

Community Impact Report



Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury
and Ōtautahi Christchurch



150 years
1873–2023

Introduction

Ka titiro whakamuri, ki te anga whakamua Guided by the Past, Shaping the Future

In preparation for 2023, our 150th anniversary year, Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | the University of Canterbury (UC) commissioned an independent assessment of our community impact. I am pleased to share the findings, which show that UC is a key contributor to the region's social inclusiveness, economic prosperity and future success.

Covering key areas of UC's civic commitment and engagement, the report provides key facts, background and case studies, alongside context about the changing world universities operate in, and the importance of social purpose.

A clear sense of purpose inspired the founding vision for UC 150 years ago, ensuring that education has always been central to Waitaha Canterbury. We are gratified and buoyed by the positive support our community has expressed, including that 80% of respondents surveyed by Christchurch City Council indicated UC is important to them. Our colleagues from the United Kingdom who specialise in this work told us they've never seen such positive scores.

It's clear from the findings that UC is a valuable pillar of our community, bringing new talent to our region, training and preparing people for the future and contributing in multifaceted ways through partnerships in Canterbury and beyond. Around 50% of our students come from our region and half our graduates go on to work in Canterbury. Furthermore, UC is the region's second largest employer and contributed \$790 million to our economy in 2021 alone.

Just as our past and future are intertwined, so is the University and our community. Engagement is at the heart of UC's ten-year strategy, Tangata Tū, Tangata Ora which commits us to be an integral part of the DNA of Ōtautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury, a region renowned for resilience and innovation.

This year, as we mark the milestone of 150 years of service to our community, I invite our communities to celebrate with us and help us chart our course for the next 150 years, building an exciting and sustainable future together.



C. de la Rey

Professor Cheryl de la Rey
Tumu Whakarae | Vice-Chancellor

Front cover image: A view from Sumner beach across Ōtautahi Christchurch to the Southern Alps. Back cover image: UC Arts city location.

Suggested citation: Community Impact Report. (2023). University of Canterbury.

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Engaged with our communities

The commitment of dedicated local leaders who believed that tertiary education was essential to the growth of the region led to the establishment of Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury (as Canterbury College) in 1873.

Since then, UC has grown with Waitaha Canterbury to become a powerhouse of research and learning, and is ranked as a top university worldwide.

UC graduates have helped to shape the world for 150 years and include such national treasures as astronomy theoretician Beatrice Tinsley, the great philosopher Karl Popper, iconic New Zealand artist Rita Angus, and Nobel Laureate Ernest Rutherford.

The University is adapting and responding to a rapidly changing world so that graduates can continue to make a difference for another 150 years.

20,919

students enrolled at UC in 2021

4,310

students graduated in 2022

49%

of employed grads work in Ōtautahi Christchurch and surrounding area

Our Strategic Vision

We are empowered to act for good and determined to make a difference in the world.

Ngā Uara | Our values:

Manaakitanga

Extending care and empowering others

Whanaungatanga

Valuing people and their differences

Tiakitanga

Enhancing and nurturing our resources

UC incubates businesses, makes education more accessible, stands with local communities in times of need, contributes to a more sustainable future, and works with mana whenua partners Ngāi Tūāhuriri to deliver on our responsibilities as Aoteroa New Zealand's first Treaty university.

Impact on Ōtautahi Christchurch

Growing

> **\$500 million**

spent in Waitaha Canterbury since 2019 via procurement and supply chains; 65% locally

372 start-ups

spin-offs and social enterprises supported since 2018, including 147 social enterprises

49%

of UC graduates who work in Aotearoa New Zealand are employed in Waitaha Canterbury

450 contracts

for work between UC and Ōtautahi Christchurch-based agencies or businesses signed since 2021

> **\$4 million**

raised by businesses incubated by UC between 2020–2022

> **5,500 people**

from local businesses and organisations attended a UC industry engagement event in the past five years

2nd largest employer

in Waitaha Canterbury, with 4,000 staff

Serving

9,340

hours of volunteering carried out by the University of Canterbury Student Volunteer Army in 2021 — equivalent to \$220,891 of service given back to the local community

\$5 million

for 150 Te Kakau a Māui scholarships in 2023 & 2024, to fund course fees and support for 300 students from Te Waipounamu South Island who are keen to make a change in their world

40%

of graduates go into public service, including roles in education, health & social care, or public administration

20,919 students

from Waitaha Canterbury, of all ages, have enrolled in a course at UC since 2019

450 new teachers

educated each year and over 60% of those teach in Waitaha Canterbury schools

70%

of Waitaha Canterbury's secondary schools engaged with outreach and participation events for young people considering higher education

Enriching

80%

of Ōtautahi Christchurch residents surveyed say UC is important to them

12,000 local residents

attended more than 300 UC public events at the Arts Centre since 2017

60,000 visits

of which 74% are Waitaha Canterbury residents, to the Teece Museum since it opened in 2017

90% of undergraduates

in 2020 had participated in courses that prepared them to be employed, innovative, or entrepreneurial

Top 50 overall for the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

- First in the world for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production for the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings
- 11th in the world for SDG 13: Climate Action for the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings
- 29th in the world for SDG 15: Life on Land for the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

‘Modern universities do a lot more than research and teaching.’

Top 100 overall for the 2023 QS World Ranking: Sustainability

Strengthening the economy

Creating jobs, spending locally, incubating businesses, and developing talented people.

UC is a critical economic driver for the Waitaha Canterbury region. The University uses its research power, industry links, and track record of collaboration to boost economic growth. The University acts as a magnet for drawing young people into the city and the workforce. UC's total student population of over 21,000 is the equivalent of 5% of the city's total population of 369,006.

2nd largest employer

in Waitaha Canterbury, with 4,000 staff

\$790 million

contributed to the Waitaha Canterbury region in 2021 through UC's direct spend and through the wider UC community's economic expenditure (NZIER report to Universities New Zealand November 2022)

372 businesses

have been incubated or spun out of UC by staff, academics or students between 2018 and 2022, including 147 social enterprises

14 companies

have been founded based on UC technology since 2012

Decarbonising zinc recycling

Global demand for refined zinc metal, the fourth most consumed metal on the planet, is estimated to soon exceed available supply.

Pioneering research conducted at UC developed new technology to extract zinc from industrial waste by-products, allowing the valuable material to be reused.

The company, Zincovery, was founded to commercialise and scale up the technology for wider use. Based in Ōtautahi Christchurch, the company has raised investment of over \$4 million since 2022.

The University acts as a magnet for drawing young people into the city and the workforce

Building a better society for all

Higher education is known to be a driver of better health outcomes, higher life-time earnings, and stronger social and civic engagement.

Social impact explores how universities help improve quality of life for their communities by striving to reduce inequality and improve access to education.

To mark the 150th anniversary, Te Whare Wānanga o Wānanga | University of Canterbury launched its ground-breaking Te Kakau a Maui Scholarship, which is funding tuition fees and providing support for 300 students from lower decile schools in Waitaha Canterbury and across Te Waipounamu South Island.

UC enables students to become well-rounded individuals with an awareness of improving the world around them.

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3,500 outreach interactions

with secondary school students in the Waitaha Canterbury region in 2019

25,000 hours of service

contributed by Ōtautahi Christchurch 101 civic engagement course students since 2012

UC prepares 450 new teachers for the profession each year

60% of new teachers teach in local schools

From earthquake response to national movement

The Student Volunteer Army (SVA) was established to coordinate the student volunteer response to the Waitaha Canterbury earthquakes and has since grown into a national movement of young people who are active in their communities.

UC's SVA club is one of the biggest student groups on campus and continues to make a difference in the Ōtautahi Christchurch community and across the country, most recently in responding to flood damage in Tamaki Makaurau Auckland.

Healthier, happier communities

The University is part of a complex health ecosystem and focuses on the broader context of intergenerational wellbeing, physical and mental health, sport and exercise, and child development.

UC plays an active role in the health economy of Waitaha Canterbury and Te Waipounamu South Island.

The University is a founding partner of the Manawa facility in the Te Papa Hauora Health Precinct, close to Christchurch Hospital. Working closely with Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtākou | University of Otago, Te Pukenga — Ara Institute of Canterbury, and Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand Waitaha Canterbury.

Senior staff from the Faculty of Health serve on a variety of boards and non-profit organisations focused on improving health in the community including the Cancer Society National Board, Nurse Maude, Nursing Advisory Committee, Akaroa Community Health Trust, and Cancer Tissue Bank.

Stepping up during Covid

UC students and staff stepped up to the plate to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 2,400 vaccination doses were administered on campus encouraging vaccine take-up amongst members of the Māori and Pacific communities.

Professor Michael Plank, from the School of Mathematics and Statistics, was a lead academic on modelling to support Aotearoa New Zealand's all-of-government response to COVID-19, including informing the local council's Covid risk assessment.

\$17 million

UC received in health grants in six years, covering almost 100 projects

120,000 hours

spent by students in clinical placements during the course of their studies in health and social care, 90% of which are based in Ōtautahi Christchurch

UC offers the only specialist sports degree in Aotearoa New Zealand

UC actively contributes to the health and wellbeing of Waitaha Canterbury and Te Waipounamu South Island



Championing cultural and creative growth

Promoting Māori and Indigenous cultures across multiple areas is a key focus of engagement at UC.

The new Digital Screen Campus will develop Ōtautahi Christchurch's capacity as a leader in the creative media industries — including film production, game development, and cross reality.

The University is redeveloping its Dovedale campus to create state-of-the-art facilities, incentivising production companies to base themselves in Ōtautahi Christchurch and across Te Waipounamu South Island. Approximately \$9 million has been spent on the development of the campus, with a further \$121 million to be spent over the next four years.

In 2023, 170 students from across Aotearoa are enrolled in the new Bachelor of Digital Screen with Honours, a four-year degree designed to train future creative media industries leaders. The qualification offers an Indigenous Narrative minor, a unique-to-UC course created to empower ākonga to explore Indigenous representation as traditional storytelling evolves to include digital and mainstream media. UC also offers a Certificate in Indigenous Narrative.

Over \$130 million

is allocated to new Digital Screen Campus

60,000

visits to the Teece Museum since 2017

12,000

local residents have attended events at the University's Arts Centre facility

Working alongside Screen CanterburyNZ, the Digital Screen Campus provides a crucial link between the research capability of UC and the wider screen sector in the city.

Creating cultural encounters at the Teece Museum

The Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities in the Arts Centre is home to the Logie collection, one of the largest collections of classical antiquities in the Southern Hemisphere. Since opening in 2017, it has attracted more than 60,000 visits to the collection, exhibitions, talks, and public events such as Greek pot painting evenings. The Teece Museum makes artefacts available for research, supports postgraduate study, trains volunteers, and recently matched a fragment of mummy shroud with a fragment in the Getty Institute in the United States.

The new Digital Screen Campus will develop Ōtautahi Christchurch's capacity as a leader in the creative media industries

Leading the way

The UC Strategic Vision states “A university that commits itself to engagement undertakes to deploy its expertise and knowledge to advance civic purpose and to foster public good”.

The new Office of Treaty Partnership, established in 2021 and based at Kā Waimaero | Ngāi Tahu Centre, formalised the University's commitment to strengthening Māori leadership. Ngāi Tūāhuriri Ūpoko Professor Te Maire Tau is the office's Pou Whakarae, working alongside Tumu Whakarae | Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey to ensure the inclusion of te ao Māori (Māori world view) and mātauranga Māori (knowledge), and to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi at the University. This initiative is believed to be the first of its kind among Aotearoa New Zealand universities. Five new Treaty professorial roles are also being established.



Establishing the Knowledge Commons

The Knowledge Commons brings the University's vision of being an 'engaged university' to life. Established in 2020, it gathers information, knowledge, and resources that benefit the whole community, creating opportunities for joint societal research to support intergenerational, action-oriented policy change on wellbeing, equity, and urban resilience.

The Knowledge Commons embodies the University's commitment to supporting kotahitanga [partnerships] in Ōtautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury through harnessing knowledge, expertise, and research excellence; creating a platform for businesses, leaders, and community members to engage with the tertiary sector to overcome complex, intersectoral problems and challenges; and fostering partnerships with city leaders.

UC academics' post-earthquake roles

The 2010–2011 Canterbury earthquakes caused unprecedented physical, social, and economic damage.

As the region's leading tertiary research institution, UC played a pivotal role in coordinating the international research teams that visited Ōtautahi Christchurch following the earthquakes, providing expertise for recovery and rebuilding, and training the domestic and international engineers needed for the rebuilding efforts.

UC experts' advice to government, in partnership with major engineering consultancies, regarding land remediation following liquefaction, led to establishing the residential red zone and 8,000 households relocating away from liquefaction prone land.

Several UC engineering academics presented evidence to the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission, which

resulted in over 100 recommendations to the government to reform the engineering and construction sectors.

UC engineering academics also led updates to standards of practice and were expert consultants, assisting engineering consultancy companies in the design and provisioning of novel structural systems.

1,000's

of pro-bono hours contributed by University leadership and senior academics to local boards

60 students

each year take part in courses designed to build the next generation of Māori and Indigenous leaders



Focusing on a sustainable future

University experts are working with local, national, and international organisations to create change.

UC is committed to a sustainable environment locally and globally for current and future generations through research that makes a difference, embedding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into teaching and learning, and developing strategies for a more sustainable campus.

Professor Bronwyn Hayward was a lead author on the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius. Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva leads a multi-million-dollar project with the University of the South Pacific, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to research climate change adaptation in the Pacific region. Professor Simon Kingham is the Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Transport and advises the Christchurch City Council on greener transport infrastructure.

2030

the year UC aims to be carbon net neutral

1st in the world for SDG 12

Responsible Consumption and Production, 2022 Times Higher Education Impact rankings

11th in the world

Sustainable Education, 2023 QS Sustainability Ranking

UC is committed to meaningful partnerships with iwi, hapū, rūnanga, and Māori communities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which recognises the concept of kaitiakitanga, or guardianship, of the natural environment.

Building the next generation of green researchers

Researchers from UC and University of Otago are leading projects on green hydrogen integration, enabling low-cost green hydrogen production and storage.

Three projects were awarded \$2 million each through the MBIE Catalyst fund, and the New Zealand-Germany Green Hydrogen Research Programme.

The team engaged with young people by developing STEM activities to introduce green hydrogen, including activities with Murihiku Regeneration.

UC is leading projects on green hydrogen integration, enabling low-cost green hydrogen production and storage



Global trends affecting tertiary education

It has never been more important for universities to show their impact and demonstrate their social purpose and engagement.

The changing global labour market

In Aotearoa New Zealand, labour force participation is right at the high end of OECD nations, with only Sweden, Switzerland, and Iceland having higher participation.

The ‘Asian century’

Across many areas of politics, society, and economics, the rise of Asia will have profound implications on universities and Aotearoa New Zealand more broadly.

Decline of trust in elites

In an atmosphere where respondents in Aotearoa New Zealand echo global concern around values-based leadership and activism, universities are likely to need to show action and principles.

Growth of technology and digital models of learning

Although the extent and shape of the disruption cannot reliably be predicted, it is likely to be substantial.

Climate change and environmental decline

The global rise in temperature due to manmade climate change is potentially the most significant global trend that will affect universities, along with every other aspect of global society.

Creating a global community

Connecting, networking, and collaborating — UC works with government, business, community, alumni, and supporters to make a difference. Please join us.

Alumni whānau

UC graduates join a whānau of more than 140,000 alumni making change around the globe.

Supporters

Tūmahana | University of Canterbury Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha University of Canterbury's tradition of excellence in higher education continues. From its earliest beginnings in 1873, philanthropic support and the generosity of donors and supporters has played a major part in making the University the respected institution it is today.

Business

Attract an intern, work with us on research, employ a talented graduate — there are many ways to engage with us.

Community

Concerts, public talks, exhibitions, events, and much more are all on offer throughout the year. Check our [events page](https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/events/list-events/) www.canterbury.ac.nz/events/list-events/ for more.

About this report

Over the last 150 years, Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury has played a central role in the development of the region — economically, socially, and culturally. To explore this impact further, the University commissioned UK-based public policy agency Public First, working with Ōtautahi Christchurch-based research specialists Research First, to conduct an assessment of the University's impact across the city and greater Ōtautahi Christchurch area, in time for the University's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2023.

The report uses The Civic University Network framework — for the first time outside the UK. Through a combination of focus groups, surveys, and interviews, the team built a comprehensive picture of how the community regards the University and sets baselines for future assessments.

To find out about the latest developments and research being shared at the University, go to our news page www.canterbury.ac.nz/news/.

Find out more at www.canterbury.ac.nz



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