

What can I do with a degree in Classics?

Classics.



What is Classics?

Classics is the study of the ancient Mediterranean world from the second millennium BC to around the fifth century AD – over 2500 years of astonishingly rich cultural history. Classics courses are interdisciplinary; they include literature, ideas, art, architecture, archaeology, history, and ancient languages (Greek and Latin).

Whenever we study people of the past, we gain a lens that helps us make sense of the modern world and its challenges – Classics is also about the influence of the past on the present. Relations with indigenous cultures; concepts of democracy, government and lawmaking; human psychology revealed by poetry and plays; sexuality and gender; and the continuing influence of architecture, art and engineering are all part of Classics courses.

Classics at Canterbury is enriched by the ancient artefacts, art, and literature in the collections of the Teece Museum and the Macmillan Brown Library.

Learn more

It is important to do some research when planning a future career. Speak with, ask questions of, and follow relevant professional bodies, organisations, companies, thought leaders and industry professionals to learn more about:

- Career opportunities, work environments and salary information
- Education and training requirements.

Examples of professional bodies

- The Australasian Society for Classical Studies
www.ascs.org.au
- New Zealand Association of Classical Teachers
www.nzact.org.nz
- New Zealand Archaeological Association
www.nzarchaeology.org

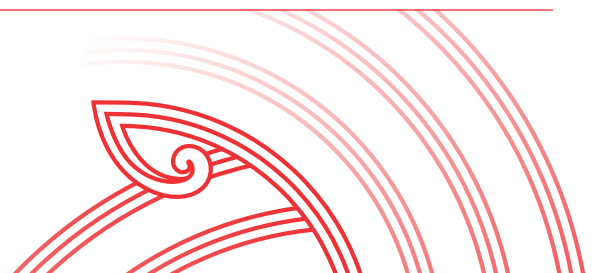
Career and study information

Some study pathways and degrees have a recommended school background, and some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional experience.

Gather helpful information from:

- Subject-specific content at
www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects/classics
- Job profiles on career websites like
www.careers.govt.nz
- Job adverts/vacancy descriptions
- Industry professional bodies.

This resource is part of a set of brochures focused on subject majors; many can also be studied as minors.





What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Classics, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies. These can include:

- A well-formed awareness of others' viewpoints and cultural identity
- Advanced communication - both written and oral
- Critical and rigorous thinking
- Interpretation, analysis and evaluation of evidence
- Constructing arguments
- Reasoning and problem solving
- Research and computing skills
- Understanding factors that shape societies
- Resilience and adaptability
- Problem solving
- Time management, planning, and organisation.

Applied learning

Classics students can apply their learning through opportunities such as interning at the James Logie Memorial Collection of Greek and Roman artworks in the Arts Centre, the Canterbury Museum, and Underground

Overground Archaeology. Students might also consider other opportunities that can enhance research and practical skills relevant to employment in museums, or as a curator, conservator, heritage or arts manager.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking, technological literacy, AI and big data.*

*World Economic Forum: www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where have graduates been employed?

Classics graduates enjoy a wide variety of career destinations for example in media, policy and research, culture and heritage, teaching, community development and business. Graduates have been employed in:

- Media and publishing groups
- Education e.g. Secondary schools, Tertiary institutions
- Museums and galleries e.g. Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities
- Recruitment agencies
- Membership organisations
- New Zealand government ministries, departments and agencies
- Regional councils
- New Zealand Police and Defence Force
- Churches and religious groups
- Charities
- Advertising and creative agencies
- Telecommunications
- Operations and construction sectors.

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs — see some examples below.

Note: This list is not exhaustive, and some jobs may require further study, training or experience. It is recommended to start with the section 'How can I gain a sense of career direction?'

Policy analyst / advisor

- Identify and investigate issues and opportunities e.g. in society, law or governance
- Interpret existing policies and brief leaders
- Prepare reports and recommend changes

Librarian

- Categorise and catalogue library materials
- Select materials for library use
- Help customers find and use materials

Editorial assistant

- Proofread material and coordinate changes
- Add elements in production e.g. graphics
- Answer publication queries

Administrator

- Work with a team, often in a large institution like a university or a hospital, or a company
- Co-ordinate a range of tasks related to the smooth running of the institution
- Work on specific projects to develop and improve the way the institution functions

Communications / media advisor, journalist

- Develop information, media and communication strategies
- Research, write, edit and produce content

Intelligence officer

- Investigate whether people, places and events pose a threat to security
- Advise how to manage threats
- Cooperate with other agencies.

Secondary school teacher

- Prepare and deliver learning experiences in specialised subjects
- Understand the learning needs of rangatahi, observe progress to personalise support
- Promote the wellbeing of rangatahi

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Museum technician
- Archivist
- Museum officer
- Gallery host
- Heritage manager/advisor
- Academic learning advisor
- Author/writer
- Publisher/editor
- Executive assistant
- Customer service officer
- Design analyst
- Youth worker
- Manager.

Postgraduate roles

Conservator

- Examine artefacts and their storage conditions
- Keep records and identify restoration work
- Clean and repair sensitive objects and recreate historically accurate finishes

Curator, registrar

- Choose display items at museums or galleries
- Manage collections and exhibitions
- Conduct research and communicate details

Historian

- Analyse sources to uncover the history of a period, place, person, group or aspect
- Publish findings and share knowledge
- Maintain historical records.

Further study options

Many Classics graduates use their Classics major as a springboard for postgraduate study in other areas, such as education, journalism/communication, policy and governance, international relations, management, law, and library information sciences.

Some Classics graduates progress their studies from honours to PhD level. Postgraduate study can sometimes lead to an academic career pathway in teaching and research.

Further study may facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into a specific occupation, higher starting salary, faster progression rate, and advanced research capability.

It is important to determine which, if any, further study options align with future career aspirations.

For further UC study options visit:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study

How can I gain a sense of career direction?

Understanding yourself and others is important to gain a sense of direction. This grows with experience; therefore, trying new things and reflecting on an ongoing basis is important.

Career planning checklist

Discover and reflect on:

- Your values, interests, strengths, abilities, and aspirations
- Your connection to whānau, people, and places
- Lifestyle preferences and location
- The skills you want to gain, use, or enhance

Engage in a variety of experiences to learn about:

- How you want to contribute to society, the environment, and global challenges
- The tasks, responsibilities and work environments you prefer
- Your work values, priorities and interests

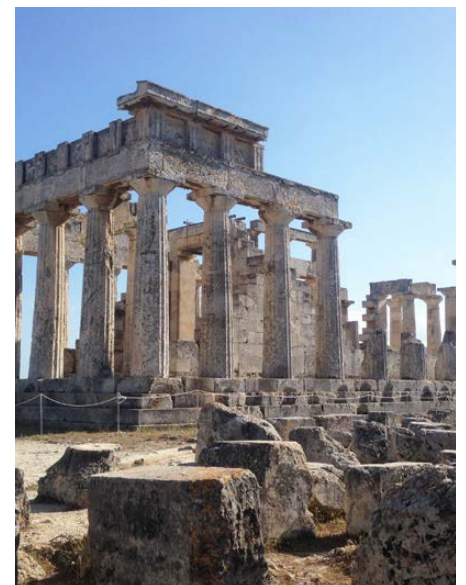
Learn more and gather career and study information

(refer to page one of this resource)

- Speak with people working in careers that interest you; check the realities of a job/career
- Gather information from various sources

Identify your next steps

- Talking to a career consultant can help you to identify your next steps. Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers



What have other students and graduates done?

Explore career stories of students' university experiences and UC alumni who make a difference globally in varied ways.

Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/why-uc/our-students/student-stories



Lauren

Editorial Assistant, New Zealand Listener, Bauer Media NZ

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Classics
Bachelor of Arts in Classics with a minor in Art History and Theory

UC extracurricular activities: Classoc, UC Rowing, DramaSoc, and Glee Club.

What motivated you to continue your studies in Classics?

By developing my knowledge and enthusiasm, my strengths became apparent too. The more I studied Classics, the more I enjoyed it and saw great results. That snowball effect was a great motivator to go back to university and study Classics year after year.

Tell us about your Arts internship course?

It was a great addition to my studies, as it allowed me to be hands-on with material in the James Logie Memorial Collection. The internship allowed me to see the theoretical parts of my studies from a new and tangible perspective, which was incredibly invaluable. Also, it was great to put the abilities and unique skills learnt during my internship onto my CV.

What is involved in your current role?

Each day varies greatly from the next, and in the fast-paced environment of current affairs, I'm always busy. I love this aspect of my job, as I'm constantly learning. I've met some fantastic people in my job, and as I'm the main point of contact for the Listener; I've heard some incredible stories too.

What are your future goals and aspirations?

I really enjoy the media industry, so finding a position that combines my current industry

with my passion for heritage and ancient art and architecture would be the ultimate goal. I would like to take my postgraduate studies further, but I plan on travelling first to see the magnificent architecture I studied during my degree.

What advice would you give to students?

Classics covers a wide range of time, people, languages, and locations, so take the time to experience it all and then narrow your focus. All the different aspects of Classics makes it an extensive topic, and trying different approaches allowed me to focus on Classics in new ways.

My minor in Art History and Theory was incredibly helpful too, so take inspiration from a wide range of topics.

Career guidance

Career services are available for future and current students, and recent graduates. To learn more, contact:

Te Rōpū Rapuara | Careers

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

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

Helpful career insights

- Speaking with employers is key to finding opportunities; not all jobs are advertised
- Developing an online presence is useful as employers can search for future employees online
- Learning about recruitment patterns and where to find opportunities is important.

Study advice

Student Advisors at UC help with questions focused on starting, planning and changing studies. To connect with Student Advisors, visit:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/study-support-info/study-support

Future students – contact:

The Future Students team

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