



Master of Antarctic Studies



Study Antarctica in Antarctica





The Master of Antarctic Studies (MASt) aims at training graduates from a broad range of disciplines who wish to pursue a research career focused on Antarctica or the Southern Ocean. The taught component of the programme enables students to gain a critical understanding of contemporary scientific, environmental, social and political questions connected to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. The accompanying dissertation research project requires students to develop original Antarctic or Southern Ocean research in their chosen field under the supervision of a team of Gateway Antarctica supervisors.

Antarctic field training and the experience of living and working in Antarctica are central to the taught component of MASt.

Jointly developed by the University of Canterbury and Antarctica New Zealand, this is the only Master's programme in the world to offer students the experience of life in the Antarctic – at Scott Base, New Zealand's Antarctic research station on Ross Island.

Programme components

MASt offers graduates to gain know-how in understanding Antarctic matters and develop essential research expertise. Compulsory components of the MASt include the Postgraduate Certificate in Antarctic Studies (PCAS), an exciting and innovative approach to experiential education, interactive lectures, workshops and mini-symposia delivered by Antarctic experts in New Zealand. Fieldtrips to Antarctic related venues around Christchurch and a three-day excursion to the Canterbury High Country are part of PCAS and prepare students for living and working in Antarctica.

This course delivers lectures from over twenty New Zealand and international Antarctic experts each year and provides a globally unique education program. Interactive lectures, workshops and mini-symposia form the heart of the New Zealand component of the MASt, which is complemented by fieldtrips to Antarctic venues around Christchurch.

In addition, MASt students are required to take additional coursework worth at least 30 points at 400-level or above in subjects that align with their dissertation research or broader research interests.



Antarctic field work

Students spend approximately ten days in Antarctica, undertaking a mix of field projects connected to their Antarctic research project, environmental monitoring in the vicinity of Scott Base, and visiting Antarctic sites of interest in the vicinity of Ross Island.

Supervised Antarctic research project

Students undertake an individual research project during their time on the PCAS programme. A set of projects, ranging from current issues in the natural sciences to social sciences topics, historical analyses to policy issues –all with a focus on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, are available on the PCAS website (www.canterbury.ac.nz/science/schools-and-departments/antarctica/postgraduate-study/). This list of projects will provide a taste of the possibilities that a career working or researching Antarctica might offer. These projects can also be developed into your MAST dissertation project which provides experience researching Antarctic issues.

Further opportunities

MAST provides an excellent preparation for further study in our world-class research environment and is used by many students as a launch pad for a PhD study.

Entry requirements and fees

All participants are selected via a competitive process. Participants need an approved degree and must pass a medical examination prescribed by Antarctica New Zealand to complete the Antarctic field component. The competitive process attracts high-calibre applicants from across a range of disciplines, and from across the world.

All students in the MAST programme must have selected a supervised project and made contact with the relevant supervisor before they are formally accepted onto the programme.

Key Dates (approximate)

1 May	Projects available on website
1 Jul	Applications close
31 Jul	Candidates advised
Mid Aug	Deadline for paying deposit
Early Sep	Application to enrol begins
Mid Nov	PCAS Programme commences in Christchurch
Nov–Jan	Antarctic fieldtrip (dates vary)
Late Jan	Lectures end
Mid Feb	Final supervised project reports submitted
1 Apr	Results available Start of MAST*

For further information

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More details on programme dates and fees are available on the programme website:

www.anta.canterbury.ac.nz/courses/gcas/

**Additional course work required for MAST can start at different times of the academic year subject to approval.*