

Social Science

2010

School of Social Science & International Studies **Undergraduate Program**



The Bachelor of Social Science at the University of New South Wales is a unique degree.

It is a degree that offers the best of both worlds – knowledge and skills. A degree which offers a myriad of employment opportunities, tailored to suit your interests. The degree achieves this by offering a core program that develops skills in social science research and policy analysis. Students learn how to access existing knowledge but also to create new knowledge that can be applied in their workplaces – a skill which is in high demand in today's knowledge economy. Students also learn to understand the world of policy. Every workplace has policies, and policies govern much of our lives. Of relevance to students are questions such as: Should 'P' platers have a curfew? Should hotels be closed at 2am? Should there be a high tax on 'alcopops'? These questions emerge because of higher level policy issues, such as the number of road deaths among pplate drivers and the issue of alcohol-fuelled violence.



Skills developed within the program include: report writing, policy analysis, analytical skills, presentation skills, research methods, information management, statistical analysis, interview skills and project management.



Practical Experience – The Social Science Research Project

Third year students undertake a major social science research project in one of several policy areas. The project involves bringing together the research and analytical skills necessary for policy-related work and will involve students in all phases of the project. This includes preparation of a literature review and a research proposal, the conduct of research, and the writing of a report embodying the results of the research. The project develops your ability to:

- > Plan, conduct and manage an applied research project
- > Write research proposals, collect and analyse social research data and write applied research reports
- > Work in a team, and interpret and communicate research findings
- > Deliver a presentation of research findings

International Opportunities

As one of Australia's most international universities UNSW encourages students to spend a session or two overseas studying at one of our partner institutions as part of your degree. UNSW manages a large and active exchange program with over 180 different student exchange opportunities in 32 countries. .





Program information

The Bachelor of Social Science is a three year degree comprised of a core program in social science, policy analysis and research methods, combined with a major chosen from the following list. Most majors include a selection of nine courses studied over the three years. The Bachelor of Social Science is also available as a combined degree with Social Work, Law, Art Theory, Science.

Majors

- > Development Studies
 - > Economics*
 - > Environmental Studies
 - > Geography (Science)
 - > History
 - > History and Philosophy of Science
 - > Human Resource Management*
 - > Industrial Relations
 - > International Business*
 - > International Relations
 - > Marketing*
 - > Philosophy
 - > Political Economy
 - > Politics
 - > Psychology (Science)
 - > Sociology and Anthropology
- * Australian School of Business

Graduate Profiles

"The Social Science degree at UNSW gave me an excellent grounding in understanding the policy process and undertaking policy analysis. I gained valuable research and written communication skills which I use daily in my position as a research assistant for a firm that advises government. I provide all the research support to the senior directors, write briefing papers and submissions to government, and provide analysis of government policy to clients." *Audrey*

"I accepted a graduate placement at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, working in the Population Statistics area, and later began work as a Research Officer with a well known research organization. I found the training that I received in my degree very useful and relevant. There was a good balance between practical training in qualitative and quantitative research methods and the more theoretical, policy-related side". *Saul*

"I am a Business and Policy Analyst for a private sector company. My work mainly involves research and policy analysis of the business. I analyse business statistics, review and write policy, analyse government reports and legislation, and provide research to inform the strategic direction of the company." *Ken*



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