

UCIC Pre Masters Pathway

Ken Lam - Malaysia

UCIC Diploma in Postgraduate Preparation
(Two-semester pre masters pathway)
Successfully progressed to UC's Master of
Business Information Systems (MBIS)

What was it like starting your studies at UCIC?

UCIC has been a welcoming environment to students from different background and culture. Personally, I already have some connection here in Christchurch but I felt the support from staffs and teachers in helping us learning and fitting into the city, building up new identity for students who have literally flew in to NZ just days / weeks ago.

The learning from the courses is well organised to immerse ourselves into the academic environment in UC, all the way from introduction to mastering your way in navigating the help available in UC for a better success.

What are some achievement that made you feel proud during your time at UCIC?

I am happy to be part of the journey of learning and adapting the new environment not just for myself, but other younger students in UCIC. As a pre-master student, we are generally older than the other students in UCIC. Being able to talk and share our life experiences are both rewarding and provided a nice way to reflect with a different perspective.

How did UCIC support your transition to studying at the University of Canterbury?

I think every person in UCIC have their fair share of support and guidance along the way. From Angelina, Emma, Suzette, and Ian who handled the initial journey of enrolment. To Brittany, Mahmah, Dave, and Zak who went into great depth to ensure that we are well equipped to our journey in UC.

The courses and activities are really helpful to equip us both in academic settings and the cultural understanding of New Zealand. Even though it is up to the individual to participate, the facilitation of these learning are valuable and thoughtful to all of us.



How are you finding life on campus and studying in Christchurch?

New Zealand has always been a great country to live in with great nature and peacefulness, especially for us who grew up in big cities with concrete everywhere.

UCSA and various clubs are great places to enjoy your hobbies and to meet friends within a safe space. With the public transport and bike friendly city of Christchurch, one could travel around without the need of car to enjoy the activities around. Of course if you have a friend or two who has a car (like me), it is relatively easy to travel around famous tourist spots like Lake Tekapo, Mt Hutt, or Castle hill for a day or two.

What has been your best experience since starting at UCIC?

To be learning different cultures from students coming from different countries.

What next?

My goal is to complete my pre-master programme in UC and continue my study in MBIS. With classmate who are currently studying in MBIS, gaining insights into what they are experiencing better equip myself for the upcoming challenges while sharing my thoughts to my fellow classmate. Ideally my plan is to build my professional career in Christchurch, brining my knowledge and experience to others alike who might be beginning their journey in IT and business.

Any advice to future students?

I think believing in yourself and actively raising questions to the teacher or staff is a key to success. Remembering this is a safe space for you to learn and adapt before heading into UC, and take advantage of the experiences that teachers has studying in UC previously.

Pre-Master's Programmes

The Pre-Master's programme offers a pathway into postgraduate study for international students who don't meet prior study requirements, increasing access to master's degree programmes in Business, Engineering, Science, Health, Education, and Arts.

It includes courses that develop skills and knowledge in cultural and bi-cultural awareness, communication, critical thinking, and data analysis, with a focus on the requirements of postgraduate academic skills relevant in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Some courses include:

- ARTS131 Tūāoma Support Programme
- ARTS232 Constructing Cultural Awareness in Aotearoa | New Zealand
- ARTS332: Data for Research Purposes
- ARTS333 Academic Literacies and Critical Thinking

	Certificate of Postgraduate Preparation (One semester pre-masters) Provides an accelerated pathway into postgraduate study for international students who hold a bachelor's degree. The pathway consists of one semester of coursework designed to prepare students for postgraduate study at UC.	Diploma in Postgraduate Preparation (Two-semester pre-masters) Provides a comprehensive pre-university pathway into master's study for international students who hold an advanced diploma or an associate degree, but not a full bachelor's degree.
Intakes	February, October - 16 weeks of study	February, October - 32 weeks of study
Fees	NZ \$17,800**	NZ \$35,900**
Academic Entry requirements	Students must have completed a bachelor's degree	Students must have completed an advanced diploma or an associate degree
English Language requirements	IELTS Average score of 6.0 (No band below 5.5) LanguageCert (Online Accepted) B2 Communicator International ESOL C1 Expert (LRWS): overall PASS, no less than 25/50 in each skill CCEL English for Academic Purposes: EAP 2 with a minimum C+ grade Duolingo Minimum total score of 105 (no band below 95)	
Programmes available for progression at UC	• Master of Applied Data Science • Master of Applied Finance and Economics • Master of Business Information Systems • Master of Business Management • Master of Civil Engineering • Master of Disaster Risk and Resilience • Master of Engineering Management (Online Only) • Master of Engineering Studies • Master of Financial Analysis • Master of Geospatial Data Science • Master of International Relations and Diplomacy • Master of Marketing • Master of Policy and Governance • Master of Product Design • Master of Product Innovation • Master of Professional Accounting • Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages • Master of Urban Resilience and Renewal • Master of Water Science and Management	• Master of Artificial Intelligence • Master of Arts • Master of Applied Data Science • Master of Applied Finance and Economics • Master of Business Information Systems • Master of Business Management • Master of Commerce • Master of Financial Analysis • Master of International Relations and Diplomacy • Master of Marketing • Master of Policy and Governance • Master of Product Design • Master of Product Innovation • Master of Professional Accounting • Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages • Master of Urban Resilience and Renewal • Master of Water Science and Management • Professional Master of Computer Science

Scholarships



Global Student Awards February Intake 2026

All students who are academically eligible to study in a UCIC programme in February 2027 will receive a **Global Student Award** equal to 10% of their tuition fees.

UC Deans Award

After successfully completing the UCIC Pre-Master's pathway and progressing to Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury (UC) with the required grades, eligible students may be considered for the UC Deans Award.

The award recognises high-achieving international students and provides assistance with international tuition fees when they begin their studies at UC.

The award provides **NZD \$8,000** towards international tuition fees and is available to eligible international postgraduate students.

Tenure: 1 year

Scholarships

Search our available scholarships and apply online



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Part of **navitas**

International student entry varies by country and/or region. See your countries specific requirements: www.ucic.ac.nz/admissions/entry-requirements/academic ***This fee is indicative only and does not include additional costs such as course materials, insurance, and levies. Prices include GST where applicable. *** Please check that the end date of your pre-master's programme aligns with the start date of your preferred master's degree. Most master's degrees have a February and/or July start date.

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