

What can I do with a degree in Finance?

Finance.



Career planning: what do I need to know?

Knowledge of yourself is important for career decision making. Start by looking at your personal goals, abilities, values and interests to explore study and career options that are relevant to you. Some of these may change over time, so it is important to self-reflect and evaluate your career on an ongoing basis.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness and teamwork. With technology and globalisation changing the nature of society, skills such as resilience, problem solving and adaptability are valuable at work as well as in life.

How can I develop these skills?

- Some skills are developed through your degree

- Extra-curricular activities can help, for example getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities. Whether it is undertaking an internship, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group – these activities will enhance your employability.

What else should I know?

The career options in this brochure are examples only and the list is not exhaustive. Some careers may require further study beyond a first degree or additional work experience. Some pathways and degrees have a recommended school background. Find more subject details at

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/subjects/finc

If this brochure does not answer your questions, talking to an expert such as a career consultant can help you to identify the next steps in your career decision making journey.

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

What is Finance?

Finance is a rapidly growing discipline that examines the acquisition and allocation of financial resources. Where financial accounting measures past performance, Finance as a discipline is forward-focused. It is largely about future planning for firms or investors.

Finance consists of three interrelated areas:

- Corporate finance studies how firms raise and efficiently utilise funds obtained from lenders and shareholders
- Financial markets and institutions explores how the financial system facilitates the transfer of funds from savers and lenders to borrowers
- Investment analysis studies how investors choose securities and asset classes for their investment portfolios.

All of these areas assess the trade-off between risk and reward and the valuation of financial and capital assets.



AT A GLANCE

83%

of finance graduates were in their ideal employment or working in a step in the right direction*

\$98k

is the estimated average income for a financial advisor*

16

stock exchanges in the world that have a market capitalisation of over US\$1 trillion

What skills have UC graduates gained?

Through their Finance degree, graduates develop a valuable set of skills that are transferable to a range of careers. These skills include:

- Logical and quantitative thinking
- Practical application of financial concepts and principles
- Numerical confidence
- Analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Computing techniques
- Lateral and strategic thinking.

Opportunities to apply your learning outside the classroom are available through work-integrated learning (eg, internships) and international study tours. These experiences deepen your skillset, working knowledge and employability.

Where have UC graduates been employed?

Graduates in Finance find employment in many areas. UC graduates have worked in:

- Government eg, Treasury, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Statistics New Zealand

- Banking eg, ANZ, ASB, Westpac, BNZ, Murray & Co, Bancorp Merchant Bankers, National Australia Bank, HSBC, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, China Guangfa Bank
- Financial advisory services eg, KPMG, PwC, Deloitte, Financial Strategies Christchurch, Personal CFO
- Management consultants and financial services eg, Accenture, BNY Mellon
- Investment advisors eg, Hamilton Hindin Greene, Spring Financial Group, FNZC
- Mortgage brokers eg, Loan Market
- Trading firms eg, Epoch Capital
- Telecommunications eg, Tait Communications
- Oil and gas eg, BP, Acoustic Data
- Construction eg, Fletcher EQR
- Recruitment eg, Walker Hamill
- Retail eg, Progressive Enterprises
- IT and software eg, Jade Software, Oracle Australia, Ingram Micro
- Manufacturing eg, Synlait
- Insurance eg, NZI, Vero Insurance
- Research institutes eg, Scion
- Legal firms eg, Russell McVeagh
- Not-for-profit agencies eg, The Blind Foundation
- Cyber security eg, Cisco.

* 2017, 2018, 2019 UC Graduate Destinations Surveys combined
 * MBIE Occupational Outlook

What jobs and activities do graduates do?

Today it would be rare for a person to rise to the position of chief financial officer (CFO) without a strong grounding in finance. There are also many other career opportunities, from insurance or mortgage broker to hedge fund manager — see some examples of job titles and activities below.

Note: Some of the jobs listed may require postgraduate study. See the 'Further study' section.

Finance / commercial manager

- Links the finance team to other business areas
- Makes presentations and recommendations to leadership boards
- Reports on and analyses business performance; budgeting, forecasting, financial modelling
- Takes part in strategic planning
- Manages financial staff
- Develops ways to minimise financial risk

Financial advisor / associate / analyst

- Gathers financial information and data
- Uses analytical models to identify trends
- Reviews clients' financial situation and advises them on future plans and how to solve issues
- Protects an organisation's economic interests

Product manager, financial market analyst

- Analyses production costs to set sale prices
- Advises how to lower costs and increase profits

Investment broker, investment trader, share broker, financial trader, quant trader

- Develops systems, algorithms, relationships and strategies to maximise assets/minimise risks
- Specialises in stock, bond or other markets
- Makes investment transactions and may offer advice to a client or organisation

Capital investment manager

- Analyses financial details of capital projects
- Undertakes cash flow analysis and opportunity cost of capital assessment
- Makes recommendations regarding projects

Personal financial planner / advisor

- Identifies a client's financial goals
- Prepares financial and/or investment plans
- Provides households and individuals with help on decisions such as retirement planning, budgeting, insurance

Actuary

- Assesses the likelihood of a particular event occurring and the possible financial costs

- Looks at past trends to predict future outcomes
- Presents reports, explains implications, and gives advice (often to non-specialists)

Data / statistical analyst

- Collects, analyses and interprets data
- Uses statistical techniques and models to identify and forecast results, trends and needs
- Presents information to assist decision-making

Business development manager

- Identifies and develops new markets/business
- Builds and manages client relationships
- Develop sales messages and gives presentations

Portfolio manager / consultant

- Determines risk-return parameters for clients
- Designs portfolio to maximise returns and minimise risks

Investment analyst / advisor

- Does fundamental analysis for securities
- Gives advice to meet a client's financial goals
- Provides buy or sell recommendations

Risk analyst / manager

- Identifies and manages strategic, operational and other (eg, credit or regulatory) risks
- Develops risk management policies, procedures
- Oversees staff engagement and compliance

Consumer banker

- Manages customer queries
- Advises individuals and businesses on their financial needs and what services are available

Entrepreneur & self-employment

Entrepreneurship and innovation are an increasing part of the working landscape. Through generating a business idea, or getting involved in a start-up/business venture, you have the potential to create a work opportunity that aligns with your knowledge, skills, values and risk profile. To get started on how to establish, run and grow a new business, go to Te Pokapū Rakahinonga, Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Canterbury www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce



What professional organisations can I engage with?

Connecting with professional bodies and organisations can help you to establish professional networks and learn more about different career options in your area of interest.

- Institute of Financial Advisers www.ifa.org.nz
- Institute of Finance Professionals New Zealand www.infinz.com
- CFA Institute www.cfainstitute.org
- Financial Services Institute of Australasia www.finsia.com
- Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand www.afaanz.org
- Professional Risk Managers International Association www.prmia.org

Having a professional presence on social media networks such as www.linkedin.com and Facebook can help you to keep up to date with important industry developments and trends, networking opportunities, events and job vacancies. Social media presents an opportunity to build and enhance networks as well as to display your involvement in projects and any academic successes.

Why do further study and what are my options?

Postgraduate study can 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 will help you in your future career.

Finance graduates can progress into a number of postgraduate programmes from honours through to master's and PhD level in the subject. UC also offers the Master of Applied Finance and Economics. For details of UC qualifications visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/courses

Useful links

- Te Rōpū Rapuara UC Careers www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers
- Careers New Zealand www.careers.govt.nz
- Te Pokapū Rakahinonga UC Centre for Entrepreneurship www.canterbury.ac.nz/uce

Akmal



Bachelor of Commerce in Economics and Finance
Master of Applied Finance and Economics
Financial Product Analyst, Jade Software

What motivated you to study Finance?

Finance is a field which fuels an industry that essentially oils the cogs of a nation's economy. The work that you will be exposed to here will give you opportunities to help real businesses reach their goals, encourage output and uphold the capital markets — a vital component, the backbone if I may say so — to an economy.

What did you enjoy about it?

As I started entering the more advanced topics in Finance and Economics, the level of conceptualisation and intuitiveness required to grasp the concepts being taught really kept me engaged.

We used a range of computer modelling tools as part of our learning and it was very interesting to see what you learn in theory during classes come into practical applications when building models.

Were there any highlights?

My involvement with the Economics and Finance Society of Canterbury (EFSoc). I transformed it from a small club to a thriving and respected organisation during my time as its president. A lot of the practical skills that gave me the confidence to step up and do what is needed

and when it is needed came from education and exposure I gained from my courses at UC.

Now that you are working, do you have any wisdom you can share?

Time spent at university is not just about the technical skills you learn, but also about the personal skills, and connections you make during that time. It's important to not be fixated on doing one thing but to be involved in a variety of roles.

Modern day career paths are no longer limited to conventional job descriptions, and being moulded into an individual who is capable of handling change and learning to learn, is probably the most important life-skill my time at UC has given me.

Read more online

Read more stories about our students' university experiences online. UC alumni make a difference in varied ways around the globe. To find out where graduates are now visit www.canterbury.ac.nz/getstarted/whyuc/student-profiles

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of print but is subject to change.

More information

UC students seeking study advice.

Department of Accounting and Information Systems

The Department is made up of passionate lecturers from around the world and support staff are happy to help students plan their studies.

Finance courses can be taken as part of different degrees. Students have the opportunity to participate in case competitions such as the CFA (Chartered Financial Analysts) Institute Research Challenge. The Finance major at UC is also part of the CFA Certified Financial Institute University Recognition Program. There is the option to obtain the Professional Risk Manager qualification.

P: +64 3 369 3888

E: studybusiness@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/subjects/finance/

Anyone seeking careers advice.

Te Rōpū Rapuara | UC Careers

UC offers intending and current students and recent graduates a wide range of services, including individual career guidance, seminars, career resources and student and graduate employment opportunities.

T: +64 3 369 0303

E: careers@canterbury.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz/careers

Prospective students seeking study advice.

Te Rōpū Takawaenga | Student Liaison

The liaison team provide advice to future students who are starting their degree for the first time. They can assist with information on degrees, scholarships, accommodation, and other aspects of university life. We have offices in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

Ōtautahi | Christchurch

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

E: liaison@canterbury.ac.nz

Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland

T: 0800 UCAUCK

E: auckland@canterbury.ac.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

T: 0800 VARSITY (0800 827 748)

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www.canterbury.ac.nz/liaison

