

# Spotlight On: Arts and Social Sciences

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## Reasons why you would consider studying the Arts and Social Sciences

The number one question we get when talking to students about studying the [Bachelor of Arts](#) or the [Bachelor of Social Sciences](#) is "What job will I get at the end of my studies?". Although there's no fixed role at the end of this degree in the same way there might be for other programmes, this should not discourage students from enrolling in either of these courses.

This field equips students with valuable transferable skills and the ability to think critically which translate well into a number of jobs.

In particular transferable skills gained through studying these subjects will include:

- **Communication** - Being able to communicate well is one of the most essential employability skills. In the world of work you will be required to present information to a range of audiences both inside and outside the business. Being able to communicate with clarity, articulating your ideas in a logical, organised and effective way is important.
- **Writing skills** - Good writing skills are as important as being able to speak to someone clearly. Many employees will be asked to prepare reports and explain specific information. The majority of written communications are created to encourage the reader to take some form of action, so you must be able to demonstrate a natural ability to write persuasively.
- **Empathy** - This is important because it helps us understand how others are feeling so we can respond appropriately to the situation.
- **Widen your perspective** - It is important to consider perspectives outside of your own, and have a firm sense of how issues of class, race, and gender function within society - both historically and today.

These are some of the fundamental skills a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Social Sciences aims to equip its students with. In turn, these degrees produces graduates who are socially aware, able to effectively communicate, and who work well as part of a team - all of which are skills valued by employers the world over, no matter the profession.

With that being said, graduates of these degrees do tend to lean towards particular fields of employment, namely within the social sector. For example:

- **Education** - whether within schools, the Ministry of Education, NZQA, or TEU
- **Government/Community organisations** - In roles related to policy, advocacy, justice system, and psychology
- **Communications** - Journalism, TV, media or films
- **Allied Health** - such as support work, youth work, and community liaisons
- **Cultural/Artistic spaces** - working in museums, galleries, or advertising

These degrees are also excellent stepping stones onto graduate study in fields that require higher degrees, like [Counselling](#) and [Clinical Psychology](#).

Something to keep in mind is that the job market is a continuously changing landscape. One thing students can be sure of, is that there will always be a demand for people-focused roles: roles that value interpersonal skills and empathy. Consider the [Labour government's investment into mental health](#) - they did this realising the need for a more robust set of social services, from Psychologists to Support Workers to Educators on issues impacting individuals like poverty, unemployment, and access to healthcare. This suggests the growing demand for employment within the social sector, and the broadening scope of jobs available to you as a graduate of the Arts or Social Sciences.

It is scary to commit to a degree without having a sure sense of what is waiting for you at the end of it. On the flip side – it can also be a really exciting way to study, as you build your skill set so that when you come out the other side, you are ready to work in a field that is multifaceted, ever-expanding, and in demand in New Zealand and globally.