What can I do with a degree in Māori and Indigenous Studies?

Māori and Indigenous Studies.

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, 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/maori

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.

What is Māori and Indigenous Studies?
Kia ora koutou, tātou katoa. Nau mai, haere mai, kia rongo koutou i ngā kōrero a ō tātou mātua tīpuna kua huri ki tua o te āraí, ā, mā koutou ō rātou tūmanako rangatira e whakatutuki mō te ao e huri nei.

Māori and Indigenous Studies is a broad subject that seeks to understand the culture, knowledge and philosophies of Māori and indigenous peoples and their economic, political and social realities. These studies are increasingly seen as central to education, public policy and cultural competency in Aotearoa New Zealand’s bicultural and multicultural landscape as well as connecting with indigenous peoples worldwide.
What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Māori and Indigenous Studies degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that are transferable to a range of careers. These skills include:

• Analysing complex textual and cultural phenomenon
• Understanding of tikanga Māori values
• Ability to implement kaupapa Māori perspectives
• Understanding of the influences on contemporary society
• Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
• Writing persuasively
• Research and computing skills
• Interpretive and analytical thinking
• Problem solving skills
• Oral and written communication.

Applied learning

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available in this subject, for example Arts internships, consulting projects (through the Māui Lab) and fieldtrips. These experiences deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates of Aotahi: School of Māori and Indigenous Studies are found all around the world. Examples of specific employment sectors in Aotearoa New Zealand are:

• 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.

Māori and Indigenous Studies alumni are valued in such sectors as:

• Governance including public policy
• Education
• Criminal justice
• Health
• Social services.

For examples of recruiting employers go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers

AT A GLANCE

$40b

Māori economy asset base was valued at $40 billion in 2013*  

73%

of Chinese visitors to Aotearoa New Zealand will visit a Ngāi Tahu Tourism visitor attraction**

15

Māui Lab interns worked on research-based projects for Māori communities in 2016

* Te Puni Kōkiri Māori Economy Report 2013  
** www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz/investment/ngai-tahu-annual-reports
^ www.maulab.org
What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Graduates with 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.

Policy analyst / advisor | Kaitātari kaupapa
- Identifies and investigates issues and opportunities eg, in society, law or governance
- Interprets existing policies and briefs leaders
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Curator, collection manager | Kaiatawhai whakaora taonga
- Cleans and repairs sensitive objects and keeps records and identifies restoration work
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Conservator | Kaitiaki taonga
- Connects with contributors, leaders and identifies opportunities and reviews processes
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Guide / leader / mentor | Kaiārahi
- Prepares reports and recommends changes
- Interprets existing policies and briefs leaders
- Identifies and investigates issues and solves problems, and initiates ideas

Manager / assistant manager | Kaiwhakahaere
- Provides access to collections, and fields queries
- Manages documentation and conducts research
- Selects taonga for display at museums/galleries

What professional bodies can people link to?

As they progress, students and graduates often join professional bodies or organisations relevant to their area of interest. These organisations can provide regular communications and offer the chance to network with others in a community.

- Māori Development Research Centre
  www.mdrc.co.nz
- Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga | Māori Centre of Research Excellence
  www.maramatanga.co.nz
- Toi Māori Aotea | Māori Arts NZ
  www.maoriart.org.nz

Social media networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter can provide avenues to keep up-to-date with industry knowledge, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies.

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. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

Māori and Indigenous Studies graduates can progress into a number of higher programmes from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers a postgraduate certificate and master’s in Māori and Indigenous Studies.

Many Arts graduates do additional training in teaching, journalism, policy, international relations, librarianship or management. Postgraduate study can lead to an academic career pathway in teaching and research. For UC qualification listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

What are my options?

UC students and alumni can find details of internships, job vacancies and employability tips at www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz

Secondary school teacher | Kaiako kura tuarua
- Plans and delivers instructional lessons
- Evaluates performance and provides feedback
- Sets and marks assignments and tests

Primary school teacher | Kaiako kura tuatahi
- Prepares learning activities for 5–13 year olds
- Sets and marks assignments and exams
- Prepares and gives lectures and tutorials
- Conducts research, writes and publishes articles

Research advisor / assistant | Kairangahau
- Conducts research, writes and publishes articles
- Sets and marks assignments and exams
- Prepares and gives lectures and tutorials

Research advisor / assistant | Kairangahau
- Organises and conducts research surveys
- Tests theories and interprets the results
- Writes reports and makes recommendations

Social / youth / case worker | Kaimahi taiohi
- Provides support for individuals and whānau
- Builds trust and links people to resources
- Writes reports and coordinates budgets

UC Careerhub
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Useful links

UC Careers, Internships & Employment
www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Aotahi: School of Māori and Indigenous Studies
www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/aotahi

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

For Māori business

Public sector jobs
www.jobs.govt.nz
What motivated you to study your chosen subjects?
I undertook a BA because I wanted to learn te reo and learn about Māori culture. I pursued a BA with Honours to extend myself and my abilities, to question assumptions, and look below the surface.

What did you learn as a part-time research assistant?
I was a UC research assistant for a year and a half, working for Professor Jeanette King in Aotahi on two projects. The Tuhinga Māhorahora project involved transcribing and analysing the writing of Māori immersion primary students. The Comparative Language Input Project was an international project investigating the speech of teachers in indigenous language immersion programmes and involved transcribing and analysing the speech of a Māori immersion teacher.

Through this work I increased my understanding of linguistic analysis, learnt how to use various software programmes and improved my reo. I also gained contacts and workplace experience.

How have your studies helped you in teaching?
My career goal is to become a primary school teacher. My studies in Māori and Indigenous Studies and Te Reo Māori have been invaluable as a student teacher. In all the schools I have visited, there is an attempt to promote te reo Māori and Māori culture. However, not all have the knowledge to do so and I’ve been able to support my teachers and peers in this area. I’ve also been informed that my knowledge of Te Reo Māori and Māori and Indigenous Studies makes me highly employable.

How would you sum up your uni experience so far?
I’ve loved everything. It has challenged my beliefs, I have met some amazing people and I feel I have a broader outlook on life.

Do you have any words of advice?
Keep an open mind and push past the fear. Turn up, talk to classmates and take advantage of all available opportunities. You can do the bare minimum and get awarded a piece of paper or you can fully participate and be transformed.