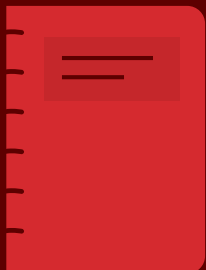


2026 

INTRODUCTION TO UC



HE ARATAKI KI UC



Ngā Kai o Roto | Contents

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UC social media:

 facebook.com/universitycanterbury

 instagram.com/ucnz

 x.com/ucnz

 snapchat.com/add/uc.nz

 youtube.com/UniversityCanterbury

 linkedin.com/school/university-of-canterbury



UC is proud to partner with Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tahu to uphold the mana and aspirations of the mana whenua.

Rainbow Diversity Support



Published Mei | May 2025. Information is correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

Proud supporters of:



Kia ora tātou

Nau mai, tauti mai. For 150 years, students from all walks of life have made UC their choice for learning, working with our communities, and doing research that makes a difference.

With everything from selecting your courses to discovering new interests, connecting with new friends, and simply just finding your way around, you'll learn what you can expect from your UC experience in this book.

At Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury, you'll get an excellent education backed by heaps of support — all while making memories that last a lifetime.

ARTS AND
PSYCHOLOGY



WAIRAAMIA

KĀI TAHU, KĀTI MĀMOE,
WAITAHA, NGĀTI RAUKAWA,
NGĀI TE RANGI

WHAKAPAPA

Why university?

Improve job outcomes

Our latest Graduate Destination Survey 2024 revealed:

35

countries where graduates work

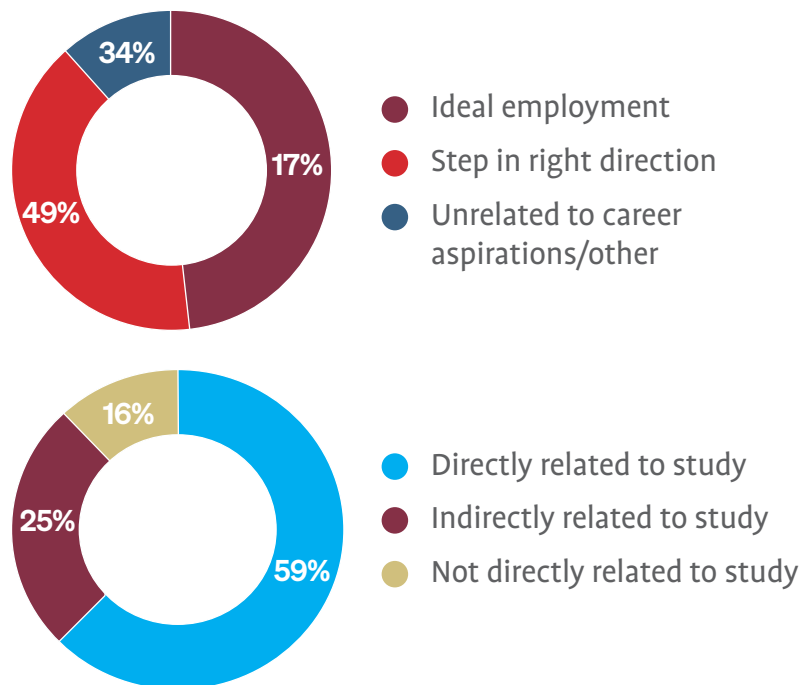
\$

Half our graduates earned more than \$50,001 in a year, with 33% earning \$70,001 and above.

2nd

UC is second in Aotearoa for employment outcomes (QS World Rankings, 2025)

How our graduates described their current job





CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND LAW



CALEB

OPPORTUNITIES



Meet new people

University has a diverse community where you can meet people with similar values and goals, as well those with completely different backgrounds and stories. Discover your potential, have experiences, and make meaningful connections with your peers, lecturers, and industry.

At UC, we have a multicultural campus with students coming from all over the world, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. We also have a strong rainbow and takatāpui community. We have safe, social places for everyone.

Aotearoa needs...

Skilled graduates in engineering, psychology, health and wellbeing, nursing, social services, ICT, teaching, and environmental science.

Why is Year 12 important?

Choosing Year 13 subjects

In Year 12, you'll select your subjects for Year 13. Most of our degrees are open to everyone, however some degrees require taking certain subjects in high school. For instance:

- An Engineering degree at UC needs calculus and physics, and, in some cases, chemistry.
- Our Fine Arts degree requires a portfolio of your best art work.
- For degrees like Forestry Science, it's helpful to study biology in school.

Best Prep guide

For a summary of what year 13 subjects you may require, scan for our Best Prep guide below, or contact the Future Students Team.



Scholarship applications

Because of the timing of applications, most university scholarships for students transitioning from high school are based on your Year 12 results — see **page 25** to learn more about scholarships.

Need to know more?

If you or your whānau have any questions about studying at UC, our Future Students Team is here to help. They can assist with such questions as:

- What subjects should I take in Year 13?
- Are there any special requirements for the subject/degree I would like to study?
- What accommodation options are there on campus?

We also help with enrolling, reminding you of important dates, and assisting in the planning of your first-year courses.

Contact the Future Students Team for more information.

E: futurestudents@canterbury.ac.nz

P: 0800 VARSITY (827 748)

canterbury.ac.nz/communities/future-students



“My advice to future students would be to take every opportunity you get and to always be kind and open-minded. University gives you a chance to become your most authentic self and meet like-minded people!”

Verity

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations, and Spanish

How do I get in?

Aotearoa universities have entry requirements that you need to meet in order to study. Check with your school's careers advisor or our website for what you will need to get University Entrance (UE) at canterbury.ac.nz/study/getting-started/preparing-for-university

Some of our subjects or degrees may have extra requirements, so always ask your careers advisor or contact us.

If you have done other schooling besides NCEA, the entry requirements may differ. These include:

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)

A or AS level entrance requirement
At least 120 points on the NZ Tariff and a minimum grade of D in each of at least three subjects equivalent to those on the approved list (excluding 'Thinking Skills').
Literacy requirement
A pass in any of AS English Language, Language and Literature in English, or Literature in English.
Numeracy requirement
Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a D grade or better in IGCSE or GCSE mathematics, or• any mathematics pass at AS level.

NCEA

To achieve UE, you'll need NCEA Level 3 and the following:

Level 3 (or above) 60 credits	Subject A 14 credits from approved subject	Subject B 14 credits from approved subject	Subject C 14 credits from approved subject
Level 2 (or above) 10 credits	Reading 5 credits from the NZQA approved list	Writing 5 credits from the NZQA approved list	
Level 1 (or above) 10 credits	Mathematics 10 credits from the NZQA approved list		

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB)

You can study at UC, if you have been awarded the IB Diploma.

The literacy requirement for admission to university will be met if the IB diploma has been completed with English as the language in any of:

- Language A: literature (SL or HL),
- Language A: language and literature (SL or HL), or
- Language B: (HL).

Other pathways

There are other pathways available to students. If you are unsure about meeting the entry requirements, please connect with our Future Students Team.

E: futurestudents@canterbury.ac.nz





What is university?



Common university terms

Bachelor's degrees

A bachelor's degree is an undergraduate qualification that usually takes 3–4 years to complete. We offer many bachelor's degrees — see **page 19**.

If you want to do a shorter study, we also have certificates and diplomas that can be completed full-time in 6 months to a year.

Subjects

Subjects are areas you study in your degree. Some subjects you can continue from high school such as Accounting, Biology, or History, while some you can start new like Law, Marketing, or Social Work.

Major

A major is the main subject you choose to study all the way to the final year of your bachelor's degree. For example, a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Sociology.

Double major

In some degrees, you are able to specialise in two main subjects — this is called a double major. These two majors can be completed in the same time as a single major. For example, the Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Economics and Finance.



Minor

A minor is another subject focus you can take in your degree, which you won't study as extensively as a major. For example, a Bachelor of Science majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Environmental Science. It is not compulsory to do a minor.

Courses

A course is a specific topic within a subject, for example an American history course within the History subject. This involves lectures, assignments, and other forms of study. Your degree is made up of multiple courses. See **page 11**.

Points

Each course has a points value — 1 point is equivalent to 10 hours of study. You will need to complete a certain number of points to finish your degree.

Semester

The academic year is split into two periods of study known as semesters. One semester is the equivalent of two terms at high school.

- Semester 1: February – June
- Semester 2: July – November
- Summer: November – February.



How do courses work?

- A key difference from high school is that you are in charge of your own study. But there's plenty of help every step of the way.
- Each course or paper will include a series of lectures, similar to a class but with a lot more students.
- Usually you will complete four courses/papers in a semester, with each having around two lectures a week.

Lectures

You will take your own notes in lectures, and may also get the opportunity to ask questions or have a class discussion.

You can find presentations, notes, or the lecture recording online if you miss anything.

Assignments

You'll complete assignments throughout the course, which may include essays, quizzes, fieldtrips, open-book tests, and presentations. Most courses also finish with an exam.

Tutorials

Most courses have tutorials (or labs), which are smaller study groups than your lectures, usually taught by a senior student. You can ask in-depth questions, discuss assignments, and get to know your classmates.

Ask for help

You can ask for help any time with your course planning, assignments, or life in general. Learn about our wellbeing services on **page 27**.

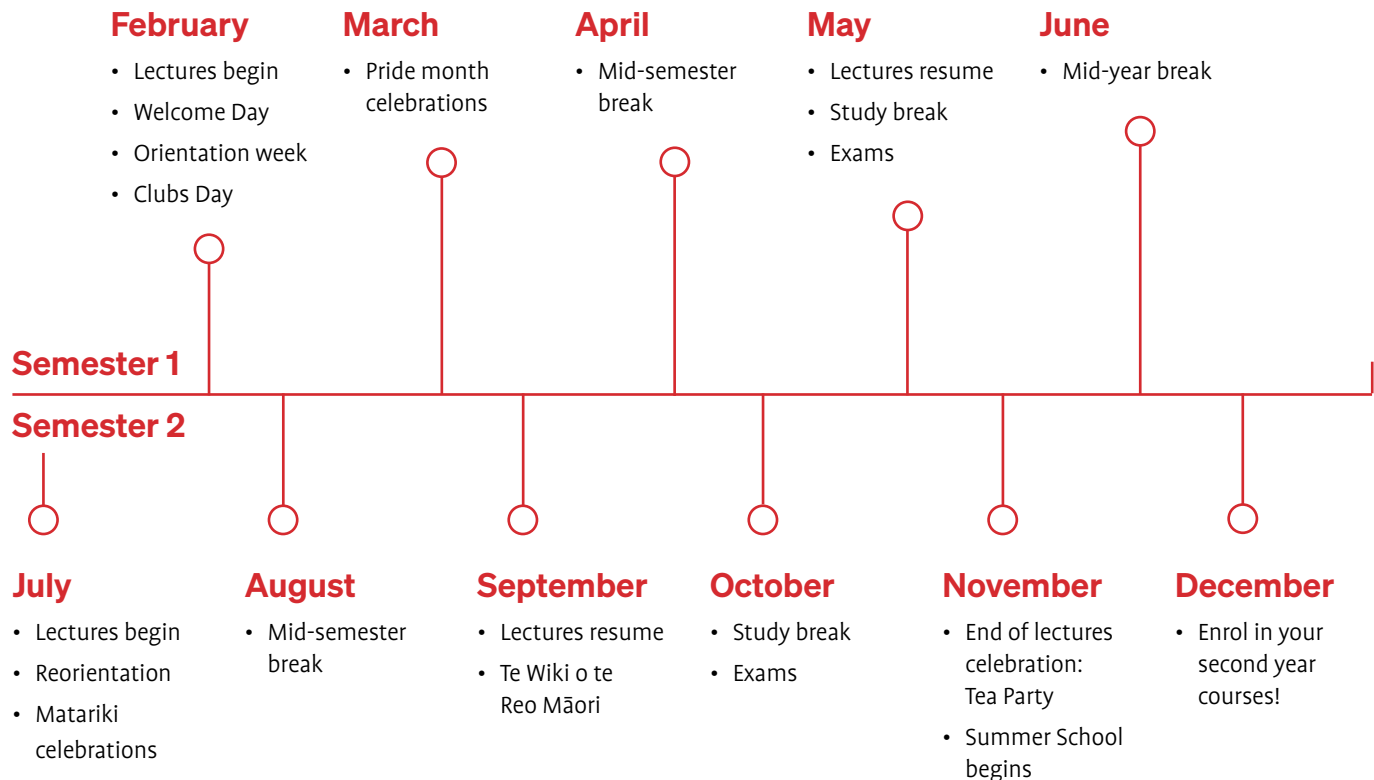


First year lectures are introductory, and usually don't require any previous knowledge. So if you haven't studied something before, give it a go.

Read more on **page 18**.



What does my first year look like?



INFO HUB

ENGINEERING
CORE

ERNEST
RUTHERFORD

PUAKA-JAMES
HIGHT

C BLOCK LAWN

MATARIKI

NORTH ARTS

SOUTH ARTS



What does a week look like?

Example Engineering timetable (Semester 1)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:00 am	ENGR101 Workshop				
9:00 am		COSC131 Tutorial	PHYS101 Lecture		PHYS101 Lecture
10:00 am		EMTH118 Lecture	EMTH118 Lecture	EMTH118 Lecture	EMTH118 Lecture
11:00 am				ENGR101 Lecture	COSCI31 Computer Lab
12:00 pm	PHYS101 Lecture				
1:00 pm					
2:00 pm	PHYS101 Lab	EMTH118 Tutorial	ENGR101 Lecture		ENGR101 Lecture
3:00 pm					
4:00 pm					
5:00 pm	COSC131 Lecture	PHYS101 drop-in class			

One major difference between school and university is the amount of time you're in class.

At university, you'll only spend about **14–20 hours** per week in classes, quite different from the **30–35 hours** you spend in class at school.

However, you can expect to spend time outside of lectures doing recommended readings, attending study groups, etc. So if you are studying full-time then you will spend about **30–40 hours** per week with combined lectures and independent work.

Choose your own timetable

Students choose their own timetable from the options available to them — this flexibility often allows you to incorporate different subjects into your study, while giving you the opportunity to get involved in other aspects of university life as well as part-time work alongside your studies.



Kickstart your UC journey

Pūao | STAR

Starting out at uni can be a big step, but our STAR courses can help you test the waters. STAR enables Year 12 and 13 students to study first-year university courses either at UC or online while you're still at school. Gain confidence about university and connect with other like-minded students.

Credit your STAR courses towards your degree once you've got UE.

canterbury.ac.nz/study/other-study-options/star-programme



Events

Some of the events where you can explore the campus and life at UC are:

Aukaha (Year 10 and 12 ākonga Māori)
Hui Tairanga Info evenings
Te Rā Tūhura Discovery Day (for Year 12 students)
Rā Tōmene Open Day
Campus tours

Scan to learn more about these events:



“The STAR Maths course was a great introduction to tertiary education as I became familiar with the environment of attending lectures and learned what the workload for a course would be like. It can give you a great headstart into your degree at UC.”

Kusal
Bachelor of Engineering with Honours
in Software Engineering

How do I choose my study?

Flexible study

Because of the range of subjects on offer, university is a great place for you to mix-and-match and try new subjects.

Combine subjects

Besides a major and minor, you can also include courses from other subject areas. For instance, while doing a Bachelor of Arts, you can do courses from Antarctic Studies, Criminal Justice, or Health Sciences.

Change your mind?

You might think of changing your direction after you have already enrolled — that’s very common. You may be able to change your major, minor, and even your degree during your study. Say you started off with Engineering but decide you’d rather do Science, you can transfer your completed courses from Engineering to your new degree.

For a full list of subjects available at UC, scan:



High school subjects can translate into a lot more options at university. The table below shows you two examples:

High school subject	Examples of what you can study at UC	
History	Cinema Studies	Media and Communication
	Classics	Political Science and International Relations
	Digital Humanities	Psychology
	Journalism	Teaching
Maths	Accounting	Environmental Science
	Astronomy	Information Systems
	Data Science	Psychology
	Economics	Statistics



“My study combines all my hobbies and interests into one degree. At UC you have the choice of studying what you want and what you love. Turn your interests into a degree and give it your all.”

Maha

Bachelor of Arts in Cinema Studies and Japanese

Degree options

What is a general degree?

- The most flexible degrees.
- You can study subjects from other areas eg, you could do a Science degree and include Spanish.
- You must choose one major. You can also add another major or a minor if you'd like.
- General degrees can be started in February (Semester 1) or in July (Semester 2).

General degrees include:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Science

What is a specialist degree?

- These prepare you for a career in a particular profession.
- Usually a number of courses are compulsory and your study is more prescribed.
- Specialist degrees usually start in February (Semester 1) only.
- Some specialist degrees have limited entry and require a special application. Please contact the Future Students Team to find out which degrees need this.

Specialist degrees include:

- Ako: Bachelor of Teaching and Learning
- Bachelor of Communication
- Bachelor of Criminal Justice
- Bachelor of Data Science
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Engineering with Honours
- Bachelor of Environmental Science with Honours
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Forestry Science
- Bachelor of Health
- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Psychological Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Social Work with Honours
- Bachelor of Speech and Language Pathology with Honours
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership



“The degree allowed me to get experience in all different aspects of the forestry industry, while also giving me the opportunity to work in the bush and not be stuck in an office or classroom all day.”

Angus

Bachelor of Forestry Science





Students at our Mt John
Observatory field station.
UC is the only university in
Aotearoa to teach Astronomy
at all levels of study.



Put your degree to work

Practical degrees

Many of our degrees have a practical component such as placements, internships, industry or community projects. You get work experience and build connections to reach out to after graduation.

Professional and Community Engagement (PACE)

PACE is a practical skills course you can take alongside your degree where you will be matched with an internship based on your studies and interests. Past internships include media and communications, events, marketing, health, policy, and urban planning.

PACE also has a new international internship course, the most recent one being in Japan. Students were able to explore how business, culture, and communication differ in Japan as well as make new job connections.

Careers centre

At UC Careers, you can talk to career consultants so you feel more confident that you're heading in the right direction after you graduate.

canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers

Centre for Entrepreneurship (UCE)

UCE is our ideas and innovation hub, where you can gain all-round business skills, learn from mentors and experts, and connect with industry. UCE's workshops and programmes are open to all UC students and no prior experience in business and entrepreneurship is required.



“The opportunity to intern at the Christchurch Art Gallery was a massive opportunity for personal development, building relationships with CAG staff, and having access to knowledgeable, interesting and experienced people.”

Emma

Bachelor of Arts in Art History and Theory, English, Philosophy, and a Master of Arts in Art History



Te Uru Rākau

Forestry New Zealand



FORESTRY SCHOLARSHIPS

Ngā Karahipi Uru Rākau



Funding my studies

Affordable lifestyle

Christchurch is 17% cheaper to live than Wellington and 10% cheaper than Auckland.
(Source: ChristchurchNZ)

Student loans and allowances

You can pay for your study and study-related costs with a student loan. Go to studylink.govt.nz or freephone in NZ 0800 88 99 00 to see if you're eligible for a student allowance.

Scholarships

UC has different kinds of scholarships for school leavers — you should apply for whichever you think you are eligible for, as it may be possible to hold more than one scholarship at a time.

Scan below to make sure you stay updated with our database:



“I was luckily awarded with a UC International First Year Scholarship and Undergraduate Entrance Scholarship before I came to UC. Those scholarships gave me more confidence and helped me get ready for uni.”

Aerinn

Bachelor of Science in Financial Engineering

What will my studies cost?

These costs are based on a domestic student living away from home. If you are living at home, you will be able to significantly reduce these costs.

Estimated total costs for the 2025 academic year (NZ\$)

Accommodation (including deposit)	\$11,988–\$28,718*
Domestic tuition fees (depends on degree area)	\$7,200–\$9,000**
Student Services Levy	\$1,200
Study-related costs eg, textbooks (depends on courses)	\$500–\$1,000
Total estimated cost	\$20,888–\$39,918

* Range depends on whether students are in self-catered or fully-catered accommodation.

** Your actual fees will depend on the mix of courses you take. For indicative fees (domestic or international) for a specific course, go to courseinfo.canterbury.ac.nz



Beyond the classroom



Get support

From the moment you arrive on campus to your graduation, UC has support available every step of the way.

Kia Angitu

Kia Angitu is UC's Student Success Programme with a range of initiatives to ease the transition to your first year at uni. We work to remove barriers to education, help you thrive in your studies, and build your confidence.

E: kiaangitu@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Pātaka|Student Services Hub

This is your go-to support centre, located in the central library. You can receive help with anything you need including study and exams, health, sport, personal issues, counselling, injuries, or jobs. They will connect you with the right people.

Equity and accessibility

In addition to Te Pātaka, we also have dedicated equity and accessibility teams providing support for Māori, Pacific, rainbow, international students, and anyone with diverse needs.

Our student accessibility service assures there is equal access to facilities and opportunities, extending their services for those with temporary injuries too.

Your student association

Te Rōpū Ākonga o Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA) is a non-profit organisation that helps all students find support and feel like they belong at UC.

We have over 160 clubs, and regularly host events on campus, such as wellbeing events, rainbow lunches, exam breakfasts, and many more.

We offer dental, optometry, welfare, financial, food vouchers, and other subsidised support.

ucsa.org.nz

Read about all our support services:



“UC opened up a voice clinic through the speech and therapy school where transgender girls like me can learn and practise our voices. There are also clubs for rainbow people, and a lot of teachers and staff are trained and aware of rainbow rights. It’s awesome that UC has a lot of places available for that.”

Bree

Bachelor of Product Design in Applied Immersive Game Design

(Applied Immersive Game Design is currently not open to new enrolments. See UC's other programmes in game design and development.)



Community

A key part of your uni experience will be meeting people with varied perspectives. There are lots of academic and non-academic opportunities for you to connect with others. We also have spaces on campus that are open for anyone regardless of background.

Student Volunteer Army (SVA)

SVA is one of UC's largest and world-famous student clubs with over 2,000 members who regularly volunteer in various community projects.

sva.org.nz

Clubs

By joining clubs, you can find new hobbies, make friends, enhance your CV. Opshopping, gaming, snow sports, mental health — whatever you're interested in — UC has a strong clubs culture with over 160 clubs.

ucsa.org.nz/clubs

Halls

Staying in campus accommodation in your first year is a great way to get a feel of the community, meet new people,



and find support. There are lots of social events held throughout the year too.

UniLife

Not staying in halls? No problem. UniLife is a free, year-long programme run by students for first-year students who don't stay in campus accommodation. Social events and activities are organised for you to socialise and navigate uni life together. Your Leader also helps you connect with clubs that are right for you.

Compact campus

UC's campus and housing is all in one place, making it easy for our students to get places. You can grab a snack at one of many cafés and eateries, and catch up over a drink and board games at our student bar, The Foundry.

Keep active at our RecCentre with a fully-equipped gym, social sports, and group fitness classes. We also have a health centre, theatre, art galleries, and event spaces.

Te Rua Makerspace

We have a makerspace where you can decompress from study and learn new skills like 3D printing, garment printing, crafts, sewing, badge making, creating lego masterpieces, and much more. It's a space for everyone.

LADS WITHOUT LABELS is a club set out to break the stigma of mental health for all students, especially men's mental health, through initiatives and events — from a conversation session every Wednesday, a running group, and collaborations with artists to raise money for mental health charities in Christchurch.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING, a club that's been running since 1999, provides a safe and inclusive space for the growing number of female engineers. They have connections within the industry and have a range of events throughout the year.

Our clubs are always growing, so your idea could be the next big thing!





Africa Day celebrations
by AfroSoc



Credit: UCSA



Canterbury University Boardriders
Association (CUBA) club



Credit: UCSA



From campus to ...

1. UC campus

2. University of Canterbury Student Association (UCSA)

3. UC accommodation

4. Asian supermarket and restaurants

15-minute walk from UC

5. Westfield shopping mall

5-minute drive from UC

6. Central business district (CBD)

10-minute bike from UC

7. Port Hills

20-minute drive from UC,
to the adventure park, walking
tracks, views and ziplines

8. Beach

20-minute drive from UC

9. Airport

10-minute drive from UC

10. UC sports field



UC's unique location

UC is the only fully purpose-built, self-contained residential campus in the country. It's got the benefit of being distinct from the rest of Ōtautahi Christchurch, while being only 5 km away from the city centre.

There are open green spaces where you can take a breather. Watch out for skateboarders, scooters, roller bladers, and cyclists though!

What sets Christchurch apart?

Rental homes in Ōtautahi Christchurch are 10% cheaper than Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland and 17% cheaper than Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington.
(Source: ChristchurchNZ)

You'll find new public spaces, gardens, a colourful CBD, less congestion, and future-focused sustainable businesses. It's a city where you can balance study and work with fun and leisure.

Balance out your studies

- 4 dual ziplines at Christchurch Adventure Park.
- 10 ski fields within two hours' drive from Ōtautahi Christchurch.
- Check out Riverside Market, Port Hills, Banks Peninsula, Akaroa, Hanmer Springs, plus explore South Island spots like Arthur's Pass National Park, Kaikōura, Milford Sound, Queenstown.
- There are heaps of events like festivals, concerts, and sports.



Contact us:
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e: info@canterbury.ac.nz
www.canterbury.ac.nz

Future Students office:
e: futurestudents@canterbury.ac.nz

Talk to a UC student:
Get answers to your questions about what
it's like being a student at UC, and life in
Ōtautahi Christchurch.

