

# 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 (Sustainability Management) (N0515SUS)

Bachelor of Science (Environmental Sustainability) (Z0416ENV)

2011

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

For entry and admission requirements for the above courses, go to the Swinburne website:  
<http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/courses>

## What can I do with this degree?

Sustainability is increasingly becoming an important business objective in both government and industry. In recent times, there has been strong growth in compliance and in job descriptions that specifically address sustainability issues. Most growth opportunities exist through applying sustainability concepts to traditional disciplines.

Students in the Bachelor of Science (Environmental Sustainability) course apply the principles of sustainable development to address the causes of environmental hazards. You will gain an understanding of the relationship between local, global, social and ecological issues and the responsibility of the different groups involved in sustainability. You will combine this knowledge with scientific skills, such as chemistry, biology and microbiology, in order to address environmental sustainability in the future.

As a graduate of this program, you can expect to find employment in a range of roles involving sustainability management in the private and public sectors. Opportunities are growing in the following areas:

- Environmental risk assessment and protection
- Renewable energy development
- Agriculture and wetland restoration
- Managing energy efficiency
- Air, soil and water quality monitoring
- Carbon waste and resource management
- Sustainability analysis including policy and legislative advice
- Building sustainable communities.

In the Bachelor of Arts (Sustainability Management), issues addressed ranges from global warming, resource depletion and destruction, fossil fuel and motor vehicle dependence through community health, social exclusion and inequality to those of health and social well being. The complexity of these issues are such that they cannot be addressed by a single discipline so the course is deliberately multi disciplinary with subjects informed by human ecology, philosophy, sociology, science, politics and public policy. The course is about problem solving and many of the subjects deal with the conceptual, policy, evaluation, planning, communication and management skills and tools necessary to put us on the path to a more sustainable future.

Employment outcomes following the completion of this course are enormously diverse: in the community, public and private sector, organisations seek graduates with superior skills in addressing complex, real-world sustainability challenges. These are ubiquitous in business and government, in large and small scale organisations, and in natural, rural and urban environments. Graduates are suitable for employment in a wide range of positions including:

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Community development         | ▪ Policy units          |
| ▪ Compliance monitoring         | ▪ Public administration |
| ▪ Government agencies           | ▪ Resource management   |
| ▪ Manufacturing                 | ▪ Social research       |
| ▪ Not for profit organisations. | ▪ Universities          |

### What industry sectors do Humanities graduates work in?

Private	64.3%
Government	14.2%
Education	10.6%
Other	9.2%
Health	1.7%

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

### The skills and attributes required by Bachelor of Science (Environmental Sustainability) and Bachelor of Arts (Sustainability Management) graduates

The Bachelor of Science (Environmental Sustainability) program and the Bachelor of Arts (Sustainability Management) both endeavor to instill the following in graduates:

- A sound knowledge and working experience in the underpinning science and social science which forms the basis of sustainability
- An appreciation of the social context in which scientific work is undertaken and which scientific knowledge is applied
- An appreciation of the legislation that regulates scientific activities, and particularly those that relate to biology, chemistry and public health
- Advanced communication and interpersonal skills, both verbal and written
- An appreciation of the moral, ethical and social elements essential to a satisfying personal philosophy and a sound professional attitude
- Skills in self education, evaluation of new information and encouragement in flexibility of thought, to prepare students for a world of accelerating technological change.

### Swinburne Graduate Attributes

- Entrepreneurial in contributing to innovation and development within their business, workplace or community
- Capable in their chosen professional, vocational or study areas
- Able to operate effectively in work and community situations
- Adaptable and able to manage change
- Aware of environments in which they will be contributing.

### What do Humanities graduates do after finishing their courses?

Working	74.4
Searching	25.9%
Studying	35.4%

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

*(Please note: these figures include combinations of activities i.e. graduates who are searching for employment whilst also undertaking postgraduate studies)*

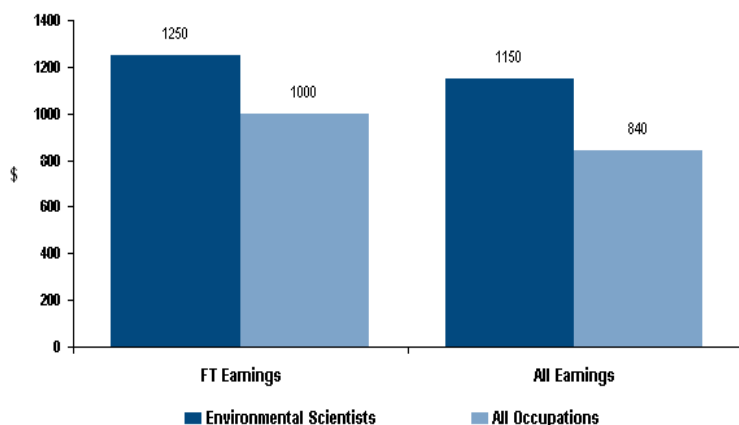
**Job prospects for Sustainability Graduates will depend on the majors that they have completed. For specific information regarding employment prospects for alternate occupations please see <http://joboutlook.gov.au/Careers>**

### Job Prospects for Environmental Scientists

- Job prospects for Environmental Scientists are **good**.
- Employment for Environmental Scientists 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).

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

## Environmental Scientists Weekly 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://joboutlook.gov.au/Careers>

## Potential Employers

Careers and Employment have put together a list of potential employers  
[www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/careers/employers\\_by\\_occupation.html](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/careers/employers_by_occupation.html)

You can also refer to Graduate Careers Australia's publication Graduate Opportunities  
[www.graduateopportunities.com/](http://www.graduateopportunities.com/)

## Specialist Recruitment Agencies

**Swinburne Careers & Employment Recruitment Service**  
[www.swinburne.edu.au/careers](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/careers)

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EnviroAppointments<br/><a href="http://www.enviroappointments.com.au/home">www.enviroappointments.com.au/home</a></li> <li>▪ Enviro Link Recruitment<br/><a href="http://www.envirolinkrecruitment.com.au">www.envirolinkrecruitment.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ Pathways Australia<br/><a href="http://www.pathwaysaustralia.com.au">www.pathwaysaustralia.com.au</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Principle Consulting Group<br/><a href="http://www.principleconsulting.com.au">www.principleconsulting.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ Sustainability Jobs<br/><a href="http://www.sjobs.com.au">www.sjobs.com.au</a></li> </ul> |
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## Sustainability Job Search Websites

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.cleanenergyjobs.com.au">www.cleanenergyjobs.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.envirojobs.com.au/">www.envirojobs.com.au/</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.environmentaljobs.com.au/">www.environmentaljobs.com.au/</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.environmentjobs.com.au/">www.environmentjobs.com.au/</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.greenskills.com.au">www.greenskills.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.nrmjobs.com.au">www.nrmjobs.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.sjobs.com.au">www.sjobs.com.au</a></li> </ul> |
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## Additional general employment sites

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.alljobs.com.au">www.alljobs.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.careerone.com.au">www.careerone.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.graduateopportunities.com">www.graduateopportunities.com</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.jobsearch.com.au">www.jobsearch.com.au</a></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.jobsearch.gov.au">www.jobsearch.gov.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.mycareer.com.au">www.mycareer.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.seek.com.au">www.seek.com.au</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.unigrad.com.au">www.unigrad.com.au</a></li> </ul> |
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## 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 contacts and relevant information. Membership is usually open to students at a reduced rate.

- Environmental Health Australia  
www.eh.org.au
- Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand  
www.eianz.org
- Natural Resources Conservation League of  
Victoria www.nrcl.org.au
- Public Health Association Australia www.phaa.net.au/
- Sustainability Practitioners Association  
www.spea.asn.au/
- Victorian Association of Environmental Education  
www.vaee.vic.edu.au
- Waste Management Association of Australia  
www.wmaa.asn.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

### Vocational Graduate Certificate in Sustainability (H22066VIC)

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](mailto:careers@swin.edu.au)  
[www.swinburne.edu.au/careers](http://www.swinburne.edu.au/careers)

## ADVERTISEMENT EXAMPLES

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Source: [www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au) (2011)



### VISY- Sustainability & Safety Graduate

- **Looking for a sought after, structured 2011 Graduate Program?**
- **Use your degree in Environment Sustainability**
- **Work for a company at the forefront of environmental sustainability and innovation**

A leader in the Manufacturing Industry and at the forefront of environmental sustainability and technology, VISY hosts a fantastic work culture whilst being highly regarded in their field.

The 2011 Graduate Program is the perfect opportunity to begin a prosperous career in a stable, growing company. The Graduate role gives you the opportunity to spend 12 months in a structured development program designed to fast track your success.

We are looking for Graduates in the following areas:

- Environmental Science
- Sustainability
- OH&S

This graduate role will play a fundamental part in the control of environmental risk, compliance and tracking of Visy's overall environmental performance. The role is integral to the implementation and maintenance of the systems and tools required to identify and control environmental and safety risks. You will also assist in providing leadership and coaching to ensure environment, sustainability and safety considerations are top of mind and incorporated into everything Visy does. This will include:

- To assist in driving organisational HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) strategies and programs at site.
- Facilitate implementation or risk based strategies and HSE improvements
- To promote and adhere to all areas of the Visy's OH&S policies and procedures.

We are seeking a "Manager of the future" who is suited to the Manufacturing environment, motivated, driven and hungry for success! You will be confident, and down to earth. This role is ideal for an outspoken person who can stand up in a fast paced and traditional industrial atmosphere.

This role will be based out of the Visy site in Coolaroo, Victoria. Some travel to other sites across Melbourne may be required.

The opportunities with VISY are endless, it's the perfect way to begin an exciting and fulfilling career.

All applicants must be an Australian Citizen or Permanent resident at time of application.

*All applicants must have already graduated from their degree. This program is for recent graduates who have graduated in the past 2 years.*

Applications close 5pm, Friday 25th February.

To apply online, please click on the appropriate link. Please include a copy of your resume, cover letter and transcript of academic results.

[www.randstad.com.au](http://www.randstad.com.au)

# Consultant - Climate Change and Sustainability Services

You're looking for a change. You want to be part of a team that handles complex issues and resolves challenges for clients. And you believe you have what it takes to be successful. At Ernst & Young, we'll help you fulfil your career aspirations. We know it's your point of view, energy and enthusiasm that make the difference.

As one of our climate change and sustainability professionals, you'll work as part of a multidisciplinary team that provides recommendations on how to manage these areas effectively and responsibly. This will include helping clients understand business or regulatory threats and opportunities, exploring and executing commercial transactions, monitoring performance and assuring public disclosures on progress.

Working as part of this specialist team, you'll work with a diverse client base providing services such as:

- Sustainability and climate change reporting advice and assurance
- Sustainability and climate change strategy advice
- Advice on business processes related to sustainability, climate change and health and safety

Ideally you will be University qualified and have 2-5 years experience within an engineering or environmental science environment. You have a strong understanding of the industry, demonstrate outstanding project and time management skills and have a strong sense of business acumen.

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