

2026 Ahumahi Auaha



Creative Industries

Bachelor of:

Digital Screen with Honours

Fine Arts

Music



160+
CLUBS

*and societies on campus to
explore your hobbies or
find new ones*



Ngā Kai o Roto | Contents

Kia ora

- 2 Life in Ōtautahi Christchurch
- 4 Studying Creative Industries at UC
- 6 Kupu pātahi | Common terms

Tohu | Qualifications

- 8 Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- 9 Bachelor of Fine Arts
- 10 Bachelor of Music

Kaupapa | Subjects

- 12 Subjects
- 21 Other areas of interest

Ka whai ake nei Next steps

- 23 Key dates
- 24 Tautoko | Get support
- 25 Whakapā mai | Contact us

Published Pēpuere February 2025. Information may be out of date at the time of print. Please check the website.

The University's official regulations are at:



Front cover: In the design Makaurangi, a fingerprint, the three elements are representative of Ngā Kete o te Wānanga, the three baskets of knowledge, with the lines and koru a symbol of mana and mana whenua. This design originates from traditional whakairo (carving) and kōwhaiwhai designs which can often be seen on the rafters inside wharenui (meeting house).

Rainbow Diversity Support



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

Kia ora

Join Aotearoa New Zealand's next generation of emerging artists. Follow Taika Waititi, who has been urging more young people to take up the arts.

In this brochure, you will find a range of subjects to suit your interests — both academic and creative — such as game development, graphic design, animation, music, and moving image.

We also aim to give you a glimpse of what your studies are like; studio time, projects, collaboration, internships, supporting your fellow arts students, and developing your creative profile as you go.

For any questions, contact a Future Student Advisor to get more information. See **page 25** for contact details. Please recycle this brochure or pass it to someone who wants to learn more.

Alexandra

Bachelor of Music in Performance,
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
Master of Arts in Music





Source:
ChristchurchNZ



*11% cheaper than Wellington
15% cheaper than Auckland*

Life in Ōtautahi Christchurch

It is easy to get around in Ōtautahi Christchurch, whether you walk, bike, ride the bus, or drive. UC is uniquely situated in Ōtautahi – with an open green campus, beautiful gardens, and a river running through.





365+

*walking, hiking, and mountain
biking tracks*

- 1. UC campus**
- 2. University of Canterbury Student Association (UCSA)**
- 3. UC accommodation**
- 4. Supermarket and restaurants**
15-minute walk from UC
- 5. Westfield shopping mall**
5-minute drive from UC
- 6. Central business district (CBD)**
10-minute drive from UC
- 7. Port Hills**
20-minute drive from UC
- 8. Beach**
20-minute drive from UC
- 9. Airport**
10-minute drive from UC
- 10. UC sports field**





LEARNING SPACES

Work with a community of artists, filmmakers, designers, and more in spaces specially created for your learning



Studying Creative Industries at UC

Mix-and-match

The Creative Industries programmes at UC are a diverse and broad field, from painting and sculpture, music studies and composition to graphic design and animation. Creative industries is more than sitting in a lecture theatre or practicing your chosen art form in a room – it is about gaining practical skills such as analysis and critical thinking which will help you in life after university.

Your learning environment

The learning environment at UC is inclusive and fun, and a place where you are encouraged to find your own unique personal and artistic identity.

We have private practice rooms, computer labs, painting studios, a gallery filled with students' work, and more to cater for all of your creative needs.

Digital Screen facilities

We provide students with a diverse range of facilities and post-production spaces, fostering the convergence of film production, game development, and cross-reality technologies. Among these state-of-the-art facilities are sound stages, a motion capture studio, sound mixing suites, Mac and PC labs, and more.

Hands-on

The creative industries programmes at UC involve theoretical work alongside practical hands-on work. With field trips to galleries, guest artists, or internships with local organisations through our Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) course, you will never be short of exciting opportunities while studying creative arts. See [page 19](#) to learn more about PACE.



“Studying music is diversified, the day can start with discussing the philosophy of music, then break for a concert in the Music Department which can range from anything to a set of student performances to a world renowned Russian concert pianist, then finishing with learning how to sight-sing and conduct your own choir. And that’s just one day!”

Jessie
Bachelor of Music in Music Studies



Indigenous knowledge

Kaupapa Māori is integrated into our courses, so you can learn about Māori values and understand the potential of Indigenous knowledge. Alongside our Māori Indigenous knowledge, learn about Aotearoa New Zealand’s place in diverse cultural contexts in order to create strong relationships, locally, and globally.

Explore Māori and Pacific storytelling by studying our Indigenous Narrative minor, the first of its kind in Aotearoa. See [page 16](#).

Student life

The creative industries student culture is one of a kind at UC — students can be found creating sculptures in the Fine Arts block, cataloguing ancient artefacts, designing online games using high-tech software, and much more.

With more than 160 active clubs on campus, you can pursue your interests outside of your studies, attend events, or join clubs that are relevant to your studies to mix amongst your classmates even more.

Some creative arts clubs include:

- Digital Screen society
- Musical theatre society
- Drama society
- UCanDance
- Photography club
- Game Development society
- UC Film society
- UC Writers society.

ucsa.org.nz/clubs

Career opportunities

Due to the interdisciplinary learning you undertake as a student, job opportunities in creative industries are open and vast. You could become a freelance artist, orchestra conductor, game designer, film director, museum curator, policy advisor, and more.



“What I enjoy most about studying Fine Arts is the collaborative environment and being surrounded by like-minded people and incredibly passionate lecturers. It allows me to engage with a broad community of practice, sharing ideas and learning from others who are equally invested in the field. Being part of this community adds depth to my creative path and enriches my experience.”

Madeline
Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours
in Sculpture

Kupu pātahi | Common terms



Degrees

Degrees are a type of qualification you can study at university — there are several types of qualifications varying in level of study and length of time, such as:

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.

Certificates and Diplomas

If you are unable to study a full degree, or want to add some additional study to your degree, you could complete a certificate or diploma. These have fewer courses and are often completed in 6 months to a year.

Subjects

Subjects are areas you can study in your degree. Some subjects you can continue from secondary school such as Music, Geography, English, while some you can start new at UC eg. Animation, Photography, Marketing.

Major/specialisation

A major/specialisation 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 Fine Arts specialising in Sculpture.

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.

Minor

A minor is another smaller subject focus you can take in your degree, which you won't study as extensively as a major. For example, a Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours majoring in Screenwriting with a minor in Indigenous Narrative. It is not compulsory to do a minor.

Courses

A course is a specific topic within a subject, for example an editing course within the Animation subject. This involves lectures, assignments, and other forms of study. Your degree is made up of multiple courses.

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 overall to successfully finish your study.

Semester

The academic year is split into three periods of study. One semester is the equivalent of two terms at secondary school.

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

More information

Please contact the Future Students Office for degree and subject planning advice. See **page 25** for contact details.

futurestudents@canterbury.ac.nz

Tohu Qualifications



Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours. BDigiScreen(Hons)

Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours – example degree structure

Year 1

DISC 101	DISC 102	PROD 110	PROD 121	PROD 142	MUSA 126	100 Level	100 Level
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	-----------	-----------

Year 2

DISC 201	200 Level	200 Level	200 Level	200 Level	200 Level	200 Level	100 or 200 Level
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Year 3

DISC 301	DISC 380	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	200 or 300 Level	200 or 300 Level
----------	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	------------------	------------------

Year 3

DISC 401	DISC 402	DISC 403				
----------	----------	----------	--	--	--	--

Compulsory courses
 Major courses
 Minor or elective courses

Each small block represents a 15-point course. However, some courses may be 30 points or more.

The BDigiScreen(Hons) is an applied degree with a key focus on storytelling through words, images, animation, and sound.

Study information

In the first year of the degree, all Digital Screen majors will take the same six courses to develop a core foundation in storytelling, technical skills, and industry practices. A base level of understanding of these subjects is important for your career in the digital screen industry.

After your first year, you will specialise in your chosen major.

In the fourth and final year, you will work in multidisciplinary groups and create commercial quality and creative projects for the digital screen.

Subjects
Animation
Cinematic Arts
Game Arts
Game Development
Indigenous Narrative (minor only)
Screen Sound
Screenwriting

Highlights

- Build your skills in digital media, with subjects ranging from filmmaking to digital sound production to video game design.
- Project work beginning from your second year.
- Turn your games into cinematic masterpieces by applying film production tools and techniques.
- Get access to industry-level sound stages, motion capture labs, film editing studios, and a virtual screen production theatre.

Career ready

- Learn end-to-end digital production skills, as well as foundational skills in creative design and storytelling.
- Develop a portfolio of digital works and practical experiences throughout your degree.
- Opportunity to gain industry contacts with collaborations and events.
- Graduates can find work as game developers, film and television producers, screenwriters, digital artists, creative directors, sound artists, animators, and more.

Bachelor of Fine Arts. BFA

Bachelor of Fine Arts – example degree structure

Year 1

FINA 101	FINA 102	FINA 103	ARTH 100-Level	ARTH 100-Level
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Year 2

Studio subject 211	Studio subject 212	ARTH or CINE 200-Level ¹	200 Level
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Year 3

Studio subject 311	100-Level or above ²	100-Level or above ¹
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Year 4

Studio subject 411	100-Level or above	100-Level or above
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Introduction to all specialist studio studies
 Specialisation in one studio subject
 Courses from Bachelor of Arts subjects

¹ Students specialising in Film or Photography may take either Art History and Theory or Cinema Studies 200-level courses. All other students take Art History and Theory 200-level courses.

² Students must complete 30 points of 300-level ARTH courses (or CINE courses for Film and Photography students) to be eligible for entry into Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours at fourth year.

Each small block represents a 15-point course. However, some courses may be 30 points or more.

The BFA is a prestigious degree that will give you a broad knowledge in visual arts, multimedia, and design before you specialise.

The BFA not only focuses on developing your practice, but also helps to build your identity as an artist. The tight-knit cohort adds to the supportive and diverse community of practitioners.

Study information

Subjects
Graphic Design
Moving Image
Painting
Photography
Sculpture

Entry requirements

You need to have met University Entrance requirements. We prefer students who took arts in high school, but anyone with a good portfolio will be considered.

How to apply

You need to submit:

- an application form
- a letter of introduction
- a portfolio of 12 recently completed imaged-based examples, including a written statement about your current skills and identity as an artist.

Applications are due by **15 November**.

For full details, please see



Highlights

- In your first year, you will be introduced to all five studio specialisations, giving you the chance to develop your passion before continuing in one Fine Arts subject from second year.
- Enjoy 24-hour access to your own personal studio space from second year.
- Work in purpose-built studios; access technician workshops, workrooms, darkrooms, computer labs, and the Ilam Campus Gallery.

Career ready

- Showcase your work during the year through exhibitions and community projects.
- Gain creative and practical skills in your chosen specialisation as well as organisational and time management skills.
- Graduates are working as professional artists, art gallery directors, photojournalists, art historians, consultants, and more.

Bachelor of Music. MusB

Bachelor of Music – example degree structure

Year 1

MUSA 100	MUSA 101	MUSA 126	MUSA 132	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level
----------	----------	----------	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Year 2

MUSA 200	MUSA 250	One of MUSA 231–237	200 Level	200 Level	200 Level	200 Level	100 Level
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Year 3

MUSA 398	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	200 Level	200 Level
----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Compulsory courses
 Major courses
 Elective courses
 Courses from Music or other degrees

Each small block represents a 15-point course. However, some courses may be 30 points or more.

Music features in every culture and society around the world, whether for enjoyment or to express and understand messages and ideas.

The global music industry is growing and changing, and music professionals now have more career options available to them than ever before. With a MusB, you can choose from four specialised majors to get you closer to your career in music.

Study information

The MusB has been designed to give you flexibility in choosing courses throughout your study – you can choose a major (or two) from the table and take other courses from Music or other degree areas like Arts, Science, and Commerce.

Subjects
Composition
Creative Music Technology
Music Studies
Performance

How to apply

Performance major

Entry to some first-year Performance courses are limited based on a vocal or instrumental audition. Applications should be made to Te Kura Puoro | School of Music no later than **20 September**.

Other majors require no previous music studies and no special application.

Highlights

- You will have plenty of opportunities to perform, with over a hundred concerts hosted across our Ilam and Arts Centre campuses each year.
- Enjoy unique learning spaces in our Arts Centre locations.
- Connect with the community through internships and collaborative projects.
- Combine your interests with the option to do a double major.

Career ready

- Put your skills into practice with opportunities to perform and through internships.
- Alongside your skills in music creation and practice, you will also gain skills in communication, teamwork, project management, and creative thinking.
- Graduates are working as composers, sound designers, journalists, performers, producers, music therapists, music educators, and more.

Kaupapa Subjects





**BACHELOR OF
DIGITAL SCREEN
WITH HONOURS**

*for film production, game
development, and cross reality*



Kaupapa | Subjects

- 13 Animation
- 14 Cinematic Arts
- 14 Composition
- 14 Creative Music Technology
- 15 Game Arts
- 15 Game Development
- 16 Graphic Design
- 16 Indigenous Narrative
- 17 Moving Image

- 17 Music
- 17 Music Studies
- 18 Painting
- 18 Performance
- 18 Photography
- 19 PACE
- 19 Screen Sound
- 20 Screenwriting
- 20 Sculpture

See our full list of subjects at
canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study/subjects

It is not always possible for all courses to be offered every year. See the online Course Information System.
canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo



Animation

Animation combines art with movement, creating cinematic scenes and dynamic, believable worlds full of life and motion.

Studies at UC will help you develop your own personal animation style. You will also learn concepts, tools, and techniques needed to see the animation process from creation to post-production.

What will my study involve?

- Use traditional hand drawn and modern computer graphic techniques to create multi-dimensional characters and worlds.
- Work in computer and stop motion studio.
- Create a portfolio of animation work.

Courses

Animation courses begin with foundational skills using industry-standard software like Maya. You will get to work on practical projects like creating animations during gaming development as well as in post-production editing for the digital screen.

Topics can include:

- realistic expressions
- character development and design
- performance capture rigging
- cinema and video game project work.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Your experiences working on animation and visual effects for video games and other digital media will help prepare you for work in the fast-paced entertainment industry, as well as in roles in marketing, web design, and other areas needing animation expertise.

Career pathways could include:

- animation
- visual effects (VFX)
- game art
- graphic design.

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

Study Animation:

As a Major:

- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Cinematic Arts

Aotearoa has been put on the map with our internationally renowned expertise in visual effects and film technologies, filming locations, and the calibre of our writers and directors.

At UC, Cinematic Arts study focuses on the modern film production process, from script to screen, post-production to distribution. At the same time, you will explore exciting new tools for storytelling, like virtual production, which is supported by the same technology that is used to produce video games.

What will my study involve?

- Learn to create cinematic projects using industry-standard filming technologies.
- Choose from practical hands-on courses in cinematography, editing, or sound design.
- Graduate with a portfolio of your own cinema projects produced from your second year.
- Practical learning at editing labs and sound recording studios.

Courses

Your courses will introduce you to the practical skills of creating film/television shows, including the process of how to storyboard and stage scenes, what to do on set, direction and cinematography, and editing.

Topics can include:

- production
- visual and practical effects
- story progression and continuity editing
- greenscreen to virtual screen production and new filming technologies.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Knowing the full creative and technical process of creating cinema, from concept to release, will make you a great asset to have on film sets, advertising agencies, streaming services, and other project collaborations, or even in launching your own works.

Career pathways could include:

- film and television directing and producing
- post-production
- videography and cinematography
- technician.

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

Study Cinematic Arts:

- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Composition

Composition is the creation of new music. Enjoy learning from a diverse range of musical styles, from contemporary music to pop and everything in between.

You could compose pieces for orchestras, create film or video game soundtracks, write lyrics, arrange electronic soundscape compositions, or produce your next EDM hit.

What will my study involve?

- Study a broad range of courses with opportunities to engage with music technologies, notated composition, song writing, recording techniques, computer music, and collaborative projects.
- Create your own music in genres and musical cultures of your choice.
- Opportunity to take part in performances and collaborative projects.

Courses

Courses in this major will introduce you to a range of music composition skills and techniques including creating lyrics and melodies, and approaches to structure.

Topics can include:

- current trends in composition
- techniques of songwriting
- orchestration and arranging
- composition studio.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Composition studies will give you significant hands-on experience writing music for instruments, voice, computers, and working with performers and improvisors.

Career pathways could include:

- sound design
- film composition
- song writing
- recording.

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

Study Composition:

- Bachelor of Music

Creative Music Technology

UC's Creative Music Technology major is all about creating music using a variety of digital and studio-based music technologies.

Study acoustics, studio technologies, the latest trends and techniques in digital music making, and learn how to apply these in a creative context.

What will my study involve?

- Study any style or genre of music: whether you are an aspiring composer of electronic music, a beatmaker, a sound designer, a foley artist, a producer, or interested in digital music making.
- Use UC's on-campus recording studio with the latest software and audio devices.
- Work alongside other students on creating or recording music, radio, and podcasts.
- Complete an internship or collaborative project in the industry in your final year.

Courses

This major is open to any level of music, whether you already have some experience or you are brand new to music technologies and production.

Topics can include:

- studio and field recording
- composing digital music
- editing and mixing software
- sound sampling.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

By learning how technology is constantly changing and impacting the way music is created, you will be ready for a career in today's industry.

Career pathways could include:

- music production for games and studio productions
- sound design
- sound artist
- creative coding.

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

Study Creative Music Technology:

- Bachelor of Music

Game Arts

A strong art style is at the core of what makes a video game compelling and stand out from other titles. Game Arts focuses on the things you see while playing video games — from believable environments through to relatable characters.

Game Arts studies includes learning conceptual art design for world-building and characters, as well as technical skills in designing environments, rendering cutscenes, digital sculpting, minority representation in games, and more.

What will my study involve?

- Learn to create dynamic worlds.
- Develop your skills in 2D and 3D art, using industry standard tools.
- Collaborate on projects from your second year designing games up to the working prototype stage.

- A dedicated space for your studies, including game development labs, and edit suites.

Courses

Game Arts courses begin with the theory behind good game design, such as how to build narrative and lore through scene staging, creating believable and dynamic world maps, and designing distinctive characters.

Topics can include:

- lighting and shading systems
- textures, meshes, bump mapping, and 3D sculpting
- character design
- user interface, menus, and interactive design.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Being able to design detailed, immersive settings and cinematic effects gives you a lot of career options in game development, as well as in film/television and other industries that are incorporating these game design techniques.

Career pathways could include:

- game art
- animation
- concept art
- multimedia programming.

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

Study Game Arts:

- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Game Development

Gaming is an exciting and ever-growing industry where you can contribute in many ways, from building an immersive world with characters and obstacles, writing and storytelling, animation and sound, project management, testing, and marketing.

Through Game Development studies at UC, you will learn the tools and processes required to create modern digital games from scratch.

What will my study involve?

- Gain experience using industry standard game development tools, including Unity and Unreal.
- Develop your own games from the second year, taking concepts through to playable prototypes.
- Study in specially designed development labs, including AR/VR equipment, motion capture suites, gaming PC and console lounge, and more.

Courses

Game Development courses will teach you the fundamentals of game engines and programming, such as with Unity and Unreal. As you progress, you will learn how to develop more advanced builds, and how to balance gameplay features with story.

By the final year, you will experience all the stages of developing a game, from concept to playable demo.

Topics can include:

- playability and quality design
- programming artificial intelligence
- game balancing and difficulty progression
- virtual reality, augmented reality, and other new gaming technologies.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Through this subject you can prepare for a career in all areas of game programming, including gameplay, AI, audio, and graphics.

You will also learn how to create an entertaining, educational, and meaningful gaming experience.

Career pathways could include:

- game art
- game testing
- multimedia programming
- software engineering.

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

Study Game Development:

As a Major:

- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
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- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Graphic Design

Learn foundations and techniques of graphic design, create a portfolio of work that interests you, and participate in workshops, projects, and community art shows.

What will my study involve?

- Create graphic design pieces through small, medium, and large-scale studio projects.
- A close community of fine arts students, with plenty of opportunities for gaining work experience.
- Seminars by staff, students, and visiting professionals examining current issues in graphic design.

Courses

In your first year, you will gain a broad understanding of studio practice, with critical and reflective thinking about the fine arts. From second year, you will learn technical and theoretical knowledge of graphic design.

Topics can include:

- typesetting and typography
- historical and contemporary graphic art
- design software and digital skills
- studio projects.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

A degree in Graphic Design prepares you for a creative industry with critical thinking, artistic and technical knowledge, and skills transferable to a number of roles.

Career pathways could include:

- graphic design
- illustrating
- design consulting
- marketing.

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

Study Graphic Design:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Indigenous Narrative

Indigenous Narrative explores ways of representing Indigenous stories, history, and people through the cinema and video game industry. A good understanding of Indigenous narrative is important for anyone working in the digital screen industry in Aotearoa New Zealand.

What will my study involve?

- Study the only Indigenous Narrative specialisation in Aotearoa.
- This subject will complement your major, by adding a foundational indigenous understanding to anything you do.
- Examine the political, historical, social, cultural, and ideological influences that shape the way Māori and Indigenous people are often portrayed in film and media and understand your role in producing authentic stories.
- Te Whare Pūrākau Academy Scholarships are available annually for Māori, Pacific, and other Indigenous students to gain mentorship and leverage from classes and wānanga with industry experts.

Courses

Your first year will introduce you to examples of Māori culture in media, and how Indigenous and non-Indigenous creators approach culture and storytelling.

Later courses will offer more critique on global cinema and gaming, and how indigenous cultures have evolved with the digital age of storytelling.

Topics can include:

- Māori culture media
- reading Indigenous literature
- ethics in digital productions
- storyboarding and scriptwriting.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

You can write your own stories or support other creative productions as a large number of global companies are seeking our technical and cultural expertise.

This study will also prepare you for roles outside of Aotearoa, particularly in countries aiming for more inclusivity and accuracy in their creative projects.

Career pathways could include:

- media directing and producing
- screenwriting for film and video games
- copy writing
- creative consultancy.

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

Study Indigenous Narrative:

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Other pathways:

- Certificate in Indigenous Narrative

Moving Image

Explore the world of moving images through its history, critical discussions, contemporary artists, and technologies while developing your own portfolio.

What will my study involve?

- Studio work and group projects to develop your skills as a filmmaker.
- Use on-campus lighting and greenscreen stages, sound studios, editing suites, and gain 24-hour access to the film studio spaces.
- Take other courses of interest alongside your studies, such as Psychology, Music, and History.

Courses

After your first year introduces you to studio practice and the broader fine arts industry, your Moving Image courses will take you through the process of developing and executing a film project — writing, filming, location scouting, directing, editing, and more.

Topics can include:

- film studio projects
- international cinema
- documentaries and ethical storytelling
- new film technologies — cameras, editing software, CGI, digital music.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Your works and experience throughout your studies explore both technical and non-technical aspects of film, television, and other creative visual industries.

Career pathways could include:

- film or TV directing
- producing
- cinematography
- screenwriting.

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

Study Moving Image:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Music

The music industry has changed a lot in the last 30 years with the explosion of digital technology and changes in society and culture. This has opened up new job possibilities for music professionals, alongside teaching, conducting, leadership, and performing.

At UC, we have a number of ways you can follow your interest in Music.

What will my study involve?

- With a Bachelor of Music you can major in Composition, Performance, Music Studies, or Creative Music Technologies.
- You can study Music as a major or minor in other degrees.
- Enjoy the unique learning spaces in our Te Matatiki Toi Ora | Arts Centre campus.
- Connect with the community through internships, performances, and collaborative projects.

Courses

Most Music courses are available without any prior experience.

Courses in your first year will introduce you to the basics of music terminology, including reading, writing, and performing songs, and a first look at the global music industry.

Topics can include:

- song writing
- musical culture and performing arts
- audio and recording technologies
- performing music through singing or instrument.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

The wide range of courses you take during your degree will set you up with skills to perform, create, and critically engage with music and the music industry.

Career pathways could include:

- orchestras, choirs, and opera houses
- festival management
- journalism and radio
- digital production.

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

Study Music:

- Bachelor of Music

As a Major:

- Bachelor of Arts

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Other pathways:

- Certificate in Arts
- Diploma in Arts

Music Studies

Music is an essential part of all cultures globally. A degree in Music Studies allows you to investigate music from social and political perspectives, examining the role and importance of music now and through history.

What will my study involve?

- You will learn about topics such as popular music, musical philosophy, music of the world, and musical heritage of the western world.
- Opportunities to take part in internships and collaborative projects throughout your studies.

Courses

First year Music Studies is designed to give you a range of courses to choose from depending on your interests – from game audio production to orchestra arrangements to Kapa Haka performances.

Topics can include:

- musical technologies
- composition and songwriting
- world music
- acoustics and recording.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Music Studies can teach you technical skills in music alongside necessary skills such as communication, project management, and leadership.

Career pathways could include:

- festival planning
- arts administration
- journalism
- music teaching.

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

Study Music Studies:

- Bachelor of Music

Painting

Painting studies explores a range of techniques through different styles, tools, and practice, both traditional and contemporary.

You will discover different materials and learn about the role emotion and meaning plays for both the painter and the viewer.

What will my study involve?

- Create a body of work and reflect critically on the development of your own style.
- Enjoy 24-hour access to your own personal studio space from second year.
- Work in purpose-built studios, workrooms, darkrooms, and computer labs, and have access to technician workshops and the Ilam Campus Gallery.

Courses

The first year of the degree introduces you to studio practice and critical thinking of fine arts. Courses towards the Painting major begin in your second year and allow you to develop your painting technique with many self-directed projects.

Topics can include:

- practice and theory of painting
- art criticism
- art and revolution
- contemporary art.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

You will learn skills beyond the processes of painting. Gain critical analysis, teamwork, communication, and organisational skills that will help you in your future career.

Career pathways could include:

- professional artist
- art conservation
- art consulting
- art gallery management.

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

Study Painting:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Performance

Music studies in Performance develops creative ideas and expression through all styles of music. With rapid growth and cultural shifts in the music industry, professional artists need the skills to be flexible and adaptive performers.

Developing your musical abilities at UC is a unique opportunity to learn from professionals and connect with other musicians and the local arts scene.

Performance Music is based in the UC Arts city campus located in Te Matatiki Toi Ora Art Centre of Christchurch.

What will my study involve?

- Learn through individual lessons and group classes in a wide range of musical instruments and voice.
- Take advantage of opportunities to join large and small ensembles and the UC Chamber Choir, Consortia.
- You will have plenty of opportunities to perform publicly, with 100+ concerts hosted on campus each year.

Courses

Your first year will teach you essential skills such as sight-reading music and understanding rhythm and tempo, as well as working with an accompaniment and in small or large groups. You will also develop in-depth technical and performance knowledge of your instrument or voice.

Topics can include:

- performance
- chamber choir
- ensemble
- art of accompaniment.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

People with strong musical talents are always highly sought after by event organisers and arts businesses.

Career pathways could include:

- choirs and orchestras
- musical theatre
- music therapy
- event management.

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

Study Performance:

- Bachelor of Music

Photography

Explore photography as a device for communicating information, ideas, personal insights, and the basic materials and processes of photographic practice.

What will my study involve?

- Explore photographic techniques, and create your own body of work.
- From second year, you will have access to your own personal 24-hour access studio space.
- Use darkrooms, computer labs, workshops, and the Ilam Campus Gallery.

Courses

First year courses will teach you the basics of studio practice and fine arts. In the second year, you will move onto examining different devices, materials, techniques, and historical influences.

Topics can include:

- photography practice
- photos in history and art revolution
- editing software and photography hardware
- film and theory.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Photography studies give you unique abilities in communicating information; finding details; and working with a range of people, technologies, and projects.

Careers could include:

- photography
- art gallery management
- photojournalism
- documentary production.

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

Study Photography:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Professional and Community Engagement

Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) courses are all about applying what you learn in your studies to a non-academic "real-world" setting.

PACE is an ideal complement to your degree – take it as a one-off course or as a minor in your degree programme. PACE courses provide an opportunity to give you confidence in the workplace.

What will my study involve?

- Half of PACE courses are held as workshops where you can develop professional skills and half in the workspace where you can put that knowledge to use.
- You will be matched with your internship based on your studies and your interests. Past internships include media and communications, event organisation, marketing, health, and policy analysis.

Courses

From second year, you can add a workplace project or an internship to your studies.

Topics can include:

- internship projects (based on your degree subject)
- project management process
- career development portfolio and CV building
- presentation skills.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

PACE students have an edge over other graduates. Learning to identify the strengths you bring to the workplace and understanding how your degree has prepared you to work with local and international communities will give you the confidence you need to enter your new career.

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

Study PACE:

PACE can be taken as a one-off course in many degrees, or studied as a minor in some degrees. Learn more about PACE on our website.

Screen Sound

Sound is a core element for a range of media, from film to video games and everything in between. Sound effects, voice, and digital music all work together to enhance and make your story memorable.

Studying Screen Sound will include hands-on experience with industry standard audio equipment to learn about recording audio, post-production processes, and techniques for sound mixing.

What will my study involve?

- Learn the processes behind recording, sourcing digital music, and editing sound for films, television, and video games.
- Work with the latest industry standard software, studio equipment, and recording hardware.
- Work on projects throughout your degree and graduate with your own portfolio of works.
- You will have access to sound recording studios, sound stages, voice-over and dubbing studios, and other facilities.

Courses

Screen Sound courses will introduce the technical skills around audio technologies for recording and mixing sound, as well as the theory behind sound for digital media, such as psychoacoustics and dramatic effect.

Topics can include:

- character themes and sound motifs
- foley work, dubbing, and other post-production sound editing
- on-set audio recording
- effects, dialogue, and ambience.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Your studies will prepare you for operating in multiple different sound environments and media. You will also be able to keep up with the latest trends in the industry such as 3D recording, editing software, and audio hardware.

Career pathways could include:

- foley recording
- production sound mixing
- digital music creation
- sound editing.

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

Study Screen Sound:

- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Screenwriting

A good story leaves a lasting impression, and can even transform the way we view our own lives. Having the ability to write engaging characters, riveting plotlines, and complex worlds is one of the most creative skills we can have.

Screenwriting studies will teach you to create your own screenplays, from structure and formatting to tying elements of a story together.

What will my study involve?

- Develop your own scripts and screenplays, including structure, character development, storyboarding, lore, and world-building.
- The final year of study is dedicated to creating a commercial quality creative project for the digital screen.
- You will have access to a range of filming, design, and computer lab spaces for you to collaborate with other students on creative projects.

Courses

Your courses first teach you how to construct short screenplays with story structure and development, character arcs, and themes. Throughout the rest of the degree, you will learn how to write feature-length stories, adaptations, episodic series, game cutscenes, and entire cinematic worlds.

Topics can include:

- dramatic writing techniques like foreshadowing and cliffhangers
- adapting novels, biographies, and more
- subverting genre and tropes
- world-building and lore.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Your studies will develop your writing skills so you can cross genre and media platforms, and have the adaptability to work with other industry professionals.

Career pathways could include:

- screenwriting
- advertising and copy writing
- creative producing
- creative consultancy.

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

Study Screenwriting:

- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours

As a Minor:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce
- Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours
- Bachelor of Health Sciences
- Bachelor of Product Design
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability
- Bachelor of Sport
- Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership

Sculpture

With Sculpture studies, you will explore time, space, and context behind crafted objects.

Build your artistic practice through the use of different materials, processes, theories, and contemporary techniques.

What will my study involve?

- Create your own body of works and sculptural projects.
- From second year, you will have 24-hour access to your own studio space where you are able to explore your personal and academic creativity.
- Make use of purpose-built studios, workrooms, technical workshops, and the Ilam Campus Gallery.

Courses

You will start your degree learning the basics of fine arts theory and studio practice, before beginning Sculpture from second year and learning to use different materials and processes.

Topics can include:

- sculpture practice
- great sculptural works in history
- technical workshop hardware
- audience observation and influence.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

Along with experience and technical skills working with different tools and materials, university studies in Sculpture gives you an opportunity to make industry connections, explore art spaces, and grow your practice in new ways.

Career pathways could include:

- sculpting
- designing
- art gallery management
- art consulting.

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

Study Sculpture:

- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Other areas of interest

2026
Toi me te Hapori
Arts and the Community

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Bachelor of:
Arts
Communication
Social and Environmental Sustainability
Social Work with Honours
Youth and Community Leadership

2026
Umanga
Business

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Bachelor of Commerce

2026
Pūhanga me te Hanga Otinga
Engineering and Product Design

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Bachelor of:
Engineering with Honours
Product Design

2026
Hauora me te Hākinakina
Health and Sport

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Bachelor of:
Health Sciences
Sport
Speech and Language Pathology with Honours

2026
Ture me te Muru Taihara
Law and Criminal Justice

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Bachelor of:
Law
Criminal Justice

2026
Pūtaiao
Sciences

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Bachelor of:
Data Science
Environmental Science with Honours
Forestry Science
Psychological Science
Science

2026
Ako
Teaching

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Vision Through Learning

Also: Bachelor of Teaching and Learning
Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning
Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning
Master of Teaching and Learning
(Primary Education or Secondary Education)

Ka whai ake nei Next Steps



Key dates



May/June/July
Hui Tairanga
Information Evenings



August
Accommodation
applications open



July
Scholarship
applications open



October
Enrol into courses



September
Rā Tōmene | Open day

Some degrees and subjects like Fine Arts, Music, Performance, and Teaching have additional application processes and dates. For exact information, please visit the UC website or contact a Future Student Advisor.

Tautoko | Get support



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

Te Pātaka | Student Services Hub is your go-to support centre, located on levels 2 and 3 in the Puaka-James Hight building (central library). You will find both academic and wellbeing services in one location and they will connect you to the relevant support teams.

You can receive help with anything you need, whether that's for study and exams, health, sport, counselling, injuries, job search, and more.

Read more about all the support services:



Your students' 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 more than 160 clubs and regularly host events on campus.

We offer advocacy services, dental and optometry services, welfare and financial services, advisory groups, class reps, and more.

ucsa.org.nz



Pastoral Care

The Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021 is designed to guide institutions in their practice and to protect students when they study in Aotearoa. UC is a signatory to the Code and is required to meet the standards set by the New Zealand government.



“Within my class, we’re all very much a whānau. We’ve built a connection, going from strangers to family, which is a credit to our teachers for creating that environment of safety and belonging — that’s whanaugatanga. And tiakitanga reminds me of the whole UC experience — everyone doing what they can.”

QeyLoux

Ngāti Kuri, Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou

Ako: Bachelor of Teaching and Learning in Mātauranga Māori

Whakapā mai | Contact us



Get in touch

If you would like more information about what you can study at UC, contact the Future Students Office:



Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury

T: +64 3 369 3999
Freephone in NZ: 0800 VARSITY (827 748)
E: info@canterbury.ac.nz
AskUC Chat is available between
8am–5.15pm Monday–Friday
(except NZ public holidays).
[canterbury.ac.nz](https://www.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.



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

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**UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
YOUNG NEW
ZEALANDER OF
THE YEAR**

**WORD
CHRISTCHURCH
FESTIVAL**



Rā Tōmene Open Day

Discover your degree options.
Explore our campus.
Experience student life.

5 September 2025



For more information,
contact a Future
Student Advisor.