

Internship and Career Services Industry Guide: International Relations

OVERVIEW

Our richly connected, complex world demands professionals skilled in international relations, an exciting field of study that presents a globally oriented perspective on issues that transcend national boundaries. The study and practice of international relations is interdisciplinary in nature, blending the fields of economics, history, and political science to examine topics such as human rights, global poverty, the environment, economics, globalization, security, global ethics, and the political environment. Those interested in international relations explore many different careers in sectors like government, international organizations, journalism, international consulting, business, education, community development, and human rights work with non-government organizations.

TYPES OF CAREERS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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| Foreign Service | The mission of a U.S. diplomat in the Foreign Service is to promote peace, support prosperity, and protect American citizens while advancing the interests of the U.S. abroad. | <u>Foreign Service Officer (FSO)</u> |
| Civil Service | The mission is help to drive diplomatic principles and initiatives worldwide through conscientious work from their location in the United States. | <u>Domestic/Civil Service Professionals</u> |
| Other Government Agencies | The bulk of people working in international affairs in Washington work for agencies other than the State Department. The biggest employees are the Defense Department (both military and civilian) and the intelligence organizations. | <u>The CIA</u> and <u>The NSA</u> |
| The Military | The U.S. military services play an important role in the execution of American foreign policy. | Information about military careers can be obtained from the ROTC groups on campus |
| Congress | Congressional staffs concerned with international affairs has greatly increased in the past few years and will continue to grow. | <u>Internships</u> are crucial for anyone interested in these sorts of positions |
| The United Nations | The United Nations in New York City, is a fascinating place to work, however its almost impossible for Americans to secure a job there. UN agencies also employ individuals to work in locations around the world. | <u>UN Careers</u> <u>UN Volunteers</u> |
| The IMF and the World Bank | While the bulk of the professionals working here are economists, these international organizations, which play critical roles in promoting international economic stability and development, also employ non-economists in a variety of roles. | <u>International Monetary Fund (IMF)</u> and <u>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)</u> |
| The Private Sector | The private sector is made up of consulting firms, transnational corporations, international banking and finance corporations, and nonprofits/NGOs. | <u>Consulting firms in Indiana</u> <u>Transnational Corporations</u> <u>NGOs</u> |

SKILLS NEEDED TO SUCCEED

There is a broad range of skills you will need to have or develop in order to be successful in any international relations type of work:

Academic Qualifications: You will certainly need to have a good university degree, or combination of degrees. It doesn't really matter enormously in what discipline. What hirers are primarily looking for is strong underlying intellectual capacity, and capability to grow and evolve in applying that capacity to new situations.

General Knowledge: It's not at all necessary to formally study international relations to get an international relations-related job, but obviously it's important to be able to demonstrate to potential hirers that you're interested in the subject and know something about it. How? Read, read and read! Read journals, books, and blogs to stay up to date on geopolitical issues and events worldwide.

Foreign Language: Facility in at least one foreign language – or at the very least a demonstrated aptitude to learn quickly – is pretty much a prerequisite for any significant international relations job.

Written Communication: In the new electronic and social media age, it is true that many people are becoming more casual about formal written expression. But if you are serious about an international relations career, where words and the capacity to use them persuasively will be your daily currency, you would be extremely unwise to think that the inherent brilliance of your ideas and instincts and knowledge base will shine through sloppy writing.

Oral Communication: Good oral communication and advocacy skills are not absolutely indispensable. But they are obviously extremely helpful, and it's obviously sensible to try to develop them if you know they don't come naturally to you.

Social Skills: You don't have to be a brazen extrovert, but you do need to listen carefully to others, to be responsive to what they say, and where appropriate to project some warmth in your social interactions.

Organizational Skills: That is the capacity to get things done organizationally – to have a good sense of process and the ability to get people working together to deliver particular outcomes.

Online Resources:

[Butler University Study Abroad Information](#)

[Butler University International Studies Resources](#)

[What Can You Do With A International Degree? \(apsia.org\)](#)

[Top 10 Careers in International Relations \(studentworldonline.com\)](#)

[International Relations Major \(thebalancecareers.com\)](#)

[Advice For the Grad Who Wants to Work in International Affairs \(brightthemag.com\)](#)

[The International Center of Indiana \(internationalcenter.org\)](#)

[US House of Representative Job/Internship Vacancies \(house.gov/employment\)](#)

[US Senate Job/Internship Vacancies \(senate.gov\)](#)

[Washington D.C. Internships in International Affairs/Business/Policy \(career.ucsd.edu\)](#)

[International Affairs: Internships and Organizations List \(internationalstudies.northwestern.edu\)](#)

[Search for International Affairs Jobs \(intjobs.com\)](#)

[International Relations Job Boards \(internationalrelations.org\)](#)