What can I do with a degree in Chinese?

Chinese.

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/chin

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 Chinese?
China is one of the world’s oldest civilisations and is, in the twenty-first century, the most heavily populated nation in the world, with over 1.3 billion people. For the last few years China has been Aotearoa New Zealand’s fastest growing market for international visitors.

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken first language in the world. It is an official language in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore and a common community language in Malaysia and Indonesia.

By developing competency in the Chinese language, students will gain insight and access to Chinese culture. Understanding the society and culture of this historic yet modern nation is becoming increasingly important as China overtakes more traditional western nations in terms of economic power, cultural relevance and international influence.
What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Chinese degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that includes:

• Reading, writing, listening and speaking Chinese
• Oral and written communication skills
• Interpretive and analytical thinking
• A better understanding of the global interactions which shape contemporary society
• Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
• Problem solving skills
• Research and computing skills

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

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Learning about influential languages and cultures is advantageous for many careers around the world as graduates are increasingly required to be culturally competent, globally aware and ready to work internationally.

Chinese graduates are in high demand by:

• Local and central government, in such departments as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
• Professional and research-based organisations
• Tourism, transport and related industries
• Educational institutions
• International traders, import/export businesses
• Business, finance and law firms.

Lawyers, accountants, engineers, managers, teachers and other professionals with Chinese skills and knowledge can find work in Aotearoa New Zealand, China and other Asian countries.

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

AT A GLANCE

36 flights operate between Aotearoa New Zealand and China each week*

186 UC students have travelled to China on the MGMT 228 Chinese Business Practices and Culture study tour since it began

73% of Chinese visitors to Aotearoa New Zealand will visit a Ngāi Tahu Tourism visitor attraction**

* www.tourismnewzealand.com/markets-stats/markets/china
** www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz/investment/ngai-tahu-annual-reports

Note: this does not include flights to Hong Kong or Taiwan

www.tourismnewzealand.com/markets-stats/markets/china
www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz/investment/ngai-tahu-annual-reports
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.

**Interpreter**
- Translates spoken language from one language to another, often simultaneously
- Keeps abreast of up-to-date meaning of words
- Researches specialist topics, travels with groups and presents to different audiences

**Translator**
- Conveys the content of the source text into the target language
- Researches terminology or technical words and language trends
- Often works collaboratively as part of a team of translators

**Teacher of English for speakers of other languages (TESOL)**
- Assesses a student’s reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and needs
- Designs and prepares learning materials
- Presents lessons, including on local knowledge and skills for coping in a new place

**Policy analyst / advisor**
- Identifies and investigates issues and opportunities eg, in society, law or governance
- Interprets and consults on existing policies
- Prepares reports and recommends changes

**Tourism marketing officer**
- Researches consumer market and interests
- Manages customer networks and relationships
- Creates and maintains corporate brands and advertising media

**Language officer / consultant**
- Outlines the sounds, words, structure, and vocabulary of a language spoken for organisational purposes
- Leads engagement and information sessions
- Translates and interprets

**Immigration officer / migration consultant**
- Understands immigration instructions
- Assesses client eligibility for visas
- Helps navigate migration processes for individuals or organisations
- Writes submissions and files applications

**Research specialist / analyst**
- Organises and conducts research
- Develops and tests theories, interprets results
- Writes reports, makes recommendations and publishes research

**Secondary school teacher**
- Plans and delivers instructional lessons
- Evaluates performance and provides feedback
- Sets and marks assignments and tests

**Import / export broker**
- Assists with marketing and sales activities
- Investigates overseas demand for goods
- Builds networks and customer relationships

**Entrepreneur and CEO**
- Develops an idea, product or service
- Offers services as a freelancers/consultant
- Get started at www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting_started.shtml

What professional bodies can people link to?

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

- New Zealand Association of Language Teachers www.nzalt.org.nz
- New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters inc www.nzsti.org
- Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Aotearoa New Zealand www.tesolanz.org.nz
- Export New Zealand www.exportnz.org.nz
- NZ-China Trade Association www.nzcta.co.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, and advanced research capability. It can also lead to an academic career. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

Chinese graduates can progress into many higher programmes, from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers master's degrees in Linguistics, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Computer-Assisted Language Learning. Many allow you to carry out research or project work.

Graduates can also do additional training in areas such as Teaching, Marketing or Business Management. For UC qualification listings visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

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**UC Careerhub**

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

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**Useful links**

UC Careers, Internships & Employment www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
UC Department of Chinese www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/chinese
Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz
Asia New Zealand Foundation www.asianz.org.nz
Confucius Institute UC www.ci.canterbury.ac.nz
UC students seeking study advice.
Department of Chinese
Te Rāngai Toi Tangata | College of Arts
UC provides a wide range of courses in both the language and the studies of Chinese literature, thought, tradition, culture and society. It is backed by a team of staff specialising in language, literature, philosophy, film and culture.
The Chinese language courses at UC aim to develop language competence in both spoken and written forms. No previous knowledge of the Chinese language is needed.
Students are eligible for a range of scholarships, including funding for studies based in China.
T: +64 3 364 2176
E: artsdegreeadvice@canterbury.ac.nz
www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/chinese

Why did you choose your degree?
Business is such a flexible and versatile degree in many sectors around the world. I also studied Chinese language to combine the two, making the most of China's growing influence in the world.
UC’s focus on shaping graduates to be more bicultural and globally aware was also a big drawcard for me.

How was your exchange to China?
I was fortunate enough to be awarded a Prime Minister’s Scholarship for Asia valued at $12,000 to cover the costs of a semester-long academic exchange at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics.
Whilst living there, I had the opportunity to be immersed in a culture so different to ours and to learn how the Chinese live, learn and work. I was also able to build my then very basic Mandarin skills into a more rounded and confident conversational tool.

How did it inspire you?
I developed a passion for China and learned how its future is very much a big part of New Zealand’s future.

More information
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.
Ōtāutahi | 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

Sam Brosnahan
Bachelor of Commerce in International Business
Studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese and Political Science and International Relations

Read more online
Read Sam’s full story and find out where Chinese graduates are now at www.canterbury.ac.nz/profiles
The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

Upon returning I was appointed President of a student-run, non-profit organisation at UC called Global China Connection, which essentially aims to build New Zealand-China relations through professional and networking initiatives.

Do you have any advice for new students?
Go on exchange! Anywhere around the world. But in particular I’d encourage them to choose somewhere outside their comfort zone. Go somewhere with a different culture and different language to New Zealand because you’ll learn so many new skills and an appreciation for different cultures.

What are your career goals?
In the area of business, I’d love my career to involve acting as a bridge builder between Chinese and New Zealand business culture, either based here or in China.