



**2021 EDITION**

**Monash International Affairs Society**

# **INDUSTRY GUIDE**



# FOREWORD

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It is such a joy to bring you the 2021 edition of the MIAS Industry Guide.



The goal of the Academics Careers & Internships portfolio was to bring you closer to the world of international relations which can sometimes feel out of reach. Here at MIAS we understand the pull to a career in international affairs. The ever changing international order, desire to tackle global commons issues, the powers of government, human rights, health, international organisations and other actors who influence the worlds systems make international relations a dynamic field to work in.

Our Guide maps some key areas, both at the national and international level. We explore how your degree (or double degree!) could be useful in government, NGOs, think tanks, consulates & embassies and international organisations. Seeing is believing, so we have showcased some incredible Monash Alumni who have studied in the international relations field. These Alum discuss how they got to where they are, what they enjoy about their respective fields of work and why they chose to work in the international affairs space.

I would like to thank the wonderful team who put this together- Arshiya Merchant (Communications Officer), Daniel Phelan (Treasurer), Jerry Nguyen (Academics Officer-Events), Imogen Kane (Socials Officer) and Lucy Porter (Assistant Treasurer). Everyone on the 2021 committee and the soon to be 2022 committee assisted in the design of this Guide which we are so grateful for.

MIAS has become increasingly interdisciplinary over the years - mainly because we realised that international relations is more than just “pure IR”, it engages strongly with law, business, science, IT and almost every industry. The Alum featured in this Guide are a testament to how international relations has permeated a range of fields and industries. The study of international relations at Monash University in particular is a rich experience and will open interesting pathways and dynamic careers for those who choose to undertake it.

Above all else, we hope you find this first Industry Guide a succinct resource that helps you see where a degree in international relations at Monash can take you!



HAMAH HOSEN -  
MIAS President 2021



WINURI DE ALWIS -  
MIAS Academics Officer  
(Careers & Internships)  
2021

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# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

A significant number of international relations graduates aim to work in the Australian Public Service (APS). Many Australian Government departments are relevant to international relations graduates. You can work in the fields of diplomacy, international relations, trade, security, defence or intelligence.

**TOP TIP**  
Check out the Australian Public Service Commission's publication: **Cracking the Code!**

It has important and useful information on how to apply to an APS job

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The Australian Government Graduate Program invites people from a wide range of disciplines to apply for a career in the APS. Your work can range from policy development, providing government advice, complex problem solving and giving input on Australia's current foreign, defence and security policies. The APS promises flexibility with work and prioritises work/life balance.

Each Australian Government department and agency runs their own graduate recruitment. Additional support for graduates with a disability is available. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates can make use of the Indigenous Graduate Pathway.

- **Time:** Each program runs for around 10-12 months depending on the department. The DFAT program is ongoing, full-time.
- **Location:** mainly based in Canberra but some offer programs in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane
- **Salary:** \$56- \$70k depending on the department/ agency
- **Application Dates:** Typically graduate programs are advertised in March/April the year prior to the start date.

### Streams

- Generalist
- HR
- Intelligence
- Economist
- Digital
- Indigenous Graduate Pathway
- STEM
- Data

For further information on the specific graduate programs of each department look at the [APS Jobs Portal](#)

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

## STATE GOVERNMENTS

Individuals interested in working as a public servant can also seek opportunities at the state and territory level. The work they do also aims to enhance Australia's international relations by liaising and engaging with local governments, NGOs and businesses in the state or territory. Similar to the Commonwealth Government, state governments run graduate programs as well as advertise other job listings on their websites.

## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Victorian Government graduate program has streams tailored to what you studied at university. They also have pathways for applicants who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander or is a person with disability. Each year the Victorian Government has two intakes for the graduate program. The streams offered in each intake vary.

You could work in 3 roles across different departments.

**Time:** Each program runs for 12 months

**Location:** Melbourne

**Salary:** Starting salary of more than \$60,000 and a promotion + pay rise to more than \$72,000 at the program's end.

**Eligibility:** Apart from graduating in the period specified, you must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or an Australian permanent resident or have unrestricted working rights for ongoing work.



### Did you know?

A career in the APS does not have to begin from one of the Government Graduate Programs. If you are interested in a particular agency or department can apply throughout the year for other positions in areas such as management, IT, HR, Assistants, media or policy.

### STREAMS AND CORRESPONDING ROLES

- **Generalist:**
  - Graduate workplace advisor
  - Graduate communications and media advisor
  - Graduate policy officer
- **Law**
  - Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
  - Department of Justice and Community Safety
  - Department of Transport
  - Victoria Police
- **Project Delivery**
  - Any number of departments

### Departments in the Victorian Government

- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Department of Health
- Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Department of Transport
- Department of Treasury and Finance

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

## NEW SOUTH WALES GRADUATE PROGRAM

The New South Wales Graduate Program provides graduates the opportunity to complete placements in different roles across NSW Government.

**Time:** 18 months starting in February

### Eligibility:

- have completed your undergraduate or postgraduate degree in the last two years
- be an Australian Citizen, permanent resident of Australia, New Zealand citizen with a current New Zealand passport, or hold a visa that allows you to work full-time in Australia for the duration of the program
- Any stream-specific requirements

### Locations:

- Greater Sydney metropolitan, including Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Kingswood and Liverpool, Parramatta and Sydney CBD
- Hunter, including Newcastle, Gosford and Maitland
- Central Tablelands, including Bathurst, Dubbo, Lithgow and Orange
- New England, including Tamworth and Armidale
- North Coast, including Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Grafton

### **Helpful Links:**

- Australian Government vacancies are advertised in the [Australian Public Service Gazette](#).
- You can tailor your job search through the [APS Jobs tool](#)
- State and Territory government [vacancies](#)

### **STREAMS**

#### Primary stream

- Open to all

#### Legal Stream

- hold a law degree and be willing to study a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GLDP) during the program. If you have started studying a GLDP, you are ineligible for the legal stream.

#### Digital Stream

- degree must be an information technology or technical degree.

#### Social Work Stream

- hold a degree in social work, psychology or social science welfare

### **Virtual Internships**

The NSW Government run a Virtual Internship Program that aims to give individuals insight into life in the NSW Government Graduate Program and reflect the work our graduates do.

A great way to practice your skills prior to your NSW Government Graduate Application!

More [information:](#)

# AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

You can work for the Australian government and represent Australia's interests in the international order through working at one of Australia's permanent missions. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website regularly advertises vacancies and internship programs.

## UNITED NATIONS - AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UN

There are 5 posts of the Australian Mission to the United Nations. They are located in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Rome and Nairobi representing Australia's interests in the UN system.

### Your work:

Diplomacy is at the heart of the work done at the Australian Mission to the United Nations. Your role is to ensure Australia's interests are represented in the international order. This is done through a variety of methods including negotiating, advocating and working with other countries to pursue shared goals.

## AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION, GENEVA

Based in Geneva, the Australian Permanent Mission to the WTO represents Australia's interests in international trade. Australia advocates for trade liberalisation as it believes it through this approach that we can ensure global sustainable economic growth.

### Your work:

Trade liberalisation is pursued through working with countries to form bilateral and regional treaties. You would push for a rules based framework to resolve trade disputes and encourage compliance with WTO rules.

## AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, GENEVA

Led by an Ambassador for Disarmament, the Disarmament Delegation promotes and advocates for Australia's objectives on disarmament and arms control. Its work includes contributing to the negotiation of treaties and international instruments whilst promoting the global community to adhere to existing international frameworks.

### Areas of work:

- Human Rights
- Humanitarian
- Health
- Migration/Refugees
- Environment
- Labour issues

### Areas of work:

- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Biological Weapons Convention
- Landmines, Cluster Munitions and other Conventional Weapons
- Conventional Arms Trade

### Areas of work:

- Areas of work:
- Goods
- Services
- Intellectual property
- Trade and Development
- Dispute Settlement





# THINK TANKS



# THINK THANKS

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The think tank and policy institute pathway is one of great interest to many IR graduates, particularly due to the wide-ranging nature of job possibilities the industry entails.

These departments are often research institutes that perform research and advocacy, usually are NGO's in themselves, some can be semi-autonomous agencies within government or associated with political parties and business as per funding.

Unfortunately, compared to other sectors in international relations this area offers limited graduate programs and such pathways are usually limited to Internship streams or roles as junior researchers/analysts requiring limited industry experience compared to more developed roles. Alongside this, it is very common for internships for research positions to be more favoured towards individuals with Postgraduate degrees.

## Internships

Time: usually 3-6 months, often part-time roles, but some will be full-time roles over non-university teaching periods.

Location: many think tanks operate throughout Australian cities, often in Canberra, Sydney & Melbourne, often depending on the type of research done.

Remuneration: some internships are often unpaid in this area, lower research/analyst roles salary often ranges from \$60-70k.



## What does a think tank do?

Think tanks publish articles, studies or draft policy & legislation on certain matters of policy/society. In Australia, many of these think tanks are based at university or government-funded, with the number of think tanks increasing substantially over the past decade.



## Areas of focus

- Defence
- National security
- Public Policy
- Environmental Policies
- Economic Policy
- Health

## Streams

- Researcher
- Analyst
- Project manager
- Director
- Fellow

# AUSTRALIAN THINK TANKS

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## **AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE:**

ASPI works to improve the quality of policy and policy-making on defence and national security issues. They seek to provide an alternate & contestable source of policy advice on defence and strategic issues whilst also promoting international understanding of Australia's strategic and defence policy perspectives.

ASPI predominately publishes three different kinds of reports:

- Strategies
- Strategic Insight
- Special Reports

Vacancies will often be posted on the ASPI Twitter and website, with intakes for the ASPI internship program having two intakes per year. More information can be found on their [website](#).

## **THE LOWY INSTITUTE:**

The Lowy Institute aims to produce distinctive research and fresh policy options for Australian international policy and contribute to the wider international debate.

Lowy hosts speeches by leading national and international figures and holds events and conferences to discuss key global issues. It aims to deepen the international policy debate in Australia and to give Australia a greater voice on the international stage.

The Lowy Institute is well known for its digital magazine 'The Interpreter', publishing research such as the Global Diplomacy Index, and the Asia Power Index.

The Lowy Institute offers internship programs depending on its capacity and availability and advertises across social media or their [website](#).

## **ASIALINK**

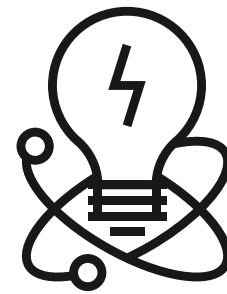
Asialink is Australia's leading centre for creative engagement with Asia. Asialink works with diverse communities in Australia and Asia for mutual understanding and prosperity. Their program areas include Arts, Business, Diplomacy and Education.

Vacancies for roles will be posted on LinkedIn or the Asialink website. They have previously taken on student interns as well as advertised for roles such as Assistants or Program Coordinators.

More information can be found on their [website](#).

# AUSTRALIAN THINK TANKS

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## THE GRATTAN INSTITUTE

The Grattan Institute aims to provide public policy recommendations that aim to influence Australia's future. Grattan notes that they are a non-partisan think tank to conduct analysis on important issues where evidence-based analysis could make a difference.

Grattan currently runs various policy programs: Budget Policy, Energy, Migration and labour markets, Climate Change, Equity, Retirement incomes, COVID-19, Government and Public Integrity, Tax reform, Economic Growth, Health and aged care, Transport and Cities, Education, and Housing.

The Grattan Institute runs an internship program that runs three times each year, two in summer and one in winter. Applications typically open in late July/early August. Internship information can be found [here](#):

The Grattan Institute in 2021 also ran an intake for Graduate Associates in 2022.

Vacancies for roles will be posted on Seek or the Grattan [website](#):

## THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE

The Australian Institute is one of Australia's public policy think tanks. Their research programs include economics, climate & energy, democracy & accountability, environment, international & security affairs, and Law, Society & Culture.

The Australian Institute runs two Fellowship programs: The Anne Kantor Fellowship (General) and the Anne Kantor Young Women Environmentalists Fellowship. In a graduate program style, fellows are provided with the necessary resources and on-the-job training in public policy and advocacy. This program will run for 5 years, commencing in 2021. Applicant information can be found on the Anne Kantor Fellowship [website](#).

Other job opportunities by the Australian Institute are advertised through their [website](#):

# INTERNATIONAL THINK TANKS

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In recent times, the growth of the think tank sector in Australia has mirrored that of the international sector, whilst also branching many institutes to set up offices in Australia.

This is also alongside the growing opportunities for virtual positions in the post-Covid-19 landscape. This allows individuals to seek out research and policy work in organisations that operate in a more international landscape, within Australia or work overseas.

## **PACIFIC FORUM:**

The Forum's programs encompass current and emerging political, security, economic and business issues and work to help stimulate cooperative policies in the Indo-Pacific region. They conduct analysis and engage in dialogue with the region's leaders in the academic, government, and corporate areas.

The Forum operates in many locations across the Indo-Pacific region – in 21 cities within 12 countries.

Opportunities include full- and part-time unpaid internships for recent graduates and students. All internships are currently virtual - allowing Australians access to these opportunities without having to relocate.

The Pacific Forum has two main intakes in a research and program internship. Research positions currently seek those with an interest in cybersecurity, emerging technologies or nonproliferation & strategic trade controls



# INTERNATIONAL THINK TANKS

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## ASIA SOCIETY:

The Asia Society aims to identify future links between Asia and the world to work towards enhancing peace, prosperity, freedom, equality and sustainability. They connect business and policy to provide a platform for dialogue, encouraging a variety of views to establish the most effective strategies for the future.

The Society aims to prepare Australians for deeper and sustainable engagement with Asia by offering a variety of events and networking opportunities, such as: Executive Briefings, Live Asia Briefings and Generation Asia program

Two internship intakes per year in January and June are offered by The Society. These positions operate over a 5 month period with 1-2 days work each week completed in Melbourne, Sydney or virtually. Internship offerings are posted [here](#).

## CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES:

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, non-profit policy research organisation dedicated to advancing practical ideas to address the world's biggest challenges.

CSIS offers a range of internships which are often located in Washington, DC. Internships are paid positions at CSIS in a range of areas such as 'Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative' and the CSIS 'iDeas Labs'.

CSIS also has a host of career opportunities, more information can be found [here](#).





# CONSULATES



**What is the difference between a Consulate and an Embassy?**

Embassies are larger, often an established, permanent diplomatic mission, usually located in the capital city.

Consulates are smaller version of an embassy and are generally located in larger tourist cities of a country.

# CONSULATES & EMBASSIES

There are 79 Foreign Embassies and 259 Consulates within Australia. Australia has 54 Embassies and 105 Consulates that are spread throughout the world. While working in a consulate or embassy you are likely to work on a range of issues from trade & investment, conflict resolution, human rights to sports & culture.

## **Academic qualifications:**

University degrees are desired, however the discipline does not matter greatly (e.g. Arts, Science, Law et cetera). According to current DFAT hiring procedures, having a postgraduate qualification is not required, especially if you have strong undergraduate performance.

Employers are often looking for underlying intellectual capacity, and a growth mindset.

While you do not need to be an International Relations student to get a job in the IR sphere, having general knowledge and passion about the area is looked upon favourably.

## **Languages:**

Knowledge of a second language is highly regarded, especially if working in overseas embassies/consulates. While proficiency is admired, demonstrating a passion to learn a language is also valued.

## Typical responsibilities

- Liaise with local organisations to achieve consulate's policy objectives
- Manage face-to-face queries from the public
- Handle departmental and project budgets
- Update travel advice and information

## \*\*if you are working overseas:

- Assist your country's expatriates
- Assess visa applications and conduct interviews as a clearance officer
- Undertake specialist project work
- Work closely with the government of that country and local organisations.

Often, you will change roles/seats every 3-4 years.

## Current priority languages for Australian Trade positions:

- Arabic
- Bahasa Indonesian
- Cantonese
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Mandarin
- Spanish



# CONSULATES & EMBASSIES

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## **Consular Corps Internship Program:**

The aim of this program is to enable university students to gain 'hands-on experience working in a consulate' over a time-commitment of around 200 hours, while developing skills related to diplomacy and international relations.

The Consular Corps encourages students who have experience or interest in diplomacy or IR to apply, and value interpersonal skills, time management, and competence in a second language.

Students who participate in this internship will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the IR sphere, work with, and learn from, experts in the field, and gain academic credit. Alongside this, some of the experiences students may be exposed to are:

- Researching international and economic issues
- Providing background briefings
- Developing marketing and communication strategies
- Arranging meetings
- Facilitating events and fundraisers
- Aiding with social media platforms and online presence.

How to apply

- Head to the [Consular Corps website](#) or visit the [MIAS website](#) for more information

## **Diplomacy pathways**

- Consular officer
- Economic officers
  - Work with foreign governments, businesses, NGOs regarding economics, business and scientific development
- Management officer
  - Responsible for all embassy operations such as budgeting and human resources
- Political officer
  - Analyse the political climate of the embassy/consulate's host country
- Public diplomacy officer
  - Influence local leaders, academics, think-tanks to promote understanding of the embassy/consulate's interests



# **NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

# NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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Studying politics, human rights, international relations, foreign affairs, law, medicine or anything that involves tackling some of the world's most pressing and complicated issues, can open up doors and opportunities for a career in the NGO sector.

NGOs are known for mobilising resources, advocating for citizens, challenging policy, driving change through small and large scale projects, and partnering with other organisations to more effectively reach shared goals. They usually consist of a mixture of paid employees and volunteers.

NGO's are a great pathway to pursue if you're particularly passionate about certain issues or causes, and want to play an active role in addressing them. Having a career or experience with an NGO is a great way to ensure you enjoy the work you do, meet like minded people and know you're making a real difference.

At NGOs you will work across a range of tasks including fundraising and campaigning, community action, influencing policy through campaigning and consulting, coordinating and implementing developmental aid programs, liaising between organisations, governments, and communities.

Important skills to have include:

- **Project management:** NGO's always have projects running which have targets, deadlines, and timelines they should be completed under.
- **Fundraising:** since most organisations rely on grants, donations and funding from donors, they are constantly on the search for professionals with effective fundraising skills.
- **Communication:** in an NGO setup, you constantly have to liaise with other departments, colleagues, and bodies outside the organisation, including the public.



## What is a NGO?

Non-government organisations (NGOs) are non-profit organisations that are set up and operated independently from local, state or international governments, but can receive government funding in some cases. They usually address social and political issues.

## TOP TIPS

1. **Begin by volunteering** This is a great way to learn about how an NGO works at a grassroots level, and can help you determine if it's the right place for you while building your skills
2. **Network.** Reach out and talk to those involved in the NGO. Ask questions and get yourself noticed.
3. **Get involved in a campaign,** and engage with the NGOs fundraising efforts.
4. **Build up a wealth of skills,** so that when you apply for positions, you can undertake many of the responsibilities.

# NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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## GOVERNMENT VOLUNTEERING

### **Australian Volunteers International**

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) provides Australians with volunteering opportunities abroad that support locally-driven social, environmental and economic initiatives to achieve development goals in developing countries. Guided by the principle of self-determination, AVI prides itself on responsible volunteering to ensure that change is locally owned and led.

Opportunities include:

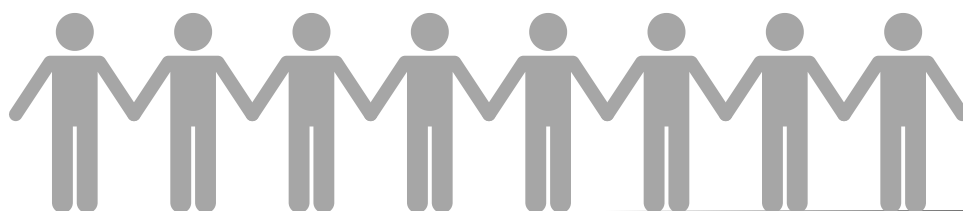
- Volunteering with AVI's flagship Australian Volunteers Program. As part of DFAT's people-to-people program portfolio, this program matches Australians with partner organisations in 26 developing countries to support those organisations to achieve their development goals. Head here for more information on [volunteering opportunities](#)
- Participating in an in-person or virtual student mobility program. Students can apply for mobility programs through AVI's online register of remote community partner projects with partner organisations in developing countries.
- Applying for a job at AVI. AVI employs 150 professionals across 29 countries and regularly updates its register of job vacancies. Head here for more [information](#):

### **Australian Council for International Development**

The Australian Council for International Development unites over 130 NGOs achieving development goals in 90 developing countries to advocate for a just, prosperous and sustainable world. ACFID's job directory is a treasure trove for careers, volunteering opportunities and internships in the NGO sector, particularly in its member organisations. Jobs at ACFID, which include campaign coordination and administrative work, are posted [here](#) on a rolling basis:

### **International Needs Australia**

International Needs Australia (INA) is a DFAT accredited international aid organisation delivering tailored development programs in Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Uganda. INA offers volunteering and internship opportunities catered to a range of disciplines including marketing, engineering and journalism. These opportunities are updated on a rolling basis here:



# NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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## Action on Poverty

Action on Property (AOP) is a secular and independent NGO that specialises in connecting underprivileged communities with philanthropists, businesses, civil society, and researchers to meet their development goals. AOP is fully accredited with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

AOP has developed innovative technologies to aid in issues such as reducing dengue, helping children access free and effective treatment for clubfoot

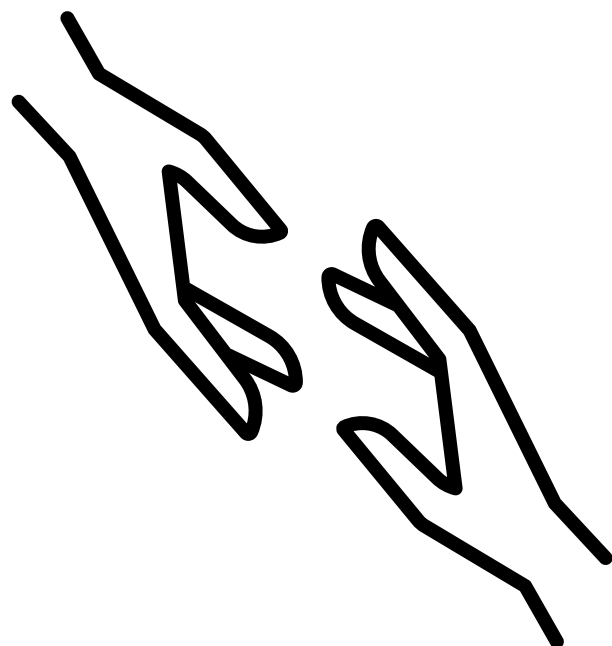
AOP aims to ensure all people the "power to transcend the injustice, indignity, and inequality of entrenched poverty" and to "empower change-makers to break the cycle of poverty."

Internship programs are available with UNSW, Macquarie University and Boston University, however you can contact AOP to discuss starting an internship program at your university:

## Young Women's Christian Association

YWCA Australia is an evolving intersectional feminist organisation focused on working towards a future where gender equality is a reality for young women, women and people of marginalised genders. In prioritising young women's leadership and women's housing and utilising an intersectional feminist approach the organisation runs nationwide programs for women experiencing or at risk of homelessness and provides nearly 150,000 nights of affordable accommodation for women each year.

To find out more about the organisation and volunteer opportunities see [here](#).



# NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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## Wateraid

WaterAid is an international not-for-profit water based organisation. They aim to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere. Currently they have provided over 28 million people with clean water across the globe and 28.8 million people with decent toilets. Wateraid works with various partners to assess local situations and design relevant practical solutions based on their experience and evidence gathered. In particular, to make a lasting change on a larger scale, Wateraid:

- Convinces governments to change laws
- Links policy makers with people on the ground
- Changes attitudes and behaviours
- Pools knowledge and resources; and
- Rallies support from people and organisations around the world.

If water and sanitation is something that really interests you, check out their volunteering page for the various opportunities that Wateraid has on offer here.

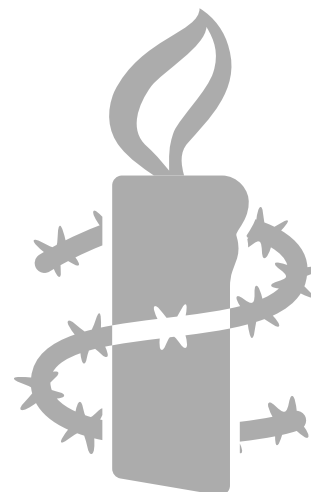
## Amnesty International

Amnesty International believes that everyone is entitled to live in a world where their human rights are recognised, realised and protected. Currently, across the globe, human rights are under threat with several governments and groups making an effort to undermine and roll back human rights.

Amnesty works closely with Indigenous communities and people seeking asylum to fight discrimination, unfair detention and demand safety and justice for all who have had their human rights threatened or stripped away. With active women's and LGBTQIA+ branches, the organisation focuses on campaigning for important gender and sexuality issues and putting pressure on the Australian government to adopt laws that respect the human rights of all citizens and meet Australia's human rights obligations under international treaties.

Amnesty International provides several ways to get involved in the organisation including through.

- volunteering
- working
- taking up an activist role; or
- upskilling





# INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

# INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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Individuals interested in working overseas and contributing to international affairs on a large scale can look to finding a career or opportunities at international organisations.

International organisations capture a broad range of bodies, but most IR graduates are interested in working for intergovernmental organisations such as the United Nations and its agencies.

Recruitment for positions in international organisations differs and can range from applying directly to the organisation or being a representative of a country or other organisation.

It's also important to note that employees in international organisations come from a wide range of backgrounds and carry a wide range of skills. Jobs and career opportunities tend to cater towards full-time engagement and graduates. However, there are often opportunities specific to youth or for Australians e.g. UN Missions. There may also be opportunities to volunteer with international organisations or work remotely.

## **ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

The OECD is an international organisation that works together with governments, policy makers and citizens to establish evidence-based international standards and find solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. They produce independent analysis and statistics to promote policies to improve economic and social wellbeing.

Interns are recruited on an ongoing basis with applications accepted throughout the year.

You can apply to the OECD paid 6 month internship program via the [online application platform](#).

The OECD also releases vacancy publications bi-annually in September and March.



# INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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To read more about the structure of the UN click [here](#)

## UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of nation states. The goal of the UN is to ensure global peace and security, and provided a forum for global cooperation on international issues.

All applications for jobs in the UN are done through the UN's application system, [Inspira](#)

### Entry-level UN Programs:

- **Junior Professional Officer Program (JPO)** offers 1-year fixed term contracts often renewed for a second year. JPOs serve in the country offices of the participating organisations.
- **Young Professionals Program (YPP)** recruits university graduates for career positions at the Secretariat. Recruits are offered a 2-year fixed term contract.
- **Associate Expert Program (AEP)** offers university post-graduates positions under the bilateral agreement between the United Nations and donor countries.

## UN Internship Program

- **The UN Secretariat Program in New York**
  - Graduates and post-graduate students are invited to work in the different departments at the headquarters in New York. Interns are assigned to one of the departments within the Secretariat.
- **Internships at UN Headquarters:**
  - Students can undertake internships in core offices in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut and Santiago. The details and requirements of the internships vary between offices.
- **Internships with other UN funds, programs and special agencies**
  - These bodies offer internships on a specified range of global issues and allow interns to develop knowledge on a specific field within international affairs.



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# ALUMNI EXPERIENCES



# ANDREA OLIVARES JONES

- NGOS
- Consulates
- Law

*Policy Manager  
Castan Centre for Human Rights*

Andrea is the Policy Manager at the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. Her work involves researching and writing national and international level policy submissions, reports and other publications on key issues in international and Australian human rights law. Andrea's research interests include the intersection between technology and human rights, housing and homelessness, and international criminal justice. Andrea also supervises the Castan Centre Human Rights Clinic and the Castan Centre In-house Internship programs.

Prior to commencing as Policy Manager, Andrea worked for the Castan Centre in research and project roles. She has also previously worked in diplomacy and international relations for the United States Consulate-General in Melbourne, and volunteered for the Fitzroy Legal Service, the Capital Punishment Justice Project, and recently supported the Ham diley campaign to support evacuations out of Afghanistan.

Andrea holds an LLB (Honours) from Monash University. She has also completed Bachelor of Arts (International Relations) at Monash, and Honours in Political Science and International Relations (First Class) at the University of Melbourne.



## What is it about this field that attracted you to pursue your career?

I have always been captivated by the idea of the 'international realm' - a space where States and individuals can connect and engage in dialogue to find solutions to some of the most pressing and challenging global issues of our time. For me, a career in international relations and diplomacy presented a unique opportunity to be in the very 'thick' of this exchange of ideas and to learn from diverse perspectives of others. I was really drawn to the intellectual challenge of designing and developing effective and appropriate responses to issues like human rights violations, climate change, disadvantage and discrimination, among others.

I was also keenly aware that people are the heart of global issues, and beyond being interested in the above in the abstract sense, I felt that there was a genuine need for professionals to join the human rights community to advocate for the inherent dignity of all persons, and their entitlement to fundamental rights.

“

*Put simply - I wanted to help to make a positive difference in the world and therefore gravitated towards Australian and International Law, as a practical and powerful way through which enduring change could be affected. My experience to date in this field validates my belief.*

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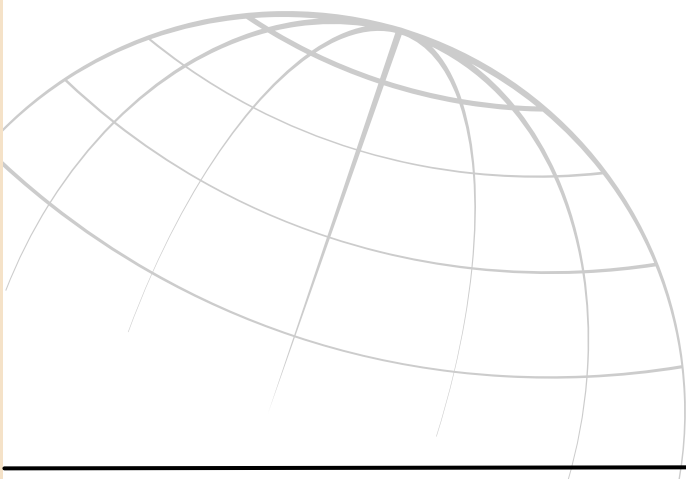
## What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

One of the most enjoyable parts of my current role is undertaking in-depth policy research on human rights issues and the application of international law. Each day is different and engaging, and I am continuously testing new ideas and building on my expertise.

Importantly, my work has raised my awareness of perspectives beyond my own.

This includes recognising the unique experiences, and in some cases acute harms experienced by various individuals and groups both within and outside of Australia, including women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons, Indigenous peoples, persons experiencing homelessness and many others.

Certainly this work can be challenging, particularly given the serious and confronting nature of rights violations. The above notwithstanding, I have found work in this area to be immensely rewarding because it is in pursuit of triggering *change for the better*, and the empowerment of those experiencing disadvantage.



## Looking back on all that you've achieved since graduation, how do you feel? What have been the most meaningful moments of your career & why?

I am proud of myself for working hard in my studies while also maintaining a firm (bordering on obstinate!) intention to gain experience in international relations, diplomacy, human rights and the law.

In the years since, I have been doing so though working in various roles at the US Consulate-General in Melbourne as Project Officer, then Researcher and now Policy Manager at the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, and as a Clinical Supervisor for the Castan Centre Human Rights Clinic. I have also volunteered with community legal centre the Fitzroy Legal Service, and for various other organisations including the Capital Punishment Justice Project and recently the Ham diley campaign, supporting evacuations of refugees out of Afghanistan.



I have also volunteered with community legal centre the Fitzroy Legal Service, and for various other organisations including the Capital Punishment Justice Project and recently the Ham diley campaign, supporting evacuations of refugees out of Afghanistan.

It is incredibly fulfilling to dedicate my work to recognising gaps and weaknesses in systems that are ineffective and developing creative and sustainable solutions that could vastly improve the lives of persons experiencing disadvantage or barriers to the free exercise and enjoyment of their human rights.

It has been especially exciting to see Castan Centre recommendations recognised and endorsed by government bodies and international organisations such as the United Nations. These experiences have made me a better human rights lawyer, researcher and all-round professional.

*"The most meaningful moments in my career have been those in which I have worked with leading experts, scholars, lawyers and advocates in international relations and human rights to advocate for better law and policy on key issues such as homelessness, climate change, women's sexual & reproductive rights, among others."*

## What is one of the most interesting experiences you have had in your work?

One of the most interesting experiences I have had in my work to date has been presenting at the Castan Centre Annual Human Rights Conference in 2021. I participated in a session on 'Ending Homelessness by Human Rights-based Approach', alongside eminent speakers including the former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha, and leading experts in housing and homelessness.

Having done extensive research into the critical importance of housing as a precondition to the effective enjoyment of many other human rights, it felt great to contribute to the discussion about the need to end homelessness, and the means through which this could be achieved in Australia.

As was made clear in the session, ending homelessness is not only necessary and indeed possible, but is also an objective that is already being pursued by several States overseas.

It was also exciting to advocate for human rights through a new medium - public speaking. I had the opportunity to convey a message to a large audience, with over 600 registrants to the conference.

**“Through this experience, I felt very much a part of the active movement to catalyse reform in this area, and had a real sense of the power of the human rights community in Australia.”**

## Which Monash/MIAS experiences inspired or assisted your pursuit of your current role?

Formative Monash experiences for me include the internship at the US Consulate-General in Melbourne, which I undertook as part of my Arts degree at Monash. During the internship, I supported the Political/Economic team at the Consulate, conducted research relevant to Australia-US bilateral relations, engaged with diplomats and other experts, supported visits from US officials and guests, and attended great networking events. The experience really gave me insight into what work in diplomacy looks like.

A particularly memorable MIAS experience was the opportunity to travel to Panama for the Harvard World Model United Nations conference in 2018, where I participated in the World Conference on Women. Through this experience I was able to make great connections with young people from around the world, many of whom were working in, or working towards careers in international relations and human rights. I was also able to develop my skills in public speaking and problem solving, participating in engaging debates on global issues, and developing creative solutions to key challenges faced by States around the world.



# DR. STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

- Australian Government
- Health
- Science

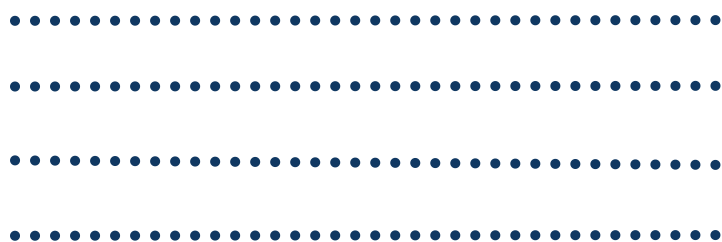
*Ambassador for Regional Health Security – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)*

Dr Stephanie Williams was appointed as Australia’s Ambassador for Regional Health Security in March 2020. As Ambassador, Dr Williams supports the advancement of Australia’s interests in the Indo-Pacific by fostering linkages between Australia’s world-class public health and medical research experts and partners in the region. In addition, she guides the implementation of the \$300 million Health Security Initiative for the Indo-Pacific region and the \$523 million regional Vaccine Access Initiative – two major health initiatives for the Indo-Pacific region.

Dr Williams is a Public Health Physician and Epidemiologist, who has been DFAT’s Principal Specialist Health since 2017.

Prior to joining DFAT, Dr Williams was a Medical Adviser in the Office of Health Protection in the Australian Government Department of Health. Her previous roles include: Public Health Registrar for Victoria’s Chief Health Officer; Epidemiologist in Global Health Security for the World Health Organization (WHO); and a medical doctor for Medicines Sans Frontières and the WHO.

Dr Williams holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Monash University, a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from James Cook University, and a Master of Applied Epidemiology from ANU. She is a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine and a Visiting Fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at ANU. Dr Williams is currently serving on the Board of The Global Fund as an Alternate Member.



## Looking back on all that you've achieved since graduation, how do you feel? What have been the most meaningful moments of your career & why?

I did not have a plan at my medical graduation. And it's too easy to look back from 10, 20 or 30 years into a professional life and give the impression that each step in a career was planned and logical.

My path from clinical medicine to humanitarian work to public health in state and federal government and now international public health within a foreign affairs agency has been through a combination of opportunity, luck and timing.

*"When I look back, I feel good about the fact I trusted my instincts about the type of work I liked doing, that resonated with my values and so sought opportunities to do more of it."*

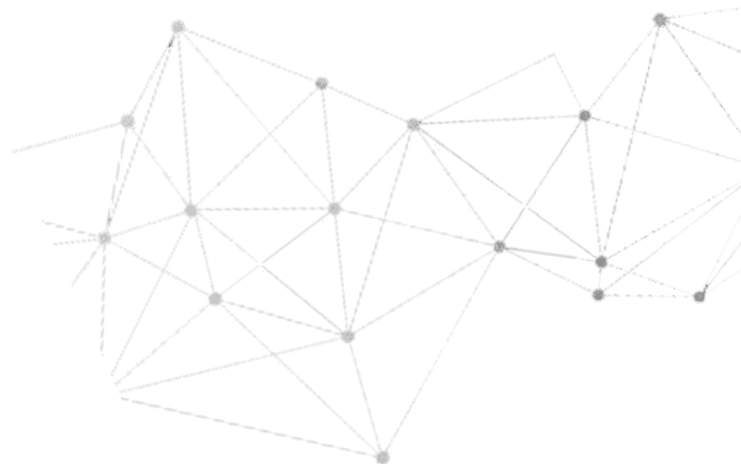
That work is public health - the organised efforts in communities, states, countries to enable more people to have a chance of a healthy life.

## What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

The challenges with improving health in our region are too many to list, so I'll focus on a more practical example.

As I write, a challenge is having a role that requires international engagement at a time when international travel is only starting back slowly to and from Australia. We've all adapted to the online environment for meetings and agree they should be more common, especially to enable broad participation without the high financial and environmental costs of regular travel.

But we also cannot lose sight of the value of meeting in person, the value of the corridor conversations and shared experiences that build interpersonal relationships underpinning Australia's cooperation in health in the region and globally. I am looking forward to re-connecting in person with colleagues, stakeholders and partners in our region.





## What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

It is not fair that your chance for a healthy life is determined by your access to power, money and resources – the social determinants of health. Public health sets out to address health inequities to protect health, prevent disease and promote healthier lives.

It's not easy but it's possible, and I enjoy being part of a team that turns ideas into action through health assistance. Delivering COVID-19 vaccines to countries in the Pacific and South East Asia is a good example of practical action that Australia's Centre for Health Security has achieved.

*I enjoy being able to work with our team in DFAT and partners in the region to deliver practical health assistance that contributes to a chance for better health for people, no matter where they live, work and grow.*

## What experience(s) inspired or assisted your pursuit of your current role?

After working for more than ten years in domestic public health, in state and federal agencies, I sought out the role of Principal Health Adviser in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop a better understanding of how Australia works in the world of global public health to advance health and health security and be part of that effort. It helped that, as a public health physician, I had extensive and relevant domestic policy and practice experience in public health and previous international experience with organisation such as WHO and Medecins Sans Frontieres.

I have relied on that practical experience and public health training during my time as Australia's Ambassador for Regional Health Security, a role that requires representation and extensive stakeholder engagement, as well as technical leadership guiding Australia's health response to COVID-19 and other health security challenges. I have also relied on the deep knowledge of my colleagues in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who are able to situate our interests in advancing health security amidst our broader interests in a secure, prosperous and resilient region.



# AMANDA SOUTHWELL

NGOS

Health

Sociology

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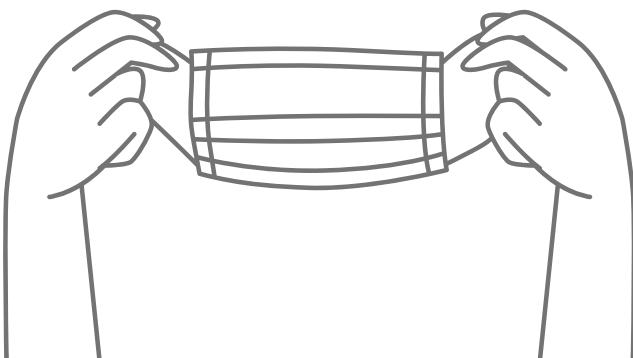
*Community Engagement  
Manager –  
International Needs Australia*

Amanda cares about connecting caring donors to on-the-ground projects in Eastern Africa, South and Southeast Asia. She has a particular interest in education, gender and disability inclusion, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Amanda is also on the board of Operation Toilets Australia, which serves to ensure girls and their communities are supported through sanitation programs.

She is currently responsible for ensuring the effective development of programs to raise major gifts and develop the partnerships to support this. Amanda also leads our major donor and bequest initiatives, communicating and networking with current and potential stakeholders. Amanda has also pioneered the INA University Internship Program to help connect great university talent and volunteers to the challenges and opportunities faced by developing countries.

Amanda has a wealth of experience in the adult education and the not-for-profit sectors, and holds a Masters (Deakin) and postgraduate diploma in International and Community Development (Deakin), a postgraduate diploma in Education (Monash), and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (Monash).

Amanda has worked with International Needs Australia for nearly 6 years.



## What is it about this field that attracted you to pursue your career?

I always knew I would end up in a career related to social justice. My father worked for a large Aid and Development organisation, and I travelled throughout Africa, South-East Asia, and the Middle East with him at an impressionable age.

However, thoughts on my future trajectory were vague during Uni, so when I finished my undergrad in Sociology at Monash I chose the path that a lot of my friends also did: Education. It's not for everyone, but ironically, turned out to be the ideal foundation for the meandering journey that my career has taken since.

Among many other adventures I have taught adults ESL at University, worked in juvenile justice, and managed an agency for the unemployed. A great marriage, two kids, and a lot more perspective later, I finally realised that it was time to hit the goal of Aid and Development. I stirred together my life experience, and my passion for academics, education, global human rights, and poverty alleviation, to finish a Masters in International Development.

Six years ago, I joined the fantastic team at International Needs Australia (INA), changing the lives of the extreme poor.

## Looking back on all that you've achieved since graduation, how do you feel? What have been the most meaningful moments of your career & why?

“**Multi-sectoral experience is priceless.**”

As a result of my winding career path, particularly through not-for-profits, I have exponentially increased my knowledge on a wealth of topics and imparted that knowledge on, travelled, learnt to better understand people and systems, and lead others.

Meaningful moments have been many, but you certainly can't beat those you have when you're actively out in the field, whether in Australia or overseas. In Melbourne I helped prisoners find employment; in Jakarta I trained English teachers in improved curriculum; and with INA I have held the hands of those dying from HIV/Aids, walked a well-worn path to collect dirty water with a group of stunted children, and danced with women celebrating financial security through Village Savings and Loans Groups.

## What is one of the most interesting experiences you have had in your work?

Interesting experiences in my current role have been many. On the Wednesday of my 2018 trip to Uganda I spent time with the participants in INA's Agri-Business for Community Development project.

I had been keenly looking forward to visiting a medical facility later in the week; however, it was in listening to women's extraordinary life-changing stories of the power of income enhancement, and the impact it has had on themselves, their families, their communities, and unknowingly, their nation, that I truly realised the importance of a development model which supersedes mere welfare, to empower individuals instead.

## What do you enjoy the most about the work you do?

Being part of a smaller organisation means that I have become part of the entire organisation. While my title is Community Engagement Manager, my role requires collaboration with all departments, from marketing to programs, finances to donor relations. Our projects are broad, and encompass the pillars of health, education, sustainable livelihoods, and women's empowerment.

The scope of my role has expanded, and consistently remains organic and interesting.

I can both connect with the field overseas, while working with long-term and new supporters here. Our recent partnership with Monash WIL has meant the entrance of an entirely new and fresh generation through the intern program we have established. Most importantly, both because I've been to the field, and we are government accredited, I enjoy knowing that the organisation I work for is one which is ethical, innovative, and making a difference on a micro and macro scale.

## Which Monash experiences inspired or assisted your pursuit of your current role?

Monash naturally instills in its students the importance of intelligent inquiry, whether it's in a tutorial, or over a coffee. Following Sociology 101 in first year there was no question what my major would be.

“*Sociology is like looking through a kaleidoscope. It teaches us to reassess the simple world around us, and look for meaning in the myriad of experiences and cultures outside our personal realm.*”

In Sociology I studied aspects human rights, social justice, gender equality, disability inclusion, and cross-cultural connection, all foundational for Aid and Development. It took a while for me to reach the goal, but Monash laid an incredible foundation for my fascinating journey on the way.



Australian  
Government

Defence

Model  
United Nations


# MATTHEW O'NEILL

*Department of Defence*

Matt was the President of the International Affairs Society from 2016-2017. At university, he secured greater representation for students at international conferences, and developed a number of initiatives with Melbourne's diplomatic corps. He currently works for the Department of Defence in Canberra.

## What is it about this field that attracted you to pursue your career?

My interest in government came about because it was where my interest in international affairs and public service met. I developed my interest in the former through involvement with the Monash International Affairs Society, which I was a part of for almost my entire time at university, and so by the time I had finished my degree, I had a good idea that whatever I did, I wanted it to have an international dimension to it.

However, thoughts on my future trajectory were vague during Uni, so when I finished my undergrad in Sociology at Monash I chose the path that a lot of my friends also did: Education. It's not for everyone, but ironically, turned out to be the ideal foundation for the meandering journey that my career has taken since. 

## Is this a rewarding field to work in? How so?

*""Government can do more in one day to effect change than most people can in a lifetime, and is a unique opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself; if you are interested in International Affairs, I would strongly suggest a career in government. ""*

## What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

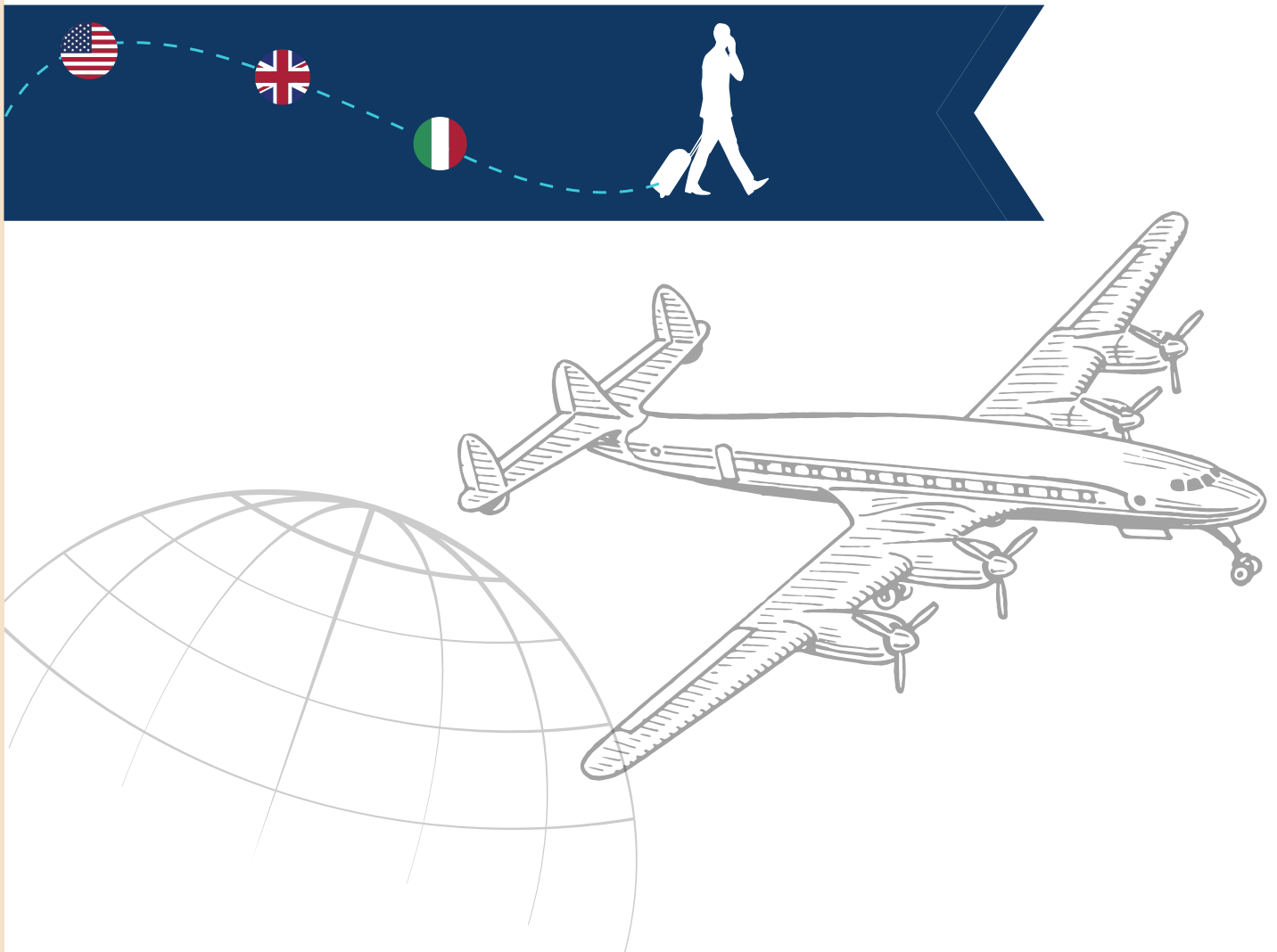
Being able to influence policy makers to create outcomes that benefit the Australian community at large - there is a huge amount of work and energy that goes into thinking about how we deal with today's and tomorrow's challenges.

## What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

Trying to keep abreast of all the changes occurring around the world! I work on a desk that covers multiple regions, so it can be difficult to keep track of everything that is going on.

## Which Monash/MIAS experiences inspired or assisted your pursuit of your current role?

I would not be where I am today but for Model UN. I have been fortunate to undertake extensive travel with MIAS – New York, London, and Rome to name a few – and it was working on issues with other students which crystallised my interest in international affairs. Model UN truly is a life-changing opportunity, and I cannot recommend it highly enough.





# DARIA IMPIOMBATO

*Researcher - Australian  
Strategic Policy Institute*

Think tanks

Policy

Cyber

Daria is a researcher at ASPI's International Cyber Policy Centre.

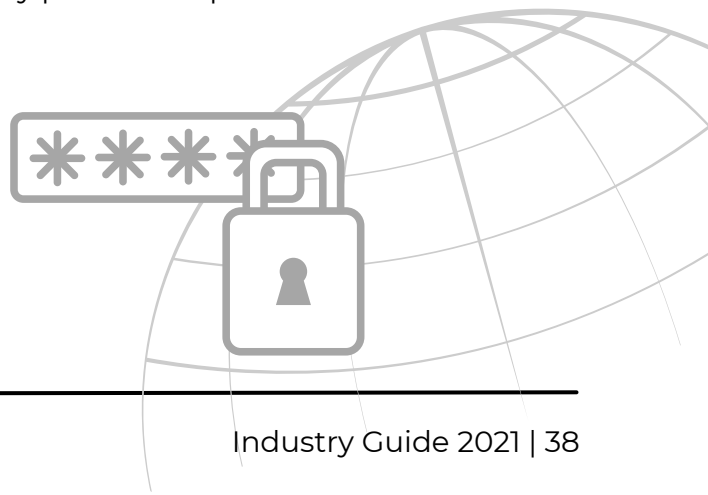
Her research interests include human rights and technology, grassroots movements and activism in authoritarian regimes, Chinese public and foreign policy and the role of communications and new media in international politics. She also has an interest in researching national security.

She has a Bachelor of Chinese Studies from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, a Master of International Relations and a Master of Journalism from Monash University. She has studied Chinese Mandarin at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

## What is it about this field that attracted you to pursue your career?

I have long been passionate about international affairs and politics, and have always loved writing about the issues that I found most fascinating. A career in research, especially within the security and foreign policy fields, is giving me such great opportunities to pursue not only a dynamic and fulfilling work path, but also to continue learning and expanding my sphere of interests and expertise, as well as getting my work published.

Once I got started through an internship at ASPI, I understood that this was what I was looking for to kickstart my career in this space. I get to work on such a varied set of topics, but I also have opportunities to follow my own instinct and interests while doing what I love and building up my portfolio of publications.



## What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

I love the process of brainstorming and bouncing around research ideas with my colleagues. Being surrounded by such smart and talented people is definitely the most enjoyable part of it. You feel like you are constantly growing and often, even just a random thought you've had while you

were immersed in your readings can be shaped into an article, a research pitch or even an entire project. Having a supportive and engaged team that takes you seriously means that your ideas have the time and space to grow into something meaningful, and that's such a beautiful thing to experience.

## What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

Research can definitely be stressful, at times. The timeframes for projects and publication deadlines can vary and when life gets in between, it can be a challenge to get to the bottom of a project on time while making sure that you always deliver top quality research and analysis. The process often involves very long and solitary hours in front of a computer

*"perseverance and patience"*

either collecting or processing data, or trying to make sense of it all. I believe it may not be for everyone, as it requires a lot of perseverance and patience. But I always advise people who are interested in doing research to first give it a try and experience what it is all about, because if you develop a passion for it, it is absolutely worth it.





## What is one of the most interesting experiences you have had in your work?

I have found that doing interviews for news articles, TV packages, radio or podcasts have been among the most fun experiences so far. Having had a formal education and training in journalism, it is thrilling to now be on the other side of the microphone and have the chance to share my thoughts with wider audiences. Since I began working in this field during the Covid-19 pandemic,

I know I have been missing out on a lot of other great aspects of this work, such as traveling for conferences and briefings, doing field research, and meeting more people and experts around the world. I have been exposed to all this virtually and it has greatly enriched my experience, but I do look forward to better times when I can make the most of all the connections I've made so far.

## Is this a rewarding field to work in? How So?

I find it extremely rewarding to see my hard work come to life through publications, events and other products that are then shared, read and watched across the world. I know that many experts and governments are especially interested in the work that my team produces and we are aware of the great impact that some

of our projects have had on shaping policy in Australia and elsewhere. Being part of international debates and being able to have my own voice heard among these circles gives me the strength to keep going.



*"I know that many experts and governments are especially interested in the work that my team produces and we are aware of the great impact that some of our projects have had on shaping policy in Australia and elsewhere."*



# RENATA MARQUES

*Research Analyst at AsiaLink*

Think tanks

Policy

Trade

Renata is an International relations specialist with relevant experience in external, government and institutional relations. She holds a bachelor's in economics and a specialisation in political analysis and she is a native speaker of Portuguese and intermediate level of Spanish. Her professional experience includes the Brazilian public, private sector, including the major industry and agriculture associations. In Australia, she had the opportunity to work as an intern at Asialink and support the Australian-Brazil Chamber of Commerce. Her interests include geopolitics, diplomacy and trade policy.

## What is it about this field that attracted you to pursue your career?

My interest in international relations emerged from my last job in Brazil and a decision to pursue a career change. Working in the aerospace industry provided me with opportunities to assess the implications of geopolitical risks on business strategies and I developed a keen interest in international relations.

From a professional perspective, I felt it was important to study and learn international relations through an Indo-Pacific view considering that not many professionals in Brazil understand, or are interested in the region. The ones that have decided to understand the region are mostly focused on China.

It has been really rewarding learning and exchanging ideas about Australia's relations with Asia, challenges affecting Asia in terms of foreign policy, trade, security and how the rise of China affects the relations within the Indo-Pacific.

Following a focus on the private sector, I have decided to pursue the diplomacy and trade stream, particularly multinational corporations and their role as major non-state actors.



## **What is the most challenging aspect of your work?**

International trade policy is a quite broad field. Working as a research analyst, I have been dealing with projects on e-commerce, regulatory impact assessment, impact of trade on small businesses. I was able to put into practise the skills I developed while studying at Monash University and the internship at Asialink.

Active listening and critical thinking underpin my activities, which also requires problem solving and writing and communication skills. Not only are there different career pathways within trade, but also the possibility of learning trade policy in the real world and how businesses can take advantage of it.

## **What Monash/MIAS experiences inspired or assisted your pursuit of your current role?**

Monash University offered me different experiences throughout my master that inspired me to a career in international relations. I was really fortunate to have joined Monash academics in the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration & Dinner organised by AIIA-Vic in 2019; to take part in seminars promoted by the Faculty of Arts and to exchange ideas with students from different walks of life.

These experiences provided me with a sense of fields I could explore while studying and after graduation. In the last year, and in the context of the pandemic, relevant opportunities to work remotely emerged. And it was about identifying those that converged with my professional goals.

## **What is one of the most interesting experiences you have had in your work?**

The most interesting experience I had so far was the possibility of joining on my second day as research analyst of a major meeting with high-level government officials in trade policy and e-commerce. The meeting was intensive in terms of listening, reflecting and elaborating a document based on comments and suggestions from government officials in Asia.

It provided me with an in-depth sense of major problems preventing Asian countries from taking advantage of the digital economy and possibilities for collaboration through trade agreements to advance this agenda.



# SUJUNG AN

*Programme Officer at  
Governance and Peacebuilding  
Portfolio –  
United Nations Development  
Programme*

International  
Organisations

Law

Model  
United Nations

Sujung (Claire) is currently working for the United Nations under the Development Programme as a Programme Officer for Governance and Peacebuilding. She graduated from Monash University in 2014 with a Bachelor of Politics and International Studies. She then went on to complete her Masters in Traditional Justice, Human Rights and the Rule of Law at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. She has interned at the United Nations Department of External Relations, the International Center for Transitional Justice and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO. Before gaining her current job, Sujung worked at the Korean Institute of Criminology as a Researcher at the International Strategic Research Centre.

## What is it about this field that attracted you to pursue your career?

I have always been interested in finding out ways to make a difference in someone's life, those who face persecution, hunger and life-death situations. There are many ways to do it but for me, I was drawn to the role that the United Nations plays.

In Monash, I took a course on political violence which invited me to the world of transitional justice, dealing with the past, post-conflict societies, stolen generation, genocide, memory and reconciliation, and I was delved into it.

I found out that the UN agencies such as UNHCR, UNDP and OHCHR (not to mention, ICC and other international tribunals as well) are leading the process along with the civil society organisations and ever since, my career goal was to work for them and contribute to the process. This led me to embark on a journey to Switzerland to study Transitional Justice, Rule of Law and Human Rights for my Master's degree and explore job opportunities in the UN.

## What do you enjoy most about the work you do?

UNDP Kosovo, where I work, has a variety of projects, ranging from rule of law & access to justice to digitalisation. Under 'Governance and Peacebuilding' portfolio, I am involved in and supporting projects on rule of law & access to justice, dealing with the conflict legacy, cultural heritage and social cohesion, youth engagement, and digitalisation. It is great that I can use my knowledge and expertise to come up with fresh ideas and perspectives that can contribute to improving the ongoing and upcoming projects. I do feel that the time and efforts I invested in my education is paying off!

Also, as you might know, Kosovo is a newborn country which gained independence in 2008 and has the youngest population in Europe, with 53% of the population being under 25 years old. This means that you can see the impact of the projects and there are much to be done – which is rewarding. I have been working from home for a year now due to Covid-19 and I will be travelling to Kosovo in January. I've been missing out all the exiting part of meeting government and civil society partners on the ground, and the field experience will certainly give me new perspectives.

## What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

As much as it is rewarding, the nature of the job is challenging, especially in terms of job security.

First of all, it is hard to get into the system. It is either you have work experiences already or start off from internships, and I have met many of those who are lawyers/prosecutors in their countries but try hard to get into the system through internship or consultancy in Geneva – very competitive.

Secondly, even if you get into the system, there is no job security. All of my colleagues are on contract and there is no guarantee that the contract will be extended. If there's no extension, you will have to leave and find other positions in other countries. Since the UN is trying to decentralise, meaning reducing the HQ's personnel and strengthening the regional and country offices, you will have to find vacancies all over the world and keep moving around if you want to stay in the system.

Also, in the end, the UN is a giant bureaucracy – the system is bureaucratic and those who are result-oriented and private sector minded could find it hard to adapt to.



## What is one of the most interesting experiences you have had in your work?

I found that the network that I have made in previous jobs is an important asset. When I was working at the Korean Institute of Criminology which is a national research institute on criminal justice, rule of law and criminology, I initiated partnership with Australian National University and Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) on cybercrime and maintained a good relationship with the colleagues there.

Recently, when our team at UNDP Kosovo hosted a global conference on cybercrime, I reached out to colleagues in AIC to invite guest speakers and a colleague connected me to an expert for the session. I believe that having consistency in your career, being in the similar or same field truly has benefits and the network you have built will help you at some point of time.

## What Monash/MIAS experiences inspired or assisted your pursuit of your current role?

At Monash, I took part in many Model UN conferences as a delegate and a Chair. In 2013, Monash was the Secretariat for the World MUN, and I had a chance to be trained as a Chair.

MIAS played a central role in organising and coordinating the event with Harvard Secretariat, managing delegates, Chairs, keynote speakers and administration and I learned from the process how to organise student conferences.

The World MUN experience inspired me to take part in National MUN, hosted in New York. Monash delegation participated in General Assembly sessions, and it turned out to be an unforgettable experience. This, in turn, helped me apply for internship at the UNHCR HQ in Geneva after 6 years!

UNHCR has a youth project called MUN Refugee Challenge, which engages MUN organisers all over the world in discussing the refugee issues in MUNs, actively encouraging students to come up with solutions for refugees. Since I was aware of the rule of procedures and how the MUNs are organised, I could guide students. Most importantly, it was during this time in Monash that I started to actualise my dream to work for the UN and prepare steps to get closer.

# THANK YOU

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Thank you for taking the time to read this guide. We hope its contents have been insightful and helpful in building your knowledge about a life in international affairs.

Across the year, MIAS also aims to provide you updates on career opportunities within the international relations field. To keep up to date, make sure to follow us on our social pages linked below.

We look forward to bringing you a new edition of our Industry Guide in 2022!

– The Monash International Affairs Society



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