

# International Relations

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## About this area of study:

The forces of globalisation are generating profound effects on many spheres of economic, social and political activity. Consequently, a deeper understanding of international relations is becoming increasingly necessary in many areas of public and private life. As a discipline International Relations focuses on principal issues, concepts and theoretical debates concerned with understanding conflict and cooperation, and war and peace in contemporary international politics. Students examine issues of power, conflict, diplomacy, arms control, terrorism, civil society, foreign policy, humanitarian aid, human rights, environmental politics and the international political economy.

Key skills that International Relations graduates demonstrate include:

- Sophisticated knowledge of global issues, politics and cultures
- Strong conceptual analysis and consequential thinking
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Conflict resolution skills
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Research skills
- Knowledge of referencing and information systems

## Training:

International Relations graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring abstract conceptualisation, critical analysis, consequential thinking and strong writing skills. As International Relations constitutes a complementary field of study to Politics and Policy Studies, it is highly relevant for those considering a career in government, international humanitarian agencies, multilateral organisations, defence and intelligence, private consulting, research institutes and universities, or media organisations. Currently a bachelor degree represents the necessary pre-requisite for most avenues of employment, although demand amongst employers for further postgraduate academic qualifications (a Masters degree) as a pre-requisite appears to be increasing, as is demand for relevant international field experience.

Courses offered by Deakin University include:

### **Bachelor of Arts (with an International Relations major)**

- Students examine the international system of states before, during and after the Cold War, the nature of power and security, global issues, human rights and Australia's place in the world.
- Students develop an ability to distinguish declaratory policy from operational policy, develop policies within real-world contexts, and understand and explain international forces which shape our environment.
- Aims to stimulate and challenge students to understand conflict and cooperation, and war and peace in international politics, to develop discipline-specific skills and acquire highly valued critical, analytical, research and writing skills.

## Labour Market Information:

- Median salary for Arts Graduates - \$ 37,000
- Approximate salary for Journalist - \$45-50,000
- Approximate salary for Research Officer - \$45,600-55,000
- Approximate salary for International Project Management - \$55,000
- Approximate salary for Government Policy Analyst - \$55-61,000
- Salary for Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade Graduate Trainee - \$50,524

### 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%
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>556</b>	

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

### Where do Arts graduates go?

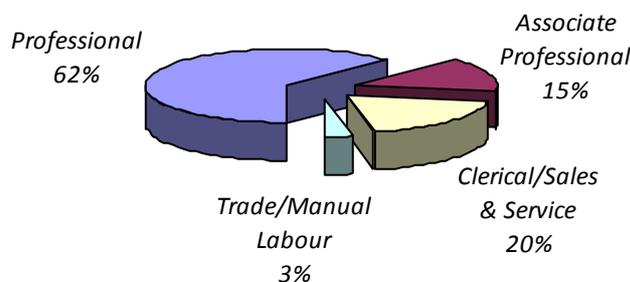


Figure 1. Level of occupation bachelor degree graduates in full-time work adapted from Deakin University 2006 Australian Graduate Survey.

## Related Occupations:

### International project officer

- Provide day-to-day administration of international aid or development projects funded by non-government organisations, such as World Vision, Oxfam, Austcare or Care Australia.
- Assist with infrastructure development, capacity building, health, human rights advocacy or environmental management strategies.
- Competitive nature often requires postgraduate academic qualification and experience.
- Employers are generally non-government organisations or private consultancy firms.

### Journalist

- Collect and analyse facts about newsworthy events from interviews, investigations and observations and compile stories for news bulletins, programs or commentary.
- Competitive nature of sector often relies on network of contacts to secure work.
- Can involve travel to remote international destinations experiencing conflict.

### Policy analyst or information officer

- Review existing policies and legislation to identify anomalies and outdated provisions.
- Research social, economic, political and development trends to formulate and make recommendations for policy options.
- Employers include government agencies, local authorities, educational institutions, professional associations, and advocacy groups or media organisations.

### Intelligence officer

- Organise the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of data to develop intelligence information systems.
- Conduct security surveys and inspections to enhance intelligence gathering.
- Make recommendations based upon combination of research and expert knowledge.

## Employers:

### Examples of employers for International Relations graduates include:

Australian Government – [www.apsjobs.gov.au](http://www.apsjobs.gov.au).

State Government – [www.careers.vic.gov.au](http://www.careers.vic.gov.au)

AusAID – [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – [www.dfat.gov.au/recruit/graduates](http://www.dfat.gov.au/recruit/graduates)

International development networks – [www.devnetjobs.org](http://www.devnetjobs.org)

United Nations – [www.jobs.un.org](http://www.jobs.un.org)

Human Rights Watch – [www.hrw.org/jobs](http://www.hrw.org/jobs)

Amnesty International – [www.web.amnesty.org/jobs](http://www.web.amnesty.org/jobs)

Cardno ACIL – [www.acil.com.au](http://www.acil.com.au)

**For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites:**

Deakin University Jobshop - [www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop](http://www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop)

Graduate Opportunities – [www.graduateopportunities.com](http://www.graduateopportunities.com)

Unigrad – [www.unigrad.com.au](http://www.unigrad.com.au)

Seek – [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)

Mycareer – [www.mycareer.com.au](http://www.mycareer.com.au)

Career One - [www.careerone.com.au](http://www.careerone.com.au)

**Professional Associations:**

Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria – [www.aiiavic.org.au](http://www.aiiavic.org.au)

United Nations Association of Victoria – [www.unaavictoria.org.au](http://www.unaavictoria.org.au)

Australian Council for International Development – [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)