

POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CAREER SNAPSHOT



BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS



Explore your options and set career goals



Build your networks



Gain course relevant experience



Fine tune your job application skills



Show initiative, engage in extra-curricular activities and stand out

For further ideas access the [JCU Job Ready: Steps to Employment Success](#)

Politics & International Relations

If you want to have influence on a global level via policymaking, diplomacy 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.

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

Career Paths

Job opportunities for Politics and International Relations graduates are:

- Foreign Policy Officer
- Policy and/or Intelligence Analyst
- Diplomatic Service Officer
- Government Social Research Officer

- Political Risk Analyst
- Public Affairs Consultant
- Public Policy Analyst
- Politician
- Electorate Officer
- Campaign Manager

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

JCU Alumni (graduates) on LinkedIn

The **James Cook University LinkedIn** page provides detailed information on current and past employers and positions held by Politics and IR graduates.

Over 400 **JCU Alumni** (graduates) list International Relations and Politics within their LinkedIn profile. The top fields of employment listed include:

- Legal
- Operations
- Research
- Community and Social Services

Employers include:

- James Cook University
- The Australian National University
- Queensland Parliament
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Retrieved: [JCU LinkedIn](#), December 2022.

Identify Job Opportunities

For job opportunities in the sector check the following websites:

- [Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Careers](#)
- [Young Australians in International Affairs – jobs, internships, and opportunities](#)

[board \(domestic and international\)](#)

- [Int Jobs: International Affairs Jobs](#)
- [International Labour Organization: Jobs](#)
- [United Nations Careers](#)

More general opportunities:

- [Seek](#)
- [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- [JCU CareerHub](#)
- [CareerOne](#)
- [Smart jobs Queensland Govt](#)
- [APSJobs Australian Public Service recruitment](#)

Graduate Recruitment sites

- [GradAustralia](#)
- [GradConnection](#)
- [Queensland Government Graduate Portal](#)
- [Australian Government Graduate Portal](#)

Research Employer Expectations

Researching job vacancy listings will give you an understanding of the range of employment **opportunities** for Arts graduates with majors in Politics and / or International Relations. Vacancy listing will also increase your awareness of **employer expectations**.

It is important you work towards gaining the **skills, attributes, knowledge and experience** you identify as expected by employers to ensure you are competitive when entering the graduate labour market.

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 your area of interest and professional development.

The benefits of membership include access to industry news, jobs vacancies, and other professional development opportunities.

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](#)

Career Relevant Experience

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, cadetships, vacation work or other work experience** during their studies.

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

Opportunities are advertised on employer websites and social media sites, online job boards and Graduate Recruitment sites.

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](#)

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
- Becoming a [Justice of the Peace](#)

Opportunities are advertised through:

- [FNQ Volunteers](#)
- [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- [Townsville Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [Cairns Community Directory - volunteering](#)
- [United Nations Volunteers](#)
- [State Library of Queensland Digital Volunteers](#)

Further Study Options

Honours

A Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree is available for high-achieving 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. It is usually essential for entry into research higher degrees.

Visit the [Bachelor of Arts \(Honours\) 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 accounting,

teaching, and social work via further graduate coursework study.

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

Postgraduate Research

Graduates interested in a career in **research, academia or developing higher level skills and knowledge** may undertake an Honours year in the field of study in which they have majored.

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

Completing a JCU higher degree by research will give you an internationally recognised research qualification and advanced transferable skills.

Visit [JCU Research Portfolio](#) for information on research interests of JCU staff and higher degree by research advisors.

Graduate Programs

Graduate programs are **structured professional development positions** offered to recent graduates. Successful applicants are provided on the job training, mentoring and professional development within the organization.

Many larger organisations will run several different graduate programs in different parts of their business. It's worth keeping an open mind; the core business of an organisation may not appear to have relevance to politics and international relations however they may highly value skills you have gained within your studies such as research/analysis.

Graduate programs generally recruit students through **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' websites (eg. the [Australian](#) and [Queensland](#) government graduate portals) and through the graduate recruitment sites, [GradAustralia](#) and [GradConnection](#).