





What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Japanese, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies. These can include:

- Reading, writing, listening and speaking Japanese
- Translation and facilitating connections between individuals and/or groups
- A better understanding of the global interactions which shape modern society
- Familiarity with both modern and traditional culture and society
- Well-developed communication skills
- Analytical and critical thinking
- Thinking creatively, challenging ideas, and problem solving
- Familiarity with the Japanese online environment and language-related software technologies.

Practise skills at work or in Japan

Applied learning opportunities are available through:

- Internships – there are opportunities to do a full-immersion Japanese internship with a Christchurch-based company
- Immersive experiences in Japanese language and culture, including study exchange partnership programmes with Japanese universities.

This experience can deepen graduates' working knowledge and employability.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking, technological literacy, AI and big data.*

*World Economic Forum: www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where have graduates been employed?

A degree in Japanese can lead to a variety of career options.

- Some graduates have gained Japanese Government Scholarships for study and research in Japan.
- There are a number of programmes that employ graduates to teach English in Japan. Many Japanese alumni join the Japanese Government's Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.
- Others have been employed by government departments such as the Japanese Embassy or Consular Office, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Government Communications Security Bureau.
- Some graduates have gained jobs at tertiary institutions in New Zealand and Japan, and as teachers of Japanese in New Zealand secondary schools.
- Other graduates enter banking, import/export and legal industries or find jobs in multinational companies that have links with Japan. Some become translators or enter the tourism industry.
- Scientists, engineers, and computer science graduates who have achieved advanced Japanese language abilities have taken up research and employment opportunities in Japan and/or worked on Japanese-related projects.

What jobs and activities might graduates do?

Graduates with this degree are employed in a range of jobs — see some 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?'

Interpreter

- Translate spoken language from one language to another, often simultaneously
- Keep abreast of up-to-date meaning of words
- Research specialist topics, travel with groups and present to different audiences

Translator

- Convey the content of the source text into the target language
- Research terminology or technical words and language trends
- Work collaboratively with other translators

Tourism marketing officer

- Research consumer market and interests
- Manage customer networks and relationships
- Create and maintain corporate brands and advertising media

Language officer / consultant

- Outline the sounds, words, structure, and vocabulary of a language spoken for organisational purposes
- Lead engagement and information sessions
- Translate and interpret

Immigration officer / consultant

- Understand immigration instructions
- Assess clients to establish their eligibility for visas or help navigate migration processes
- Write submissions and file applications

Secondary school teacher

- Prepare and deliver learning experiences in specialised subjects
- Understand the learning needs of rangatahi, observe progress to personalise support
- Promote the wellbeing of rangatahi

Teacher of English for speakers of other languages

- Assess a student's reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and needs
- Design and prepare learning materials
- Present lessons, including on local knowledge and skills for coping in a new place

Sales manager, key account manager

- Identify and develop new markets or business
- Manage client relationships and presentations
- Implement sales and marketing strategies

Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- International and domestic business roles – sales, marketing, trade, supply chain, finance and HR
- Journalism – foreign correspondent, reporter, news editor, multimedia specialist
- Tourism – travel agent, tour guide, flight attendant, travel insurance
- Government agencies and departments – diplomat, foreign policy officer, analyst, case manager
- Education and research – tertiary lecturer, research assistant, language teacher.

Further study options

Graduates can prepare for a career through further study e.g. in Teaching and Learning, Applied Data Science, or in other areas such as Business.

Japanese graduates can progress into many higher programmes, from honours through to PhD level. UC also offers master's degrees in Linguistics, Translation and Interpreting, and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Many allow you to carry out research or project work

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



