





## What skills can graduates gain?

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

- Understanding of tax law and regulations
- Practical application of knowledge
- Time-management, planning and organisation
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Logical and quantitative thinking
- Numerical confidence
- Problem solving skills
- Oral and written communication skills
- Resilience and adaptability.

## 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 and technological literacy.\*

\*World Economic Forum: [www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills)

## How can I develop these skills?

- 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?

Graduates can become taxation specialists within the accounting profession, either as a Professional accountant or Certified practicing/chartered accountant.

### Taxation and Accounting graduates can work globally, and have been employed in:

- Chartered accountancy or taxation and management consultancy firms e.g. KPMG, PwC, Deloitte, EY, BDO, Grant Thornton Hargreaves, Moore Markhams, Soutar & Associates, HC Partners LP, Nexia NZ
- Parliamentary auditors i.e. Audit New Zealand | Mana Arotake Aotearoa
- Government bodies and crown entities e.g. Inland Revenue - Te Tari Taake, Public Trust
- Banking, finance and investment e.g. ANZ, Westpac, BNZ, Kiwibank
- Other business enterprises such as manufacturing, construction, information management, retail, logistics, software and more.
- Social and non-for-profit organisations.

## 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?'

### Tax consultant / advisor

- Engages in tax planning and transaction structuring
- Provides advice about tax obligations
- Ensures compliance with tax laws
- Advises large enterprises, including multinational organisations on cross-border tax issues

### Auditor, audit analyst

- Examines financial statements
- Provides evidence as to the accuracy of these
- Checks the legality of funding use

### Internal auditor

- Carries out audits of systems
- Advises management of the strength and reliability of internal controls
- Reports to the board of directors

### Tax investigator

- Examines financial statements and tax returns
- Undertakes investigations and reviews
- Ensures tax deductions, income and credits are accurate and lawful

### Financial controller, finance manager

- Manages the finance team
- Oversees financial accounting and management reporting
- Analyses performance against objectives and recommendations for improvement

### Business analyst / consultant

- Generates financial and other information
- Reports on organisations, projects, contracts
- Analyses economic and business trends to inform decisions and protect interests

### Accountant

- Manages the flow of money through an organisation
- Reviews and analyses the performance of businesses, governments and other entities
- Provides financial advice to managers, entrepreneurs, business clients and governmental bodies

### Forensic accountant

- Examines illegal financial activity
- Analyses financial information and data for evidence
- Acts as an expert witness

### Interest rate risk manager

- Helps clients to manage their interest rate risk
- Tailors solutions to meet client needs and goals
- Uses market insight and risk management strategies

### Examples of other job titles and careers include:

- Consultant
- Finance analyst
- Banking specialist
- Business advisor
- Commercial manager
- Procurement specialist
- Office manager
- Tax agent
- Tax auditor.

Some students choose to complete a double degree i.e. BCom, Law, BSc which can lead to different careers.

## Further study options

For many Taxation and Accounting graduates, further study will be done while working under the guidance of a qualified chartered or certified accountant to become a Chartered accountant / Certified practicing accountant.

UC offers an MBA for those with work experience, as well as honours, master's (including taught masters), and doctoral programmes in Taxation.

Postgraduate 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 will help you in your future career.

For further UC study options visit:

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/academic-study](http://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

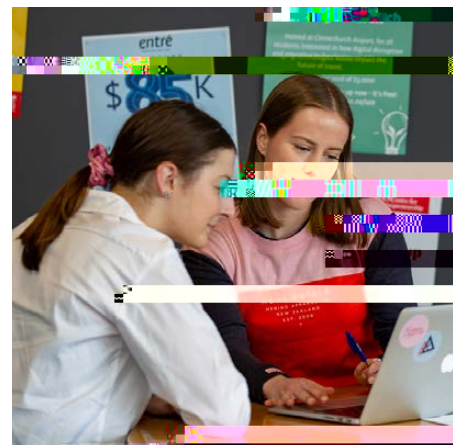
#### Learn more and gather career and study information

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



taxation, where I help mainly New Zealand based exporters navigate the tax rules associated with operating cross border.

**What are your career highlights?**

I have had so many fantastic highlights over the