



## Information for Future Students

### Welcome to The University of Sydney Careers Centre

Many future students are overwhelmed by the extensive range of courses offered by The University of Sydney. The Careers Centre is available at Sydney Uni Live (open day) to help you with your questions.

### How do I choose a degree?

Before you can select the 'right' degree for you, you will need to do some self-exploration. Here are some tips to help you start the process of learning more about yourself and where you might want to go:

- In which subjects do you excel at high school?
- Which subjects did you particularly enjoy?
- Which subjects did you least enjoy?
- Which subjects or topics can you imagine delving into in much greater detail at university?
- What are your broad career interests?
- Do you have a future career goal or goals in mind?
- What is important to you in a future job e.g. salary, status, location, type of work, saving the environment, working with others, lots of variety, working with technology, working with data?
- How do other people describe your skills, strengths and values?
- Which extra-curricular activities do you enjoy?
- Are you keen to travel and take a GAP year before you start tertiary studies?
- Are you keen to work for a year or two first and explore your areas of interest while you build your finances?
- Are you keen to study at university or another education institution such as TAFE? Be aware of your range of options so that you select the most suitable course and location to meet your needs.
- Talk to as many people as you can who are in a range of jobs. Ask your teacher, family and neighbours for ideas about who to talk with. Find out if you can do work experience with them. Which jobs interested you the most?

### Next steps

- Go through the information for each faculty and each course listed and, through a process of elimination, a more focused list of possible courses may emerge. Which ones appeal to you most? You may wish to think ahead and look at postgraduate courses as well. Make sure you take advantage of the academics and faculty staff available to answer your specific questions about each course of study that appeals to you most.
- Talk to your Careers Adviser at school about your options.
- Work through a career planning tool or vocational guidance testing (these may be provided at your school or through a private career practitioner) and make sure you receive feedback on your results.
- The **My Future** website is free and provides very helpful and current information. The 'My Guide' section allows you to work through your interests, skills and values to help you determine your possible career goals and choice of occupations. 'The Facts' section outlines excellent occupational, study, employment and salary information for a large range of jobs.  
[www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)
- If you are still unsure of your career decisions or you wish to keep your career options open at this stage, we recommend you consider enrolling in a 'generalist' degree offered by the faculties of Arts, Science or Economics and Business. This will give you time to develop your career goals through subject choice and work experience. Remember that many employers are interested in the generic skills you develop during your degree.
- You may also wish to consider a double or combined degree which provides you with a broader range of career options and a chance to study from a huge range of majors and subjects.
- Be prepared for what it will be like to attend university. Find out about courses, fee help, campus life and the expectations of academic learning.  
[www.goingtouni.gov.au](http://www.goingtouni.gov.au)

## Frequently asked questions

- **How do I become a psychologist?**  
University of Sydney students can study a psychology major through the following degrees: Bachelor of Psychology, Bachelor of Science (Honours), Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Bachelor of Liberal Studies (Honours) or Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences degrees. For more information you can refer to the School of Psychology and read the information for details on the recognition of these degrees by the relevant professional bodies.  
[www.psych.usyd.edu.au](http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au)  
[www.psych.usyd.edu.au/info/Prof\\_Recognition](http://www.psych.usyd.edu.au/info/Prof_Recognition)
- **How do I become a diplomat?**  
There is no specific single qualification that will train you for work as a diplomat. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has a Graduate Trainee Program and a Corporate and Financial Management Trainee Program that accepts suitable graduates from across a range of disciplines. Excellent academic results, honours degrees, double degrees, the ability to speak other languages, and a healthy interest in extra-curricular activities are all highly valued.  
[www.dfat.gov.au/recruit/graduates](http://www.dfat.gov.au/recruit/graduates)  
[www.dfat.gov.au/recruit/graduates/graduate\\_profiles](http://www.dfat.gov.au/recruit/graduates/graduate_profiles)
- **How do I become a journalist?**  
The University of Sydney offers a Bachelor of Arts (Media & Communications) which provides training for careers in the media. Graduates from other degrees have also entered careers in journalism and the media, often after a postgraduate qualification. If you wish to pursue a career in this industry then work experience and internships are extremely important. Get involved and write articles regularly. Aim to get published, even in student publications, local newspapers or internet blogs.
- **How do I become a forensic scientist?**  
Visit the National Institute of Forensic Science web page under the Education section for information about careers in forensic science and relevant courses.  
[www.nifs.com.au](http://www.nifs.com.au)
- **What can I do with a languages degree?**  
Visit the Graduate Careers Australia website and click on 'Career Profiles' to download the booklet on Asian and European languages.  
[www.graduateopportunities.com.au](http://www.graduateopportunities.com.au)

## Suggested websites

- **Graduate Careers Australia**  
All future University students should check out information on career outcomes from particular degrees, statistics on graduate outcomes, starting salaries and information about postgraduate study. You can also go to 'Career Profiles' and download career information booklets on topics such as Environment, Government, History, Human Resources, Marketing, Political Science and International Relations, Science and Women's Studies.  
[www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au)
- **Graduate Attributes**  
The University of Sydney experience should be one that builds on the aspirations of students and provides opportunities to develop new ways of thinking; as global citizens, inquiring scholars, and as individuals with a lifelong passion and flair for learning. These are the qualities described by the University's statement of Graduate Attributes and are some of the outcomes of a University of Sydney education that allow our graduates to excel in the world of work and contribute as leaders and agents of social good in our society. As a university community we seek to foster the development of these attributes through students, participation in the rich intellectual and social life of the university, through the learning experiences of their courses and the diverse extra-curricular activities available.  
[www.itl.usyd.edu.au/GraduateAttributes](http://www.itl.usyd.edu.au/GraduateAttributes)
- **Graduate Opportunities**  
This website links to all the major graduate employers in Australia and a check through the graduate recruitment pages of employers that appeal to your interests will provide you with information about what employers are looking for when they recruit graduates. For students planning to undertake a generalist degree, note that many employers seek graduates from a broad range of studies.  
[www.graduateopportunities.com](http://www.graduateopportunities.com)
- **Careers Centre**  
As an enrolled student, you will have full access to our website, including: the jobs database (casual and graduate jobs, internships, vacation work); careers fairs, workshops and other events; help with job search skills; information about the destinations of our graduates for each faculty; as well as career and course advice.  
[www.careers.usyd.edu.au](http://www.careers.usyd.edu.au)