

What can I do with a degree in Philosophy?

Philosophy.



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/phil

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 Philosophy?

Questions studied in UC Philosophy classes include: Are killer drones immoral? What about genetic engineering? Should rich countries give substantially more in overseas aid? Are there objective moral truths? Does God exist? Could we survive death as computer uploads? What is consciousness? Can machines think? What is the difference between science and myth? Why do we enjoy art? Is time travel possible?

Philosophy teaches you how to think about such questions rationally, carefully and clearly. These skills are of real value in the workplace, and also when dealing with more theoretical aspects of other disciplines, including professional subjects such as Law, Nursing, and even Engineering.



UC Philosophy offers Bioethics courses for students in Arts, Criminal Justice, Health Sciences, Law, Science and other degree subjects.

AT A GLANCE

#1

Philosophy students gain the highest GRE scores in verbal reasoning and analytical writing*

\$83k

a mid-career US Philosophy graduate earns \$83,000 (NZ \$117,800) – more than other graduates with a humanities bachelor's degree

What skills have UC graduates gained?

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

- Careful, rational, systematic and clear analysis
- Thinking critically, creatively and challenging ideas
- Logic and reasoning
- Research and computing skills
- Problem solving skills
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Understanding the role of ethics
- Effective persuasive oral and written skills.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available in this major. Undertaking an internship, for example, can deepen your skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge, and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Philosophy graduates are employed in a wide variety of sectors, including for example:

- Technology companies
- Government agencies
- Healthcare

- Education and training
- Legal services
- Finance and insurance
- Manufacturing and retail sectors.

New Zealand organisations that have recently hired humanities graduates with problem solving and critical thinking skills include for example:

- Public sector bodies such as the Ministry of Education, the Government Communications Security Bureau, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Private organisations such as Vodafone, Microsoft and Kraft Heinz
- Digital technologies such as UC Arts Digital Lab
- Not-for-profit organisations such as Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand.

Recent UC Philosophy graduates have landed roles in various universities, government organisations, a music company, law firms, recruitment agencies, technology companies, the retail trade, and private tutoring services. Some of these graduates have even set up their own business.

Internationally, Philosophy is recognised as excellent preparation for medical, business and law graduate schools. With growing business buy-in to concepts of global citizenship, and corporate social responsibility, opportunities for graduates with an ethics background are wide.

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

* 2016 GRE examination in over 30 disciplines, a worldwide graduate school and business school examination

** 2016 College Salary Report, www.payscale.com

^ Requires legal training also

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

- Identifies issues and opportunities eg, in society, law or governance
- Interprets and consults on existing policies
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

Tertiary lecturer

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

Programmer

- Specifies and writes software code
- Builds prototypes and tests systems
- Identifies and fixes programme problems

Artificial intelligence (AI) researcher

- Specifies and writes AI code
- Designs prototype robots
- Markets AI systems to customers eg, banks, hospitals, the military

Ethicist

- Trains people in professional ethics
- Promotes ethics and embeds frameworks within an organisation eg, police, hospitals

Marketing officer, sales manager

- Collects and analyses market insight
- Prepares and implements marketing plans
- Works with others to promote goods or services

Entrepreneur and CEO

- Develops an idea to form their own business
- Gets involved in a start-up

Get started at www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting_started.shtml

Operations manager

- Helps develop strategies and business plans
- Manages standards and business relationships
- Structures resources to deliver services or goods on time and to budget

Legal services^{*}

- Administers the legal aspects of a company
- Prepares and interprets legal documents
- Prepares for court cases and acts for clients

Judge's / legal clerk^{*}

- Assists with the day-to-day operation of courts
- Handles court documents and schedules
- Liaises with police, judges and lawyers

Research analyst / advisor / assistant

- Organises and conducts research surveys
- Tests theories and interprets the results
- Writes reports and makes recommendations

Human resources / recruitment advisor

- Understands a business's personnel needs
- Advertises vacancies and recruits staff
- Advises on workplace policies and procedures

Customer services officer / representative

- Provides information or advice to people
- Starts the next steps in the process

Secondary school teacher

- Plans and delivers instructional lessons
- Evaluates performance and provides feedback
- Sets and marks assignments and tests

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.

- New Zealand Society for Legal and Social Philosophy www.nzlsp.wordpress.com
- Australasian Association of Philosophy www.aap.org.au
- International Association for Critical Realism www.criticalrealismblog.blogspot.co.nz
- New Zealand Association for Philosophy Teachers www.nzapt.net

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

Philosophy graduates can progress from honours through to PhD level. Many train in ethics, teaching, journalism, policy, librarianship, diplomacy or management.

www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

UC Careerhub

UC students and alumni can find details of internships, job vacancies and employability tips at

www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz

Useful links

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

UC Department of Philosophy
www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/philosophy

Careers New Zealand
www.careers.govt.nz

Philosophy for Children New Zealand
www.p4c.org.nz

UC Arts Digital Lab
<http://dh.canterbury.ac.nz>

Artificial Intelligence Forum of New Zealand
www.aiforum.org.nz



Rory Collins



Studying towards a Bachelor of Science in Philosophy and Statistics and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Psychology
Teacher Aide, Hagley College

Why did you choose Philosophy?

My degree contains a mix of Arts and Science subjects and the skills and ideas learned in one course give you a different way of looking at topics in another.

Out of all my courses, Philosophy is the one I'm most passionate about. The courses on offer are extremely diverse and the assignments allow for students to research whatever niche they're into. It's one subject that's never boring.

What are your career goals?

Something teaching or education-related, maybe in secondary or maybe in tertiary. For now, I hope to be a high school teacher, ideally teaching philosophy but I'll happily teach English and mathematics until a philosophy teaching role opens up.

Why the interest in teaching?

I've had a real mix of teachers throughout my schooling – some brilliant and some rubbish – which has shown me the huge benefits that an effective teacher can bring to a class. I would not have got to where I am now without some of my teachers, so I hope one day to 'pay it forward' through my own teaching practice.

How are you working towards your goal while studying?

I work as a teacher aide for a class at Hagley College to help students who are struggling by breaking tasks down into smaller components and work through them step-by-step. The best part of my job is being able to help the more capable students to go beyond the minimum requirements and produce some quality work.

What advice would you give to someone considering Philosophy?

Do it. Philosophy has a reputation of being too far removed from real-life to be of any practical benefit, but this simply isn't true. Philosophy teaches you to view the world critically and analytically, which is a skill that can be applied to a range of academic and vocational settings.

Read more online

Read Rory's full story about his university experience online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where Philosophy graduates are now visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/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.

Department of Philosophy
Te Rāngai Toi Tangata | College of Arts

The Department offers world-class expertise in specific areas of Philosophy as well as a broad-based degree. A Philosophy degree is flexible, allowing students to pursue very different pathways. It also allows students majoring in other subjects to add Philosophy courses.

Staff are happy to go the extra mile to help students so enquiries are welcome.

T: +64 3 364 2176

E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/philosophy

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Careers, Internships & Employment
Te Rōpū Rapuara

CIE 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 3 364 3310

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

[UCCareersEmployment](#)

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Student Liaison
Te Rōpū Takawaenga

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) ext 93231

E: wellington@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison