

AUT

A FUTURE IN
**INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES**



WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL STUDIES?

The ability to communicate effectively and empathetically with a broad range of people is a priceless ability for any profession in the modern world. This is the essence of international studies, which draws on key disciplines in order to develop the intercultural and transnational competency skills needed for fostering successful business, social and political relationships.

People have become more mobile, which has affected the demographics of many countries as well as the workplace. Globally, organisations are looking for employees who are outward looking as well as being open to difference and the unfamiliar. They need to be able to think critically and creatively in examining alternative perspectives and methodologies to find the most effective practices.

These perspectives are also extremely relevant in New Zealand. This is especially the case in Auckland, where almost 50 per cent of the population is Maori, Asian and Pacific peoples, 44 per cent of the population are not New Zealand born and there are over 200 ethnicities and 160 languages spoken. People with the ability to comfortably interact in multicultural contexts are going to be increasingly at an advantage when applying for jobs in the financial, scientific and public sectors.

Are you curious about other cultures? Do you consider yourself a communicator and a conceptual thinker who enjoys new experiences and stepping outside your comfort zone? Would you like to engage effectively with people from a multitude of ethnicities and backgrounds on a daily basis? Then a career using international studies could open up many career options for you.



OUTLOOK AND TRENDS

21st Century skills – In 2015 the World Economic Forum released a report outlining the skills necessary for success in the 21st Century workplace. The report distilled these 16 skills into three broad categories – foundational literacies, competencies and character qualities. Each category contains abilities developed through international studies. Foundational literacy includes cultural and civic literacy – the ability to understand, appreciate, analyse and apply knowledge of the humanities. Competencies includes communication, defined here as the ability to listen to, understand, convey and contextualize information through verbal, nonverbal, visual and written means. And character qualities contains social and cultural awareness; the ability to interact with other people in a socially, culturally and ethically appropriate way.

Source – World Economic Forum (2016) Weforum.org

Global conflict resolution – As worldwide tensions continue to become more complex, the ability of skilled individuals to broker peaceful solutions becomes ever

more valuable. Public, private and non-government organisations (NGOs) all work in this evolving space, and peacekeeping activities and employment opportunities internationally are growing.

Security and trust – A monolingual public service and population limits a nation's security and capacity to have global influence. Consequently, those with language skills and intercultural competence are critical to building and establishing trust among nations.

Superdiversity centre – The Superdiversity Centre for Law, Policy and Business is a multidisciplinary centre designed to maximise the benefits of the 'diversity dividend' arising from New Zealand's transition to a superdiverse society.

The centre researches and analyses key superdiversity trends and challenges and their impact on particular aspects of New Zealand's law, policy and business, as well as advising Government, business and NGOs about changes to law, policy or strategy required to adapt to a superdiverse environment. It will also provide support to Government, business and NGOs as they transition to a superdiverse strategic context.



police, public relations, service industries, social/community work, iwi and Maori organisations, Pacific Island public and private organisations, teaching, the media and translation and interpreting (with the relevant language skills and qualifications).

Following is a brief description of some potential job titles.

Foreign affairs officer – Includes writing briefing papers on political, economic development and trade issues, arranging official visits, hosting visitors, attending international meetings or negotiations. Can include overseas postings requiring the ability to manage diverse cultural and social environments. Language ability plays a significant part staff postings.

Immigration consultant/officer – Involves providing information about immigration laws, policies and procedures, assessing applications for residency or entry into New Zealand, interviewing applicants, issuing permits and visas, investigating breaches of immigration laws and advising on immigration policy and operations.

Project manager (NGO) – Oversees the planning, implementation, and tracking of specific projects in policy, diversity and culture. Includes collaborative definition of each project's scope, creating a detailed work plan, organising resources required to undertake and complete each project, manage staff and volunteers as required, develop a schedule, monitor, implement, review, write reports on outcomes.

Sources: Study.com, Careers NZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, www.nzsti.org

WORK OPTIONS AND SETTINGS

Graduates can find work in the following areas:

- National and international human rights organisations
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- New Zealand Customs
- Non-governmental community groups (NZ or overseas)
- Local government, business (especially those with international connections)

They generally work during normal business hours, but can sometimes work evenings and weekends.

CAREER EXAMPLES

Potential careers in this area can include business, diplomatic service, health, justice system, local authorities, national and international human rights organisations,

SALARY GUIDE

	Salary (per year)
Immigration officer	\$40,000 – \$44,000 (entry level)
Immigration manager	\$72,000 – \$88,000
Foreign affairs officer	\$51,000 – \$60,000 (entry level)
Programme administrator/ manager	\$45,000 – \$65,000 (entry level, depending on area and responsibility)
Senior project manager	\$90,000 – \$100,000

Sources: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Careers New Zealand, Frog Recruitment, Oxfam New Zealand and other NGOs)

Salary range is indicative of the New Zealand job market at the time of publication (early 2016) and should only be seen as a guideline.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Global competence – Global competence is a central concept for international studies, and is defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as ‘the capacity to analyse global and intercultural issues critically and from multiple perspectives, to understand how differences affect perceptions, judgments, and ideas of self and others, and to engage in open, appropriate and effective interactions with others from different backgrounds on the basis of a shared respect for human dignity.’

Some of the skills required to be globally competent are:

- Ability to communicate appropriately and effectively with people from other cultures or countries;
- Empathetic comprehension of other people’s thoughts, beliefs and feelings, ability to see the world from other perspectives;
- Skilled in adjusting thoughts, feelings or behaviours to fit new contexts and situations;
- Analytical and able to think critically in order to scrutinise and appraise information and meanings
- Ability to communicate in more than one language

General skills

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Problem solving
- Flexibility
- Research
- Ability to work collaboratively
- Organisation and time management skills

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Curious about how people interact across cultures
- Interested in the world around you
- A bridge builder or cultural ambassador
- Show tolerance towards cultural differences
- Demonstrate intercultural competency and cultural intelligence

THE AUT ADVANTAGE

AUT’s international studies programme is the only degree major of its kind in New Zealand. In the second year, students can study for one semester overseas in America, Spain, Japan, The Netherlands, Korea or Taiwan.

In their final year of study, all international studies students take part in co-operative education (co-op). This is a supervised work placement involving employment in a real-world business, not-for profit organisation, entrepreneurial venture or an applied project. It can be done in New Zealand or overseas. Recent placements include Auckland Council, Red Cross Refugee Services, VisionWest Community Trust, Department of Internal Affairs, and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

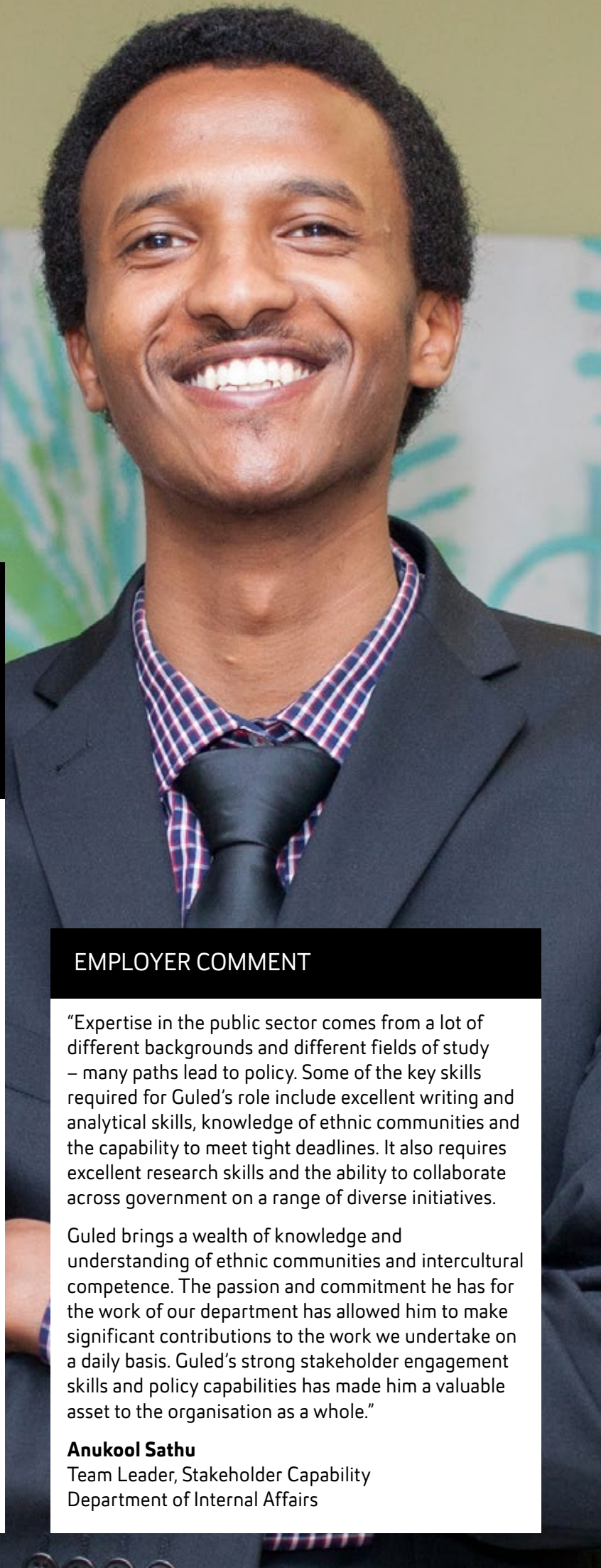
AUT is home to the Institute of Culture, Discourse and Communication (ICDC), which analyses the social, economic and political discourses and communication practices of contemporary cultural issues.

FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS

International Studies is a great choice as a double major in an arts degree, particularly with social sciences, conflict resolution or a language. It is a good additional major for students from non-arts faculties such as business, engineering or science. It is also a very useful minor for those wishing to pick up expertise in cross-cultural awareness.

Postgraduate options in international studies include postgraduate certificate and diploma programmes, as well as related pathways in Social Sciences at masters and PhD level.

Staff research specialisations include intercultural communicative competence, immersion/Study Abroad programmes for teachers and refugee and migrant education (adult), comparative politics and political theory, sustainability, refugee policy, and conflict resolution.



GULED MIRE

Diversity and Inclusion Policy Analyst, Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Criminology

Master of Arts in Policy Studies student

"I've always wanted to gain a deeper understanding into intercultural competence and its importance for maintaining social cohesion in rapidly increasing multi-cultural societies such as New Zealand. I was working in Canada and knew I was going to move to New Zealand, so I researched online to find the most relevant degree and discovered the International Studies option at AUT, which had a strong focus on inter-cultural competence.

Upon graduation, I worked as a teaching and research assistant at AUT before securing my policy job at DIA, where I provide advice and analysis on issues relating to ethnic diversity and inclusion. I also support work programmes, write general correspondences and attend external meetings representing the department. I have recently developed a diversity and inclusion framework that we hope will assist other government agencies to leverage and understand the benefits and complexities associated with ethnic diversity and inclusion.

I really enjoy the variety of the work, particularly the opportunity to support the development of ethnic communities and New Zealanders. I'd like to develop my career in policy, and I'm now completing a Masters in Policy at AUT. Whatever happens, I want to continue doing meaningful policy work that allows me to contribute to the betterment of society."

EMPLOYER COMMENT

"Expertise in the public sector comes from a lot of different backgrounds and different fields of study – many paths lead to policy. Some of the key skills required for Guled's role include excellent writing and analytical skills, knowledge of ethnic communities and the capability to meet tight deadlines. It also requires excellent research skills and the ability to collaborate across government on a range of diverse initiatives.

Guled brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of ethnic communities and intercultural competence. The passion and commitment he has for the work of our department has allowed him to make significant contributions to the work we undertake on a daily basis. Guled's strong stakeholder engagement skills and policy capabilities has made him a valuable asset to the organisation as a whole."

Anukool Sathu

Team Leader, Stakeholder Capability
Department of Internal Affairs

USEFUL WEBSITES

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/>

Super Diversity Centre
<https://www.superdiversity.org>

World Economic Forum
<http://www.weforum.org>

Iwi and Maori organisations
<http://www.tkm.govt.nz/>

Ministry of Pacific Peoples:
<http://www.mpp.govt.nz/>

Office of Ethnic Communities
<https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/>


FURTHER INFORMATION

For the most up-to-date information on international studies and the Bachelor of Arts, visit our website:

www.aut.ac.nz/international-studies

FUTURE STUDENTS

Contact the Future Student Advisory team for more information: www.aut.ac.nz/enquire
futurestudents@aut.ac.nz

 @AUTFutureStudents


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Contact the Student Hub Advisors team for more information:

0800 AUT UNI (0800 288 864)

www.aut.ac.nz/enquire

studenthub@aut.ac.nz

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EMPLOYABILITY & CAREERS

For other Future Career Sheets visit:


www.aut.ac.nz/careersheets


For employability and career support, AUT students can book an appointment through <https://elab.aut.ac.nz/>


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The information contained in this career sheet is correct at time of printing, August 2019.

