

What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Accounting, graduates develop a valuable set of skills transferable to a range of careers. These skills can include:

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What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs and typically go on to train and qualify as chartered or certified accountants – see some job examples below.

Note: This list is not exhaustive, and some jobs may require further study, training or experience. It is recommended to start with the section 'How can I gain a sense of career direction?'

Accountant, assistant / associate / graduate trainee accountant

- Reviews and analyses the performance of businesses, governments and other entities
- Provides financial advice to managers, entrepreneurs, business clients and governmental bodies
- Manages cash flow and oversees accounts payable, receivable, and payroll

Auditor, assistant / associate / graduate auditor

- Evaluates reliability of internal controls and accuracy and reliability of financial statements and sustainability reports
- Assesses risks to the business
- Checks the legality of funding use

Financial accountant and controller

- Prepares financial reports and statements
- Advises investors and interested parties
- Oversees financial, strategic and operational accounting in an organisation

Investment accountant

- Analyses market trends
- Advises on shares, lending, mergers, takeovers

Tax accountant / consultant

- Provides advice about tax obligations
- Determines tax liabilities and allowances
- Ensures tax laws are complied with

Commercial manager

- Examines revenue, costs and profitability to identify issues and opportunities
- Assesses financial details to inform decisions

Management accountant / consultant

- Evaluates the performance of organisations and identifies ways to improve
- Evaluates capital expenditure and other short- and long-term decisions
- Helps develop strategies, budgets and policies

Business and financial analyst / consultant

- Generates, analyses, reports and applies financial and other information to organisations, projects, contracts etc.
- Models and analyses economic/business trends to inform decisions and protect interests

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Specialist Accountant roles in start-ups, ESG, digital accounting, forensics, counterterrorism, crypto, and international accounting
- Internal auditor, Business consultant/advisor, Assurance associate, Finance manager/assistant, Finance officer/advisor, Foreign exchange dealer, Forensic accountant, Payroll co-ordinator, Pricing analyst, Trust officer.

Further study options

Postgraduate study for professional membership and certification is done while working under the guidance of a qualified chartered or certified accountant.

UC offers honours, master's and doctoral programmes for Accounting graduates, and an MBA for those with work experience.

Further study may facilitate career benefits such as specialist skills, entry into a specific occupation, higher starting salary, faster progression rate, and advanced research capability.

It is important to determine which, if any, further study options align with future career aspirations.

For further UC study options visit:

📄 www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study

How can I gain a sense of career direction?

Understanding yourself and others is important to gain a sense of direction. This grows with experience; therefore, trying new things and reflecting on an ongoing basis is important.

Career planning checklist

Discover and reflect on:

- Your values, interests, strengths, abilities, and aspirations
- Your connection to whānau, people, and places
- Lifestyle preferences and location
- The skills you want to gain, use, or enhance

Engage in a variety of experiences to learn about:

- How you want to contribute to society, the environment, and global challenges
- The tasks, responsibilities and work environments you prefer
- Your work values, priorities and interests

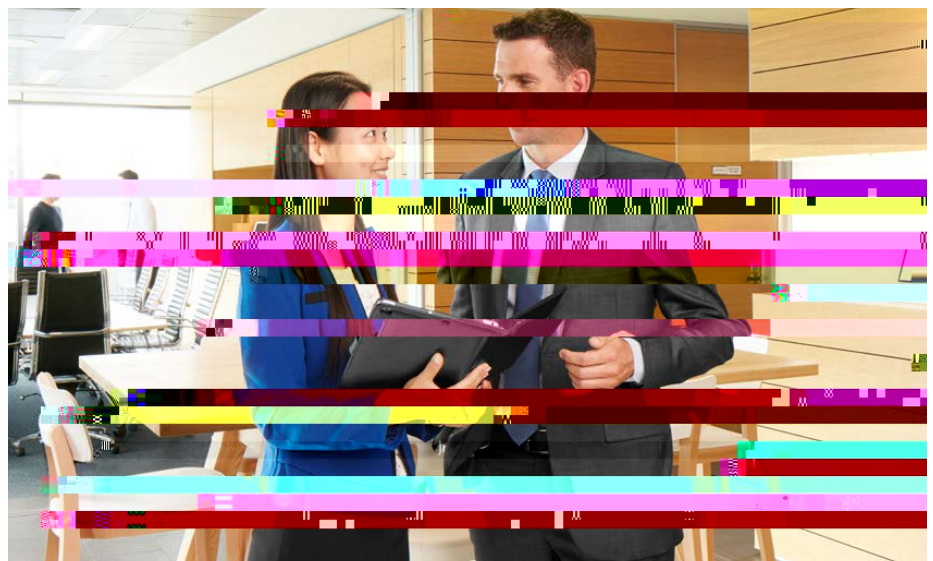
Learn more and gather career and study information

(refer to page one of this resource)

- Speak with people working in careers that interest you; check the realities of a job/career
- Gather information from various sources

Identify your next steps

- Talking to a career consultant can help you to identify your next steps. Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers



Explore career stories of students' university experiences and UC alumni who make a difference globally in varied ways.

Visit: www.canterbury.ac.nz/about-uc/why-uc/our-students/student-stories

What do you most enjoy about your studies?

I personally enjoy how the lecturers and staff take part in club activities and show support to both the international and local students. It's not often you get to see your lecturers up and about dancing and joking around!

As an international student, life at UC and New Zealand has been an eye-opening experience for me. There is actually a wide range of activities to do here both on campus and off campus.

What advice do you have for future students?

Don't be afraid to ask. The lecturers and support staff are more than happy and willing to help a student in need.

William

Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting, minor in Information Systems

What else should I know?

The value of experiences

Learn what experiences graduates attribute to helping them transition into work:

www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers/graduate-destinations

Effective job search strategies

- Speaking with employers is key to finding