



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND ARTS

## Major Description

The focus of this major is to provide students with a strong understanding of all aspects of international affairs, including foreign policy, international relations, Australia's place in the World, and in so far as they impact on policy making, religion, ethnicity and nationalism. Related themes and electives cover diplomacy, strategic and defence studies, foreign languages, trade negotiations, terrorism, areas studies, international organisation and globalisation.

This is an expanding area especially in the public policy. Recruiting occurs in various government departments, in particular the Intelligence community, Defence and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Positions attained through the government and/or through the private sector will often lead you overseas. Some of our successful recent graduates have found work as diplomats, defence intelligence analysts and other areas of public policy.

The diplomatic service attempts to advance Australia's interests on the international stage. Working in this area may involve writing or editing foreign policy, negotiating international agreements, providing assistance to Australians overseas, or working in one of over 80 Embassies, Consulates or High Commissions in a number of countries around the world. Competitive graduate positions are available. Many graduates who get accepted into these programmes speak more than one language, have some travel experience, and have been members of university clubs within this field.

International businesses include multinational organisations, import-export companies, consultant agencies, contracting firms, as well as other business that have clients outside of Australia. Often the positions offered by these types of companies will include sales representatives, market analysts, consultants, financiers, and management personnel. To attain work in some of these businesses you may need to link your Arts degree with another degree or otherwise tailor your courses to the particular field you would like to follow. If you are unsure of which courses you are able to take speak to your program officer.

An example of postgraduate courses that may be undertaken in this field at the University of Newcastle include the Graduate Certificate in Social Change and Development or the Master of Social Change and Development. Many of our students go onto postgraduate research and the University has produced a number of PhDs on topics such as Australian-Indonesian relations, Australia and the Anglo-American Alliance, Defence, Intelligence and International Law. There are, in addition, many Honours and Masters theses they have been researched at the University.

[View major](#) within the Program Handbook

## **Sample Job Titles (click for description)**

[Administrator](#)  
[Aid Worker](#)  
[Campaign Manager](#)  
[Customs Officer](#)  
[Diplomat/Foreign Affairs and Trade Officers](#)  
[Foreign Correspondent](#)  
[Graduate Programs – Public and Private Service](#)  
[Immigration Officer](#)  
[Intelligence Officer](#)  
[International Admissions Officer](#)  
[International Exchange Coordinator](#)  
[Journalist](#)  
[Law Clerk](#)  
[Lawyer – International Law](#)  
[Multicultural Affairs Liaison](#)  
[National Archives researchers](#)  
[Parliamentarian/Politician](#)  
[Policy Officer](#)  
[Program Manager/Project Coordinator](#)  
[Project Worker](#)  
[Public Service](#)  
[Research Officer](#)  
[Speechwriter](#)  
[University Lecturer](#)  
[War Memorial Researcher](#)  
[Writer](#)

## **Sample Employers**

Austrade <http://www.austrade.gov.au/employment/default.aspx>  
Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) <http://www.acfid.asn.au/>  
Australian Customs Service <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=4230>  
Australian Defence Force [www.defence.gov.au/](http://www.defence.gov.au/)  
BHP Billiton <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/home.jsp>

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry <http://www.daff.gov.au/>  
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations <http://www.dewr.gov.au/>  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [www.dfat.gov.au/](http://www.dfat.gov.au/)  
Department of Immigration and Citizenship <http://www.diac.gov.au/>  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs [www.immi.gov.au/](http://www.immi.gov.au/)  
Government State/Local/Federal  
International Banks  
International Human Rights Organisations – Amnesty International  
<http://www.amnesty.org.au/>  
Overseas Aid Organisations - AUSAID [www.usaid.gov.au/](http://www.usaid.gov.au/)  
- Care Australia [www.careaustralia.org.au/](http://www.careaustralia.org.au/)  
- Oxfam Community Aid Abroad [www.oxfam.org.au/](http://www.oxfam.org.au/)  
- Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org.au/default.asp> etc

Overseas Exchange Organisations  
United Nations <http://www.unaa.org.au/>  
Universities <http://unijobs.holon.net/>  
World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>  
World Health Organisation <http://www.who.int/en/>

## **Prospects and Salary Information:**

<http://jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook/default.aspx> is an excellent site to find salary information like weekly earnings, type of work and industry prospects. You can browse occupations by industry category, alphabetically or by performing a search.

Click the occupations below for a sample some of the jobs covered or follow the link above to do your own search.

- [Interpreters and Translators](#)
- [Human Resource Officer](#)
- [Journalist](#)
- [Public Servant](#)

### **Industry and Association Contacts**

Associations and societies often provide relevant and up to date information about a variety of issues relating to specific industry sectors. These can be a good starting point to learn more about careers through profiles, industry news, links to academic journals and information on research developments. Many also offer student membership, conference information, newsletters and the opportunity to participate in projects.

Below are links to a variety of international affairs career related societies and associations that you might find interesting.

- The **Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA)** - <http://aiia.asn.au/index.html> is a good way of keeping abreast of international issues, news, programmes, and discussions, and their effect on Australia. This site also advertises jobs with various organisations, and provides information and links to international aid agencies including the Foreign Policy Association.

### **Some Government Sites**

- **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)** - <http://www.dfat.gov.au/jobs/index.html> offers a number of different types of positions from graduate programmes, indigenous cadetships, temporary employment, and general careers.
- The **Foreign Policy Association Website** - <http://www.fpa.org/> lists a variety of international jobs.

### **Some Not For Profit Organisations**

- **Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)** - <http://www.acfid.asn.au/information> is an independent national association of Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) working in the field of international aid and development. The site provides information about job vacancies, upcoming events, international projects, internships, volunteer work, countries the organisations are working in, and links to these organisations.
- **Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD)** - <http://www.imtd.org/> a non-profit organisation, which is involved in assessing key variables in deep rooted conflicts in both conflict and post-conflict settings, and facilitate peace building by facilitating conflict prevention, management, and transformation within various affected countries. IMTD has a number of projects in a variety of countries. They take on interns as well as volunteers.

### **Other organisations which provide useful information**

<http://jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au/search.cfm> job descriptions

<http://www.graduatecareers.com.au/content/view/full/25> Graduate Careers Australia industry career profiles