Careers in Arts

Beyond your degree

A Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Western Australia is highly respected locally, nationally and internationally and will open the doors to a range of career opportunities.

With so many choices, a UWA Bachelor of Arts degree creates more career opportunities than you may have imagined possible.
Get the UWA Edge

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) focuses on how humans create, recognise and negotiate social meaning and values. Our successful graduates credit their BA as having broadened their mind to new and fascinating ideas that have paved the way for them to confidently think for themselves as well as the ability to process complex information and articulate reasoned responses.

There are over 3000 students studying the BA across a broad range of disciplines in humanities, cultural and social studies, languages and music.

The BA is taught through the Faculty of Arts which has a wide network of graduates in a diverse range of respected careers. You’ll notice in the following pages that many of our distinguished graduates have become ambassadors, managing directors and premiers to name a few. Others have gained opportunities in the resources sector as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians.

Essential skills for the workplace

Employers seek graduates who are trained to think, analyse and communicate, and in our rapidly changing world, employers also seek adaptable graduates who possess an assortment of generic, transferable skills.

Studying arts will equip you with the crucial skills to give you a competitive advantage in the employment market.

“Choose what you are passionate about as opposed to what jobs are available, because if you do what you are interested in and apply yourself to that career, the opportunities will naturally flow.

My studies and experiences have led to a number of opportunities working on significant sites for a range of resources companies such as FMG, Rio Tinto, Main Roads, Newcrest Mining Ltd, various government departments and now with BHP Billiton.”

David Bunting
Bachelor of Arts (Archaeology) Graduate

These skills include:
- Strong reasoning ability
- Problem solving and investigation
- Critical and creative thinking
- Teamwork skills
- Written and verbal presentation skills
- Capability to communicate across a variety of media

Our research indicates that graduates gain successful careers in:
- Government departments
- Media, public relations and marketing organisations
- Politics and law
- Mining and resources sector
- Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Education and training

Career advice and support

The UWA Future Students website provides many examples of careers which can be followed after studying each of the majors. Please have a browse to see what your future could bring at studyat.uwa.edu.au.

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Graduate Profiles

**Sara Macliver**
Internationally renowned opera singer studied a Bachelor of Music Education with honours and has also received an Honorary Doctorate in Music from UWA.

**Kim Beazley**
Australian Ambassador to the United States, former Deputy Prime Minister and Australian Labour Party Leader studied History at UWA and then went on to become a Rhodes scholar. Prior to his diplomatic appointment he was the Chancellor of the Australian National University and Professorial Fellow in Politics and International Relations at UWA.

**Stephen Smith**
Ex Minister of Defence and member of the House of Representatives, now a UWA academic studied for a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Classics and Ancient History and then continued with a Law Degree.

**Andrew Forrest**
Executive Director of Fortescue Metals Group completed a double major in Politics and International Relations with Economics.

**Shaun Tan**
Oscar winning film maker, author and illustrator Shaun Tan completed a Bachelor of Arts with honours in English and Fine Arts.

**Oscar winning film maker, author and illustrator Shaun Tan completed a Bachelor of Arts with honours in English and Fine Arts.**

**David Ritter**
Author and CEO of Greenpeace Australia Pacific graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with honours majoring in History as well as a Bachelor of Law with honours.

**Tim Minchin**
Award winning, very talented comedian and musician majored in English at UWA.

**Greg Moriarty**
Completed a Bachelor of Arts with honours majoring in Political Science before studying a Master in Strategic and Defence Studies at the Australian National University. He is currently the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia and has previously served as Ambassador to Iran.
## Arts Majors and Career Prospects

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| **Anthropology and Sociology** | Anthropology and Sociology study the nature of humanity along with complexities of social relationships, and offer ways of understanding the whole context of human experiences. | Skills attained from the study of society are relevant to careers in government, cultural organisations and education. Many of our graduates gain successful careers as teachers, academics, cultural officers, archivists and even anthropologists. | Academic/Teacher  
Academic/Anthropologist  
Archivist  
Consultant  
Curator  
Librarian  
Senior Management  
Native Title and Heritage Coordinator  
Policy Officer  |
| **Archaeology**        | Archaeology is the study of past human societies through their material remains – the things people leave behind. The course provides students with an overall view of world languages and cultures with an emphasis on Australia. | Archaeologists frequently gain employment in government departments and the mining and resources sector both in Australia and overseas. They are employed directly or work as consultants providing advice on archaeological matters. Major career prospects include museum curators and researchers in the education sector. | Conservation Officer  
Curator  
Principal Community Improvement Officer  
Archaeologist  
Senior Archaeologist  |
| **Asian Studies**      | Asia is the home to two thirds of the world’s population and is an economic powerhouse vital to the future prosperity and security of Australia’s future. Asian Studies introduces you to the many cultures, societies and politics of Asia including China, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. | Many employers in Australia and Asia seek graduates with an Asian-related academic background including human rights organisations, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the World Bank, the United Nations as well as in education, tourism and media. | Diplomat  
Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer  
Interpreter  
Journalist  
Research Analyst  
Senior Management  |
| **Chinese**            | The Chinese major caters for a range of language levels from beginner to native speaker and develops language skills, cultural literacy and knowledge of China. Chinese (Mandarin) is the most widely used language in the world. To reinforce students understanding, UWA offers a language study program in China in (Hangzhou and Beijing) and Taiwan. | Graduates find employment in industries such as secondary and tertiary education, business and government departments and the media. | Academic/Teacher  
Diplomat  
Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer  
Mining Executive  
Political Adviser  
Senior Management  
Translator/Interpreter  
Workplace Relations Adviser  |
| **Classics and Ancient History** | Classics and Ancient History combine languages, literature, history, art and archaeology of the ancient Greek and Roman civilisations. These two cultures lie at the foundation of the modern world and we are surrounded by their legacy – from the Olympic Games to the alphabet, from democracy to Christianity, from theatre to the rule of the law. | Graduates are well sought after in areas such as journalism, the media, advertising, public relations, multimedia, business, government and education. | Academic/Teacher  
Curator  
Festival Director  
Historian  
HR Project Manager  
Journalist  
Librarian  
Research Officer  
Writer  |
| **Communication and Media Studies** | Communication and Media Studies is one of the most exciting and rapidly evolving areas of study in today’s media driven world. What we know of the world and how we act in it is critically related to our use of communication technologies from language to screen, and from text to social networks. | Graduates are highly successful in obtaining a wide range of jobs from teaching to management; journalism and advertising to the public service. Many graduates proceed from studies in English to specialised training in a profession such as law, psychology, librarianship, education, publishing, journalism, industrial relations or theatre and media work. | Communications Advisor  
Communications Manager  
Director of HR  
English Teacher  
Head of English Department  
Media Liaison/Speech Writer  
Media Relations Officer  
Senior Management  |
| **English and Cultural Studies** | Studying English and Cultural Studies will enrich your understanding of literary, cinematic and theatrical traditions across the globe. This major includes units in the literatures of Britain, America, Australia and post-colonial societies; creative writing, and theatre; and popular culture and film. | Graduates are highly successful in obtaining a wide range of jobs from teaching to management; journalism and advertising to the public service. Many graduates proceed from studies in English to specialised training in a profession such as law, psychology, librarianship, education, publishing, journalism, industrial relations or theatre and media work. | Communications Advisor  
Communications Manager  
Director of HR  
English Teacher  
Head of English Department  
Media Liaison/Speech Writer  
Media Relations Manager  
Senior Management  |

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**Source:** arts.uwa.edu.au
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<td>European Studies</td>
<td>European Studies equips students with knowledge and skills to understand one of the most important players in the global environment: Europe. It provides information on and analysis of the cultures and societies of contemporary Europe and the social, cultural and political developments which generated the Europe of today, including both the European Union and the ‘Europe’ of tradition and history.</td>
<td>Graduates will be well qualified for careers in the diplomatic services, teaching, interpreting and translating, as well as a range of careers in law, communications, travel, hospitality, publishing, theatre, commerce, journalism and international relations.</td>
<td>Administrative Officer, Board Manager, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Foundation Officer, Marketing Manager, Senior Planner, Teacher, Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Studies</td>
<td>French Studies helps students—from beginners through to near-native speakers—achieve high levels of competency in listening, speaking, writing and reading the French language. Learning the language also introduces you to the culture and intellectual accomplishments of French-speaking people within France and the many French-speaking communities around the world.</td>
<td>Graduates will be well qualified for careers in the diplomatic services, teaching, interpreting and translating, as well as a range of careers in travel, hospitality, publishing, theatre, commerce and international relations. Knowledge of a foreign language is particularly helpful for career prospects in international banking and law, journalism and communications, medical and scientific areas, music and the arts.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Corporate Communications Manager, Policy Officer, Festival Director, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Librarian, Media Liaison / Speech Writer, Principal Policy Officer, Research Clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Studies</td>
<td>The Gender Studies major studies the history of gender and its intersections with race, class and sexuality, and how social power works. It is based in the everyday practices and cultural texts of student lives and also serves as a reminder of the forms of dominant thinking and dissent on sexuality and identity in the past. Students learn about the ethics of equity, diversity and social justice.</td>
<td>All workplaces have equity policies so knowledge of Gender Studies is an advantage to any organisation, business or government agency. Graduates often find jobs in the areas of social justice, equity and diversity and workplace relations. Knowledge of Gender Studies is also invaluable in professions such as law, education, journalism, psychology or medicine.</td>
<td>Counsellor, Human Resources Professional, Journalist, Lawyer, Workplace Relations Adviser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Studies</td>
<td>German Studies is the study of the German language from beginners through to near-native speakers. It also offers a wide perspective on German society as it considers the culture and history of German-speaking people, not only in Germany, Austria and Switzerland but across the globe. Social history and culture are studied from the many centuries of German literary tradition—prose, poetry, drama, music, film and advertising.</td>
<td>Graduates are well qualified for careers in the diplomatic services, teaching and training, interpreting and translating, as well as a range of careers in travel, hospitality, publishing, theatre, commerce, manufacturing, law and international relations. Knowledge of a foreign language is particularly helpful for career prospects in international banking, journalism and communications, medical and scientific areas, music and the arts.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Counsellor, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Librarian, Research Assistant, Teaching English as a Foreign Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>History introduces you to the way we create the collective memory of the human race. This is not as easy as it sounds, as our memory can play tricks. Sorting out the facts from fiction requires careful sifting of evidence when investigating the deep causes of events such as the American Revolution, the First World War, the fall of Communism or the colonisation of Australia. History introduces you to the complexities involved in these exciting pursuits and requires you to use imagination as well as reason.</td>
<td>History graduates find careers in which they can use their skills in research, critical analysis and written communication such as historian, research and writing, politics, teaching, journalism, librarianship and archival management, government agencies, museums, cultural heritage and tourism, business administration and publishing.</td>
<td>Academic /Teacher, Digital Producer, History Officer, Justice Officer, Politician, Principal Policy Officer, Research Librarian, Senior Management, Senior Project Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>The major covers key moments in the development of visual art movements in Australasia and Europe in order to give you the tools to understand how art creates power. The diverse units will train you to speak and write about art in a sophisticated and intelligent way, allowing you to graduate with skills in visual analysis and communication that empower you to make your own opportunities in the world.</td>
<td>Graduates from the History of Art major generally go on to work within the arts industry, a term that describes the network of artists, collectors, curators and galleries who manage art collections and exhibitions. The major also gives you the skills to enter professions in art education, the museum and tourism industries, advertising, visual content management, film and television production.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Arts Administrator, Curator – Gallery, Museum Historian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Geography and Planning</td>
<td>Human Geography and Planning involves understanding and guiding the development of cities and regions. It focuses on some of the major challenges currently facing society, including the population explosion, rapid urbanisation, poverty and homelessness, land use conflict, cultural diversity, economic development and ecological sustainability.</td>
<td>Planners and geographers are employed by local and state governments and in the private sector in areas including regional development, public administration, public policy, social research, teaching and land development.</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Geographer, Land Economist, Policy and Planning Manager, University Lecturer, Urban and Regional Planners</td>
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<td>Indigenous Knowledge, History and Heritage</td>
<td>The Indigenous Knowledge, History and Heritage major comprises an interdisciplinary program that will provide you with an opportunity to learn about the history, culture and philosophy of Aboriginal peoples in Australia.</td>
<td>The broad skills base and adaptable approach of graduates from the major are valuable in areas such as legal and human rights organisations, government departments, business and industry, education, trade and tourism, health and the environment.</td>
<td>Curator — Gallery or Museum, Environmental Consultant, Parliamentary, Policy Analyst, Secondary School Teacher, Writer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>A major in Indonesian enables you to achieve a high level of fluency in the language of Australia’s closest neighbour and the world’s fourth largest country.</td>
<td>Knowledge of Indonesian language, culture and social norms is in demand by state and federal government departments as well as commercial enterprises investing in Indonesia, the media, education, tourism and hospitality industries. Graduates are also well equipped to travel around Indonesia and explore its rich cultures and beautiful natural environment.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Diplomat, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Hospitality/Tourism Professional, Journalist, Policy and Planning Manager, Translator/Interpreter</td>
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<td>Italian Studies</td>
<td>The major in Italian Studies teaches you high levels of competence in speaking, writing, listening and reading. It also offers a wide perspective on Italian culture and history and also Italian speaking communities around the world including Australia.</td>
<td>European language graduates are well qualified for careers in the diplomatic services, teaching and training, interpreting and translating, as well as employment in travel, hospitality, publishing, theatre, commerce, manufacturing, law and international relations. Knowledge of a foreign language is particularly helpful for career prospects in international banking, journalism and communications, medical areas, music and the arts.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Arts Administrator, Diplomat, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Hospitality/Tourism Professional, Journalist, Senior Management, Translator/Interpreter</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Japan is the third largest economy in the world with strong historic trading links with Australia. Its traditional culture has long been admired in the West while contemporary Japanese popular culture, from anime to J-pop, has gained wide appeal globally today. Knowledge of the Japanese language, culture and society provides you with an introduction to one of Asia's most important centres of culture and modern business.</td>
<td>Graduates with a major in Japanese can find employment in federal and state government departments and a wide range of organisations in private industry as well as community organisations.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Diplomat, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Hospitality/Tourism Professional, Journalist, Senior Management, Translator/Interpreter</td>
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<td>Korean Studies</td>
<td>The Korean Studies major teaches the Korean language from beginners as well as a critical analysis of the cultures, societies and the philosophical thought of the Korean peninsula. It equips students not only linguist, but also cultural competence and intercultural understanding of the two Koreas.</td>
<td>With the rapid economic development of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and its position as the third biggest trading partner of Western Australia, graduates with a knowledge of Korean language and culture are increasingly sought after. Employment can be found in both business and public sector, in state and federal governments and commercial enterprises investing in Korean especially the resources sector.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer, Interpreter/Translator, Mining Executive, Policy and Planning Adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law and Society</td>
<td>By choosing the Law and Society major within the Bachelor of Arts, you will gain career building knowledge of the impact of law in society—both locally and globally. The fields you may choose to study include human rights, crime and justice, freedom of expression, decisions about birth and death, and religion.</td>
<td>In combination with other study, graduates will be qualified for roles in the government, not-for-profit or commercial sectors. These include law-related policy and research roles in law reform and justice agencies; and positions that draw on knowledge of law, such as human resources, industrial relations, human rights, equal opportunity and legal assistance.</td>
<td>Environmental Manager, Health and Welfare Manager, Human Resources Professional, Journalist, Lawyer, Policy and Planning Manager, Politician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Linguistics is the study of the nature of human language and communication. Linguists study how languages are structured, learned and used in different cultures and societies, as well as how they change over time. Linguistics is concerned with what all languages have in common as well as how individual languages differ from one another.</td>
<td>A major in Linguistics provides a foundation for any career that involves language or languages, human social organisation and culture.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher, Anthropologist, Audiologist, Business and Systems Analyst, Intelligence Analyst, Interpreter/Translator, Journalist, Software and Applications Programmer</td>
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<td>Medieval and Early Modern Studies</td>
<td>The Medieval and Early Modern Studies Major explores Europe between the fifth and eighteenth centuries from a variety of perspectives including history, literary studies, Latin, visual arts, philosophy and archaeology.</td>
<td>Because graduates majoring in MEMS learn to conduct informed analyses within a wide range of methodologies, they are well prepared for employment in areas such as journalism, the media, cultural and heritage institutions (such as museums and art galleries), the diplomatic corps, publishing and education.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher ✗ Artivist ✗ Arts Administrator ✗ Curator ✗ Historian ✗ Librarian ✗ Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Studies</td>
<td>This major teaches you a broad range of skills and assists you to develop expertise in the areas of performance or composition, harmony and aural, Western art music history, as well as popular and world musics.</td>
<td>The breadth of communication, musical, analytical, written and research skills that students acquire are desirable in a wide range of professions. Some graduates may pursue careers as professional performing musicians while others may gain employment in areas of teaching, composing, arranging, arts management, journalism and community music.</td>
<td>Academic ✗ Artistic Director ✗ Arts Administrator ✗ Music teacher ✗ Musician ✗ Performer ✗ Stage Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist Music Studies</td>
<td>Specialist Music Studies is a stepping-stone to a variety of careers in the music profession. This major provides you with a rigorous, high-quality tertiary music education and an intensive concentration in a chosen area of specialisation—performance, composition or musicology. Specialist Music Studies must be taken as a second major concurrently with Music Studies.</td>
<td>Graduates pursue careers in a wide range of areas including the creative and performing arts, music education, the entertainment industry and associated fields. Many graduates have careers as performing musicians, either with an orchestra, an ensemble, as conductors or composers, or a combination of all of these. Others go on to become music administrators, music or arts managers, music journalists or librarians.</td>
<td>Artistic Director ✗ Composer ✗ Conductor ✗ Journalist ✗ Musician ✗ Music Teacher ✗ Performer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Philosophy teaches you to distinguish between good and bad arguments and make informed recommendations on contentious issues. Studying Philosophy allows you to explore a vast range of influential ideas, from the ancient philosophers whose works are preserved in manuscripts from India, China and Greece, right down to cutting-edge contemporary work on pressing ethical issues, the nature of mind and artificial intelligence. UWA is the only university in Western Australia that teaches units in formal logic.</td>
<td>Philosophy graduates can be found in challenging areas such as strategic planning, where their conceptual skills and the ability to ‘see the big picture’ are highly valued. With a growing awareness of corporate, medical and environmental ethics, students who specialise in ethics have the opportunity to work in these areas. Recent graduates have found work in journalism, computing, libraries, law and the public service.</td>
<td>Academic/Teacher ✗ Journalist ✗ Lawyer ✗ Librarian ✗ Policy and Planning Manager ✗ Senior Management ✗ Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science and International Relations</td>
<td>Political Science and International Relations studies how societies govern themselves and the collective decisions, or public policies, they need, or choose, to make. Attention is given to the different ways government is organised. International Relations focuses on the ways in which states and peoples interact with other states, regional or global political organisations, and social movements in an increasingly interdependent world.</td>
<td>Graduates of this major are not only found in political parties, ministers’ offices and parliament but many pursue careers in Commonwealth or WA Public Services (including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade). Other graduates enter journalism or a wide range of organisations in Australia and overseas, or else use their training as a basis for further study in law, education, social work, communications and other areas.</td>
<td>Diplomat ✗ Foreign Affairs and Trade Officer ✗ Hospitality and Tourism Professional ✗ Journalist ✗ Lawyer ✗ Politician ✗ Senior Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology in Society</td>
<td>Psychology in Society touches upon many aspects of daily life, seeking to answer questions about how and why people behave the way they do. Students build a scientific understanding of human behaviour and its underlying psychological processes.</td>
<td>Careers for graduates in Psychology in Society are varied because you are prepared for an occupation in which knowledge of human behaviour, psychological measurement techniques and data analysis are valuable, such as teaching, market research, welfare, and politics. When combined with a major in Psychological Science, it can also lead to further study and professional qualifications in Psychology.</td>
<td>Counsellor ✗ Health and Welfare Officer ✗ Human Resources Professional ✗ Psychologist ✗ Recruitment Consultant ✗ Sports Scientist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work and Employment Relations</td>
<td>The Work and Employment Relations major focuses on the dynamics of workplace relations between employers and employees, as well as the wider impact of employment relations on the economy, society and politics.</td>
<td>This major is beneficial for those aspiring to work in a management position or for those wishing to become involved in industrial law.</td>
<td>Human Resources Professional ✗ Management Consultant ✗ Parliamentarian ✗ Policy and Planning Manager ✗ Recruitment Consultant ✗ Workplace Relations Adviser</td>
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