

# Social and political thought

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## About this area of study

Social and political thought is mainly about exploring more fully some of the major issues and debates that engage political and social thinking today. Located within the broader disciplines of Sociology and Political Science, it seeks to provide students with intellectual perspectives and approaches of various theoretical traditions, historical views, global political issues, ethical and social policies and the concepts of justice, democracy, citizenship and the social responsibilities of governments. Consideration is given to questions such as:

- how do societies function in local and global settings?
- what are the forces and great events that have shaped the modern world?
- how have different interpretations of the recent past emerged?
- what are the relationships between major social and political structures governing our society?
- what are the main factors shaping people's lives in national and international contexts?

Key skills that Social and Political Thought graduates demonstrate include:

- sophisticated knowledge of political issues and policy debates.
- strong conceptual analysis, critical thinking and analysis
- understanding conflict
- good written and oral communication skills
- research skills
- knowledge of referencing and information systems

## Training

Social and Political Thought graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring abstract conceptualisation, critical analysis, consequential thinking and strong writing and verbal presentation skills. As Social and Political Thought constitutes a complementary field of study to International Relations, it is highly relevant for those considering a career in government, international 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.

Graduates with social science/humanities skills can find employment within the public and private sectors. These include:

- Federal, State and Local Governments in the areas of industrial relations, criminal justice work, policy development and implementation, case management, group work with youth or the elderly, urban planning, teaching, general administration, migrant and multicultural affairs.
- Community and Non-profit Organisations in administration, overseas aid and development agencies, social research and policy development
- Business in consumer or social research, public relations, publishing, personnel work, training.

- Research assistant work within a university

Graduates also develop more specialised skills by electing to do postgraduate studies in any of the following areas for example:

- Children's Literature, Cultural Heritage, Educators , Higher Education , International and Community Development , International Relations , Journalism , Languages , Literary Studies , Media and Communication , Planning , Politics and Policy , Professional Education and Training, Public Relations , Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Specialised skills and knowledge are required for:

- work involving social groups and social processes, such as minority and ethnic groups, crime and substance abuse, youth issues, family matters, industrial relations, poverty and globalisation.
- social research - devising surveys, collecting data, and conducting interviews and fieldwork, including the analysis, interpretation and presentation of the information collected.
- social policy and planning in community development, cultural resource management and in social justice issues

## Courses offered by Deakin University

**Bachelor of Arts** (with Social and Political Thought major): is proposed to consist of a balance of units which will provide a supplement to the primary majors in which students intend to study at Honours level.

**Other Courses:** Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Health Sciences/Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of teaching (Secondary)/Bachelor of Arts

## What do Humanities graduates do after finishing their courses?

Working	71.3%
Searching	28.7%
Studying	37.0%

This chart shows the percentage of graduates available for full-time employment, who were "Working" full-time or "Searching" for full-time employment. The total percentage of graduates "Studying" is derived from the total number of survey respondents (<http://www.gradsonline.com.au>).

## Labour Market Information (<http://www.gradsonline.com.au>)

- Median salary for Humanities Graduates - \$ 37,000

What sectors do Humanities graduates work in? (<http://www.gradsonline.com.au>)

Government	13.9%
Health	1.9%
Education	12.6%
Private	60.7%
Other	10.9%

**Examples of government and industry sectors where arts graduates may find employment are:**

Federal, state & local government, ministerial offices, political parties, electorate offices, advocacy & lobby groups, political analysis groups, intelligence agencies, embassies and consulates, foreign affairs, trade unions, not for profit organisations, corporate sector, social research groups, media, print, broadcast and online media, project officer or management

**Related Occupations:**

**Qualitative research**

- Research, analyse and evaluate identified elements of 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.

**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.

**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.

**Teaching**

- Politics and Policy Studies 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.

## Employers

### Examples of employers for Arts graduates include:

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

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

Local Government – [www.job-directory.com.au](http://www.job-directory.com.au)

Business Council of Australia – [www.bca.com.au](http://www.bca.com.au)

Media organisations – [www.aimia.com.au/weblinks/media\\_outlets](http://www.aimia.com.au/weblinks/media_outlets)

The Social Research Centre – [www.srcentre.com.au](http://www.srcentre.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 Association:

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