

POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAREER SNAPSHOT

BOOST YOUR PROSPECTS

Explore your options and set career goals

Build your networks

Gain experience

Fine tune your job search skills

Show initiative and stand out

For further ideas access the [JCU Job Ready](#)

Politics & IR

If you want to have influence on a global level via policymaking, diplomacy, economics and/or analytics then a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Politics and International Relations (IR) may be the most appropriate field of study for you.

IR is the study of the interconnectedness of politics, history, government, policy (domestic and international), and foreign relations on a global level. It also examines Australia in world affairs, particularly on its global position and role.

The scope of IR encompasses issues such as globalisation, diplomatic relations, state sovereignty, international security, ecological sustainability, nationalism, economic development, global finance, terrorism, and human rights.

Politics and IR degrees help students to learn to represent the public based on their understanding of social dynamics, as well as the international relations between nations. Political science graduates work on improving society at the level of state institutions, working in governmental and diplomatic institutions, public affairs, as government officers, or as politicians.

Retrieved from [Studyportals](#), September 2020



Retrieved from [Job Outlook](#), September 2020

Career Paths

Common job opportunities for Politics and International Relations graduates are:

- Foreign Policy Officer
- Policy and/or Intelligence Analyst
- Diplomatic Service Officer
- Government Social Research Officer
- International aid/development worker
- Political risk analyst
- Public Affairs Consultant
- Public policy analyst
- Research / academia
- Politician
- Electorate Officers
- Campaign Managers

Please note, some jobs may require further study or training.

Over 540 JCU Alumni detail International Relations in their [LinkedIn](#) profiles. The current top five employers listed are:

- James Cook University
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- University of Melbourne
- The University of Queensland
- Queensland Department of Education

Nearly 2000 JCU Alumni list Politics in their [LinkedIn](#) profiles. The current top five employers listed are:

- James Cook University
- Queensland Department of Education
- The Australian National University
- Department of Transport
- Queensland Government

Retrieved from [JCU LinkedIn](#), September 2020

The JCU LinkedIn page provides detailed information on current and past employers and positions held by Politics and IR graduates.

Job Opportunities

For job opportunities in the sector check out the following websites:

- [Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Careers](#)
- [Young Australians in International Affairs – jobs, internships, and opportunities board \(domestic and international\)](#)
- [IntJobs: International Affairs Jobs](#)
- [International Labor Organization: Jobs](#)
- [United Nations Careers](#)

Online job boards

- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Government Graduate Programs](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [JCU Careerhub](#)

Please note, JCU does not endorse any of the organisations detailed.

Professional Associations

Students are encouraged to investigate Professional Associations relevant to the discipline of Politics and International Relations and to consider student memberships.

Membership in a professional organisation is a clear signal to employers about commitment to a student's area of interest and professional development.

The benefits of membership include access to industry news, jobs vacancies, and other professional development opportunities (both domestic and international).

The following Professional Associations (both domestic and international) are worth investigating:

- [Australian Political Studies Association](#)
- [Young Australians in International Affairs](#)
- [Australian Institute of International Affairs](#)
- [International Political Science Association](#)
- [International Association for Political Science Students](#)

Placements & Internships

Gaining career relevant experience whilst studying can improve students' job prospects and confidence. Students are able to apply and develop their knowledge and skills, provide evidence of experience, grow their professional networks and gain greater awareness of workplace policies and procedures.

An industry [placement](#) is an option in the BA final year capstone subject -- Arts Edge [BA3000](#). It is a strongly recommended option to pursue.

To gain a competitive edge, BA students may seek to undertake additional paid or unpaid **internships** or work experience during their studies.

Internships are competitive and applicants need to demonstrate high levels of initiative and competence.

These opportunities are advertised on:

- employer websites and social media sites e.g. [Australian Government](#), [Queensland Government](#),
- online jobs boards e.g. [Seek](#), [CareerOne](#)
- Graduate Recruitment Directories e.g. [GradConnection](#), [GradAustralia](#)

Check the following websites for internship opportunities in the sector (both domestic and international):

- [United Nations Careers: Internship programme](#)
- [International Labour Organization](#)
- [Young Australians in International Affairs](#)
- [International Association for Political Science Students](#)

Volunteer work

Volunteering is a great way to form professional networks, develop work skills and stand out from the crowd. Many employers value evidence of volunteer work.

Volunteering enables students to experience different work environments plus demonstrate their values and the causes they care about. Students are recommended to consider:

- Volunteering for opportunities presented through their degree
- Becoming a [JCU Student Mentor](#)
- Becoming involved in community organisations, particularly in areas related to politics and international relations

Opportunities are advertised through:

- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory](#)
- [United Nations Volunteers Online Volunteering](#)
- [State Library of Queensland Digital Volunteers](#)
- Consider becoming a [Justice of the Peace](#)

Further Study Options

Honours

An Honours year is available to high-achieving BA Politics and International Relations major students. It consists of extra study and the development of a personal research project and thesis.

An honours degree enables you to explore a topic in greater depth and demonstrates to employers, academic achievement and advanced research and writing skills.

Visit the [Bachelor of Arts handbook](#) for eligibility information.

Postgraduate Coursework

The Bachelor of Arts lays an excellent foundation for many professions which can be accessed via postgraduate coursework study.

BA graduates may choose to enter professions such as law, teaching, strategic planning and consultancy, international development via further graduate coursework study.

Visit [JCU Postgraduate courses](#) for availability and further course details.

Postgraduate Research

Graduates interested in a career in **research and/or academia** generally undertake an Honours year in the field of study in which the graduate has majored.

This is typically followed by further graduate research study, either Masters or PhD. Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) comprise of a program of supervised original research in a chosen discipline.

Completing a JCU HDR gives students an internationally recognised research qualification and advanced transferable skills enabling you to contribute to original knowledge in your field of research.

Visit www.jcu.me/find-an-advisor for information on research interests of JCU staff and HDR advisors.

Graduate Programs

Graduate programs are structured professional development positions offered to recent, top-level graduates as many place emphasis on the development of future organisational leaders.

Opportunities exist within both the public and private sectors and successful applicants are provided on-the-job training, mentoring within the organisation and professional development.

Students apply for graduate programs during **their final year of study** for commencement of employment in the following year. Students must check graduate program portals from the beginning of final year to ensure they do not miss out.

Graduate programs are advertised through employers' own websites and social media, the Graduate Recruitment Directories [GradAustralia](#) and [GradConnection](#) and the [Australian](#) and [State](#) government online graduate portals.