

What can I do with a degree in Education?

Education.



What is Education?

Education and learning extend beyond traditional classrooms, occurring daily in diverse settings like communities, workplaces, creative spaces, sports environments, and even within the immersive world of gaming.

Education is a multidisciplinary field of study that includes educational psychology, child and adolescent development, wellbeing and health, and the sociology, philosophy and history of education. It also explores education inequalities and social justice.

Students of Education critically engage with how the education system works, who benefits and who is disadvantaged by it, and approaches which are helpful in addressing those issues. They also gain an understanding of the theories and processes that influence learning.

Education graduates are valued across various areas, including education technology, industry training, understanding and countering disinformation, developing educational policy, and education for sustainable development.

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

- New Zealand Association for Research in Education <https://nzare.org.nz>
- New Zealand Educational Administration and Leadership Society www.nzeals.org.nz
- New Zealand Association for Training and Development www.nzatd.org.nz
- Te Riu Roa NZIE www.nzei.org.nz
- Teaching Council of Aotearoa New Zealand www.teachingcouncil.nz

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/education
- 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 Education, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies, which can include:

- Thinking critically and creatively; ability to understand, interpret, and challenge ideas
- The ability to analyse and synthesise ideas and construct clear arguments in written form
- An awareness of community engagement, responsible citizenship, and social justice, as well as bicultural challenges, obligations, and commitments
- Time management, planning, resilience, and organisation to complete work to an excellent standard
- Teamwork, open-mindedness, tolerance, and appreciation of different perspectives.

Applied learning

Community engagement courses and internships with potential employers are available. These experiences deepen graduates' skillset, awareness of others, working knowledge and employability.

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 and technological literacy.

How can these skills be developed?

- Graduates who have analysed course materials and completed assignments on time and to a high standard with the guidance and supervision of academic experts, acquire skills above and beyond their subject area of study
- Extra-curricular activities 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?

Graduates find work in various educational and related work environments, including:

- Education, including special education
- Education technology/online platforms and content creation
- Corporate training
- Tutoring centres
- Community development and youth organisations
- Psychological services
- Museums and cultural institutes
- Health and rehabilitation
- Creative fields
- Libraries.

Graduates can also find work within:

- Government
- Social service agencies
- Not-for-profit agencies
- Advocacy
- Business
- Career consultancies
- Research.

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?'

Educator (outside of traditional classrooms)

- Develop and facilitate engaging learning experiences
- Mentor, support and provide guidance
- Advocate for educational progress

Learning advisor, education platform director

- Develop learning resources or courses
- Use technology to deliver training
- Advise how to develop skills

Education advisor / consultant

- Work with teachers to develop teaching programmes to increase student achievement
- Design and create teaching resources
- Assist with school implementation of new education priorities and policies

Policy analyst / advisor

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

Public administrator

- Manage government functions for effective public service delivery and agency operation
- Support the development of policies, budgets, and programmes

Research assistant

- Assist with research design, collect and analyse data, and conduct literature reviews
- Handle administrative tasks, documentation, and ensure ethical compliance

Child advocate, community support officer

- Promote well-being of children
- Work with children and their families to address education, care or social issues
- Tackle policies that negatively impact children

Guide / leader / mentor | kaiārahi

- Support people to reflect biculturalism
- Identify opportunities and review processes to achieve organisational Māori aspirations
- Connect with contributors, leaders and knowledge guardians

Content creator

- Develop engaging media content across platforms like videos, blogs, and social media

Careers advisor

- Guide clients in career decision-making and job searching
- Provide information about education and training options
- Facilitate career education tutorials

Corporate trainer

- Design, deliver and review programmes to enhance employees' capabilities
- Create materials to support learning

Librarian

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

Teaching

Relevant study/training is needed for teaching or other related roles such as:

- Teacher (early childhood, primary or secondary)
- Teacher of English for speakers of other languages
- Special education / early intervention teacher

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Curriculum developer
- Educational psychologist
- Child and family psychologist
- Lecturer
- Student advisor
- Sports coach
- Instructional designer
- Educational technology specialist
- Bilingual support staff
- Media specialist
- HR consultant, learning and development advisor
- Technical communicator.

Further study options

Honours, master's and doctoral studies in Education allow graduates to research an area of interest. Higher study can be a pathway to an academic career.

Graduates may choose to enter early childhood teaching, primary or secondary teaching through the completion of postgraduate studies.

Higher qualifications are available in Māori Bilingual and Immersion Teaching, and TESOL.

Postgraduate options in psychology are also available to those that meet the requirements for educational, child and family, or clinical psychology.

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



André

School Teacher and Karate Instructor, Kyushu, Japan

Bachelor of Arts in Education with a minor in Human Services

What motivated you to pursue a degree in Education?

I was and continue to be professionally involved in coaching and wanted to academically study the psychological and sociological influences of how people learn.

What did you enjoy about it?

In addition to improving my teaching and coaching ability, studying Education at UC also broadened my understanding of social justice. When you consider that education and educators essentially function as the gatekeepers of society, the academic analysis of education becomes utterly imperative. This was an exciting aspect of studying Education, as it showed that educators can help to mitigate inequalities and, in doing so, contribute towards a better world.

What helped you the most?

The best thing about studying at UC was the quality of the lecturers. If you are serious about your studies, they take a real interest in your work and, more importantly, they offer feedback which is especially useful if you are considering postgraduate study.

What are your interests when you are not studying?

I have trained in traditional Japanese Shotokan for over 30 years. I have won 17 New Zealand titles and was a personal student of the late legend Tetsuhiko Asai.

How did you balance your martial arts career with study?

I think this is a question all serious athletes ponder on when they are looking at study. I was too busy with study to travel during term times, so I trained hard every day for two to three hours and taught karate locally. I used the time in between semesters to give technical seminars in Australia, Italy, Germany, South Africa, England and Japan. My point is that I could continue to have a career outside university while keeping my grades in the 'A' range.

Why would you recommend this subject to others?

Studying Education at UC is a great choice. Even if you have a profession in education, school teaching, coaching or otherwise, the courses will enhance your understanding of learning and education in a wider social context.

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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