

Careers for Gender Studies Majors

There are a great many career fields which build on studies in Gender Studies. In exploring options, reflect on the skills you have developed through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

Skills and knowledge acquired in the Gender Studies major

Gender Studies students at Melbourne develop a unique set of skills drawn from methods and approaches adopted by both the Humanities and Social Sciences. These include competences in creative and critical thinking, powers of textual and visual analysis, and proficiency in writing and communication.

Career fields which build on these skills and knowledge

The table below lists a range of careers which make use of studies in Gender Studies. The list is not definitive – depending on your own interests and experiences, there may well be other ways to build on your major.

For more information on career fields listed in the table:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options

(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Next Steps

The table also provides some information about ‘next steps’ ie what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether graduate study is required or whether immediate employment is possible.

There are two employment types for Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/find_a_job/professional_and_graduate_work

Career field	Employment setting	Next Steps: Employment and/or graduate study
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Politics, public policy – research, analysis, advice	Government/Public Service Policy Institutes, Think Tanks NGOs, special interest organisations	Graduate Employment Programs with Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum), or Graduate study – Public Policy, Social Policy
Creative Arts	Design studios, galleries, museums, theatre, self-employed	Career-entry employment, or relevant further study
Research	Universities, research institutes	Graduate research study – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum)
International Development	Government/Public service, NGOs	Graduate Employment Programs Graduate research study – Honours, Masters and/or PhD; or Graduate study – Development
Social/Urban Planning	Local government Consultancies	Graduate study - Urban Planning or Social Planning, or Graduate research study – Honours/Masters/PhD, or Social Work
Public Health	Government/Public service, health and community organisations	Graduate study – Public Health
Social Work	Community-based organisations, hospitals, government	Graduate study – Social Work
Journalism and Media	Media organisations – television, radio, online and print	Graduate study – Journalism Some cadetships possible for non-media/journalism graduates – most likely in rural/regional areas
Human Resources eg equity roles	Any organisation with in-house HR, or	Post BA employment (both Graduate Employment Programs or general job

	HR consultancies	market) - most likely if other relevant studies e.g. breadth studies in Management/Human Resources, Psychology – and/or work experience, e.g. Arts Internship subject, or Graduate study – Human Resources
Teaching/ Educating	Secondary schools	Graduate study – Teaching (requires studies to cover 2 ‘learning areas’ – refer to guidelines – Master of teaching site)
	Universities	Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD

What other careers could I consider?

Gender Studies majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related to the study of gender but make use of transferable skills and/or pick up on other interests.

- **Careers via graduate study** – many careers are available via graduate study which is accessible to Bachelor of Arts graduates; these include both Arts-related careers eg Information Management/Librarianship, International Development; and careers in more diverse fields such as Nursing, Information Systems, Accounting.
- **Careers via Graduate Employment Programs** - in addition to government, some other large organisations have programs open to all disciplines where graduates are generally recruited for general management careers. Some management consultancies also consider applicants from all disciplines. Opportunities are advertised (generally early each year) on *Careers Online*, and graduate recruitment sites eg Graduate Opportunities, GradConnection.

Further research

For more information on career fields listed in the table:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Other discussions about what you can do with a major in Gender Studies:

- University of Tennessee <http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors/>
- University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand:
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/Resources/career_publications/career_view/index.aspx

Professional Associations:

Australian Political Studies Association (ASPA)

Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association (AWGSA)

Other related associations:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options

(Career Exploration – Professional Associations by Degree - Arts)

Graduate study at University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>

<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Researching courses which are not offered at Melbourne: www.myfuture.edu.au