

Australian Studies

About this area of study:

Australian Studies represents an interdisciplinary field of study that has become a growing international enterprise, with dedicated research centres and professional associations throughout Asia, Europe and North America. As a field of enquiry, Australian Studies seeks to comprehensively examine major debates in Australian society in a global context, so as to locate, analyse and explain significant historical and contemporary social, political and cultural events and identities. Similar to other humanities-based disciplines, graduates are often sought after for their generic skills, particularly analytical ability, critical thinking, problem-solving skills and abstract thinking.

Key skills that Australian Studies graduates demonstrate include:

- Good comprehension and attention to detail
- Skills in decision-making and problem-solving
- Highly developed interpretive and analytical skills
- Skills in research methods
- Social, cultural and gender sensitivity
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of referencing and information systems
- Ability to engage in a reflective and interdisciplinary perspective

Training:

Australian Studies graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring critical thinking, analytical and/or research skills. As Australian Studies constitutes an interdisciplinary field of study, it is highly relevant for those considering a career in education, museums, cultural institutions, media and the public service. Consequently a bachelor degree represents the necessary pre-requisite for most avenues of employment. To gain national accreditation in education or cultural and museum based professions, candidates generally require further postgraduate academic qualifications.

Courses offered by Deakin University include:

Bachelor of Arts (with an Australian Studies major)

- Comprehensively examines major debates in Australian society in a global context, considering a range of sources from popular culture through to politics and policy.
- Develops an ability to reconstruct and explain social, political and cultural events; relate global and international perspectives with Australian; recognise the impact of the past on the present; analyse change and situate contemporary issues and debates in context.
- Develops a capacity for engaging in a reflective perspective, to identify a range of opinions or interpretations and to explain why and how these have differed.
- Aims to stimulate and challenge students to understand significant local issues, develop discipline-specific skills and acquire highly valued critical, analytical and research skills.

Labour Market Information:

- Median salary for Arts Graduates - \$ 37,000
- Approximate salary for Teacher - \$40-43,500
- Approximate salary for Curator or Archivist - \$40-53,000
- Approximate salary for Government Research Officer (education) - \$60,700

2006 Statistics:

Adapted from Deakin University Australian Graduate Survey Data, 2006.

Total number of graduates available for employment nationally:	1,407 (66.5%)
Total number of graduates gaining full time employment:	1,105 (78.5%)

What do Arts graduates go after finishing?

Activity Category	Number of Responses	Percent
Employed Full Time	179	67%
Seeking Full Time	87	33%
Seeking Full Time, Employed Part Time	49	18%
Seeking Full Time, Not Working	38	14%
In Full Time Study	135	27%
Activity Part Time Not Seeking Full Time Work	64	13%
Not Working, Seeking Part Time Work	4	1%
Total Responses	556	

Table 1. Activities of Australian resident bachelor degree (Arts) students taken from Deakin University 2006 Australian Graduate Survey.

Graduate level of occupation

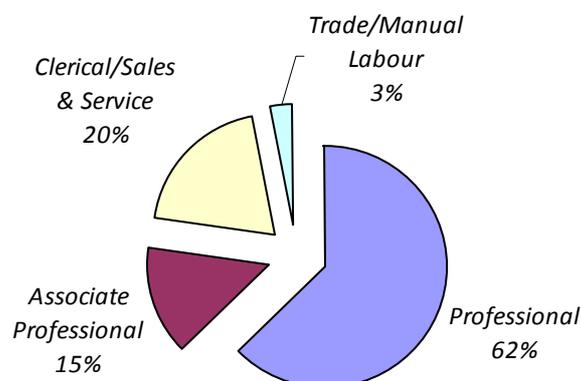


Figure 1. Level of occupation bachelor degree graduates in full-time work adapted from Deakin University 2006 Australian Graduate Survey.

Related Occupations:

Teaching

- Australian Studies graduates may teach in secondary schools or universities and colleges.
- Generally requires further study: secondary schools a postgraduate education qualification, and a Doctorate for university or college.
- There is a great deal of competition for such positions.

Museum Curator, Archivist or Cultural Officer

- Initiate and maintain research programs, draft collection policies, assess collections and prepare reports of conservation plans and activities.
- Arrange acquisitions and exhibitions, including liaise with other institutions or individuals to arrange special exhibitions.
- Level of expertise sought generally requires postgraduate qualifications (a Masters degree) and admission to a professional association in relevant state or territory.

Policy adviser, research assistant or information officer

- Employ abstract reasoning and then source and analyse information to prepare briefings and make recommendations based upon subject-matter expertise or research.
- Employers include government agencies, local authorities, educational institutions, professional associations, or media organisations.

Media Commentator

- Research, investigate and compile stories for news bulletins or programs.
- Present opinions or commentary on social, cultural, historical or political matters.
- Competitive nature of sector often relies on network of contacts to secure work.

Employers:

Examples of employers for Australian Studies graduates include:

Australian Government – www.apsjobs.gov.au.

Museums – www.museumsaustralia.org.au.

Archives – www.archivists.org.au.

State Government – www.careers.vic.gov.au

Media organisations – www.aimia.com.au/weblinks/media_outlets

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites:

Deakin University Jobshop - www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Graduate Opportunities – www.graduateopportunities.com

Unigrad – www.unigrad.com.au

Seek – www.seek.com.au

Mycareer – www.mycareer.com.au

Career One - www.careerone.com.au

Professional Associations:

International Australian Studies Association – www.inasa-home.net

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance – www.aimia.com.au

Australian Society of Archivists Inc – www.archivists.org.au