

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



Bachelor of Arts (N0515) (*Before 2010, N055)
 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (N052)
 Bachelor of Arts (Sociology) (N0515SOC)
 Bachelor of Social Science (N0516), (L0510)
 Bachelor of Social Science (Sociology) (N0516SOC)

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 Social Science courses, go to the Swinburne website: <http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/courses>

What can I do with this degree?

The Bachelor of Social Science is run at both the Hawthorn and Lilydale campuses and involves several major areas of study including:

- Community Health
- Politics and Public policy
- Psychology
- Sociology

Community Health offers students the opportunity to combine different disciplinary approaches to health and the environment. Students will be able to choose from a range of study areas that include core units in public and community health, health ethics, policy, law and sociology. These units focus on understanding or improving the health status of individuals and communities in different social settings. The program encapsulates the principles of public and environmental health, including an understanding of the risk management aspects of maintaining good health and environment. It also familiarises students with a social model of health service provision and builds skills in social research design, statistics and research methods, policy, ethics and law.

Politics and public policy

Politics is about the capacity to take effective action. Whether it's in business, media, law, human services, setting economic directions or addressing issues of social inclusion, Governments and how their policies shape what happens. Understanding how governments affect change reveals the underlying dynamics of political, economic and social power. Equally important is the recognition that politics is not confined to government. An understanding of politics at a broader level helps to illustrate how change can occur outside the formal structures of power.

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour and experience; career opportunities for psychology graduates are wide-ranging. These can include health-care settings such as hospitals and community agencies, private practice, rehabilitation centres, patients' homes, schools, long-term care facilities, sports venues, aged care centres, occupational health practices, dental clinics, fitness centres and educational institutions, organisations, human resources, counselling, and behavioural research.

In order to be eligible for registration as a probationary psychologist in the State of Victoria (which is the first step to becoming a psychologist) it is necessary to complete four years of approved study in psychology. This normally comprises a bachelor's degree with a three-year accredited major in psychology, followed by an accredited fourth year course in psychology.

Students learn to apply their knowledge to practical problems and this, together with their mastery of generic skills, makes them valuable to employers. Swinburne graduates are well equipped to find work in:

- Policy analysis and development
- Research
- Community development

- Administration
- Public relations
- Market research

Sociology – Sociology focuses on the study of human behaviour and social interaction to understand how societies are organised, develop and change. Graduates in sociology develop skills and knowledge applicable to a wide variety of jobs.

These skills and knowledge include:

- An understanding of social and cultural issues
- High-quality written and oral communication skills
- Research skills and a capacity for detailed observation
- The ability to work independently and in groups.

Graduates also develop more specialised skills and knowledge that are needed for the following types of employment:

- Work involving social groups and social processes: such as minority and ethnic groups, crime and substance abuse, youth issues, family matters, industrial relations, poverty and globalisation
- Social research: devising surveys, collecting data, and conducting interviews and fieldwork; including the analysis, interpretation and presentation of the information collected
- Social policy and planning: community development, cultural resource management, social justice issues, social aspects of health care, migration etc.

What industry sectors do social science graduates work in?

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Private | 42.3% |
| Government | 20.3% |
| Other | 20.6% |
| Education | 12.5% |
| Health | 4.3% |

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

Examples of where you may find employment:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ▪ Advertising | ▪ Marketing/Media |
| ▪ Business Management and Administration | ▪ Media |
| ▪ Community Services | ▪ Police Departments |
| ▪ Defence Forces | ▪ Protective Services Personnel |
| ▪ Disability Organisations | ▪ Public Relations |
| ▪ Education Sector | ▪ Recreation & Leisure Management |
| ▪ Family Court | ▪ Rehabilitation Agencies (e.g., physical, emotional, substance abuse) |
| ▪ Federal, State and Local Government Administration | ▪ Relationship Guidance Organisations |
| ▪ Government Policy Research and Assessment | ▪ Research Departments |
| ▪ Hospitals | ▪ Road Traffic Authorities |
| ▪ Human Resources | ▪ Training Industry |
| ▪ Industrial Relations | ▪ Welfare Agencies |
| ▪ Market Research | |

Occupations

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| ▪ Administrative Officer | ▪ Project Officer/Coordinator |
| ▪ Alcohol/drugs Counsellor | ▪ Public Affairs Officer |
| ▪ Careers Counsellor | ▪ Public Relations Officer |
| ▪ Case Manager | ▪ Research Academic (requires post graduate study in Sociology) |
| ▪ Community Worker | ▪ Research Assistant Officer |
| ▪ Communications Officer | ▪ Student Advisors and Support officers |
| ▪ Counsellor | ▪ Support Worker |
| ▪ Customer Service Officer | ▪ Telephone Interviewer |
| ▪ Employment Officer | |

- Family Caseworker
- Housing Officer
- Market research analyst
- Media Officer
- Training Officer
- Web Developer
- Welfare Officer
- Youth Health Worker

The skills and attributes required by Bachelor of Social Science graduates

A graduate of the Bachelor of Social Science should have the ability to:

- Formulate and investigate sociologically informed questions.
- Use major theoretical perspectives and concepts and their application to social life.
- Analyse, assess and communicate empirical sociological information.
- Recognise the relevance of sociological knowledge to social, public and civic policy.
- Use statistical and other quantitative techniques and information retrieval skills in relation to primary and secondary sources of information.
- Apply multiple perspectives to psychological issues involving a range of research methods, theories, evidence and applications.
- Develop sensitivity to the importance of enhancing co-operation to maximise the effectiveness of individual skills as shown in group work and team building.
- Identify and evaluate general patterns in behaviour, psychological functioning and experience, generating and exploring hypotheses and research questions, undertaking empirical studies, data analysis skills and applying evidence-based reasoning.

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 Social Science graduates do after finishing their courses?

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Working | 78.9% |
| Searching | 26.1% |
| Studying | 32.8% |

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

Please note: These figures include combinations of activities i.e. graduates who are searching for employment while also undertaking postgraduate studies.

Job Prospects for Bachelor of Social Science Graduates will depend on the majors that they have completed. For specific information regarding employment prospects for alternate roles within this occupational field please see <http://jobsearch.gov.au/Careers>

Job Prospects for Social Science Professionals

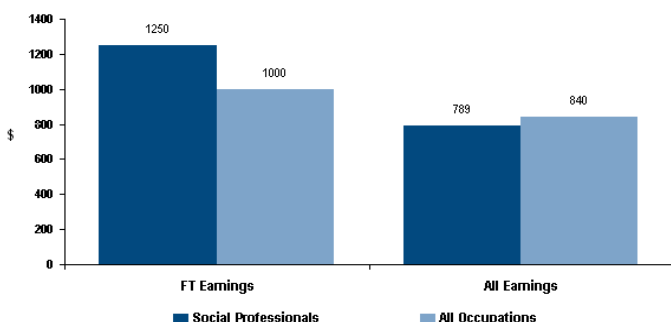
- Job prospects for Social Professionals are average.
- Employment for Social Professionals to 2014-15 is expected to grow moderately. Employment in this small occupation (10 600 in November 2009) rose very strongly in the past five years, and rose strongly in the long-term (ten years), but with small occupations employment estimates can fluctuate.

Source: Australian Government Job Search www.jobsearch.gov.au/Careers

Social Science Professionals Earnings (full time and before tax)

The graph shows weekly earnings - for full-time work and before tax - for workers of all ages for this occupation, compared with all occupations. 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 Social Science graduates in 2010

BHP Billiton

www.bhpbilliton.com

(Personal Assistant)

Maroondah City Council

www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Social Research & Development Officer

The Baker Medical Institute

www.bakeridi.edu.au

HR Advisor

Centrelink

www.centrelink.gov.au

(Advisor)

Monash University

www.monash.edu.au

(HR Coordinator)

University of Melbourne

www.unimelb.edu.au

Research Assistant

Department of Justice

www.justice.vic.gov.au

(Project Officer)

Precision Consultancy

www.precisionconsultancy.com.au

(Research Consultant)

Wallis Group

www.wallisgroup.com.au

(Interviewer)

Department of Human Services

www.dhs.vic.gov.au

(Case Support Officer)

Slater & Gordon

www.slatergordon.com.au

(Legal Assistant)

Wesley Mission

www.wesleymission.org.au

(Care Worker)

Department of the Attorney General

www.ag.gov.au

(Personnel Officer)

Swinburne University of Technology

www.swin.edu.au

(Research Assistant)

WorkSafe

www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

(Workplace Info Advisor)

Examples of additional employers who have recently employed Swinburne Social Science graduates

ANZ

www.anz.com

Knox City Council

www.knox.vic.gov.au

Uniting Aged Care

www.unitingagedcare.org.au

Australian Industry Group

www.aigroup.asn.au

Lifeline Melbourne

www.lifeline.org.au

Victoria Police Force

www.police.vic.gov.au

Coles Group

www.colesgroup.com.au

OMYA Australia

www.omya.com.au

Victoria YMCA

www.victoria.ymca.org.au

Department of Sustainability & Environment

www.dse.vic.gov.au

Melbourne City Mission

www.melbournecitymission.org.au

Villa Maria

www.villamaria.com.au

Doutta Galla Community Health Service

www.dgchs.org.au

Red Cross

www.redcross.org.au

Vision Australia

www.visionaustralia.org.au

Emergency Services

Telecommunications Authority

www.esta.vic.gov.au

Southern Autistic School

www.autismvictoria.org.au

Wallara Australia

www.wallara.com.au

IPA Personnel
www.ipagroup.com.au

Southern Health
www.southernhealth.org.au

World Vision
www.worldvision.com.au

Jesuit Social Services
www.jss.org.au

Specialist Recruitment Agencies

Swinburne Careers and Employment Recruitment Service
www.swinburne.edu.au/careers

Psychology/Sociology/

Beresford Blake Thomas Limited www.bbtglobal.com.au
Sheelagh McKenzie Recruitment www.sheelaghmckenzie.com
Hahn Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Recruitment www.hahnhealthcare.com.au

Media & Public Relations

- Aquent www.aquent.com.au
- Atomic Recruitment Melbourne
www.atomicrecruitment.com.au
- Brazil www.brazil.net.au
- CSP Apple www.cspapple.com
- Everjoy Consulting www.everjoy.com.au
- FBI Consulting www.fbirecruitment.com
- Furst Media www.furstmedia.com.au
- Searchforce Media www.searchforcemediacom.com.au
- Sage Creative Placements
www.sagerecruit.com.au
- Sandy Oldham Consulting www.soldham.com
- Tenth House www.tenthhouse.com.au
- Wallage Recruitment www.wallage.com.au
- Wellington's Recruitment Pty Ltd
www.wellingtons.net.au

Job Search Websites

- www.counsellorjobs.com.au
- www.dhs.vic.gov.au/careers/vacancies.htm
- www.hacjobs.com.au
- www.infoxchange.net.au
- www.jobsearch.com.au
- www.justthehealthjobs.com.au
- www.mav.asn.au
- www.psychxchange.com.au
- www.socialworks.org.au
- www.tasa.org.au
- www.top20sociology.com
- <http://vic.bigredsky.com>
- www.workplace.gov.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 Psychological Association www.psychology.org.au
- Psychologists Registration Board www.psychreg.vic.gov.au
- Public Relations Institute of Australia www.pria.com.au
- ASA: The Australian Sociological Association: www.tasa.org.au

Additional general employment sites:

- www.careerone.com.au
- www.jobsearch.com.au
- www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook
- www.graduateopportunities.com
- www.mycareer.com.au
- www.myfuture.edu.au
- www.seek.com.au
- www.unigrad.com.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.

Master of Arts (by research) (LSS192) (L0871)

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 & 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 (2010)

Environment Community Development Officer

- \$55,291 (Band 5) plus super
- Full-Time (19 day month)
- 2 min walk from Broadmeadows Train Station

Are you passionate about environmental sustainability, and committed to making a difference through the delivery of community development and environmental education programs?

This full time role involves coordination and delivery of a range of environmental education and community development programs with the community and key stakeholders to educate and foster behaviour change. This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and enthusiastic individual committed to continual learning and improvement in community environmental education.

As the successful candidate you will have

- Tertiary qualifications in community development, environmental education, community education, social sciences, sustainability or a related field.
- Some experience in developing, delivering and evaluating community development, environmental education, and/or community engagement programs.
- Skills in influencing and motivating key stakeholders.
- Excellent written and oral communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience working with multicultural communities.

A natural communicator, you work well in a team environment but your initiative and flexibility means you work well under minimal supervision.

For further information contact Georgina Murphy, Environment Education Officer on **03 9205 2845** or email: georginam@hume.vic.gov.au

Applications addressing the selection criteria and including the reference number should be sent by close of business on Monday 20 December 2010

To view the Position Description and to apply please visit our website www.hume.vic.gov.au

Please note, interviews for this position will be held in January 2011.

Helpline Coordinator

- Based in Fairfield
- Part time, Flexible work arrangements
- Values-based organisation

We're calling on you!

The Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria works with people with mental illness, their families and friends to improve their well being. We work to achieve mental health reform through education, support and advocacy and provide a range of innovative rehabilitation programs. We currently employ approximately 250 staff who work across multiple sites within Victoria, ACT and Queensland.

We currently have a rewarding and exciting opportunity for a passionate individual to coordinate and support our Helpline service. Our Helpline is serviced by volunteers and delivers free and confidential mental health information support, referral advice and advocacy, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

The Helpline Coordinator will:

- Provide technical and coaching support to our Helpline volunteers
- Drive best practice including meeting service standards
- Manage the engagement of our volunteers
- Mentor our volunteers and encourage individual development
- Manage the Helpline roster

To be successful, you will possess:

- Tertiary qualifications in social work, psychology, community development or similar discipline.
- Well developed people skills including the capacity to deliver empathetic telephone support, information and referral.
- Experience working with volunteers or leading a small team.
- Exceptional planning and coordination skills.

For a confidential discussion, please contact Tina Bourekas, Quality Manager, on 0414 691 010 or visit www.mifellowship.org for a copy of the position description.

To apply please send a copy of your resume and a covering letter, quoting **#8121** to one of the following: Human Resources Administrator, Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria, PO Box 359, Clifton Hill VIC 3068 / Fax: (03) 8486 4298 / e-mail: employmentapplications@mifellowship.org

Applications Close: 22nd December 2010