

Careers for Australian Indigenous Studies Majors

There are a great many career fields which build on the subjects that comprise the Australian Indigenous Studies major. 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.

What skills and knowledge do I develop by studying Australian Indigenous Studies?

As a student of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne you will develop strong critical and analytical skills; the ability to communicate knowledge and arguments intelligibly; and critical self-reflexivity. Specifically, you will develop deep and nuanced intellectual positions in relation to complex historical and contemporary issues in Australia. Self-reflexivity, combined with critical engagement skills, will allow you to consider these issues from complex and multifaceted perspectives. These skills and knowledges are applicable to, and will prepare you for, a career in a wide-range of professions. Graduates of Australian Indigenous Studies have gone on to successful careers in the not-for-profit sector, Indigenous Affairs at both State and Federal level, corporate organisations, cultural institutions, education, journalism, publishing, and academia – five of our recent graduates have gone on to higher degrees at New York, Oxford, Cambridge and Columbia Universities.

What careers build on these skills and knowledge?

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

More information on many of these career areas is available at:

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
Policy work – particularly in the areas of Indigenous Affairs	Government/public sector	Employment in Government – local, state, federal Government. Research, analyst, policy adviser, stakeholder relations officer, heritage officer.
Corporate Social Responsibility	Corporate Sector	Employment in Indigenous areas of corporate organisations - Reconciliation Action Plan officer, Indigenous Employment advisor, community relations officer.
Not-for-Profit Sector	Community Organisations	Employment in a range of not-for-profit organisations – Research officer, policy advisor, community relations officer, Indigenous programs advisor.
Cultural organisations	Government/public sector	Employment in Galleries, Museums, Film Organisations, Sporting Organisations.
Arts Management	Arts organisations	Relevant experience or graduate study – Master of Arts & Cultural Management.
Journalism	Media organisations – television, radio, online and print	Graduate study – Journalism Cadetships – prospects enhanced by relevant work experience eg Arts Internship subject
Publishing and editing	Publishing houses ‘In house’ communications	Roles possible post BA (eg Editorial Assistant, Indigenous content editor) - prospects enhanced by relevant work experience eg Arts Internship subject, and/or Graduate study – Master of Publishing and Editing.
Teaching/ Educating	Secondary schools Universities	Graduate study – Teaching (requires studies to cover 2 ‘learning areas’ – refer to guidelines – Master of Teaching site) Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD
Research (academic)	Universities, research institutes	Graduate research study – Honours/ Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum)

What other careers can I consider?

Australian Indigenous Studies majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related 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 Journalism, Information Management/Librarianship, International Development; and careers in more diverse fields such as Legal Work, Urban Planning, Housing, Health and Population Studies area.
- **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.

Where can I find out more?

Further information on career areas:

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 Australian Indigenous Studies:

- University of Melbourne, AIS: <http://culture-communication.unimelb.edu.au/study-areas/australian-indigenous-studies>
- Charles Darwin University: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/indigenous/workexperience.html>
- University of Calgary: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/admissions/indigeneous>

Professional 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

