

What can I do with a Degree in Life and Social Science?



Bachelor of Health Science (Public & Environmental Health) (H0619) (Honours) (Z069)
Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Z0466)

2011

Please note: the information contained in this document was current as of January 2011. Refer to www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/ for the most current updates.

For entry and admission requirements for the above courses, go to the Swinburne website www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/

What can I do with this degree?

This course is an accredited course in Victoria for students seeking a career as an Environmental Health Officer. Graduates can find themselves working in all levels of government, in multi-disciplinary areas of Environmental Health. Their roles may involve investigating food poisoning outbreaks, through to implementing immunisation campaigns or resolving environmental issues. Graduates can also work with overseas aid agencies in places such as Rwanda, Somalia, Vietnam and Iraq. Increasingly, opportunities are available for graduates to work in research, private industry, or as consultants in areas such as quality assurance, food hygiene education or waste management.

Graduates also take on disaster or emergency management positions with aid agencies in Australia and overseas and are very sought after in the public and environmental health field, with many quickly taking on lead roles. When it comes to tracking down a food poisoning outbreak, monitoring swimming pool standards, air or noise pollution, or resolving public health issues after a natural disaster, there is one person who can be relied upon to help - an Environmental Health Officer.

Studies in public and environmental health provide the basis for a variety of careers, but additional study may be required for some professions:|

Environmental Health Professionals

Environmental Health Professionals are concerned with protecting the health and well-being of the community and our environment. They work in many areas of concern including environmental pollution (air, water & noise), hygiene and safety of food, immunization and communicable disease, health of indigenous communities, domestic and industrial waste management, management of pests and safe handling of pesticides.

Biostatistician

Biostatisticians develop and apply statistical methods to scientific research in health-related fields, including medicine, epidemiology, and public health. The role of the biostatistician is an important one, especially when it comes to designing studies and analyzing data from research problems. Biostatisticians help formulate the scientific questions to be answered, determine appropriate sampling techniques, coordinate data collection procedures, and conduct statistical analyses to answer those scientific questions. Biostatisticians also play a very important role in the preparation of research material for publication.

Epidemiologist

Epidemiologists study the frequency and distribution of diseases within human populations and environments. In an epidemiological study, the investigators try to determine if any factor is associated with the health effect. Therefore, epidemiologists try to compare groups of people who are alike, except for the risk factor under evaluation.

Food Scientist or Technologist

Food scientists and food technologists can be found in a wide variety of positions in a diverse range of occupations. The Food science and technology degrees provide excellent prospects for employment within Australia and overseas in a number of areas. Graduates have an understanding of the diverse nature of food systems, in-depth knowledge of food processing techniques together with a strong understanding of food usage, storage and management. Some possible careers are Food

Technologist, Scientific Officer, Product development Officer or Manager, Quality Assurance or Control Officer, Production Manager, Technical Controller, Food Microbiologist, Research & Development Officer, Sales and Marketing Officer or Manager.

Health Information Manager

Graduates of Health Information Management have an understanding of the diverse nature of health care delivery and financial systems, in-depth knowledge of clinical processes together with a strong understanding of health information creation, linkage, usage, storage and management.

Health Promotion Professional

Health Promotion Professionals have the knowledge and skills to plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion programs in various settings including clinics, schools, worksites and the community.

Nutritionist

Nutritionists advise individuals and the community about food choices for a healthy and nutritious diet. Nutritionists do this by using their extensive knowledge of the nutritive value of foods, the important nutrients required by the body at different stages of development, and the role of nutrients and diet in health and the prevention of disease.

Occupational Health and Safety Professional

Occupational Health and Safety Professionals use their skills to assess the likelihood of harm to employees as a means to prevent injury and illness. Health and safety is fundamental to the success of an organisation. An OHS Professional integrates effective hazard control and management systems into the organisation, enabling best use of resources. This is a challenging and highly rewarding career found in most industries and government.

What industry sectors do Arts graduates work in?

Private	57.0%
Government	17.4%
Education	9.5%
Other	14.1%
Health	2.1%

Source: <http://svc095.wic026v.server-web.com/gradsonline/>

Examples of where you may find employment:

- Local Government
- State Government e.g. Department of Health
- Federal Government
- Overseas Aid Organizations
- International Airlines
- Australian Defence Force
- Institute of Medical & Veterinary Science
- Agency for Cooperation in International Health

The skills and attributes required by Health Science (Public & Environmental Health) graduates

A graduate of the Bachelor of Health Science (Public & Environmental Health) should have:

- An ability to communicate the role of public and environmental health management to the community and deploy environmental health principles in adding value to community health and quality of life.
- Mastery of the basic theoretical and practical principles of public and environmental health management and their relationship to human behavior, social health and the environment.
- A thorough understanding of environmental health methodology and the ability to interpret and apply it competently and appropriately in the relevant professional context and setting.

- An appreciation of the role of the environmental health practitioner in society, a sense of resourcefulness, originality, impartiality and a well developed culture of community service and ethics.
- Ability to communicate with and relate confidently to a wide range of professionals and others who interface with public and environmental health practice.
- Ability to participate in the education of society in matters of community health
- Management skills required to administer and deliver a range of public and environmental health services to an increasingly informed society.

Swinburne Graduate Attributes

- Capable in their chosen professional, vocational or study areas
- Entrepreneurial in contributing to innovation and development within their business, workplace or community
- Effective and ethical in work and community situations
- Adaptable and able to manage change
- Aware of local and international environments in which they will be contributing (eg socio-cultural, economic, natural)

What do Arts graduates do after finishing their courses?

Working 75.9%
 Searching 24.9%
 Studying 30.2%

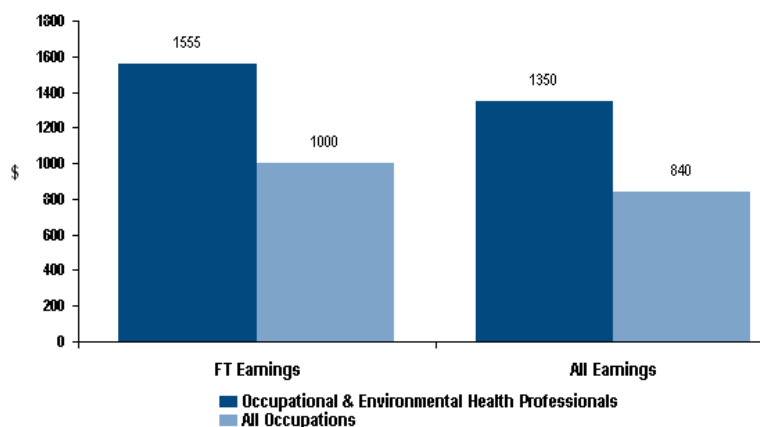
Source: <http://svc095.wic026v.server-web.com/gradsonline/>

Job Prospects for Health Science Graduates will depend on the majors that they have completed. For specific information regarding employment prospects for alternate occupations please see <http://jobsearch.gov.au/Careers>

Job Prospects for Environmental and OHS Professionals

- Job prospects for Environmental Scientists are good.
- Employment for Environmental Scientists to 2014-15 is expected to grow very strongly. Employment in this medium sized occupation (20 600 in November 2009) rose strongly in the past five years, and rose very strongly in the long-term (ten years).

Environmental and OHS Professionals Weekly Earnings (full time and before tax)



The graph shows weekly full time earnings - for all occupations and Occupational and Environmental health professionals. These figures cannot be used in determining a particular wage rate or as an indication of what a particular person will earn in that job.

Source: ABS EEBTUM survey August 2009 cat. no. 6310.0.

Source: Australian Government job search <http://jobsearch.gov.au/Careers>

Examples of Employers who employed Swinburne Health Science (Public and Environmental Health) graduates in 2010

AusFresh Pty Ltd www.ausfresh.com.au (Quality Assurance Assistant)	Glen Eira City Council www.gleneira.vic.gov.au (Environmental Health Officer)	Kernow Environmental Services www.kernow.net.au (Environmental Health Technician)
City of Stonnington www.stonnington.vic.go.au (Environmental Health Officer)	Hobson's Bay City Council www.hobsons.vic.gov.au (Environmental Health Officer)	Manningham City Council www.manningham.vic.gov.au (Environmental Health Officer)

City of Kingston
www.kingston.vic.gov.au
(Environmental Health Officer)

Hume City Council
www.hume.vic.gov.au
(Environmental Health Officer)

Service Stream Limited
www.servicestream.com.au
(OH&S Systems Coordinator)

Environmental Resources Management
www.erm.com
(Heritage Consultant)

Examples of employers who have recently employed Swinburne Health Science (Public and Environmental Health) graduates

Bayside City Council
www.bayside.vic.gov.au

City of Monash
www.monash.vic.gov.au

Horsham Rural City Council
www.hrcc.vic.gov.au

City of Darebin
www.darebin.vic.gov.au

City of Port Phillip
www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

Kingston City Council
www.kingston.vic.gov.au

City of Melbourne
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

City of Whittlesea
www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Wyndham City Council
www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

Specialist Recruitment Agencies

Swinburne Careers and Employment Recruitment Service

www.swinburne.edu.au/careers

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Beresford Blake Thomas Limited
www.bbtglobal.com.au▪ Hahn Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Recruitment
www.hahnhealthcare.com.au▪ McArthur Management Services
www.mcarthur.com.au | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Perkins Resources
www.perkinsresources.com▪ Sheelagh McKenzie Recruitment
www.sheelaghmckenzie.com |
|---|---|

Health Science Job Search Websites

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aus Health Care
www.aushealthcare.com.au/jobs/index.asp▪ Defence Jobs
www.defencejobs.gov.au▪ Department of Health and Ageing
www.health.gov.au▪ Environmental Health Australia
www.eh.org.au/employment▪ Environmental Jobs Network
www.environmentaljobs.com.au | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Environmental Health Unit, Department of Human Services
www.dhs.vic.gov.au▪ Health Promotion
www.healthpromotion.act.gov.au/c/hp?a=da&did=1002813▪ Local Government Jobs
www.lgjobs.com.au▪ State and Territory Government Jobs
www.australia.gov.au▪ Victorian Government Jobs
www.careers.vic.gov.au |
|---|---|

Additional general employment sites:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ www.careerjet.com.au▪ www.careerone.com.au▪ www.graduateopportunities.com▪ www.jobsearch.gov.au▪ www.jobsearch.com.au | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ www.mycareer.com.au▪ www.myfuture.edu.au▪ www.seek.com.au▪ www.simplyhired.com.au▪ www.unigrad.com.au |
|--|--|

Professional Associations

Professional associations may conduct conferences, seminars, presentations and social functions to help members keep abreast of current practices and for networking purposes. For students, these events can be an excellent source of contact and relevant information. Membership is usually open to students at a reduced rate.

- Australian Health Promotion Association www.healthpromotion.org.au
- Australian Institute of Environmental Health www.eh.org.au
- Dietitians Association of Australia <http://www.daa.asn.au/>
- Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand www.eianz.org
- Environmental Health Australia www.eh.org.au
- Food Standards Australia and New Zealand www.foodstandards.gov.au
- Public Health Association Australia www.phaa.net.au

Postgraduate study options:

Postgraduate programs for Life and Social Science students are offered by coursework and by research at Swinburne University.

Graduate Certificate of Social Science (Community Engagement) (G0046CE)

Career Opportunities: Workers in many disciplines increasingly use community engagement skills in their work. Examples include local government employees, mining company employees, developers, allied health workers and community development workers. The graduate Certificate of Social Science (Community Engagement) is a specialist postgraduate qualification designed to facilitate employment opportunities for all practitioners

Graduate Certificate in Sustainability (H21545VIC)

Career Opportunities: Graduates will be sought after by local, state and federal governments, and by organisations operating in areas such as: land and water management, energy, design e.g. building, manufacturing, engineering, sustainable production, plastics and chemicals, change management, environmental sustainability, social sustainability.

Graduate Certificate of Social Science in Housing Management and Policy (N079)

Graduate Diploma of Social Science in Housing Management and Policy (N0807)

Master of Social Science in Housing Management and Policy (N0903)

Career Opportunities: Graduates of the program will have enhanced ability to apply for management-level positions in the social housing sector, policy formulation and related fields.

Arts Research Postgraduate Courses

Master of Arts (by research) (LSS192)

Doctor of Philosophy (Arts / Humanities / Social Science) (LSS003)

A full listing of all postgraduate courses offered by Swinburne is available at:

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/postgrad/courses/>

What help does Swinburne Careers and Employment offer?

Career Services

- Daily Resume and Cover Letter Checks
- Daily Interview Practice
- Career Seminars/ Workshops for Students
- Careers in the Curriculum (CIC) – Higher Education students
- Student Recruitment Service (Final Year Students)
- Career Counselling

Career Resources

- Career Resource Library
- Job Search Handouts
- Interactive Career Planning

SwinEmploy Employment Service

- All job advertisements for graduate placements, casual, vacation, part-time and full-time employment
- Links to employer websites
- Enables students to book online for events such as workshops, employer information sessions and interviews
- Access to Going Global (over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK and US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country-specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)

Download Careers and Employment job search handouts from SwinEmploy, including:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ➤ Addressing Selection Criteria | ➤ Job Hunting |
| ➤ Assessment Centres | ➤ Networking: What Is It and How Do You Do It? |
| ➤ Cover Letters or Letters of Application | ➤ Online Applications |
| ➤ Curriculum Vitae or Resume | ➤ Psychometric Tests |
| ➤ Employer Expectations of Graduates | ➤ Skills and Attributes |
| ➤ Interviews - How to Plan, Prepare and Perform | ➤ Thinking About Changing Your Course? |
| ➤ Informational Interviewing | ➤ Tips for facing the work environment and your first professional job |

The material in this document has been produced from the Graduate Destinations Survey, Swinburne University and Graduate Careers Council of Australia material, Graduate Opportunities, Australian Job Search, The Job Guide, Professional Associations and Careers and Employment's own research.

Careers & Employment
Swinburne University
Level 2, George Swinburne Building
Wakefield Street, Hawthorn VIC
Tel: 9214 5360
Email: careers@swin.edu.au
www.swinburne.edu.au/careers

ADVERTISEMENT EXAMPLES

Sourced from www.seek.com.au (December 2010)

Environmental Health Officer

As part of Council's Environmental Health unit our key strategic objective is to deliver programs and services which aim to ensure the general health and wellbeing of the community.

You will be involved in undertaking key actions within the following program areas; Food Safety, Environmental Health Management, Infectious Disease Control including Immunisation, Tobacco Control, Health Promotion and education.

As a qualified Environmental Health Officer you will have a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health) or Bachelor of Health Sciences (Public and Environmental Health) or equivalent.

This is a temporary part time position (22.8 hours per week until January 2013) and is classified as Band 6 (\$31.50 - \$34.33 per hour) plus superannuation.

Further enquiries can be directed to Sarina Gioffre, Coordinator Environmental Health on 9243 8752.

Applications should include:

- a covering letter which states the title of the position you are applying for (please quote position no 1483) and which addresses the key selection criteria as stated in the position description (***Applications that do not address the Key Selection Criteria will not be considered**);
- a current resume.

Applicants must be either a permanent resident of Australia or have evidence that they have the right to work in Australia.

Applications must be forwarded by 5.00 pm Thursday 16 December 2010.

Please read the position description before applying. Position Descriptions are available by clicking on the Apply Now button.

Applications should be emailed to:
recruitment@mvcc.vic.gov.au

Please Note: Electronic resumes will only be accepted in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat format.

Applications can also be forwarded to the following postal address:
Manager People, Performance & Organisational Culture

Moonee Valley City Council
P.O. Box 126
Moonee Ponds Vic 3039

Environment Health & Safety Officer

We are a large manufacturing company supplying the FMCG industry. We are listed on the NYSE employing in excess of 6,000 people, and have operations in 39 countries with an annual turnover of \$2 Billion. Locally, we employ approximately 180 people, and have a turnover in excess of \$85 million, with sites in Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland.

We currently have an opportunity for an outstanding Environment, Health and Safety Officer to join our Operations team. This position is a 12 month fixed term Maternity Leave replacement position. The position is based at Dandenong and reports directly to the Operations Manager - Oceania.

The primary purpose of this position is to ensure site compliance in the areas of OHS and Environment with Government agencies and Company corporate requirements.

Key responsibilities for this role include:

- OHS of both the Dandenong site and the Distribution Centre. This includes; Chairing the OHS committee, co-ordinating workplace safety audits, managing accident/incident reports and investigations, coordinating OHS training and ensuring resolution of all safety related issues;
- Liaising with WorkSafe Victoria during workplace inspections, to implement workplace programs and resolve WorkSafe issues;
- Manage corporate compliance including, risk assessments, Dangerous Goods assessments, chemical safety, policy and procedures review and implementation, emergency management, disaster recovery, injury and incident reporting, audits and remedial work;
- Coordination of Chemical Control, Environmental Management, Emergency Management
- Ability to support Management at all hours in the event of an onsite incident
- Manage and maintain stock inventory of all P.P.E requirements / Safety Supplies for site.

The successful candidate should have the following skill set:

- A Bachelor of Science degree or Engineering. Preferably Chemical Engineering or Food Technology;
- Training in dangerous goods, hazardous substances, drug and chemical weapons precursors;
- Experience in ISO Management Systems well regarded;
- A proven track record of developing and implementing process improvements;
- High level of computer skills in the Microsoft Office suite and experience using SAP would be a distinct advantage;
- Ability to work under pressure;
- Excellent problem solving skills and highly competent in decision making;
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills to be able to deal with both internal and external stakeholders;
- Excellent Leadership and Influencing skills;
- Results orientated and high attention to detail;
- High degree of independence within the framework of corporate expectations;
- Ability to control Expenses and remain within budget guide lines;
- Perform all duties in a safe, responsible and ethical manner.

If you would like to be considered for this role, please submit your resume to Christine Gomez, HR Officer via email christine.gomez@iff.com or via fax (03) 97683529 by Wednesday 15 December 2010.