

Careers for Anthropology majors

There are a great many career fields which relate to studies in Anthropology. In choosing your career path, it is important to reflect on the skills you have learned through your major, and the ones you prefer using.

Skills acquired in the Anthropology major

Students who major in Anthropology acquire a great many skills. Some of these are specific to the discipline, as it is taught at The University of Melbourne:

- sensitivity to and appreciation of social and cultural diversity
- making sense of different cultural understandings and social practices
- analysing the effects of different social and symbolic systems on the decisions that people make
- explaining how particular systems of meaning and practice emerge, and change
- interpreting interactions between systems of meaning and practice in multicultural and transnational spaces
- understanding and evaluating Qualitative research methods as tools for exploring social and cultural diversity

These will be of great relevance for any career that entails working with people from different cultural backgrounds and/or negotiating change in attitudes or practices.

For some careers, your Anthropology knowledge base and subject area interests are important also.

Other skills developed through the major are more generic. The following have particular value and relevance in contemporary employment:

- researching by using a variety of sources and tools, and evaluating sources and the reliability of information and ideas
- analysing information and ideas to come up with insights which clarify and enlarge understanding
- constructing an argument by selecting and ordering relevant evidence
- evaluating a range of alternative theoretical and empirical perspectives
- producing written documents which communicate in a structured, clear, accurate and persuasive manner.

Career fields which build on the skills and knowledge acquired through an Anthropology major

The table below lists a range of careers which relate to Anthropology, building on anthropological understandings and/or anthropological research techniques. For careers which make use of research techniques, graduate study is required – either graduate research, or graduate study in applied anthropology.

The list is not definitive; because the anthropological perspective is relevant to so many aspects of life and work, there would be other possibilities depending on your interests.

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)

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:

- Positions available in the general job market
- Graduate Employment Programs (GEPs)

Graduate Employment Programs are only offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs which 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/

Role	Employment setting	Next Steps (Post BA employment and/or graduate study)
Research	Universities, research institutes, Public	Graduate research study – Honours, Masters and/or PhD

	Service, NGOs Increasingly – R&D in commercial organisations (especially in IT; e.g. INTEL)	(Research Assistant roles generally require Honours minimum)
International Development	Development NGOs, government departments and agencies	Graduate research study – Anthropology Honours, Masters and/or PhD; or Graduate study – Development
International Relations and Diplomacy	Government departments and agencies, international NGOs,	Post BA employment possible via government Graduate Employment Programs (Australian Public Service or Victorian Public Service); Graduate study – International Relations
Social Work (casework, community development) eg migrant and refugee services	Government departments and agencies, community/not-for-profit organisations, hospitals	Graduate study - Social Work
Social/Urban Planning	Local government	Graduate research study – Honours, Masters and/or PhD; or Graduate study - Urban Planning or Social Planning
Policy and Public sector Administration	Government departments and agencies NGOs, special interest organisations	Post BA employment possible via government Graduate Employment Programs (Australian Public Service or Victorian Public Service); or Graduate study – Public Policy, Executive Master of Arts, Applied Anthropology
Teaching/ Educating	Secondary Migrant ESL education Universities	Graduate study – Secondary Teaching (requires studies to cover 2 ‘learning areas’) TESOL teaching qualification, and Cert IV in Training and Assessment Graduate research study – Honours/Masters/PhD

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
Law, including migration law, native title law...	Law firms, in-house legal advice, government	Graduate study - Law
Market and applied social research	Market and social research consultancies	Post BA employment (both Graduate Employment Programs and general job market) most likely if other relevant studies – e.g. Marketing breadth, Media & Communications or Psychology subjects; or Graduate research study – Honours minimum; or Graduate study – Applied Anthropology
Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations	Consultancies, in-house marketing and PR departments	Post BA employment (both Graduate Employment programs and general job market) most likely if other relevant studies – e.g. Marketing breadth; Media & Communications or Psychology subjects – and/or work experience, e.g. Arts Internship subject; or Graduate study – Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations
Public Health/Medical Anthropology	Government departments, health-related NGOs	Graduate research study – Honours, Masters and/or PhD; or Graduate study – Medical Anthropology; Public Health
Human Resources	Any organisation with in-house HR, or HR consultancies	Post BA employment (both Graduate Employment Programs or 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
Cultural Heritage	Museums, Government	Graduate research study – Anthropology

Advising (Australian indigenous)	departments and agencies – e.g, <i>Dept of Planning and Community Development (Vic)</i> – consultancies, mining and land development companies	Honours, Masters and/or PhD; or Graduate study – Cultural Heritage Management, Applied Anthropology, Archaeology. Honours required, and studies with focus on Australian indigenous culture
Conservation/Political Ecology/Landscape Management	Government, Conservation NGOs, consultancies	Graduate study – Environment; or Graduate research study – Anthropology Honours, Masters and/or PhD

Other careers

Anthropology majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related to the study of Anthropology 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; and careers in more diverse fields such as Urban Planning, 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 information

Graduate Study:

Many relevant courses are offered through the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHSS), while others such as Law and Teaching are offered by other Faculties.

For more information on graduate study at Melbourne:

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

For courses of all types at all institutions: <http://www.myfuture.edu.au>

Professional Associations:

- Australian Network of Student Anthropologists <http://www.ansa-aas.net>
- The Australian Anthropological Society <http://www.aas.asn.au/>
- American Anthropological Association <http://www.aaanet.org/> (good careers section)
- Royal Anthropological Institute <http://www.therai.org.uk/> (good 'jobs and opportunities' section)

Other discussions about what you can do with a major in Anthropology & Social Theory:

- University of Victoria, Wellington
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/Resources/career_publications/career_view/index.aspx
- This is Anthropology (ppt) – University of South Florida
<http://prezi.com/vmvomt3sj3fd/this-is-anthropology/>
- <http://www.thisisanthropology.com/index.cfm>