

Philosophy

About this area of study:

Philosophy is essentially concerned with generating wisdom, in terms of understanding of the world we live in and how we should live in it. This means that philosophers are primarily concerned with answering questions about truth and value, and similarly, what's real and important; therefore challenging basic assumptions about every form of human inquiry. Whilst Philosophy is essentially concerned with the pursuit of wisdom, it also constitutes a discipline where students are just as concerned with thinking critically and creatively, of discussing big questions intelligently, and of developing a convincing argument. The value of developing high order skills in critical thinking and analysis, creative conceptualisation and cogent argumentation, is that they not only complement study in other subject areas, they also ensure Philosophy students are competitively placed for employment because of their ability to solve logic puzzles, resolve complex paradoxes and to prepare a persuasive argument.

Key skills that Philosophy graduates demonstrate include:

- Research and investigation skills
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Knowledge of referencing and information systems
- Good presentation skills
- Logical thinking and rationality
- Persuasiveness
- Intellectual curiosity

Training:

Philosophy graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring critical analysis, abstract conceptualisation, logical thought, and high order writing and presentation skills. Whilst the profession of Philosophy generally restricts employment opportunities to teaching or research at universities, the academic standard of the discipline and the skills it generates are equally relevant to any graduate non-discipline specific vacancy. This means a bachelor degree represents the necessary pre-requisite for entry as a graduate.

Courses offered by Deakin University include:

Bachelor of Arts (with Philosophy major)

- Provides an introduction to most central themes in contemporary philosophical studies.
- Focuses upon Asian philosophy and psychoanalysis and philosophy as practiced in continental Europe, to consider questions that deal with the nature of human existence, value, belief and purpose, and knowledge and belief.
- Aims to stimulate and challenge students to develop an understanding of philosophical issues arising in fields such as ethics, political values, knowledge systems, religion and interpersonal relationships, and at the same time acquire highly valued critical analysis, research and communication skills.

Labour Market Information:

- Median salary for Arts Graduates - \$ 37,000
- Approximate salary for Teacher - \$40-43,500
- Approximate salary for Qualitative Research Officer - \$47-50,000
- Approximate salary for Business Systems Analyst - \$53-58,000
- Approximate salary for Project Management - \$55,000
- Approximate salary for Government Policy Analyst - \$55,000
- Approximate salary for University Lecturer (Level B) - \$63,966-75,959

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.

What employment sectors do Arts graduates work in?

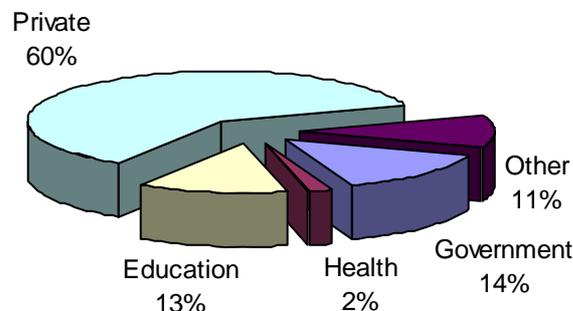


Figure 1. Employment sector of Australian bachelor degree graduates (Humanities) under 25 years of age 2006, adapted from Graduate Careers Australia, Gradsonline Website, October 2007.

Related Occupations:

Teaching

- Philosophy graduates may teach in universities and colleges.
- Generally requires postgraduate qualification of a Doctorate, combined with developed research interests and a good publication record.
- There is a great deal of competition for such positions.

Qualitative research

- Research, analyse and evaluate identified intellectual, social, political or economic interaction within society.
- Can involve large scale surveys, literature reviews, program evaluation, focus groups or in-depth interviews.
- Research nature of the position often requires a postgraduate academic qualification.
- Employers include educational institutions, professional associations, government agencies, advocacy groups or private consultancies.

Policy analyst

- Review existing policies and legislation, social, economic, industrial trends, and client expectations to identify anomalies and outdated provisions.
- Formulate and make recommendations for policy options based on combination of research, program evaluation and subject matter expertise.
- Employers include government agencies, local authorities, educational institutions, professional associations, and advocacy groups or media organisation

Project officer or management consultant

- Develop project plans which include consultation methodologies, subcontracting arrangements, deliverables and key performance indicators.
- Assist with day-to-day administration and implementation of project plan, facilitate stakeholder consultation and engagement, prepare performance reports and draft funding submissions.
- Employers are generally multinational corporations, private consultancy firms or not-for-profit organisations.

Employers:

Examples of employers for Philosophy graduates include:

Australian Government – www.apsjobs.gov.au.

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

Australian universities – www.aap.org.au/resources/departments.html

Multinational corporations

The Social Research Centre – www.srcentre.com.au

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:

Australasian Association of Philosophy – www.aap.org.au/resources/links.html

Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science –
www.usyd.edu.au/aahpsss

Australia Association for Professional and Applied Ethics –
www.aap.org.au/resources/links.html

Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy – www.ascp.org.au

Women in Philosophy – www.ascp.org.au