

Research and resources



UC was established in 1873 by scholars from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

It is ranked in the top 3% of universities worldwide with a global reputation for innovation and cutting-edge research.

A hub of research excellence

The University hosts:

- three national research institutes — the Biomolecular Interaction Centre, the Geospatial Research Institute, and the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour
- QuakeCoRE, a national Centre of Research Excellence
- more than 25 research centres across all disciplines
- over 10 research labs in Education and Health Sciences.

See www.research.canterbury.ac.nz

Research facilities

UC has a number of unique research facilities including a new Structural Engineering Laboratory, the High Voltage Laboratory, the Electron Microscopy Unit and the VisionSpace Virtual Reality Facility.

Our University operates four field stations, including the Mount John Astronomical Observatory which is part of the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. UC has a presence at New Zealand's Scott Base in Antarctica, and operates a field station in Nigeria as part of the Nigerian Montane Forest project.

UC houses a number of rich and unique research collections that enable the investigation of primary resources such as:

- the Logie Collection, an internationally recognised collection of ancient artefacts
- culturally significant Māori and Pacific materials
- specialist collections from Asian religions to war crimes trial transcripts.

The UC Library provides support and resources throughout the research process, from idea generation through to the dissemination of findings. A consultancy service is available. Find out more at <http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/ir/research.shtml>



‘Working at the Rose Centre made up my mind to do a PhD. Students from all over the world come to work here — the support and companionship within the lab is amazing.’

Paige Thomas

Scholarship at the Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery and Research; Studying towards a PhD in Speech and Language Sciences

UC campus and beyond



UC offers a campus lifestyle with plenty of amenities, facilities and events on site.

A great place to study

The university is set on a spacious, tree-filled campus with lecture theatres, libraries, laboratories, computer suites, cafés and restaurants, a health centre and pharmacy, recreation facilities, childcare centres, bank machines and an art gallery.

UC has a lively and cosmopolitan community with approximately 15,000 students from over 100 different countries.

Support services

UC offers a range of excellent support services for PhD students, including specific orientations, mentoring, and career guidance.

Specialist services are available for Māori, Pacific and international students, and for students with disabilities.



UC can also assist with finding accommodation both on and off campus. See the ‘Accommodation for Postgraduate Students’ page at www.canterbury.ac.nz/accom

The Postgraduate Students’ Association (PGSA) provides support and organises events to help you meet other students.

For more information, see www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgraduate/support-for-postgraduate-students

So much to see and do

Set in the largest city in the South Island, Christchurch is an ideal place for those who enjoy an urban lifestyle as well as outdoor recreation and adventure.

By car or bus, UC’s campus is 15 minutes from the city centre, 25 minutes from the city’s beaches and 10 minutes from Christchurch International Airport.

Thermal hot springs, glacial lakes, seaside towns, forests, mountains and ski fields are all within a two-hour drive of campus.

‘Mentoring is my way of passing forward the kindness that I have received from UC. It also gives me the opportunity to meet amazing people from around the world and to get involved.’

Neville Rodrigues

Studying towards a PhD in Health Sciences (Counselling); Home Support Worker, IDEA Services

2017 PhD Information
Postgraduate Office

Research.





Achieving a PhD at UC

The University of Canterbury (UC) Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha has a thriving postgraduate research community, with over 1,000 PhD students from more than 60 nations. We invite you to join us!

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is normally the highest academic qualification available. It is a mark of intellectual ability and independence, critical thinking, self-discipline and commitment. A PhD prepares students for a number of careers, including as an academic.

What is a UC PhD?

Our PhD is a research-only degree (normally no coursework component), carried out under academic supervision and utilising world-leading facilities.

At UC you can gain a PhD in over 70 subjects within the Colleges of Arts; Business and Law; Education, Health and Human Development; Engineering; and Science (listed below).

In addition to expert supervision, UC provides you with the opportunity to

gain transferable skills in areas including communication of research, networking, career planning, databases, statistical analysis, ethics, professional practice, and cultural awareness.

PhD study is normally a full-time occupation. The minimum period of enrolment is two years and students should normally complete the degree within four years. There is provision to apply for part-time study, in which case the minimum period of enrolment is three years and the maximum is seven years.*

International students

While completing a PhD as an international student in New Zealand, you and your family are eligible for a number of benefits:

- you are eligible to pay domestic fees if you reside in New Zealand
- you may be able to apply for a graduate work visa once you have graduated**
- you may be able to work while studying**
- your partner is eligible for an unrestricted work visa for New Zealand
- your dependent children can study at New Zealand public primary or high schools for free.

Visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/international

PhD subjects

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|---|---|------------------------------|---|
| • Accounting | • Disaster, Risk and Resilience | • Health Sciences | • Medical Physics (Clinical) |
| • Antarctic Studies | • Earthquake Engineering | • Higher Education | • Microbiology |
| • Anthropology | • Ecology | • History | • Music |
| • Applied Psychology | • Economics | • Human Interface Technology | • Pacific Studies |
| • Art History | • Education | • Human Services | • Philosophy |
| • Art Theory | • Electrical and Electronic Engineering | • Information Systems | • Physics |
| • Astronomy | • Engineering Geology | • Japanese | • Political Science and International Relations |
| • Audiology | • Engineering Management | • Journalism | • Psychology |
| • Biochemistry | • English | • Law | • Russian |
| • Bioengineering | • Environmental Science | • Linguistics | • Science Education |
| • Biological Sciences | • European Studies | • Management | • Social Work |
| • Biotechnology | • Finance | • Māori | • Sociology |
| • Cellular and Molecular Biology | • Fire Engineering | • Marketing | • Spanish |
| • Chemical and Process Engineering | • Forest Engineering | • Mathematical Physics | • Speech and Language Sciences |
| • Chemistry | • Forestry | • Mathematics | • Statistics |
| • Chinese | • French | • Mathematics and Philosophy | • Taxation |
| • Civil Engineering | • Geography | • Mechanical Engineering | • Transportation Engineering |
| • Classics | • Geology | • Media and Communication | • Water Resource Management |
| • Computational and Applied Mathematical Sciences | • German | • Medical Physics | |
| • Computer Science | | | |
| • Cultural Studies | | | |

* Approval for international students to study part-time is only granted in exceptional circumstances and has implications on the status of their student visa.

** Please note that certain conditions may apply — visit www.immigration.govt.nz

Who are we looking for?

We invite applications from motivated students.

Entry requirements

Enrolment in a PhD requires completion of an honours or master's degree to a high standard (typically first-class or second-class division one or equivalent). To enter directly into a PhD programme, you must have completed an independent research project, dissertation or thesis as part of your previous degree(s).

Our admissions team, in consultation with your host department, will look at your qualifications and transcripts to ensure that you have the background required to complete a PhD at UC. It is possible that you may be required to complete preparatory courses prior to admission into a PhD programme. In exceptional circumstances applicants without the typical academic background but who can demonstrate the ability to pursue a PhD may be admitted at the discretion of the Dean of Postgraduate Research.

How to apply

The application form can be found at www.canterbury.ac.nz/future-students/apply-and-enrol

Supervision

Before submitting your application form, you must have been in contact with a potential senior supervisor who supports your application. Senior supervisors must be members of the academic staff at UC. Support from a supervisor does not guarantee admission to the PhD programme but applications will not be considered if a supervisor has not been approached and indicated their support. Over 600 academics at UC have expertise in a large variety of topics. To identify experts in a given area, look at the research interests of academic staff on the University web pages www.canterbury.ac.nz/deptcentres.shtml or the UC research directory UC Spark www.canterbury.ac.nz/spark

Potential supervisors may be contacted directly to discuss potential research topics and availability as supervisors. If you are unable to contact a potential supervisor then please contact the Dean of Postgraduate Research (postgraduate-office@canterbury.ac.nz).

English language

International students who have not completed their tertiary qualifications in the English language are required to provide evidence of their English language proficiency by means of an English language test result that is no more than two years old. We accept:

- the IELTS (Academic) test — with an overall score of 6.5 or higher and no section lower than 6.0
- the TOEFL Internet test — with a score of 90 or higher, and a minimum score of 20 for Writing.

Other tests may be accepted on application. See www.canterbury.ac.nz/future-students/apply-and-enrol/english-language-requirements

Applying for admission

You can apply for admission prior to completing your qualifying degree and be given an Offer of Place, conditional on your satisfactory completion of the qualifying degree.

If you are an international student you can apply for admission prior to completing your English test but the Offer of Place would be conditional on you meeting UC's English language requirements prior to enrolment.

Funding your study: UC Scholarships

There are a number of scholarships available to support PhD students at UC. These include UC Doctoral Scholarships that are awarded twice each year, with applications due in May and October. In addition there are a number of scholarships and grants available to PhD students to assist with specific research costs and with travel either to conduct research or to attend international conferences.

For more information go to www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships

More information

E: postgraduate-office@canterbury.ac.nz
www.canterbury.ac.nz/postgraduate



Cover image:

Ayelen Tayagui, originally from Argentina, is studying towards a PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology. She is investigating the role played by the cytoskeleton in fungi and oomycetes when they become invasive, for example infecting people, plants and animals. Ayelen is combining confocal microscopy and Lab-on-a-Chip technology to measure the protrusive force exerted by these microorganisms when they grow invasively. Find out more in the 2015 Research Report at www.research.canterbury.ac.nz/researchreport

This image:

Dr Blake Bennett completed a PhD in Education (Sport Coaching) in 2016. His research compared New Zealand and Japanese secondary-school rugby environments to examine the influences and intentions of their coaching. Blake found that in New Zealand there was no clear educative or social intention, with the focus purely on building technical skills. In contrast, the Japanese coaches focused on character development, tenacity, and a range of social benefits.