



Bachelor of Social Science (International students)

Program code

1576

Commencing in

For Continuing Students Only

Available at

Gold Coast Campus, Nathan Campus

Duration

3 years full-time

Credit points

240

Important Notes

From 2025, commencing students are referred to **Bachelor of Arts (1021)**.

About this program

Social science applies the 'science' of research and analysis to the world's complex 'social' problems such as sustainability, equity, and diversity, to create positive change.

The degree is built around a tailored employability framework, so you'll have the tools and experience to start building a successful and meaningful social science career well before you graduate.

You'll study some of society's most intriguing issues along with the techniques to analyse them and devise break-through solutions. You'll be equipped to combine your hard knowledge of world issues with advanced data analysis techniques. You'll develop the knowledge to select the appropriate tools and methodologies for the issues you're working on, along with the communication skills to collate and present your findings to decision-makers, to enable evidence-based solutions that can positively transform society.

Climate change is an example of a contemporary challenge that can't be solved by 'pure' science alone. Solutions will come from people who can not only interpret the data but also understand the need for social impact studies, policy development, and effective public communication. Social scientists work in these intersecting spaces, which is why they are in high-demand across government departments, creative industries, political parties, the business sector, in think tanks and non-government organisations (NGOs).

You don't need prior knowledge of statistical research methods as you'll study core courses that will develop your skills in analysing social policy and data, along with your two majors. Each of the majors represents a different perspective on the challenges of the future and allow you to develop areas of expertise that can open doors to a broad range of careers. There are also opportunities to undertake an internship in an area of your interest and join a global study tour.

Majors

You can choose two of the following majors:

- Economics
- Environmental Sustainability
- Global Security Threats
- Media, Communication and Social Change
- Politics in Asia
- Social Justice

Economics: If you want an expert insight into why the Australian dollar fluctuates or what caused the Global Financial Crisis, this major is the ideal choice. You'll gain an understanding of the big financial issues facing societies and learn how governments make decisions about what to spend on complex issues such as the environment, healthcare, infrastructure and resources. You'll also learn how markets work, and how businesses make decisions about pricing, staffing and responding to competition.

Environmental Sustainability: Environmental sustainability is the world's biggest issue. This major is not about the 'hard science' of the environment but instead explores the key social and policy issues behind the need for sustainable management

of our planet's finite resources. In this major you'll study environmental politics, climate change policy, the economics of natural resources, and environmental ethics and culture.

Global Security Threats: If you're interested in developing future-focused solutions to some of the world's most complex challenges, this major is for you. You'll be exposed to a stimulating array of international issues, including conflict and forced displacement, terrorism and political violence, Islam-West relations, cybercrime, energy security, and the environment. You'll gain a critical understanding of underlying causes, underpinned by a foundational course in World History.

Media, Communication and Social Change: In the information age, the ways we communicate - and are communicated to - are diverse and ever changing. The ability to understand and manipulate communications is crucial to creating change. Producing, interpreting and analysing communications are not only desirable skills, but fascinating areas of study. This major covers such topics as, the power of mass and social media, journalism, public relations, discourse analysis, new communication technologies, political spin, and the global spread of English.

Politics in Asia: This major harnesses Griffith's internationally recognised strengths in politics and Asian studies. You'll develop a deep understanding of the political, cultural, economic and social dimensions of the Asian region. Topics include the rise of China, global security, the interconnection of business and politics, the role of international organisations, and Australia's place in the region.

Social Justice: This major is for those who are motivated by the fundamental question, 'What makes a fair society?' and are passionate about fighting for a better world. Social justice refers to the idea that all people deserve equal and fair opportunities and treatment. By specialising in this area, you'll explore contemporary hot topics such as human rights, indigenous history and disadvantage, gender and crime, domestic violence, youth justice, power and politics and the administration of the law.

My attendance during the program

Attendance information

The Bachelor of Social Science is offered primarily on-campus with some courses offered in mixed-mode online.

If you are an International student on a student visa, you must ensure that you enrol in a way that will allow you to complete your enrolment within the expected program duration as stated on your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).

My career opportunities

My career opportunities

Economics

You will be prepared for work in government, NGOs, the finance sector or large business organisations. You'll be equipped to take on roles analysing and interpreting the interaction between markets, the environment, the health sector, transport, financial policy developments and decision-making, and the impact of global conditions on the national economy.

Environmental Sustainability

Employment opportunities exist in environmental science communication, environmental management and planning, policy development, environmental sustainability advocacy (in agriculture, industry, and natural resources), social and economic environmental impact analysis, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Global Security Threats

Graduates seek works as an analyst, community advocate, liaison or leader, policy developer (in analysis and evaluation), research officer, corporate strategy officer, or risk adviser.

Media, Communication and Social Change

You will be prepared for work as a communications officer, social policy researcher, speech writer, media liaison, public relations consultant, social media analyst, or other roles where you're required to analyse, evaluate and interpret communication strategies or writing across diverse genres and on various platforms.

Politics in Asia

Graduates may secure roles that provide advice to government, business leaders and NGOs in areas such as Asian economic, environment and social policy, regional relationships, regional development, Asian political structures, East-Asian political economy and trade relations.

Social Justice

You will be prepared for work in NGOs, government and business as a consultant, change manager, advocate, development officer, educator, evaluator, market analyst, market or social researcher, or policy analyst.

What are the fees?

International students

An International student is one who is not:

- an Australian or New Zealand citizen or
- a Pacific Engagement visa holder or
- a person who has Australian permanent resident status.

Indicative annual tuition fee

The indicative annual tuition fee is calculated based on a standard full-time study load which is usually 80 credit points (two full-time trimesters).

The indicative annual tuition fee is based on current conditions and available data and should only be used as a guide. These fees are reviewed annually and are subject to change.

Tuition fees

- An International student pays tuition fees.
- Students are liable for tuition fees for the courses they are enrolled in as at the census date.
- The tuition fee for students who commence their program prior to 2014 is charged according to the approved program fee for the trimester in which the student commenced the program.
- The tuition fee for students who commence their program from 2014 onwards is charged according to the approved program fee for the trimester in which the student is enrolled.

Program fees for the Bachelor of Social Science (1576)

Fees for this program can be found on the Programs and Courses website in the "Overview and fees" section. Select your commencing year to view your fees.

Changing programs

If an International student changes to a different program they will be subject to the approved program fee for the trimester in which they are enrolled.

Permanent resident status

If an **undergraduate student** obtains permanent resident status in Australia after commencing study in a program, and the student can provide evidence of permanent resident status prior to the census date (of the trimester in which they are enrolled), the student will be provided with a domestic fee-paying place.

The student may then apply for a Commonwealth supported place at the next admission period provided that the student satisfies the conditions for transfer from a domestic fee-paying place to a Commonwealth supported place as set out in the [Undergraduate Programs Admission Policy](#).

If a **postgraduate student** obtains permanent resident status in Australia after commencing study in a program, and the student can provide evidence of permanent resident status prior to the census date (of the trimester in which they are enrolled), the student will automatically be considered for a Commonwealth supported place (subject to availability) or a domestic fee-paying place as applicable for the program.

If a **research student** obtains permanent resident status in Australia after commencing study in a program, and the student can provide evidence of permanent resident status prior to the census date (of the trimester in which they are enrolled), the student will automatically be considered for a Commonwealth Government Research Training Program (RTP) Fee Offset or a domestic fee-paying place as applicable for the program.

Further information

- [Fees and Charges Procedure](#)
 - 3.6 - Fees for International Students
 - 3.9 - Administrative and Miscellaneous Charges
 - [Fees and Charges Schedules](#)
- [Cost of studying in Australia](#)