

Information for Students
with Disabilities
Disability Resource Service

Ability.



Accessibility

This handbook is available in alternative formats. For access to these formats, please contact the Disability Resource Service on (03) 369 3334, disabilities@canterbury.ac.nz, or follow the link provided on the Disability Resource Service website to the accessible version of this text.

See www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability

Published January 2017. Please note: every effort has been made to ensure that information in this handbook is correct at the time of publication.

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Disability Resource Service

The Disability Resource Service (DRS) assists students with disabilities by providing appropriate, disability-related study support services and specialist resources such as:

- Practical support (e.g., interpreters, peer notetakers)
- Assistive technology (e.g., digital voice recorders, CCTV, screen reading and voice recognition software)
- Information in alternate formats (e.g., electronic, enlarged, tactile diagrams, Braille)
- Special arrangements for exams (e.g., extra time, separate room, writer)

In addition to providing individual supports, the service also provides advice and general information on disability-related issues and access at the University to both students and staff. DRS operates in accordance to UC's Strategic Plan promoting Equity and Diversity matters across all aspects of campus life.

This booklet provides an overview of disability support services available at the University – but we are very aware that each student's needs are different. There may be individual queries you have about things that are not covered here. If this is the case, or you have any general queries about disability services at the University of Canterbury, do feel free to contact the team here at the Disability Resource Service.

Contact Information and Office Hours

The Disability Resource Service is located at the back of Level 2 in the Puaka-James Hight building (Central Library).

Mobility car parks closest to our office are located:

- At the rear of the Puaka-James Hight building with access via the ramp, through the Undercroft and
- using the glass lift, located near the Shilling Club, up to Level 2.
- At the rear of the Rutherford building with access via the slope, across the bridge beside the main steps of Puaka-James Hight and using the glass lift, located near the Shilling Club, up to Level 2.

The Disability Resource Service is open from 9am to 4.30 pm, Monday to Friday, throughout the year for general enquiries.

Phone: (03) 369 3334

Email: disabilities@canterbury.ac.nz

Postal Address:

Disability Resource Service
University of Canterbury
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha
Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140
New Zealand

Website: www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability

The DRS website is our primary point of contact with students and staff on all matters relating to disability support at the University.



‘Knowing I have someone who is there as support and encouragement is reassuring for me...’

Jermane Hibbs

(Ngāti Kahungunu)

Certificate in University Preparation

Bachelor of Arts in Education with a minor in Japanese

Studying towards a Master of Policy and Governance

Knowing that he always wanted to go to university one day, Jermane found the Bachelor of Arts (BA) the perfect solution to get the most out of the experience, particularly with studies in Education.

‘The study of Education is a broad area and is an interesting subject to study. Doing the BA at Canterbury was good because I was able to take other papers from subjects other than Education, for example, Sociology, Psychology and Cultural Studies. Take advantage of the different courses on offer.’

Jermane started his UC journey with the Certificate in University Preparation programme. ‘We went on a

field trip to Kaikōura for the Environmental Studies paper. The field trip experience was great as you get to grow stronger relationships with the other students and lecturers. I recommend if you get the chance to go on the field trip do it!’

Being a Christchurch local, UC was Jermane’s first choice in university, but he also found the community and campus to be exactly what he needed.

‘There is lots of support available,’ he says. ‘Everything is in one place and central. There are heaps of cafés to choose from so you won’t need to go hungry. I find people are friendly and welcoming at UC as well.’

One of the UC’s support services he has found really useful is the Academic Skills Centre. ‘They are good in providing seminars on skills such as essay writing, time management skills and exam preparation skills, as well as other things,’ he says.

He also makes extensive use of the Disability Resource Service, to help cope with completing Uni study alongside anxiety.

‘The DRS worked with me to find out what will be of use to help me with my studies,’ he says. ‘A learning support plan was developed which was sent to the course coordinator for my courses. I found that useful because it helped me with knowing that the lecturer is aware of my condition and is more mindful of my needs as a student with anxiety.’

‘I have been able to have a note-taker in class to help me with my notes. I was also able to have a separate room and extra time for my exam last semester. Other things which the DRS helped with is having a quiet space to help with study away from the busyness if needed.’

‘Knowing I have someone who is there as support and encouragement is reassuring for me. Overall, the DRS I found has been very useful in helping me with my final papers for my BA degree.’

As for his future plans, Jermane hopes to build on his studies in Education and Japanese towards postgraduate study in Policy and Governance.

‘I’ve had different ideas while I’ve been studying about what career I want,’ he says. ‘I’ve decided that a career in the field of policy analysis would be something I could do. Because I come from an education background, in the future it would be cool to get into policy work within the Ministry of Education.’

The Team



Full contact details can be found on our website at:
www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability

Cam Scott
Team Leader, Disability Resource Service
Ext 93534

Katharina Jenner
Disability Resource Administrator
Ext 93531

Nicola McDonald
Disability Resource Advisor
Ext 93488

Rachel Rogers
Disability Resource Advisor
Ext 93474

Danielle Herrick
Disability Resource Advisor
Ext 93574

Samuel Maddimadugula
Alternative Format Centre and Assistive
Technology Coordinator
Ext 93487

Supported by peer notetakers and casual staff.

How to Register with us

Email distribution list

Each student who registers with DRS is included in our email list. This list enables DRS to make contact with students and keep you up-to-date with things that are happening, new services, groups, resources, meetings, training, and other useful information.

Eligibility

Any student enrolled in an assessed course, who has a disability, medical condition, specific learning difficulty, mental health condition or a temporary impairment that affects their ability to study is eligible to register with DRS at any stage of the academic year. This applies whether studying at the Christchurch campus, at regional campuses/centres (Rotorua, New Plymouth and Nelson) or by distance.

Special exam arrangements have cut-off dates for each exam period and it is important to be registered in advance if you will require this support.

In order to register, you must provide a pertinent, comprehensive report expressing an appropriate professional's diagnosis of your disability/medical condition and its possible impacts on your study so we can develop a support plan with you.

You need to be registered with DRS and have a current Learning Support Plan in order to use the services provided.

The Four-Step Registration Process

- 1** There are several easy ways to begin the registration process for disability study supports:
Visit, phone or email the Disability Resource Service and ask for a Learning Support Questionnaire or download it directly from our website, or Apply to enroll in your chosen course of study. On your application to enroll you will be asked if you are living with the effect of a permanent disability – reply yes. Your contact details will be sent to the Disability Resource Service and we will send you a Learning Support Questionnaire.
- 2** Complete the Learning Support Questionnaire and return this to us with supporting documentation about your condition (see Eligibility) by posting to Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140, emailing disabilities@canterbury.ac.nz or dropping into our office at 214, Level 2, Puaka-James Hight building.
- 3** We will contact you and arrange a time for you to discuss your needs with a Disability Resource Advisor.
- 4** You and your Advisor confirm a Learning Support Plan.

Address, Email and Student Web Policy

Students are required to ensure that the University has their current contact details. If you move you must inform the University of the change of address.

Prior to completing enrollment UC and DRS will use your personal email address as the main point of contact.

Once you have accepted your Enrolment Offer and are fully enrolled (ENR status) all contact will be through the UC email and web portal. It is a condition of your enrollment, as per the student declaration, that all students must read information on their UC Student email/web portal at least once per week (you are strongly advised to check your email daily).

This policy is for your protection and will ensure that you are up-to-date with all requirements and information from UC and DRS. All contact from DRS will be made using your student email or contact phone.



*Cameron Scott,
Disability Resource Service
Team Leader*



*Katharina Jenner,
Disability Resource
Administrator*



*Rachel Rogers,
Disability Resource Advisor*



*Nicola McDonald,
Disability Resource Advisor*



*Danielle Herrick,
Disability Resource Advisor*



*Samuel Maddimadugula,
Alternative Format
Centre and Assistive
Technology Coordinator*

Types of Supports

The Disability Resource Service offers a large number of supports to our registered students based on the medical evidence provided. While every attempt will be made to provide the support required as soon as possible, there may be delays in providing services or it may not be possible to provide every support required.

Practical supports

Event Assistance

Assistance can be provided in case of campus-wide evacuations. Students need to indicate that they require assistance upon registration with an advisor.

Exam Special Arrangements

Special arrangements for exams and departmental tests can be set up for students whose impairments impact on their examination performance (see page 10).

General Assistance

Assistance to move around campus can be provided for blind students or students with mobility impairments.

Laboratory and Fieldwork Assistance

For students who are unable to carry out the practical requirements of courses that require laboratory or field-work, an assistant can be provided to assist in carrying out practical tasks.

An Assistant can also be provided for health and safety reasons.

Learn

Learn is used by Lecturers to deliver course material, including lecture recordings if available, online tests, discussion groups and live chat for class members. If you have any difficulties with accessing Learn material, or are not sure how to log-in, contact the IT helpdesk for assistance. If you are unable to read the material on Learn please contact your Advisor.

Library Assistance

Students who have difficulty accessing material in the libraries around campus may discuss alternative arrangements with a Disability Resource Advisor.

Limited Full-Time Study

As a student registered with our service, you may be eligible to apply for Limited Full-Time Study through StudyLink which enables you to study part-time and retain eligibility for a Student Allowance. For further information, contact DRS.



Peer Notetaking

Notetakers may be arranged for students with disabilities who are unable to take notes in lectures. The provision of this service requires that students attend all lectures for which Notetakers are provided. Lecture notes can be produced in an alternative format if required.

Recording of Lectures

Many students record their lectures with the prior permission of the Lecturer concerned and students with disabilities may find it useful to do so, but the Lecturer's permission must be sought first. Digital Voice Recorders (DVRs) can be loaned from DRS for a trial period.

Recording a lecture enables the student to listen to a lecture without being distracted by having to write notes at the same time. Some lecture theatres are equipped to automatically record lectures via ECHO360. These recordings are made available on Learn.

Research Assistance

Research Assistants can be arranged for post-graduate students who are undertaking research as part of their thesis or dissertation and who have disability-related difficulties with carrying out their research.

Rest Room

A Rest Room is available on the Ilam campus for students who experience fatigue or tiredness during the day. This room is located on the third floor of the Erskine Building and contains a single bed and sink area. Please contact DRS to book this room and collect the key.

Sign Language Interpreting

New Zealand Sign Language Interpreters can be arranged for students who are Deaf, subject to availability.

Student Study Rooms

Some study rooms with computers are available for the exclusive use of DRS registered students in both the Dovedale and Ilam campus (see Study Areas).

Word-processing

A word-processing service is available for students who are unable to word-process their assignments due to disability-related reasons.

Special Arrangements for Examinations

Students who have a disability that will impact on their performance in timed assessments can apply for special arrangements.

Special arrangements for examinations are generally set up, if required, when registering with our service each year. However, an application can be made at any time throughout the year. Keep in mind that there are restrictions around specific exam periods for new applications.

Types of special arrangements

Types of special arrangements that may be provided include:

- Extra time
- Reader/Writer
- Ergonomic furniture
- Use of computer (spell-check & internet disabled)
- Separate rooms

To Apply:

You must register with our service.

Your Disability Resource Advisor will discuss the most appropriate special arrangements.

The final dates for applications for special arrangements for mid-year and end-of-year examinations in 2017 are:

- Thursday 11th May for mid-year examinations
- Thursday 28th September for end-of-year examinations
- Different dates apply for the Bridging and Summer School programmes

Departmental Tests

Once DRS has approved your special arrangements, academic departments are then responsible for providing these arrangements for tests (or other internal assessments if required) that do not fall in the official exam periods.

It is your responsibility to contact the administrator of the department concerned regarding any special arrangements required no later than **10 working days** before the date of the test (or other assessment). If you contact the department after this time there is no guarantee that a special arrangement will be made.

Formal Mid-Year and End-of-Year Examinations

Implementation of exam special arrangements for formal exams are automatically arranged by the Examinations Department.

Tests and examinations for Summer School have the same process as for departmental tests.

Please Note: Although the support received from DRS is documented on your internal transcript it does not appear on your external transcript and is not noted on your qualification.

Study Areas

The Blue Room

The Blue Room (037A) is located in the basement of the Erskine building. There is a computer loaded with JAWS screen reader, MAGic text enlarger, OpenBook, Dragon Naturally Speaking speech recognition and Read & Write TextHelp software. The computer is connected to printer 037A and is situated at the entrance of the room.

The Green Room

The Green Room (034A) is located in the basement of the Erskine building. There is a computer loaded with JAWS screen reader, MAGic text enlarger, OpenBook, Dragon Naturally Speaking speech recognition, Read & Write TextHelp and ZoomText software. A Mac computer is also available. The computer is connected to printer 034A and is situated at the entrance of the room. The keys to these rooms can be picked up from the DRS.

The College of Education Library

Located in Room 121 there is a computer with large screen, height adjustable desk and scanner. The computer has JAWS screen reader, MAGic text enlarger, OpenBook, Dragon Naturally Speaking speech recognition, Read & Write TextHelp software and Microtek scanner and is connected to the printer UC-LibraryEducationLevel1-Col on UCprint1 located across the floor near the library counter.

The rooms listed above are available to all students registered with the DRS on a 'room-booking, first-served' basis. Rooms can be booked online at www.library.canterbury.ac.nz/webapps/mrbs/day.php?page=3.



The Alcove

The Alcove is located on Level 2 of the Puaka-James Hight building adjacent to DRS. It provides a study area with specialised equipment for students with disabilities and, while other students have access to the equipment, students with disabilities have priority use at all times.

There are two computers and a SmartView CCTV magnifier in the Alcove. The assistive technology on these computers include JAWS screen reader, MAGic text enlarger, OpenBook, Read & Write TextHelp, MathType and Inspiration software. They are on height adjustable desks and further ergonomic equipment can be provided on request.

For more information on the software listed see Assistive and Information Technology.

Alternative Format Centre

The Alternative Format Centre (AFC) specialises in converting information into accessible formats for individuals with print disabilities. Eligibility for the services offered through AFC is determined by the Disability Resource Service. Students first need to discuss their needs with a Disability Resource Advisor to identify the most suitable supports.

AFC currently provides the following supports:

- Printed and written information converted into accessible formats
- Visual information e.g. graphs, diagrams and pictorial illustrations can be converted into tactile format with captions in Braille and English where necessary

- Captioning videos
- Recorded audio files are transcribed into digital text/print
- Enlarged photocopying in colour or black
- Scanning of printed/visual information
- Word processing

Phone: +64 03 369 3487 ext 93487

Email: samuel.maddi@canterbury.ac.nz

Assistive and Information Technology

Advice and training on a range of assistive technologies are available through DRS.

Study areas with the following software and equipment are available for student use:

- JAWS screen reader
- MAGic screen magnifier
- ZoomText screen magnifier and reader
- Open-Book Optical Character Recognition (converts scanned documents into editable text and reads on-screen text aloud)
- Dragon Naturally Speaking Speech Recognition (transcribes live and recorded speech into text)
- Read & Write Gold (learning support software designed for students with specific learning difficulties)
- CCTV scanner (screen magnifier)
- Microtek flat-bed scanner
- Inspiration (mind mapping tool)
- MathType (math equation editor)

For more details see Study Areas on page 11 of this handbook.

Visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/links.shtml for links to useful online resources.

Students need to ensure that they have sufficient computing skills to support independent University study.

Read & Write Gold can be accessed through any computer on the campus network once the user profile has been created.

ITS provides a range of support for students via the IT Service Desk on Level 2 of the Central Library for one to one help, the Self Service Portal on their website or phone 03 364 2060 ext 6060.

Further information about these services can be found on the ITS website at: www.its.canterbury.ac.nz.



‘The stunning support provided by DRS has allowed me to continue pursuing dreams in an institution where I can achieve them...’

Allie Coyle

Studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Education, Psychology and Spanish

Call Representative, UC

Volunteer, IDEA Services

At UC, all of Allie’s interests were realised when she enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (BA) with a UC Merit Scholarship. ‘The BA degree has allowed me to explore all the areas I am passionate about in a single degree structure, which I am so grateful for. So many people think you need to pick one subject area at university, but the reality is that under many degree structures you can explore, develop and achieve qualifications in a huge range of subject areas.’

So far, she has thoroughly enjoyed her subjects and how well they work together. She has since been invited into the International Golden Key Honours Society for her results.

‘I love Psychology as the labs are amazing to learn in, there are renowned master’s programmes in which you can work in clinics set up the university such as the Pukemanu-Dovedale Centre and the Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery and Research.’

‘Education I have loved as it has really broadened my perspective on the world and how I fit in and contribute to it.’

Allie’s study was disrupted in 2015, where she was involved in an accident which left her with concussion, and issues with memory and concentration, movement and fatigue. Her symptoms made studying extremely difficult, and she initially left Uni to recover. The decision was ‘one of the most difficult things’ she had to accept, not knowing if she would be able to continue her studies one day.

With the help of the Disability Resources Service however, she was eventually able to return to UC with support in place.

‘I would not be back at university without this service. I had the most amazing advisor (Danielle Herrick) who helped me integrate back into university life step by step. I could not be more pleased with my decision as the stunning support provided by the Disability Resource Service has allowed me to continue pursuing dreams I have had for a long time in an institution where I can achieve them,’ she says.

‘There are so many different ways they have helped me: providing access to rooms dedicated to either having an hour’s rest or to quiet study; by talking with me regularly about how I am coping with university and helping me set goals that I can achieve; by helping with arranging assignments, tests and exams under special conditions; by effectively communicating with my doctor, OT and family when I was impaired and struggling; by referring me to other services such as the Academic Skills Centre where I have been able to undertake services I didn’t know about prior to the accident; and by making me feel supported and like I could be a part of UC again.’

Campus Accessibility

The University of Canterbury campus is largely flat but with the construction of new facilities and revitalisation work there may be some changes to routes around campus and access to buildings.

Improving access on campus is an ongoing process and we invite feedback from anyone regarding access difficulties so that we can look at continuing to improve access as the availability of resources allows.

The University is committed to an accessible design policy and will comply with all accessible design requirements set out in the New Zealand Building Code 2004 and NZS4121 during its ongoing remediation.

The following are some of the facilities that are provided to improve access on campus.

Door-Openers

Heavy fire doors present a major impediment to ease of access within many buildings on the campus. Door-opening mechanisms have been installed in some buildings to improve access both into and within buildings.

These will continue to be installed as and when funding is available. If you feel there is a need for the installation of door openers in specific areas of campus please contact DRS.

Hearing Loops in Lecture Theatres

Law108 and Law 526 are equipped with a hearing loop system.

Digital RF receivers are being trialled in some lecture theatres in 2017.

Fixed Height-Adjustable Desks

Fixed, height-adjustable desks for students who use wheelchairs have been installed in the following lecture theatres:

- Central Lecture Theatre building:
C1 – C3
- Arts (North) Lecture Theatre building:
A1 – A3
- Arts (South) Lecture Theatre building:
A4 – A6

For a demonstration of how to use these desks please contact DRS.

Access to Key Buildings

Puaka-James Hight Building (Central Library)

Access to the Puaka-James Hight building, also known as the Central Library, for students who use wheelchairs or have other mobility needs is provided across the bridge, beside the main (front) steps near the Shilling Club, outside the entrance to the Undercroft. This entrance gives users access to a glass lift which will transport them to Level 2, the main floor of the library building. Accessible toilets are located on Levels 3, 5 and 7.

Other Ilam Campus Libraries

Other libraries on campus have either ground floor or lift access to their entrances.

Education Library, Dovedale Campus

Access to the lift for the library is through automatic doors at ground level. This is in a corridor outside

the library. Automatic access through this entrance is by the use of your Canterbury Card once the access has been approved by DRS. Accessible toilets are located on Levels 1 and 2.

Matariki Building

Wheelchair access is via the outdoor ramp to Level 1 or through the automatic doors to Ground Level and the lift up to Level 1 for general enquiries and enrolments. Accessible toilets are located on the Lower Ground floor.

Erskine Building Basement

Lift access to the basement where lecture theatres, computer rooms and the Blue and Green Rooms are located is at the Engineering Road end of the building. Accessible toilets are located on the Ground floor.

Safety and Security

Security operates on campus 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be contacted for assistance at any time, day or night, on (03) 364 2987 ext. 6888 (ext. 6111 for emergencies) or 0800 823 637 off campus or by cellphone. Security Call Point Towers are located across campus for easy access.

The Security Office is located at 114 Ilam Road, opposite Ilam Fields. If you have any concerns about your safety when on campus, please contact Security.



UC Health Centre

Provides a range of health services to UC students and staff including medical care, counselling, physiotherapy and dietician services.

Located in the UCSA carpark off Ilam Road, via Ground Level automatic doors. Accessible toilets are available.

Phone: (03) 364 2402 ext 6402
www.canterbury.ac.nz/healthcentre

Building Wardens

Each building has a building warden. There should be a notice at the main entrance to every building identifying the Building Warden. If you have a mobility issue and are a regular user of a particular building, you should inform the Building Warden of the regular times that you expect to be in that building and discuss with them the particular safety procedures for that building. In the event of an emergency evacuation, the Building Warden then knows that you may be in the building. In particular if you are in the Central Library or one of the branch libraries and will be studying there for some length of time, you may wish to inform the staff at the Information Desk.

If you need help to evacuate a building in an emergency, please advise DRS upon registering. In the event of a campus-wide evacuation, follow the directions of staff. In the absence of such, proceed to the nearest Emergency Tower and seek direction from there. Once a dedicated Welfare Response Location is set up, you will be guided there and any special requirements will be met as soon as practicable.

Transport to the University

Mobility Car Parking

Finding a car park on campus can be a major challenge! All cars parked on the campus between February and November must display a valid 2016 parking permit or a pay-and-display coupon, this includes parking in the disability car parks. There are numerous mobility car parks on the campus and the legitimate use of these parks is monitored and enforced at all times by Security. Cars not displaying a Mobility Parking Permit or DRS display card and a valid UC parking permit or a pay-and-display coupon may be clamped and/or removed at the owner's expense.

There are a number of mobility car parks located at the rear of the Puaka-James Hight building (Central Library), which gives ease of access to the central campus area, Information Technology Services, Arts Lecture Theatres, College of Arts departments, and the University Bookshop. Other mobility car parks can be found across campus on individual parking lots. These can be seen online at:
www.canterbury.ac.nz/maps/home

CCS Disability Action can issue Mobility Parking Permit display cards for permanent disabilities.

Their contact details are:

224 Lichfield Street
Riccarton
PO Box 1506
Christchurch 8140

Free Phone: 0800 227 225

Phone: (03) 365 5661

Fax: (03) 372 9507

Email: canterbury@ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz

Website: www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/regions/upper-south-island

DRS can issue temporary mobility permits for campus use for people with temporary impairments or while a Mobility Parking Permit display card is obtained.

Wheelchair Taxis

Several taxi companies in Christchurch provide a wheelchair taxi service.

Common drop-off points on the campus are:

- The rear of the Matariki building for the Ilam Road areas of the campus
- At the UBS bookshop beside the Puaka-James Hight building (Central Library)
- Outside the Central Lecture Block for the central area of the campus
- Outside the NZi3 building on Creyke Road for the northern parts of the campus
- Outside the Kirkwood Village on Kirkwood Ave
- Outside the Waimairi building for the College of Education

Bus Services

A special feature of the bus service in Christchurch is the 'kneeling' floors which make the buses accessible for wheelchair users.

The University is on the following bus routes*:

Ilam Road

Purple Line: Airport – Sumner (via Avonhead)

No. 130 Hei Hei – Avonhead – Mt Pleasant (via City)

The Orbiter

Creyke Road

No. 100 Wigram – The Palms

Clyde Road

No. 120 Burnside – Spreydon (via City)

Dovedale Campus

No. 130 Hei Hei – Avonhead (along Dovedale Ave)

Purple Line: Airport – Sumner via Avonhead (along Maidstone Rd)

The Orbiter

(along Homestead Lane/Waimairi Rd)



MetroCards are electronic pre-pay discount cards for use on Christchurch buses. You can pick up an application form from the UCSA. Many buses are now equipped with bike racks for free bike transport.

* Schedule is subject to change. For further information on the 'kneeling' buses and any other information about public transport in Christchurch phone METRO INFO on (03) 366 8855 or go to www.metroinfo.co.nz



‘DRS has been a great help to me during my time at Canterbury...’

James Marks

Certificate in University Preparation
Bachelor of Arts in History with minors in
English and European Union Studies
Studying towards a Bachelor of Arts with
Honours in History

UC was James’ first choice in university, and after completing a Certificate in University Preparation to begin his studies, there was no hesitation in choosing his major subject.

‘I have always had a deep love of history, so I was glad to find that they offered History as a subject and degree at Canterbury,’ he says. ‘I enjoy the wide range of courses that are all on offer at Canterbury; I’ve taken courses on New Zealand, American, European and Japanese history, and I also enjoy the company of my fellow students and lecturers, who are all deeply interested in history as I am.’

His initial undergraduate study choices included English and European Union Studies, which were inspired by his creative writing hobby.

‘I am interested in learning about all eras of human history, especially Ancient Rome and the Second World War, along with creative writing, which allows me to use my love of history to create characters, plots and scenarios.’

Outside of study, James also gets involved with the UC History Society and has ‘found it very fun and sociable, meeting others who are as interested in history as I am’.

James has also made the most of the Disability Resources Service team to gain extra support completing his degrees.

‘The Disability Resources Service has been a great help to me during my time at Canterbury; they have helped me in regards to special conditions for my exams, helping me if I had any problems with my courses and also the submission dates for my essays and other assignments - the DRS has also provided personal help when I have felt overwhelmed by my courses and workload.’

From the support that he has had with his own study, James encourages other students to seek advice where needed to make the most of being at Uni.

‘I would say that you have to come prepared for the huge amount of information you will take in during your lectures, and if you are struggling, please do not be afraid to ask your lecturer for help with anything.’

He plans to continue on into postgraduate studies for a more in-depth look at specific areas in History.

‘My goals are to hopefully gain employment as a researcher, since that has been my strongpoint with History at high school and university,’ he says.

Accommodation

The University of Canterbury Accommodation Advisors can provide assistance with and advice on:

- Accommodation options for prospective students
- The application process for the halls of residence
- Campus and hall tours
- The costs associated with living away from home
- Private renting, landlord and tenancy issues
- Airport pickups for international students

Accommodation Office

Phone: 03 364 2959 ext 6959

Email: accommodation@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/accom

Halls of Residence

The University of Canterbury has eight halls of residence which are all operated by Campus Living Villages New Zealand Ltd in partnership with the University of Canterbury.

All of the halls offer fully-furnished rooms, computer facilities with University network and internet access, social and recreation facilities, and study rooms. Most halls are located a few minutes walk from the campus facilities. All halls have male and female students on mixed floors.

Most halls/villages have suitable rooms for students with wheelchairs and facilities are modified to assist the needs of students with physical disabilities. Some halls are able to accept students with guide dogs. You need to outline your requirements in your application form with UC Accommodation to ensure these requirements are considered.

Halls of residence – fully catered (meals provided)

- Bishop Julius Hall
- College House
- Rochester and Rutherford Hall
- University Hall
- Waitārīki Village

Halls of Residence – Self-catered (meal plans are available upon request)

- Ilam Apartments
- Sonoda Apartments
- Waimari Village

Other advice and support on housing can be obtained from Housing New Zealand.

Support and Advocacy for Students with Disabilities

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Information on this can be found at www.canterbury.ac.nz/scholarships/foryou.shtml.

There are four scholarships/funds for students with disabilities.

Educ8 Scholarship

These scholarships, tenable for one year, are awarded under seven categories to students who are currently enrolled for undergraduate or honours study towards a degree within the University of Canterbury College of Education. One of these categories is “overcoming barriers” (eg. Disability).

The Dyslexia Fund

The Dyslexia Fund has been set up to support students identified as having a specific learning difficulty, specifically in the dyslexia spectrum. The fund is designed to assist the students with specific educational supports, not covered by current University funding. The fund is administered by the University of Canterbury Foundation and distributed on recommendation from DRS.

UC Master’s Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

This scholarship, tenable for study towards a Master’s degree at the University of Canterbury, was established in 1999 to

provide an incentive for students with high academic achievement who have a significant disability.

UC Doctoral Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

This scholarship, tenable for study towards a PhD at the University of Canterbury, was established in 1999 to provide an incentive for students with high academic achievement who have a significant disability.

More scholarships

Other scholarships for specific impairments are currently in development and will be available next year. Please check the UC Scholarships website for more information. www.canterbury.ac.nz/ScholarshipSearch

Academic Skills Centre

The Academic Skills Centre (ASC) is a free advisory service and resource hub that focuses on writing and study strategies to maximise student achievement at all levels, offering one to one support, seminars and online resources on critical thinking, writing essays, time management, studying for exams and notetaking. Located on Level 3 of the Puaka-James Hight building.

Phone: 03 364 2314

Email: academicskills@canterbury.ac.nz

www.lps.canterbury.ac.nz/lsc

ACHIEVE

ACHIEVE is a national network established to ensure equal opportunity and access to post-secondary education and training for disabled people. Its membership includes students with disabilities, their families and friends, post-secondary education providers, disability co-ordinators and other professionals supporting students with disabilities in post-secondary education, and service providers in the disability community. The University of Canterbury is a corporate member of ACHIEVE.

ACHIEVE

National Post-Secondary Education
Disability Network

c/- Otago University

PO Box 56, Dunedin

Email: info@achieve.org.nz

Website: www.achieve.org.nz

Community Agencies

There is a wide range of disability agencies and organisations in Christchurch – the Disability Resource Service has an extensive range of information, contact details, pamphlets and brochures available.

You may find it helpful to keep the following list handy.

Information Centres

NewZealanders.org

www.newzealanders.org is a website for the disability community. It aims to provide quick access to a wide range of information with a community focus.

Aspire

314 Worcester Street

Linwood

Christchurch

Phone: (03) 366 6189

Free phone: 0800 347 242

Email: disinfo@aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Website: www.aspirecanterbury.org.nz

Citizens Advice Bureau

Christchurch Polytechnic

Former Student Health Centre

18 Williams Street

Central City

Christchurch

Phone: (03) 366 6490

Free Phone: 0800 367 222

Email: christchurchnorth@cab.org.nz

Website: www.cab.org.nz

Youthline

Office Phone: (03) 379 4795
Counselling Line: 0800 37 66 33 or TXT 234
Email: talk@youthline.co.nz
Website: www.youthline.co.nz

Advocacy

DPA (NZ) Inc

Disabled Persons Assembly Christchurch & Districts (DPA) is an umbrella organisation representing disabled people, organisations involved in advocacy on their behalf, and service providers.

Phone: (03) 379 8525
Email: dpachch@cyberexpress.co.nz
Website: www.dpa.org.nz

Needs Assessment and Service Coordination

Lifelinks

A needs assessment is required to access the disability support services in the community funded through the Canterbury District Health Board. Service Coordinators are available to assist with arranging for the supports to be put in place. Lifelinks provides needs assessment and service coordination for people who have a physical, intellectual, sensory or psychiatric (including alcohol and drug) disability.

PO Box 2379
Christchurch
Phone: 0800 866 877
Email: office@lifelinks.co.nz
Website: www.lifelinks.co.nz

Training and Education Support

Workbridge

Workbridge manages the Training Support, Job Support and Self-Start Funds. The Training Support Fund provides financial support for a person with a disability undergoing training or education as part of their plan to gain open employment.

Workbridge City

337 St Asaph Street
Corner St Asaph and Barbadoes streets
Christchurch

Phone: (03) 962 8369
Fax: (03) 962 8366
Email: karenr@workbridge.co.nz
Website: www.workbridge.co.nz

Specialised Equipment for People with Disabilities

ENABLE New Zealand

Enable Wheelchairs administers the funding of wheelchairs and some other mobility equipment on behalf of the Canterbury District Health Board; Enable Stores administers the funding of other services including housing alterations, vehicle grants and driving assessments.

Phone: 0800 362 253
Email: enable@enable.co.nz
Website: www.enable.co.nz

StudyLink

The freephone/fax numbers to call for all queries about student allowances are:

Freephone: 0800 88 99 00

Deaf Link Freefax: 0800 88 33 88

Website: www.studylink.govt.nz

Accident Compensation Corporation

Addington Branch

Trust House
20–22 Twigger Street
Addington
Christchurch

Phone: 0800 222 822

Website: www.acc.co.nz

Assessment for Specific Learning Difficulties

Assessment of specific learning difficulties (SLD) for University purposes is to be carried out by a registered psychologist or a registered assessor with SPELD.

Students are to provide an assessment of their SLD diagnosis and learning needs to the Disability Resource Service (DRS). If you do not have an assessment then you can contact an assessment provider of your choice and arrange for an assessment to be carried out. If you have any queries about assessment providers please contact a DRS advisor.

Local assessment providers include but don't exhaust:

Seabrook McKenzie Centre

www.seabrookmckenzie.net

68 London St

Christchurch 8013

Telephone: 03 381 5383

Approximate cost – \$500;

\$450 with Community Services Card;

\$310 for full time students (with student ID)

The Psychology Centre

Level 2, Geography Block
University of Canterbury
Christchurch

Telephone: 03 369 3777

Email: psychclinic@canterbury.ac.nz

Approximate cost – \$600

SPELD

www.speld.org.nz

Hammersley Park School

Hammersley Ave

Christchurch 8013

Telephone: 0800 773 536

Approximate cost \$460–530

Subsidies available



‘DRS has helped me immensely through my studying journey..’

Paris Bronté

Studying towards a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Primary)

Co-Founder, Tattoo Removal Co.

Looking back on her teaching studies at UC, Paris has found her degree has prepared her well for a future career as a primary school teacher and mum.

‘It’s an interesting and good foundational degree. I enjoy how applicable and hands-on it is,’ she says. ‘Next year I am wanting to relieve with the hope of gaining part-time employment to work towards my teacher registration, while I have a young family.’

With UC being close to home, and having completed the STAR course BIOL 112 in high school, Paris initially started with a Forestry degree and was a Treasurer for FORSOC Forestry club. She later switched to a Primary Teaching degree as her newfound passion.

‘I love how you can have a chat to any lecturer and they are genuinely stoked that you are keen to learn, they are all full with extensive information and they don’t mind taking the time to explain something to you and they listen while you are talking to them. I was really involved with the clubs first time round at Uni and they are awesome, great way to socialise and meet people.’

Balancing part-time work at her Tattoo Removal Company and full-time life as a student and mum, Paris has made a lot of use of UC’s support services, including Academic Skills Centre (ASC) and Disability Resource Services (DRS).

‘I am dyslexic so was able to use the DRS who have helped me immensely through my studying journey,’ she says. ‘Nicola has been my mentor throughout both degrees and supported me with every decision, exam, note taking etc. The ASC has helped with short courses and pieces of work I needed to be looked over.’

‘I didn’t have a lot of external support throughout my studies but DRS and ASC definitely made up for that in supporting my academic achievement.’

Paris advises other students to enjoy independently learning and be open towards developing new ideas.

‘Start collecting articles, behavioural management strategies and useful information as soon as you start! You will thank yourself when you are entering the professional world of teaching.’

‘Be flexible, you might go into the degree thinking one thing, then read and experience another, it’s okay to change your mind!’

Disability Resource Service:

Rm 214, Level 2

Puaka-James Hight Building

Phone: (03) 369 3334

Email: disabilities@canterbury.ac.nz

University of Canterbury

Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

Private Bag 4800

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

[www. canterbury.ac.nz/disability](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability)