

2026

Ture me te

Muru Taihara

Law and

Criminal Justice

Bachelor of:

Law

Criminal Justice



*Te Kaupeka Ture
Faculty of Law has been
producing outstanding legal
graduates for*

140+ YEARS



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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 wharehenui (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

By taking up Law and Criminal Justice at UC, you will be exposed to many aspects of the legal system in Aotearoa – from housing, the environment, sexual violence, to the prison system. You will also learn about international laws like trade, human rights, and criminal law.

This brochure expands on courses and undergraduate qualifications like the Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Criminal Justice, and the Certificate in Criminal Justice.

We also aim to give you a glimpse of what Law and Criminal Justice are like at UC, with our student culture, learning opportunities, exciting and innovative research and collaboration happening all at one place.

For any questions, contact a Future Student Advisor to get more information. See **page 21** for contact details. Please recycle this brochure or pass it to someone who wants to learn more.

Alix
Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi te Rangi
Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts
in Māori Indigenous Studies





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.



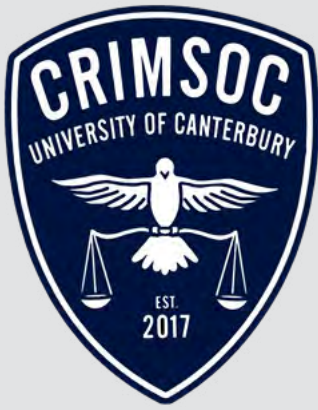


365+

*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**





COMMUNITY LAW

Every year UC students volunteer and work with the Family Law Clinic and experience the legal system first-hand



Studying Law and Criminal Justice at UC

Real-world law

Your studies will take you out of the classroom with field trips (like to the Christchurch Women’s Prison), lots of class discussions and group work, and volunteering at the Community Law Centre, a free legal service where you work with real people and their issues.

Student-led projects

You’ll come across other students who are just as passionate about bringing reform, representation, and fairness to the justice system as you. You can be a part of projects such as Prison Education Project, a rehabilitation initiative run by UC Law and Criminal Justice students.

Te Tiriti and the Law

Your studies will expose you to a legal education committed to Te Tiriti partnership and Māori knowledge systems. You will explore the unique nature of law as it exists within the bicultural landscape of Aotearoa New Zealand through topical issues such as water rights; Te Tiriti; Māori land, environment, and tikanga; and how these apply in the context of a nation founded on a relationship between Tangata Whenua (Māori) and Tangata Tiriti (non-Māori people).



“I’ve really enjoyed learning more about the treaty and constitution. UC’s values correlate to the treaty and incorporate Māori worldviews, and I think there’s a lot of support for Māori students here.”

Kisania
Ngāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Maniapoto
Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Criminal Justice



Expert lecturers

Our academics have made significant contributions through their research and are well regarded in the international law community. Many of our lecturers have written the books you will learn from, and some have won premier awards for their legal publications. You may be able to research with them and even get published.

Some of our research includes:

- Law and medicine
- Serious Financial Crime
- Specialised research projects impacting Aotearoa, Antarctica, the Southern Oceans, and the Pacific. We also have strong teaching and research links with Gateway Antarctica.
- Constitutional and Treaty matters
- Disasters and the law
- Rethinking surrogacy laws in Aotearoa
- Indigenous water rights
- Forensic Brainwave Analysis technology that indicates whether or not a person has specific knowledge, and used in criminal proceedings as a way of eliminating possible suspects.

Clubs scene

There are many ways to pursue your interests, or discover new ones, outside of your academic study — we have over 160+ active clubs on campus.

You can join clubs like:

- Law for Change
- Te Pūtāiki, Māori Law Students' Society
- LawSoc
- Asian Law Students' Society
- UC Pasifika Law Students' Society
- UC Women in Law
- Criminal Justice Society (CRIMSOC).

ucsa.org.nz/clubs

Internships

Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) is an internship component that you may take as a one-off course in your degree. PACE courses are all about applying what you learn in your studies to a non-academic “real-world” setting. You will be matched with your internship based on your studies and your interests.



“We have an awesome faculty at the Law School here. In particular, one of the first year course coordinators makes an effort to remember names, which is quite a task with hundreds of new students each year, and he talks to you as if he’s known you for years. Having lecturers I can talk to has made it a lot easier for me to settle into life at UC as a law student.”

Isaiah
 Waikato-Tainui
 Bachelor of Laws
 2024 President, LAWSOC

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, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Marketing.

Courses

A course is a specific topic within a subject, for example a Criminal Law course within the Law 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 21** for details.

futurestudents@canterbury.ac.nz

Tohu Qualifications



Bachelor of Laws. LLB

Bachelor of Laws – example degree structure

Year 1

LAWS 101	LAWS 110	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level	100 Level
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Year 2

LAWS 203	LAWS 204	LAWS 205	LAWS 206
----------	----------	----------	----------

Year 3

LAWS 202	LAWS 301	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level
----------	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Year 4

300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level
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■ Compulsory courses ■ Elective courses ■ Non-Law courses

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

Bachelor of Laws students gain a professional degree of outstanding quality in four years.

You will deal with real people with real problems as part of the innovative clinical studies programme at UC, honing critical practical skills in the process of helping the community.

Study information

In the first year of your degree, you will study two core courses designed to teach you about the legal systems in Aotearoa and build your foundational skills in legal research and writing.

With good grades in both LAWS101 and LAWS110 (normally at least a B), you can advance into 200-level Law courses, all of which are subject to limited entry.

From third year, you will be able to customise your study to focus on different areas of the law – see [pages 12-13](#) for a list of common specialisations.

You will also need to also study five non-Law courses in the first year of your degree. Popular choices include Business, History, Management, and languages. For a full list of course options, go to our website or talk to a Future Students officer.

Highlights

- UC has a specially designed Moot Court room, regularly used for client interviewing, witness examination, mooting, and negotiation competitions.
- Get work experience through internships, clinical, and community work opportunities.
- Many student clubs including LAWSOC, Women in Law, Te Pūtāiki Māori Law Students' Association, CRIMSOC, and Law for Change.
- The structure of this degree allows you to do a double degree or switch degrees if you are unable to advance to 200-level LAWS or prefer not to continue with the LLB. You can switch to other degrees like Arts, Commerce, Criminal Justice, or Science.

Career ready

- UC has Law Internship courses involving community and clinical work experience.
- Gain necessary legal skills in research, writing, analysis, and reasoning for a range of careers beyond law.
- Graduates have careers such as lawyers, policy analysts, Māori development advisors, foreign affairs officers, and journalists.



Law

“Studying Law can take you far beyond a court room or a firm.”

Briar

Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History, Master of Laws (International Law and Politics)

Studying Law at UC will involve looking at legal systems, policies, cases, legal material, as well as the wider social, political, and historical contexts in which our laws exist.

This degree will give you the ability to think critically, and analyse facts and issues in order to persuade by logical argument.

What will my study involve?

- Work on real issues and cases through internships and community work.
- Take part in mooting, debating, competitions, and other events.
- An important part of your studies will be exploring biculturalism and Indigenous knowledge.

Courses

First-year Law courses introduce you to the foundations of the legal system in Aotearoa, analysis methods, and legal writing and research. You will also take non-law courses that interest you in your first year.

Further study may involve more specialised study including commercial law, Māori land and resource law, criminal justice, and environmental law.

Topics can include:

- family law
- serious financial crime
- intellectual property law
- international law.

[canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo](https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo)

Career opportunities

Through your studies you will learn skills like critical and creative thinking, analysis, writing, editing, and research. These skills will get you ready to work in the legal profession as well as in careers outside of the courtroom.

Career pathways could include:

- barrister/solicitor
- local government
- media and communication
- public sector.

[canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers](https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers)

Study Law:

- Bachelor in Laws

Bachelor of Criminal Justice. BCJ

Bachelor of Criminal Justice – example degree structure

Year 1

CRJU 101	CRJU 150 ¹	CRJU 160 ¹	HSRV 103	HSRV 104	PSYC 105	PSYC 106	MAOR 108 or 120 or 165
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Year 2

CRJU 201	CRJU 202 ²	MAOR 219	HSRV 210	SOCI 293	PHIL 139	200 Level	200 Level ³
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Year 3

CRJU 301	CRJU 302	300 Level	300 Level	300 Level	200 Level	200 Level
----------	----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Compulsory courses
 Elective courses

¹ Students enrolling in the LLB/BCJ double degree will enrol in LAWS101 instead of CRJU150 and CRJU160.

² Students enrolling in the LLB/BCJ double degree will enrol in LAWS202 instead of CRJU202.

³ If LAWS202 taken, then 45 points from the 200-level electives. If CRJU202 taken, then 60 points from the 200-level electives.

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

The BCJ is the first degree of its kind in Aotearoa, combining multidisciplinary academic study with a strong vocational focus.

Criminal Justice studies take a 360-degree look at the criminal justice system and its processes, including governance, enforcement, rehabilitation, and improvement. The degree draws together UC's expertise in criminology, sociology, developmental and behavioural psychology, policing, criminal law and procedure, and human services.

Study information

The first year of study is designed to give you a broad introduction to the criminal justice system in Aotearoa.

From second year, you can choose to study topics such as forensics, policing, criminal law and procedure, and bioethics.

Highlights

- Strong links with employers in the crime and justice fields gives you the chance to work closely with current policies and legislation.
- Enjoy learning from courses across criminology, sociology, developmental and behavioural psychology, criminal law and procedure, policing, and human services.
- Join student club CRIMSOC and meet like-minded students.

Career ready

- Practical experience examining our justice system and identifying opportunities for reform.
- Opportunity to increase your skills while working.
- Graduates work in areas such as probation and parole, forensics, public and private investigation and security, social work, criminal justice policy, and the police.



Criminal Justice

“My degrees have put me in the best possible place to positively impact this system.”

Charlie
Master of Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice involves understanding the law and psychology behind crime, its causes, and the treatment of convicted offenders.

UC is the only university in Aotearoa that offers you a degree in criminal justice with innovative practical teaching. UC also shares close links with the police and justice sector.

What will my study involve?

- Learn about the justice system including social and human services, and psychology.
- Examine current policies and identify opportunities for criminal justice reform.
- Take optional courses in topics such as forensic science, linguistics, and financial crime.

Courses

First-year criminal justice courses teach you about legal and social issues in Aotearoa, and introduce you to psychology and the neuroscience of why people commit crimes. In the later years of the degree, you will be able to critically examine our legal systems and the current effectiveness in preventing and prosecuting crimes.

Topics can include:

- youth justice
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- violence in society
- history of gangs in Aotearoa.

canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo

Career opportunities

You will be able to look at criminal justice through a wide lens, giving you a strong foundation in understanding how Criminal Justice in society works in Aotearoa and internationally. You will also gain research skills in your area of interest in policing and the justice system.

Career pathways could include:

- government including prisons, probation, and parole
- forensics
- criminal justice policy and reform
- public and private investigation.

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

Study Criminal Justice:

- Bachelor of Criminal Justice
- Certificate in Criminal Justice

Law specialisations and career opportunities



There are many career pathways you can take with a Law degree. In the third and fourth years of your Law degree at UC, you can choose to specialise in one or more areas.

Commercial Law and Litigation

Commercial Law deals with all legal matters connected with commercial business transactions, including business structures, issue of shares, contracts, sale of property, loans, taxation, and insurance and related matters.

Law graduates interested in these fields are most likely to find employment in law firms, share brokers, accountancy firms, insurance companies, banks, government, or private businesses.

Commercial Litigation is concerned with the settlement of commercial disputes.

Community Law

Community Law is concerned with advising people who cannot afford to engage a law firm, or who are otherwise disadvantaged.

Law graduates who are interested in this kind of work are most likely to find employment in community law centres or with activist groups.

Criminal Law

Criminal Law is concerned primarily with the functioning of the criminal justice system.

Law graduates interested in this field might find employment in legal practice, Te Tari Ture o te Karauna | Crown Law Office, Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice, the Probation Service, community law centres, or Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa | New Zealand Police.

Employment and Industrial Law

Employment and Industrial Law deals with employment contracts, health and safety, taxation, and social security.

Law graduates interested in these fields might find employment in commercial organisations, accountancy firms, community law centres and other advisory agencies, employers' organisations, employment advocates, or trade unions.

Environmental Law

Environmental Law deals with matters relating to national and international environmental protection and sustainable management of resources, including Māori resources.

Law graduates in this field are most likely to find employment in private practice, iwi organisations, or central and local government.

General Legal Practice

General Legal Practice is conducted mainly by small to medium-sized law firms. They deal with a wide range of concerns including property law; family law; commercial and consumer law; criminal law; and trusts, wills, and estates.

Law graduates interested in General Practice are most likely to find employment with law firms throughout Aotearoa.

Information, Media, and Technology Law

Information, Media, and Technology Law is concerned with the regulation and the dissemination and ownership of all kinds of information.

Law graduates interested in these fields might find employment with law firms, patent attorneys, or as in-house counsel in radio, television, or technology firms.



International Law

International Law concerns the relationship of nations to each other. International Law also affects large parts of domestic law ranging from areas as diverse as criminal law and environmental law, but is essentially the concern of the state.

Law graduates in this field are most likely to find employment in central government (including in Manatū Aorere | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) or international and non-governmental organisations.

Māori Land and Resource Law

Māori Land and Resource Law is an area of growing importance which deals with claims under Te Tiriti o Waitangi Treaty of Waitangi and the application of natural resource law to Māori resources.

Law graduates in this field are most likely to find employment in private practice, iwi organisations, or central and local government.

Property and Resource Management Law

Property and Resource Management Law deals with matters relating to the creation, ownership, possession, and transfer of both tangible and intangible property.

Law graduates interested in these fields could find employment with law firms, central and local government, patent attorneys, property management and development companies, or engineering consultancies.

Public Law

Public Law is concerned with the organisation and functioning of the institutions of government and the relationship of those institutions to its citizens and other bodies.

Law graduates in this field are likely to find employment in central and local government, as well as in private practice.

Other specialisations

There are other specialised areas of Law which students may choose as part of their degree eg, Law and Sport; Law and Medicine; Gender and the Law; Genetics, Neuroscience and the Criminal Law; and Artificial Intelligence and the Law.

NOTE: It is not always possible for all courses to be offered every year. See www.canterbury.ac.nz/courseinfo for current courses.

Graduate and postgraduate study

Another option to gain specialist knowledge in your area of interest is through graduate and postgraduate study. You can also combine law study with other related subjects.

Postgraduate Law study can lead to many career paths such as the public and private sector, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and more. UC alumni include leading academics and policy makers in Aotearoa New Zealand and abroad.

Where can Criminal Justice take me?



The Bachelor of Criminal Justice is a real-world degree with relevance across international government agencies and in the organisations that work with them.

Our Criminal Justice programmes are unique in Aotearoa. It prepares graduates for a varied career, enabling mobility across roles, agencies, and public and private sectors.

A theoretical understanding of crime and justice is not enough. To make a difference, we need to know how to apply that knowledge to maximum effect. Government agencies are increasingly working together, and knowledge and understanding of how each functions is crucial.

Our Criminal Justice and Law academics have real life experience working in and with criminal justice agencies. They work closely with employers to ensure that their courses deliver the outcomes in demand in the real world, and give you opportunities to complete internships as part of your degree.

Criminal justice agencies

There is demand for Criminal Justice graduates within Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa | New Zealand Police, Ara Poutama Aotearoa | Department of Corrections, and Te Tāhū o te Ture | Ministry of Justice. Roles range from frontline policing, corrections officer, and probation officer roles to regional and national advisor roles.

Allied agencies

Criminal Justice graduates find employment with other agencies working with vulnerable populations. Graduates work in frontline roles as advisors or within policy. A broad understanding of how agencies work with each other, and the legal environment in which they operate, will prepare you to work in a variety of these areas.

Social agencies

There are many non-government organisations that work with criminal justice and allied agencies, providing services to those within the criminal justice system. These might include reintegration services, restorative justice, accommodation services, or employment services.

Private sector organisations

A wide range of private sector organisations work with criminal justice agencies. These include private prison providers, technology companies, education and training providers, and environmental consultants.



Other ways to study Criminal Justice at UC

Certificate in Criminal Justice

For those already working in the justice sector or those who aspire to, the Certificate in Criminal Justice is a great option. You can study the Certificate on campus, by distance learning, and via Tuihono UC UC Online. The Certificate provides a broad overview of the criminal justice sector and is completed within a shorter timeframe. It gives learners the opportunity to gain a qualification to progress in their current workplace or can act as a pathway into the Bachelor of Criminal Justice.

See **page 10** for more information.

Postgraduate options

A range of postgraduate options enable both new graduates and workers to further develop the skills needed to assume leadership roles. The Graduate Diploma, Master's, and PhD in Criminal Justice allow researchers to focus on a work-based project of significance to them or the organisation for which they work.



“I would encourage anyone considering pursuing a career in the justice sector to complete the BCJ. This degree provides students with foundational knowledge that can kickstart your career in many different roles. Explore the options available to you within the justice sector outside of the “well-known” roles, you may not even know your dream job exists yet!”

Ruby
Bachelor of Criminal Justice
Governance Advisor, Ngā Pirihimana
o Aotearoa | New Zealand Police

Other areas of interest

2026
Toi me te Hapori
Arts and the Community

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

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

2026
Umanga
Business

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

Bachelor of Commerce

2026
Ahumahi Auaha
Creative Industries

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

Bachelor of:
Digital Screen with Honours
Fine Arts
Music

2026
Pūhanga me te Hanga Otinga
Engineering and Product Design

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

Bachelor of:
Engineering with Honours
Product Design

2026
Hauora me te Hākinakina
Health and Sport

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

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

2026
Pūtaiao
Sciences

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

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

2026
Ako
Teaching

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
In Whakaungatanga

Ako: 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

For exact event and degree application dates, 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 Kurī, Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Porou
Ako: Bachelor of Teaching and Learning in Mātauranga Māori

Notes

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

Proud supporters of



**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.