

What can I do with a degree in **Political Science?**

Political Science is the study of political structures, processes and policies in Australia and other societies. It addresses political problems and processes by analysing, advising and reviewing ideas, ideologies and theories that shape political decision-making, and presents different approaches to cooperation and conflict resolution within the international system. Political scientists analyse the theory, origin, development, interrelationships and functioning of political institutions, as well as the movements of individual, group and mass political behaviour and their relationship to society and the economy. Knowledge of political science is essential for providing advice to governments, politicians, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders in the political system.

A degree majoring in Political Science will provide you with an excellent grounding in clear and rigorous thinking, a skill valued in all sectors of the workplace.

You can also expect to develop flexible, broadly based skills in writing, analysis and synthesis of information, research, and policymaking, plus a range of other transferable skills, such as teamwork and communication, through your academic study, employment, voluntary work, sporting activities and general life experience. Recognising the value employers place on these skills is an important factor in your graduate job search.

The flexibility and versatility of a degree in Political Science means that you have a variety of choices when it comes to industries and sectors to enter. The possibilities are broad and depend on your skill set and interests. So, when looking for a job, consider all your options. Employers seek candidates who have the skills to do the job, the passion for their products or services, and the personality to fit in their team. Your university career service can help you identify those aspects.



Career opportunities

Political Science graduates are employed in a wide range of occupations, sectors and industries, including government and policy, defence, intelligence services, diplomacy, foreign affairs, consulting, community services, not-for-profit organisations, business, marketing, the arts and media, humanitarian services, and international development. Employers include but are not limited to:

- Federal, state and local government
- Chambers of Commerce, national and international
- Embassies and consulates worldwide
- Foreign embassies and consulates in Australia
- Australia Business Councils
- Financial institutes/banks worldwide
- Governments worldwide
- Communication and social media worldwide
- Financial institutes



Research, strategic roles and alternative career paths

Graduates also work in a range of careers anywhere that places a premium on skills such as academic problem solving and critical analysis, preparing papers in line with the protocols and conventions of the discipline, and communication.

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, Graduate Opportunities, lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You may be surprised by the range of employers recruiting graduates from your degree and the workplace sectors in which to establish a career.

Some graduates have the opportunity to develop leadership and management skills while studying that make them more competitive in areas of advanced practice, management and other strategic roles, and so enhance their opportunities for management positions. Alternative career options include sales or marketing and communications, either in advertising, media or public relations.

Other Political Science graduates continue to study (research or coursework) or decide to increase their knowledge by studying another discipline, such as Public Policy, Business, International Relations, Law, and other professional fields using their Political Science education as a foundation for future studies.

Professional associations and graduate career information

To keep abreast of the latest research and developments, consider becoming an affiliate member of your relevant professional association – it's a great way to meet people in your field and potentially find employment opportunities. Professional associations exist in every

field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events.

Job search strategies

If you are interested in a particular sector or industry, take the time to research and better understand the requirements for graduate roles. You may find roles and organisations that you didn't even know existed. Researching companies in the industry of your choice will help you understand organisational structures and business models. Check job search websites, industry associations, company websites, your career service and more. Get yourself out there, meet with industry professionals and network as much as you can. Once armed with your degree, be prepared to start in an entry-level position and work your way up.

Some practical tips

Search the internet using both broad and narrow search terms such as 'politics jobs Australia' or 'government jobs Brisbane' to generate results for employers, job search engines and recruitment agencies that have advertised relevant vacancies.

You can then use this information to start creating email alerts and have job vacancies sent directly to you. Visit relevant companies' webpages to find out about other opportunities, including entry-level, graduate or other related positions.

If positions on job search engines provide the name of the recruiting company, visit its website and check for other employment opportunities. If possible, apply directly from the company website.

Graduate Careers Australia (graduatecareers.com.au) and Job Outlook (joboutlook.gov.au/Career.aspx) provide general careers information, including career prospects and remuneration details.

Online vacancies and other useful links

Australian employers

Australian government departments and agencies
Australian museums
Australian newspapers
Australian political parties
Australian publishers and booksellers
Australian universities
City Council vacancies
Defence Jobs Australia
Electoral commissions
Federal lobbyists
Foreign embassies

Foreign consulates
Law firms
Market and social research companies
Media and Advertising Industry Directory
NGOs and interest groups
Queensland government departments
Recruitment consultants
Trade unions
Graduate Opportunities (Graduate recruitment directory)
Pro Bono Australia

International opportunities

Academic careers (academic vacancies worldwide)	academiccareers.com
Austrade	austrade.gov.au/About/Employment/International-opportunities-for-Australians
Contact Singapore	contactsingapore.sg
EU recruitment	ec.europa.eu
Eurograduate live (specialist European graduate recruitment)	eurograduate.eu
Globalgrad	globalgrad.uq.edu.au
Going Global (more than 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK and US, with global key employer directories, work permits and visa regulations, country specific cultural and interviewing advice and more)	goingglobal.com
GradIreland.com (specialist Irish graduate recruitment)	GradIreland.com
Idealist.org (paid and voluntary positions in not-for-profit organisations globally)	Idealist.org
Prospects Web UK (specialist UK graduate recruitment)	prospects.ac.uk
United Nations graduate internships	careers.un.org

Professional bodies/general career information

Australasian Political Studies Association	auspsa.org.au
Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	aiatsis.gov.au
Eco-politics Association of Australia	ecopolitics.org.au
Institute of Professional Editors	iped-editors.org
Institute of Public Administration Australia	ipaa.org.au
Professional Historians Association of Queensland	qldhistorians.org.au
Royal Australian Historical Society	rahs.org.au
Job Outlook	joboutlook.gov.au

For further details, please contact:

Careers Service

Student Employability Centre
careers@uq.edu.au
employability.uq.edu.au/find-a-job



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