With a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism you will have learnt about the nature of security and terrorism from military, political, economic, and sociological perspectives. What you may not be so sure on is where you can take your degree and how to increase your employability with this unique Arts qualification.

Careers in Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Australian law enforcement, border management, foreign affairs and intelligence organisations recruit personnel with good knowledge of security and terrorism issues. Multinational Non-Government Organisations (NGO’s) and private companies also consider graduates with this area of specialisation. However, the job market in security and anti-terrorism can be highly competitive. Previous experience in the field or related fields, such as the armed forces or the police force can be a distinct advantage.

Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism graduates would be suited to roles such as:
- ASIO / ASIS Intelligence Officer
- Border Force Officer (requires 6 months training at the Australian Border Force College)
- National Security Policy Officer
- Tactical Intelligence Specialist
- Policy Analyst
- Security Analyst

Engage in your career before you graduate

Engaging in your career as a student is a good way to develop your networks and set yourself apart.

Ways you can show employers you are an active contributor include:
- following relevant departments and organisations on social media and where possible, attending events hosted by industry;
- find out about Work Integrated Learning Opportunities (industry placements) through Murdoch University and / or apply for Internships and Vacation Work offered by industry;
- engaging in co-curricular opportunities at university (e.g. Peer Mentoring or Leadership Programmes);
- entering student team competitions that focus on evidencing your analytical/problem solving skills;
- seeking relevant part-time work (e.g. Army Reservist);
- volunteering with organisations of relevance to the field - the Murdoch Volunteering Hub (situated next to the Guild Shop on Bush Court) is a useful resource for ideas on where to gain experience.

Email: volunteering@the-guild.com.au or phone: 08 9360 6307.
Careers in Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Pathways, Challenges and Success

Adaptability of your Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism degree and alternative careers

Finding employment directly related to your degree can be difficult for recent graduates, especially those who do not have prior experience in the field. Considering a second major or an additional minor (such as Indonesian, Politics and International Studies etc.) can help to increase your employability, by diversifying your career options.

Those with limited industry experience should also consider applying for multi-discipline Graduate Programs from the beginning of their final year. Employers offering Graduate Programs are keen to develop recent graduates and are often looking at your general skill sets over specific experience. Therefore detailing what skills you have developed throughout your degree is an important feature on your resume.

Some of the skills that an Arts degree, such as yours, will give you include:

• Communication skills – through essay writing, oral presentations and group work, Arts degree graduates are able to integrate complex information and communicate it concisely both orally and in written form.

• Critical Thinking skills – an Arts degree requires you to critique a lot of information - question the written word, its source and validity. Graduates have therefore learnt to understand issues in context and see the limitations of an argument.

• Analytical / Problem Solving – Arts students learn to break ideas and issues down into their component parts, isolate problems and attempt to understand why these problems occurred. Arts students also develop the ability to think out-side the square and come up with creative and innovative ideas and solutions.

• Research skills – Arts students spend considerable time sourcing and researching a large number of primary and secondary resources to create a clear argument. Being able to quickly and skilfully navigate the tangled web of information to be found online can be a useful skill employers look for.

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Remember that careers are dynamic – they evolve along with your life experiences and you have the ability to make yours meaningful through active engagement in the world around you. This can include purposeful industry-based experience, networking initiatives and stepping up to opportunity.

Useful links:
Australia’s National Security agencies
www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/
WhatAustraliaisdoing/Pages/
NationalSecurityAgencies.aspx
Australian Government - National Security initiatives and priorities
http://australia.gov.au/topics/defence-
and-international/national-security
Graduate Opportunities Directory
www.graduateopportunities.com

A Murdoch Graduate shares her career journey having started in a Graduate Program

“I graduated from Murdoch with a BA in Security, Terrorism and Counterterrorism and just thought you might be interested to know where I ended up with this unusual degree. I’ll admit it’s difficult to get a job outside the federal government in this area but I was lucky enough to land a job in the Perth office of SKM Consulting (now Jacobs) as a Graduate Security Consultant a couple of years ago. After 12 months of hard work I was lucky enough to be put forward for a position that had opened up within the security team in SKM’s Dubai office. As a result of this, within two years of graduating, I’m currently working as a Security Engineer in a team overseeing work done on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world), the Dubai Mall (largest mall in the world), and several other incredible projects.”

Extend your network, get advice, join the Murdoch e-Mentoring Network on LinkedIn