

What can I do with a degree in European and European Union Studies?

European and European Union Studies.



What is European and European Union Studies?

Studying Europe from afar provides a number of advantages – of perspective, comparative analysis and of isolation from short-term trends. Europe provides an important cultural and linguistic reference point to Aotearoa New Zealand in an increasingly global community.

The European Union (EU) with 27 member states and over 445 million people is one of the world's leading political and trading blocs and one of New Zealand's most significant bilateral partners.

European and European Union Studies offers a broad-based, interdisciplinary programme that embraces the studies of the institutional, legal, political, economic and social aspects of the integration process of the EU as well as the history and socio-economic development of Europe as a whole. The programme also encourages the study of European languages and cultures.

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

- Te Roopu Whakakotahi Whenua o Aotearoa United Nations Association of New Zealand www.unanz.org.nz
- New Zealand Institute of International Affairs www.nziaa.org.nz
- Te Pūtahi Whakakakau Tūmatanui o Aotearoa Public Relations Institute of New Zealand www.prinz.org.nz
- Project Management Institute New Zealand www.pmi.org.nz
- Export New Zealand www.exportnz.org.nz

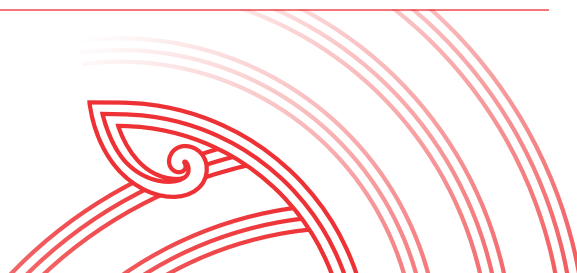
Career and study information

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/european-and-european-union-studies
- 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 European and European Union Studies, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies. These can include:

- Developing attitudes of intellectual curiosity
- Written expression and sound logic in the development of a written argument
- Presentation and clarity in oral expression
- Research, analytical and critical thinking
- Bibliographical referencing
- Discussion of ideas and listening to others
- Information management.

Practise your skills at work or in Europe

Applied learning opportunities are available through:

- Internships with potential employers
- Immerse experiences in European languages and cultures, including study exchange partnership programmes with universities in France, Germany, Sweden, Ireland and Spain.
- These experiences can deepen graduates' skillset, 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, 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?

Graduates with knowledge of Europe and the European Union have globally relevant skills and are well placed to work in such fields as:

- Foreign affairs, international trade and development
- Government service
- Business, tourism, law
- Not-for-profit
- Private multinationals with European interests.

UC alumni have been employed by:

- Governance bodies including: regional councils; the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Primary Industries, Justice
- International organisations e.g. Secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty, other countries' embassies
- Non-governmental organisations
- Media e.g. communications agencies
- Defence forces
- Research e.g. UC National Centre for Research on Europe, Government Research and Communications Unit, universities abroad
- Education at all levels including universities in Europe, New Zealand and around the world.

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?'

Ministerial coordinator

- Prepare and coordinate correspondence for government ministers
- Draft official information requests
- Complete project work to help design and streamline processes and procedures

Project coordinator / assistant, programme administrator

- Coordinate, track and report on projects or programmes
- Manage project/programme documentation and budgets
- Understand project or programme plans and manage work streams

Policy analyst / advisor

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

Communications advisor

- Research, write, edit, and produce content for various audiences and mediums
- Develop communication strategies
- Advise on media relations and PR budgets

Iwi relations, international partnerships coordinator, relationship manager

- Liaise between organisations or groups of people e.g. iwi and regional councils, universities
- Support a partnership or aligned systems for mutual or broader benefit
- Influence decision-makers, policy or strategy discussions and broker solutions

Journalist / reporter

- Research and gather information
- Interview relevant people
- Write reports/stories across media platforms

Research advisor / coordinator / assistant

- Organise and conduct research
- Test theories and interpret the results
- Write reports and make recommendations

Tertiary lecturer

- Prepare and give lectures and tutorials
- Set and mark assignments and exams
- Conduct research, write and publish articles

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Business development advisor
- Parliamentary and communications advisor
- Project coordinator
- Researcher
- Resolutions analyst
- Immigration officer.

Further study options

European and European Union Studies graduates can progress into higher programmes, from honours through to master's and PhD level (in European Studies). These degrees offer a chance to conduct independent research.

A taught Master of European Union Studies is available at UC, as are master's in Policy and Governance, and International Relations and Diplomacy. Graduates may transition into a career through additional training e.g. in Teaching and Learning, Journalism or Business.

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



Meg

Senior Pay Equity Analyst, The New Zealand Ministry of Education

Master of European and European Union Studies (MEURO)
Bachelor of Arts (BA) major in English

Why European and European Union Studies?

I've always had an interest in Europe and European cultures, histories and languages, so I minored in EU Studies as an undergraduate. I decided to pursue the MEURO for my postgraduate studies as I knew that I wanted to study towards a career in government or diplomacy but didn't want to do a degree based solely in political science.

How have your studies prepared you for your career?

The most valuable skills learned through my studies were research and writing skills, which have proven to be invaluable. My first job out of university was in ministerial advice at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Written advice to ministers must be succinct and clear, whilst still containing all relevant details that the minister needs to make a decision or stay informed. Writing my thesis helped me learn how to find this balance. The research skills learned throughout my studies are integral to my current role, and I use them every day.

Tell us about your current job.

Pay equity claims are raised to ensure that people are paid equally for doing work of equal value. The Equal Pay Amendment Act (EPAA) is the legislation that guides my work as part of the Pay Equity Team at the Ministry of Education, where we are currently investigating the pay equity claim for Teachers in New Zealand.

I previously worked on the (now settled) claims for Librarians and Library Assistants and Science Technicians in schools.

My mahi involves conducting interviews with claimant and comparator workforce groups to collect data, and then analysing the data to determine if the claimant group's work is undervalued on the basis of gender.

What have been your highlights so far in your career journey?

I love that my job enables me to talk to lots of different people about their mahi. I learn something new in every interview I conduct and have gained a much wider perspective of the skills, demands and knowledge required for different occupations.

What are your future career goals and aspirations?

I'd love to live and work in Europe someday and practice my French! I hope to continually learn new things and be challenged.

Do you have any advice for students?

Try not to feel defeated if you don't land your "dream job" straight out of university, remember that every experience is useful for growth and development. Stay open-minded, keep asking questions, seek out mentorships, and know that you always have something to offer.

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

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

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