

# International Studies

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## About this area of study:

The Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) is a course specifically designed for students who seek an international orientation to their studies, as it involves a commitment to a semester of study at an overseas university, internship at an international organisation or participation in an in-country language program. The benefits for students of International Studies is that they develop a systematic understanding of international forces shaping government, business and community life in contemporary Australia, and at the same time, develop a comparative understanding of other countries and societies. They also develop cross-cultural competencies through an internationally-oriented curriculum and a practical international study experience. As many employers seek staff with international knowledge or experience, International Studies graduates are competitively placed to decipher the challenges of operating in a globalised environment.

Key skills that International Studies graduates demonstrate include:

- Sophisticated knowledge of global issues, politics and foreign cultures
- Strong conceptualisation skills and interpretive analysis
- Critical thinking
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Research skills
- Knowledge of referencing and information systems
- Language skills

## Training:

International Studies graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring abstract conceptualisation, critical analysis and research skills. As International Studies students can choose from a number of complementary major sequences of study, it is highly relevant for those considering a career in government, international organisations, private consulting, research institutes and universities, or media organisations. Currently a bachelor degree represents the necessary pre-requisite for most avenues of employment in these sectors, with international experience adding a further highly valuable dimension.

Courses offered by Deakin University include:

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

- Students develop a comparative understanding of foreign countries and societies through internationally oriented curriculum, and a range of skills in analysis and interpretation of forces shaping social, political and economic aspects of contemporary Australia
- Students can choose a specialisation from anthropology, history, international development studies, international relations, language and culture studies, Middle East studies, politics and policy studies, sociology or language studies in Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian and Italian.
- Aims to stimulate a systematic understanding of international forces shaping government, business and community life to develop discipline-specific skills and acquire highly valued cross-cultural competencies through international experience.

## Labour Market Information:

- Median salary for Arts Graduates - \$ 37,000
- Approximate salary for Qualitative Research Officer - \$47-50,000
- Approximate salary for International Project Management - \$55,000
- Approximate salary for International Business Development Manager - \$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 International Studies graduates go after finishing?

Activity Category	Percent
Employed Full Time	36.4%
In Full Time Study	45.5%
Activity Part Time Not Seeking Full Time Work	4.5%
Unavailable for Full Time Work or Study	13.6%

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

## Where do Arts graduates go?

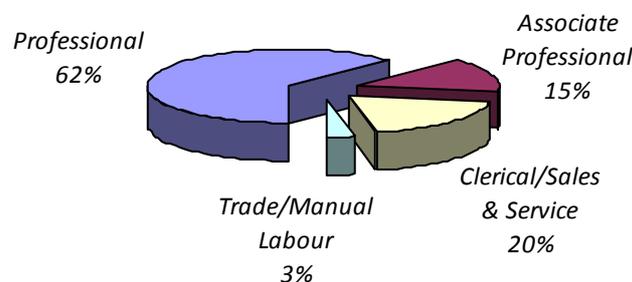


Figure 1. Level of occupation bachelor degree graduates in full-time work adapted from Deakin University 2006 Australian Graduate Survey.

## Related Occupations:

### **International project officer**

- Provide day-to-day administration of international aid or development projects funded by non-government organisations to 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.

### **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.

### **Administrative or managerial**

- Multi-national corporations often recruit managerial trainees through university.
- Management is about navigating complexity in a globalised environment, development of strategic plans, evaluating past experience, contemplating the right decision, building human relationships and researching new opportunities.
- International Studies graduates are well suited to this sector through their knowledge of global issues, politics and foreign cultures, critical thinking, good communication skills and capacity for language skills.

### **Anthropologist**

- Gather and analyse data on social and cultural behaviour, artefacts, language and human biology of groups and societies.
- Generally requires further postgraduate academic qualification and relevant experience as a pre-requisite for entry into the field.

### **Sociologist**

- Research and analyse the development, structure, social patterns and inter-relationships of human societies.
- Generally requires further postgraduate academic qualification and relevant experience as a pre-requisite for entry into the field.

### **Linguist**

- Research and analyse foreign languages and the social and cultural aspects of language.
- Generally requires further postgraduate academic qualification and relevant experience as a pre-requisite for entry into the field.

## Employers:

### Examples of employers for International Studies 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)

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

Multinational corporations

Social or market research institutes

### 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)

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

Australian Market and Social Research Society – [www.amsrs.com.au/index.cfm](http://www.amsrs.com.au/index.cfm)

Australasian Political Studies Association – [www.auspsa.anu.edu.au](http://www.auspsa.anu.edu.au)

Asian Studies Association of Australia – [www.coombs.anu.edu.au/ASAA](http://www.coombs.anu.edu.au/ASAA)

Australian Anthropological Society – [www.aas.asn.au](http://www.aas.asn.au)