What can I do with a degree in Information Systems?

Information Systems.

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, study abroad, skills seminar, or joining an industry group — these activities will enhance your employability.

What is Information Systems?

We live in an ‘Information Age’ where access to information, information systems and digital technology plays a major role in organisations. With information systems we can change how we work, how we communicate, and how we do business.

Information Systems (IS) is about how businesses use information technology to become smarter, better, faster, and achieve their strategic goals. IS enables businesses to create value, provide solutions to business problems, and use technology to innovate and create new opportunities.

The subject of Information Systems addresses the design, development and delivery of solutions to business problems, and the management of IS projects, personnel and resources. It takes more of a business perspective than Computer Science, Computer or Software Engineering.

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/informationsystems](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/informationsystems)

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)
What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Information Systems degree, graduates build transferable skills such as:

• Practical application of computing knowledge to business
• Programming and design
• Logical and quantitative thinking
• Interpretive and analytical thinking
• Problem solving skills
• Commercial and business awareness.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available through work-integrated learning (eg, internships) and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, working knowledge and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates start their careers in a wide range of sectors, be it commercial, public or not-for-profit. Recent Information Systems graduates have found work in a number of diverse destinations such as:

• Banking
• Financial services
• Insurance
• Information technology services
• Telecommunications
• Software companies
• Healthcare
• Materials sector
• Retail
• Enterprise and innovation
• Professional, scientific and technical services
• Advisory services
• Sport and leisure
• Tourism and hospitality.

For more examples of employers who recruit UC students and graduates go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/recruitingemployers

AT A GLANCE

99k

the Aotearoa New Zealand technology sector employs nearly 99,000 workers

5.2%

growth in the employment of business and systems analysts, and programmers is expected by 2020

29k

over 29,000 people in Aotearoa New Zealand work in computer systems design

* 2017 MBIE Occupational Outlook
^ NZ Tech, 'Digital Nation New Zealand, From Tech Sector to Digital Nation' June 2016
What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Information Systems graduates are employed in a wide variety of jobs — see some examples below.

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

**Information systems analyst**
- Develops computer and information system strategies that align with business requirements
- Provides technical and analytical services for a range of business departments
- Trains any computer users within the business

**Project manager**
- Manages an information system project plan, budget and schedule
- Supervises project progress and manages risks
- Liaises with project staff, contractors, clients

**Systems architect**
- Analyses how IT can be and is being used by an organisation
- Researches new computing applications including costs and benefits
- Devises structural plans for new applications
- Tests computing solutions and fixes issues
- Delivers training on how to use the application

**Programmer, software developer**
- Determines specifications and writes code
- Builds prototypes of software programs
- Tests and fixes computer programs/systems
- Maintains and upgrades programs and systems
- May develop and integrate technical aspects of websites/mobile apps along with other workers

**Advisory consultant**
- Works with leaders to reduce, manage, and mitigate risk
- Helps clients to improve processes and procedures in anything from cyber security to technology
- Solves big, far-reaching challenges

**Web developer**
- Develops website functionality and security
- Designs interfaces and back-end web structures such as servers
- Maintains and updates the website as required

**Business intelligence consultant**
- Provides advice, expertise and specialist skills in data insight
- Shares knowledge of Business Intelligence concepts and technology benefits to clients
- Helps grow an organisation’s data warehousing

**Data analyst**
- Analyses data and modelling to solve problems
- Gains insight across differing domains and functions

**Database administrator**
- Monitors and plans capacity
- Controls access and privileges
- Ensures storage, archiving, back-up and recovery measures are functioning effectively

**Entrepreneur, Director and CEO**
- Develops an idea to form their own business
- Gets involved in a start-up
- Offers their services as a freelancer/consultant

Get started at [www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers/Entrepreneurship/getting_started.shtml](http://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 with others in the same community.

- **New Zealand Technology Industry Association**
  [www.nztech.org.nz](http://www.nztech.org.nz)
- **IT Professionals New Zealand**
  [www.itp.nz](http://www.itp.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 many career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into a specific occupation, higher starting salary, faster progression rate, and advanced research capability. Advanced study can lead to a career in tertiary teaching or research. It is important to determine which, if any, further study will help you in your future career.

Information Systems graduates are able to progress through to PhD level in the subject, including doing a Master of Commerce. Both these degrees include a research component.

UC also offers a Postgraduate Diploma in Information Systems and Technology which is an ideal advanced qualification for graduate IT specialists. Graduates with some work experience can undertake an MBA.

For UC listings and prerequisites visit [www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses)

Useful links

- UC Careers, Internships & Employment [www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)
- UC Careehub — internships, jobs and tips [www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.careerhub.canterbury.ac.nz)
- Careers New Zealand [www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)
- UC Centre for Entrepreneurship [www.uce.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.uce.canterbury.ac.nz)
Henry Lane

Bachelor of Commerce with an endorsement in Information Systems
Managing Director, Corvecto, Christchurch
Executive Director, EPIC Innovation

What motivated you to study Information Systems?
I was motivated by a mixture of my interest in high-level computing and business. Information Systems is an exciting and continually growing industry with multiple directions for potential career paths, especially right now here in Christchurch.

What are you doing currently?
As the Executive Director of EPIC Innovation, I work with my three business partners to manage and grow the 4000sqm EPIC technology campus on Manchester Street in the centre of town where we house 20 innovation-focused companies with around 300 full time employees between them, whilst we foster a global network of industry leaders, entrepreneurs, SMEs, financiers and governments who are excited to connect with New Zealand.

Did you have any exciting job opportunities before EPIC Innovation?
At CerebralFix Ltd which is one of New Zealand’s largest video game development studios, I was fortunate to work on a day-to-day basis with some of the world’s most influential and experienced executives, engaging with multi-million to multi-billion dollar brands.

My role at CerebralFix as President of Business Development included seeking out new business whilst maintaining contact and building relationships with our existing business partners such as Disney, DreamWorks and Sony Pictures to name a few.

How has your study prepared you for what you are doing now?
My degree has helped to nurture and solidify my ability to commit to completing and executing the goals I set for myself, no matter how ridiculous they may look from afar.

What do you aim to achieve with your career?
I seek to reinforce the international perception that New Zealand companies are capable of not only meeting but exceeding expectations when performing on the global stage. I believe it’s realistic that we can grow New Zealand into the Silicon Valley of the Southern Hemisphere.

Read more online
Read Henry’s full story and find out where Information Systems graduates are now at [www.canterbury.ac.nz/profiles](http://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 Accounting and Information Systems
Te Kura Umanga | UC Business School
The Department is made up of enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff with a wide range of international experience. Their offices are located in the Business and Law Building, but most of the time they are to be seen elsewhere; conducting research, which they build into their teaching and tutoring, and presenting at seminars and conferences. Come and speak to a Business degree advisor if you are interested in taking up Information Systems courses.
T: +64 3 364 3648
E: acis@canterbury.ac.nz
[www.acis.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.acis.canterbury.ac.nz)

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers)
[UCCareersEmployment](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/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
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison)

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](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison)