International Relations

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.

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.

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

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Arts (with an International Relations 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

- International project officer
- Journalist
- Policy analyst or information officer
- Intelligence officer

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

AusAID www.ausaid.gov.au

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade www.dfat.gov.au/jobs/graduates

United Nations www.jobs.un.org

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

Amnesty International www.amnesty.org/en/jobs

Cardno ACIL www.acil.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

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

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

Australian Council for International Development www.acfid.asn.au