

History

About this area of study:

As a discipline, history provides a framework in which complex issues of identity, morality and reality can be explored. Examining the historical precursors to the modern world also provides a reference point for speculating about what is possible in the future. The study of history involves in-depth analysis of particular periods or sequences of events. It is often described as an intellectual discipline, as it requires the rigour of a scientist, the persistence of a detective, yet also the imagination of a novelist. There are numerous avenues to specialise or build specific bodies of knowledge. As a discipline it often generates enthusiasm and commitment amongst its students. Graduates are often sought after for their more generic skills, particularly analytical ability, critical thinking, problem-solving skills and abstract thinking.

Key skills that history 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
- Cultural sensitivity
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of referencing and information systems
- Persistence, enthusiasm and intellectual curiosity

Training:

History graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring critical thinking, analytical and/or research skills. As the discipline of history constitutes a profession, a bachelor degree represents the necessary pre-requisite for formal recognition of scholarship and practice. To gain national accreditation, candidates generally require further academic qualifications combined with professional experience.

Courses offered by Deakin University include:

Bachelor of Arts (with a History major)

- Explores forces and events of 19th and 20th centuries and ways historians interpret them.
- Themes of war and peace, modernisation and social change, colonialism, nationalism and internationalism, gender and the Holocaust are given special attention.
- Students choose a sequence from units covering American, African-American, Asian, Australian and European histories.
- Aims to stimulate and challenge students to understand past human behaviour, 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 Analyst (history) - \$63-77,000

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

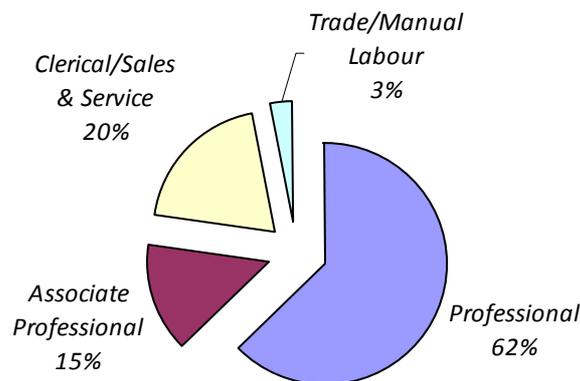


Figure 1. Level of occupation bachelor degree graduates in full-time work adapted from Deakin University 2006 Australian Graduate Survey.

Related Occupations:

Teaching

- History 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.

Administrative or managerial

- Multi-national corporations often recruit managerial trainees through university.
- Similar to history, management is about navigating complexity, development of strategic plans, evaluating past experience, contemplating the right decision, building human relationships and the 'reality' of the situation.
- History graduate attributes of sharp analytical, critical thinking, problem-solving and highly developed communication skills, are highly valued.

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.

Historical consultant

- Consultants or contract historians provide specialist knowledge or project-specific research services to organisations.
- Competitive nature of sector often relies on network of contacts to secure work.
- Level of expertise sought requires postgraduate qualifications (a Masters degree), a record of publication and admission as a professional historian in relevant state or territory.

Employers:

Examples of employers for history graduates include:

Australian Government – www.apsjobs.gov.au.

Museums – www.museumsaustralia.org.au.

Archives – www.archivists.org.au.

Multinational corporations

Local authorities – www.careers.vic.gov.au

Heritage specialists – www.artshub.com.au.

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites:

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

Graduate Opportunities – www.graduateopportunities.com

Unigad – www.unigrad.com.au

Seek – www.seek.com.au

Mycareer – www.mycareer.com.au

Career One - www.careerone.com.au

Professional Associations:

Australian Council of Professional Historians Associations Inc – www.historians.org.au

History Teachers' Association of Victoria – www.htav.asn.au/home

The Australian Historical Association – www.theaha.org.au

Oral History Association of Australia – www.ohaa.net.au

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