fulton Hogan
- Engineers eg, GHD Ltd
- Universities eg, University of Canterbury.

* www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/one-billion-trees-programme

** www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/timber-wood-products

*** www.careers.govt.nz

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Forestry Science graduates are employed in a number of jobs — see some examples below.

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

What job titles do Forestry Science graduates have?

Forestry science

- Forester
- Forest scientist
- Forestry analyst
- Utility forester

Logging

- Timber machinist
- Harvest and woodflow coordinator
- Timber appraiser

Policy and planning

- Policy and resource planner
- Estate and environmental support planner
- Transport planner
- Harvest planning manager, harvest manager
- Forest development manager
- Forest economist

Management

- Forest manager
- Forestry consultant
- System auditor

Conservation

- Forest ecologist
- Conservationist
- Environmental officer
- Biosecurity officer

Logistics and operations

- Operations supervisor
- Supply chain scheduler
- Distributor
- Forest operations supervisor
- Logistics infrastructure manager
- Forest operations assistant

Engineering

- Transport engineer
- Port operations supervisor

Research

- Data analyst
- Research assistant

Geospatial work

- Using global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS)
- Assisting the design of geospatial systems and managing equipment..
- For specific job profiles go to www.careers.govt.nz or www.prospects.ac.uk

What activities could be part of these jobs?

- Evaluating and analysing forestry issues
- Focusing on tree breeding and genetics, tree physiology, entomology and soil science
- Planning and supervising afforestation, reforestation, and harvesting projects
- Ensuring forest health via environmental protection
- Ensuring environmental and sustainable principles during forest management
- Predicting consumption and supply trends
- Preparing reports to help decision making
- Selecting trees for thinning and harvesting
- Recording the quality and volume of logs taken
- Testing to identify and resolve any issues of disease or pests.

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 Pūtahi Ngāherehere o Aotearoa Incorporated New Zealand Institute of Forestry www.nzif.org.nz
- Forest Industry Engineering Association www.fiea.org.nz
- New Zealand Forest Owners Association www.nzfoa.org.nz

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as LinkedIn 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, entry into a specific occupation, higher starting salary, faster progression rate, and advanced research capability. The Master of Forestry Science and the PhD in Forestry involve research in specialised topics.

It is possible for graduates to do postgraduate study that will open new career paths.

www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Useful links

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

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Amy



Bachelor of Forestry Science with Honours
Harvest Planning Manager,
Rayonier/Matariki Forests

So, why Forestry?

I decided to take up Forestry on a whim, with some input from my grandmother who took me out to visit a farm forester she knew. It wasn't until I was in the thick of it that I knew this is what I wanted to do.

Can you tell us about your first role at Rayonier?

My first graduate position was a Log Production Coordinator at Rayonier and the major part of my role involved supervision of harvesting crews in terms of harvest planning, log quality, health and safety, and the environment. I also determined the weekly log grades to be cut based on customer orders and estimated grade outturn in the bush.

What do you enjoy about your current gig?

My goal is to love what I do. One of the best things about my job is that I get to meet and work with a wide range of people. I visit our crews, do health and safety and environmental audits, plus office work and meetings. It makes it very dynamic as I'm doing something different every day of the week.

How did your course prepare you for what you are doing now?

My degree provided a holistic understanding of the basics required to understand the day-to-day things that occur in the real world of forestry.

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

Definitely give it a go, the career paths are endless!

You learn about a vast range of topics such as management, economics, soils, wood science, harvesting, environmental forestry, biosecurity and the list goes on. Not only that but you get to meet a really awesome bunch of people!

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.

Kura Ngahere | School of Forestry

UC is the only Aotearoa New Zealand university to offer a professional degree in Forestry. It is located near plantations and native forests, which are used for both teaching and research.

Small class sizes make the BForSc a friendly and social programme and the Forestry Students' Society (FORSOC) organises social functions throughout the year.

There is flexibility in how you structure your studies. Come and speak with us about your interests and goals.

T: +64 3 364 2109

E: forestry@canterbury.ac.nz

www.forestry.ac.nz

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

