Politics and Policy Studies

About this area of study

As a field of study, Politics and Policy Studies is predominantly concerned with understanding the exercise of power in its many forms. As part of Political Science, Politics and Policy Studies seeks to provide students with concepts that can explain, justify and criticise contemporary society, organisations, institutions, and practices. Analysing the relationship between power and authority encourages students to develop an understanding of the current political and social challenges faced by governments and organisations at local, national and global levels in an era of globalisation and rapid change. Identifying principle concepts, issues and key theoretical debates enables students to consider larger issues of power, conflict and cooperation. Analysis of various institutions allows students to develop a comprehensive knowledge of the organisation of government.

Politics and Policy Studies graduates are intellectually trained for any position requiring abstract conceptualisation, critical analysis, consequential thinking and strong writing skills. As Politics and Policy Studies 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.

Key skills that Politics and Policy Studies graduates demonstrate include

- sophisticated knowledge of political issues and policy debates
- 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

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Arts (with Politics and Policy Studies major)
- Bachelor of Arts (International Studies)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

- Qualitative research
- Intelligence officer
- Project officer or management consultant
- Journalism
- Teaching

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

Australian Government www.apsjobs.gov.au

State Government www.careers.vic.gov.au

Local Government www.job-directory.com.au

Municipal Association of Victoria www.mav.asn.au

Business Council of Australia www.bca.com.au

United Nations www.jobs.un.org

Amnesty International www.amnesty.org/en/jobs

Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org/en/about/jobs

Media organisations www.aimia.com.au/weblinks/media_outlets

The Social Research Centre www.srcentre.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

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

International development networks www.devnetjobs.org

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

Australasian Political Studies Association www.auspsa.anu.edu.au

Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria www.aiia.asn.au

United Nations Association of Victoria www.unaavictoria.org.au