

Careers for Sociology Majors

There are a great many career fields which build on studies in Sociology. 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 Sociology?

- Critical thinking
- Research skills
- Interpreting data
- Writing reports
- Presentations

What careers build on these skills and knowledge?

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

More information on many of these career fields 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.

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
Public policy – research, analysis, advice	Government/Public Service	Graduate Employment Programs with Australian government, State governments - either after BA, or after BA Hons or graduate study eg

	<p>Policy Institutes, Think Tanks</p> <p>NGOs, special interest organisations</p>	<p>Public Policy, Social Policy</p> <p>Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum), or</p> <p>Graduate study – Public Policy, Social Policy</p>
Academia/Research	Universities, research institutes	Graduate research study – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum)
Market and applied social research	Market and social research consultancies	<p>Variety of pathways:</p> <p>Career-entry employment (both Graduate Employment Programs and general job market) – enhanced by other relevant studies – e.g. Marketing breadth, Media & Communications or Psychology subjects, or</p> <p>Graduate research study – Honours/Masters/PhD, or</p> <p>Graduate study – Applied Social Research</p>
International Development	Government/Public service eg NGOs	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
Social Work	Community-based organisations, hospitals, government	Graduate study – Social Work
Journalism	Media organisations – television, radio, online and print	Graduate study – Journalism Some cadetships possible for non-media/journalism graduates – most likely in rural/regional areas
Teaching	Secondary schools	Graduate study – Teaching (requires

		studies to cover 2 'learning areas' – refer to guidelines – Master of teaching site)
Human Resources	Any organisation with in-house HR, or HR consultancies	Career-entry employment (both Graduate Employment Programs and general job 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

What other careers could I consider?

Sociology majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related to the study of Sociology but make use of transferable skills and 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; 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.

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 Sociology:

- 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:

- *The Association of Sociologists Australia* - TASA – professional association website <http://www.tasa.org.au/careers-study/careers-in-sociology/>
- International Sociology Associations <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/what-is-sociology/opportunities-for-sociologists.aspx>;
<http://www.asanet.org/employment/careers.cfm>.

Professional Associations – related fields:

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