Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Careers in Arts
A Bachelor of Arts Degree gives you many career choices

The University of Western Australia is the very best place to study Arts. The award winning teachers and the cutting edge research creates a vibrant and exciting student environment.

The skills and knowledge that you learn from studying for an Arts degree gives you many choices of career and the flexibility to work in a multitude of different settings.

Graduates in Arts from The University of Western Australia have followed career pathways that have led to some of the most prestigious and senior positions in Australia. It is amazing to see how many of our alumni have become prime ministers, premiers, ambassadors, chief executive officers and managing directors.

Equally many have followed a creative pathway, becoming authors, performers, composers, arts managers, broadcasters and journalists.

Others have been able to take advantage of the resources boom working as anthropologists, archaeologists, community relations consultants and human resources managers. Graduates are employed as senior social workers, leaders of non-profit organisations, public relations managers, policy advisors, school principals, teachers and some continue their love of learning and research to become renowned academics across the globe.

The skills you learn are of so much value to employers

Studying Arts teaches you skills such as expertise in communicating in a variety of media, reasoning ability, problem solving, and both critical and creative thinking. Knowledge of the history of human behaviour, different cultures, literatures and languages clarify present situations. These qualities give you the ability to succeed in any choice of career and are highly regarded by employers.

Arts majors

When you enrol for an Arts degree you have the opportunity of studying units from the following majors:

- Ancient History
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Asian Studies
- Chinese
- Communication Studies
- Economics
- English
- European Studies
- Fine Arts
- French
- Geography
- German
- Greek (Ancient)
- History

- Indonesian
- Industrial Relations
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- Linguistics
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Political Science and International Relations
- Psychology
- Women’s Studies
Examples of how degree majors match careers

Some examples of how knowledge in these areas can lead to career directions are listed below:

**Communications**
This can lead to undertaking a cadetship at a newspaper or broadcasting company to become a journalist or presenter. It is also relevant to working in public relations, promotions, publications and marketing.

**Ancient and Modern History**
Studying in any of the history majors can lead to careers in politics, public service, museums, libraries, management of international organisations and teaching at all levels.

**Anthropology/Archaeology**
Graduates are often sought after to advise on Indigenous issues both in Australia and overseas, by the mining industry, legal services and community organisations.

Opportunities are also available to work in museums, government departments and conservation groups.

**Languages**
Knowledge of another language opens up many opportunities in working overseas, in tourism, international organisations, government departments and teaching. It also gives you an interest and awareness of other cultures which can lead you to exciting and extraordinary opportunities.

**Linguistics**
This can be used as a pathway to journalism, broadcasting, translation and interpreting, Aboriginal education, computer software development and teaching.

**Political Science and International Relations**
This is often chosen by students wishing to enter a political or foreign affairs career.
Kim Beazley
Former Deputy Prime Minister and Australian Labour Party Leader studied History at UWA and then went on to become a Rhodes Scholar. He is now the Chancellor of The Australian National University and a Professorial Fellow in Politics and International Relations at UWA.

Kirsten Butcher
Creator and Managing Director of Bookstop, funky bookstores where every book that is sold comes reviewed and recommended by the Bookstop team. Kirsten studied French and Italian.

Bob Hawke
Former Prime Minister studied a Bachelor of Arts before completing a Law degree. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature from UWA.

Andrew Forrest
Executive Director of Fortescue Metals Group completed a double major in Politics and International Relations with Economics.

Allanah Lucas
Director General of the Department of Culture and the Arts, majored in History.

Peter Lyon
Majored in Politics and Japanese studies and now works as a motor journalist in Japan as well as being the Co-chairman of the World Car of the Year awards.

Sara Macliver
Internationally renowned opera singer studied a Bachelor of Music Education with honours and has also received an Honorary Doctorate in Music from UWA.

The Faculty has a number of very distinguished graduates that have forged dynamic careers after studying for an Arts degree. Some of these are listed below:
Geraldine Mellet
Successful writer and broadcaster studied French at UWA.

Craig Ogden
Acclaimed classical guitarist, recording artist, and Principal Lecturer in Guitar at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester studied a Bachelor of Arts Music with honours.

Tim Minchin
Very talented comedian and musician majored in English at UWA.

Amanda Platell
Well-known Daily Mail columnist living in London completed a Bachelor of Arts with honours in Philosophy.

Stephen Smith
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs studied for a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Classics and Ancient History and then continued with a Law Degree.

Jan Stewart
Chief executive officer of Lotterywest first graduated with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History and Psychology and then completed a Masters in Social Work.

Shaun Tan
Author, illustrator and winner of the Premier’s Book Award completed a Bachelor of Arts with honours in English and Fine Arts.

Helen Trinca
Editor of The Weekend Australian Magazine, editor-in-chief of The Australian’s WISH magazine and was the founding editor of BOSS magazine at The Australian Financial Review. Helen graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and English.
Below is a list of the actual job titles of our alumni as taken from our current database:

- Academic researcher
- Accommodation Co-ordinator
- Account Director
- Account Manager
- Accountant
- Admissions Manager
- Administrator
- Adviser
- Agent General for WA
- Alumni Affairs Executive
- Ambassador
- Analyst
- Archbishop of Perth
- Archivist
- Area Coordinator
- Army Officer
- Arts Manager
- Assessor
- Assistant Curator
- Auction Administrator
- Ambassador
- Bond Manager
- Brewer
- Business Analyst
- Business Development Manager
- Business Manager
- Careers Coordinator
- Case Support Officer
- Category Publisher
- Centre Manager
- Chairman
- Chaplain
- Chartered Accountant
- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief of Staff
- Chief Planner
- Child Protection Officer
- Children's Book Author
- Children's Literature Specialist
- Children's Publisher
- Circulation Marketing Manager

- Client Manager
- Clinical Administrator
- Clinical Psychologist
- Clinical Trials Coordinator
- Closed Captioner
- Clothing Importer
- College Principal
- College Psychologist
- Comedian
- Commercial Features Editor
- Commercial Lawyer
- Commercial Manager
- Commercial Operations Manager
- Commissioner
- Communications and Outreach Officer
- Communications Manager
- Communications Officer
- Community Corrections Officer
- Community Development Manager
- Community Relations Advisor
- Company Director
- Company Secretary
- Composer/Arranger
- Consul-General
- Convenor of Creative Writing
- Coordinator Age Services
- Coordinator of Music
- Coordinator, Mental Health Program
- Corporate Communications Manager
- Corporate Counsel
- Corporate Finance Director
- Counsellor
- Course Co-Coordinator
- Crew Resource Manager
- Crown Prosecutor
- Cultural Facilitator
- Curator
- Curatorial Assistant
- Curriculum Assessment Officer
- Curriculum Consultant
- Customer Focus Officer
- Customer Service Manager
- Customs Officer
- Data Administrator
- Dean
- Demonstrator
- Deputy Editor (News)
- Deputy Headmaster
- Deputy Mayor
- Deputy Premier
- Deputy Principal
- Development Officer
- Director Domestic Violence Prevention Unit
- Director Accreditation & Moderation
- Director General
- Director Library Service
- Director Catholic Education
- Director Commercialisation
- Director Court Counselling
- Director Drama
- Director Ethics, Equity & Social Justice
- Director Government Relations
- Director Human Resources
- Director Music
- Director Quality Management
- Director Research
- Director Senior Schooling & Academic Standards
- Director Social Policy
- Director Strategies & Legislation
- Director Studies
- Director People and Organisation Development
- Director Planning Unit
- Director Support Services
- Director Swan Education District
- Director Business Development Unit
- Director Diversity
- Director Executive Services
- Director Media
- Director Milner International College of English
- Director Social & Environment Health
- Director Strategic Planning
- District Director of Schools
- East Ward Councillor
- Economic Development Manager
- Eco-Physiologist
- Editing Assistant
- Editor
- Education Officer
- Educational Consultant
- Electoral Officer
- Employee Relations Officer
- ESL Teacher
- Evaluation & Review Officer
- Events & Tourism Coordinator
- Examinations Coordinator
- Executive Director
- Executive Officer
- Executive Producer
- Facilities Coordinator
- Faculty Administrator
- Faculty Manager
- Faculty Registrar
- Family Counsellor
- Fashion Buyer/Manager
- Festival Director
- Finance and Marketing Manager
- Fine Music Coordinator
- Fleet and Insurance Manager
- Flexible Supply Coordinator
- Flight Attendant
- Free Lance Musician
- Functional Analyst
- General Education Officer
- General Manager
- General Manager Assets & Strategy
- General Manager
- Corporate Affairs
- General Manager Public Affairs
- General Manager
- Sustainable Development
- General Manager, Human Resources
- General Secretary